



City of Fort Wright Council Meeting
Wednesday, November 6, 2019 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Mayor Hatter. Mayor Hatter led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence. Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Here
Councilman Feinauer	Here
Councilman Wall	Here
Councilman Weber	Here
Councilman Wessels	Here
Councilwoman Witt	Here

Also present for the meeting were:

City Administrative Officer Jill Bailey
City Attorney Todd McMurtry
Police Chief Marc Schworer
Police Captain Jonathan Colwell
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell
Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Sharon Dickman, owner of Tower Hill Plaza in Fort Wright addressed the council regarding trees that had been planted behind Sub Station and the new dentist's office. They were Bradford pears that grew large and eventually blocked the view of the plaza and the sign. Previously, she had been told that there was nothing to be done. Since the construction of the new dentist's, he was given permission to cut down two of the trees and trim back the one that remained. Ms. Dickman offered to cut down and replace with different trees. Mayor Hatter commented that the trees are planted in right-of-way and ultimately controlled by city. He was not willing to spend city money to cut the trees down but did not object to Ms. Dickman or the dentist's

office wanted to pay for this. Mr. Bethell commented that whoever owned the gas station years ago planted the trees originally. He said he would talk to Rob Himes of PDS tomorrow. Ms. Bailey stated she would review the landscaping plan for dentist's office.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the September 4, 2019 Council Meeting. Councilman Feinauer made a second. Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the September 18, 2019 Caucus Meeting. Councilman Wall made a second. Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Councilman Abeln made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2019 Council Meeting. Councilman Wall made a second. Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Councilman Feinauer made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2019 Special Meeting. Councilman Weber made a second. Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Wall	Abstain
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2019 Caucus Meeting. Councilwoman Witt made a second. Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Wall	Abstain
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Order 10-19 – Reappointing Jeff Wolnitzek to the BOA

City Attorney Todd McMurtry read the Executive Order.

Councilman Abeln made a motion to approve the Executive Order. Councilman Wall made a second. Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Hatter commented that Mr. Wolnitzek has been a long-time volunteer for Fort Wright serving in the Fire Department, on City Council, and on the Board of Adjustment. He expressed appreciation for his willingness to serve and thanked all the others on the Board of Adjustment for their service.

Special Staff Recognition – Chief Steve Schewe

Mayor Hatter announced that Chief Schewe had done an amazing job recently acquiring a fire truck and saving the City several hundred thousand dollars. He said that at the time he had joked about building a statue of Chief Schewe. He presented him with a “Chief Schewe Bobble Head stating he sincerely appreciated his efforts in this endeavor.

Special Retirement Recognition – Chief Marc Schworer

Mayor Hatter stated that at the last official council meeting, it was announced that Chief Schworer would be retiring as a result of changes in the pension system. His last day will be November 22, 2019 and he will be back in December for a formal presentation. Mayor Hatter thanked Chief Schworer for 24 years of service stating he has done an amazing job and that the Police Department is in the best condition it has even been in. He credited Chief Schworer for his critical role in turning it around and wished him the best in his retirement.

Council members expressed their thanks to Chief Schworer and shared accolades and stories.

CAO REPORT

City Administrative Officer Jill Cain Bailey reported that a lot had been transpiring in the Administration Department.

- Monday was the insurance inspection to make sure everything was valued at the appropriate levels. They were very satisfied w equipment and building. She will be receiving a report back from insurance company and is not anticipating any rate increase.
- The new tax software has been implemented and will help with segregation of duties and audit trails.
- Ms. Bailey congratulated Ms. Ellis on her promotion to City Treasurer. The reorganization was a requirement by auditor relating to the segregation of duties. The position of City of Clerk has been advertised. The deadline for applications/resumes is November 15, 2019.

- The auditors were here today and will be here until Friday. They have already noted a marked improvement in the condition of the record keeping. Ms. Bailey anticipates that the upcoming audit will not have as many notations as last year.
- Ms. Bailey attended the preapplication meeting for the new self-storage facility. They are hoping to move through the process very quickly and be permitted by February 2020.
- Bids have been received for the employee health insurance policies. It was determined that it was best to stay with the current plan. Premiums went up about 7%.
- The Human Resources Committee met. They are working on a new pay scale, new salary structure, and new organizational chart. These new items will require the passage of some new ordinances. The attorney's office will be preparing the necessary documents.
- Ms. Bailey thanked the staff of PDS for the walk through of their former offices and acquisition of furniture for our offices. There were no additional costs and the City will be received several high-quality items including a new refrigerator for the Administration kitchen.

Mayor Hatter commented that the City is still in the process of hiring a Lieutenant for the Fire Department. He asked everyone to continue to share that job posting as well as the one for the City Clerk position stating that the City is wanting to compile the best possible pool of candidates.

Mayor Hatter also commented that the Auditor was still here when he arrived. He recognized Ms. Ellis and Mr. Ben Harrison for their efforts and stated that things were off to a very good start.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Administration/Finance - Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis reported that the new tax software was working well and already saving time as a result of no longer needing to make entries in two different systems.

Fire/EMS Department - Fire Chief Steve Schewe expressed condolences to the Shrand family for Larry Schrand's passing last week. The fire truck should be here as soon as the seat assembly is replaced. With the GM strike over, the ambulance and staff vehicle are moving along. No delivery dates yet. The Fort Wright Fire Lieutenant who was injured 12 weeks ago came back to work on light duty this week. He should be back to full duty in about 2 weeks. Applications for the open Fire Lieutenant position are due on Friday. Applications/resumes received so far indicates some great candidates.

Public Works - Public Works Director Jeff Bethell reported that the Public Works Department has been working on hot patching before winter, replacing sections of sidewalk especially in the South Hills area, and getting trucks ready for snow removal. The Street Project is nearly complete. Precision Concrete has completed Zone 1 and is almost done with Zone 2. Zone 3 was completed last year. Zones 4, 5, and 6 remain.

Police Department - Police Chief Marc Schworer reported that he attended the Crime Stoppers breakfast. Awards for good leadership in community were awarded to Brooks Flooring and Stacy Black from State Farm. Two employees had babies born this past month and are now back to work. The drug take-back event at Walmart was successful and Halloween went well. Officer Lukes has been released and is on his own. The active shooter class at SD1 went well. Chief Schworer reminded everyone that Monday is Veterans Day and that there is a Veterans Day Observance at Highland Cemetery on Sunday where the police department will be involved in the 21-gun salute.

Mayor Hatter commented on the success of the drug take-back event and reminded everyone about drug take-back box in lobby. He also announced the participation in the St. Vincent de Paul coat drive.

Legal Counsel - City Attorney Todd McMurtry reported that foreclosures are in progress. He is finishing up the MCI Metro agreement. Billing still needs to be determined. Mayor Hatter asked for an update on the CERS lawsuit. Mr. McMurtry responded that it is set for argument in the Court of Appeals on January 15, 2020.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Employee Recognitions/Special Thank Yous

- Jason Collins sent an email thanking the Police Department for their service on Halloween night.
- Bob Hays sent an email thanking Officer Hoppenjans for assistance with his non-emergency call.
- Marianne Navin sent an email congratulating Susan Ellis on her certifications.
- Mayor Hatter announced Fort Wright Day at Behringer-Crawford day on December 8, 2019 between 1-5 PM.
- Mayor Hatter announced Christmas Tree recycling stating more information will be forthcoming.

- Mayor Hatter reported that Kim Banta was elected yesterday to take the place of Diane St. Onge who resigned to move to California. He said that he would try to reach out to Ms. Banta regarding City concerns.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Margie Witt – no report

Councilman Adam Feinauer reminded everyone about the Veterans Day Observance. He thanked Chief Schworer for taking care of a Sunday phone call and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilman Dave Abeln – no report

Councilman Jay Weber expressed his thanks to Chief Schworer for his service.

Councilman Scott Wall – expressed his thanks to Chief Schworer for his service.

Councilman Bernie Wessels – expressed his thanks to Fort Mitchell and Kenton County for their assistance with an emergency affecting traffic and commented on the task force doing the ticketing on the express way.

OTHER COMMENTS

A Dayton Kentucky Police Officer was shot yesterday and has serious injuries. He will be taken off life support tomorrow. Prayers and Condolences for Detective Jorge Del Rio, his family, and co-workers.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

Councilman Feinauer made a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting. Councilman Wessels made a second. Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

The Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:



Susan Ellis, CMC, KCMC