



City of Fort Wright

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City of Fort Wright Council Meeting Wednesday, November 5, 2025 6:00p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hatter called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:00p.m., followed by The Pledge of Allegiance and moment of Silence. City Clerk, Kerrie Holland called the ole.

Mr. Jason Collins	Present
Ms. Donna Ross	Present
Mr. Scott Wall	Present
Mr. Jay Weber	Present
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Present
Ms. Margie Witt	Present

Also present were Mayor Hatter, CAO Jill Bailey, City Attorney John Brooking, Police Chief Jonathan Colwell, Public Works Director Jeff Bethell, City Clerk Kerrie Holland, and Finance Clerk Nyoka Johnson.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

Mayor Hatter takes a motion to amend the agenda to add Municipal Order 09-2025 to reappoint Tom Litlzler to TBNK board. Mr. Wessels made a motion to amend the agenda to add MO 09-2025. Mr. Collins made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins	Yes
Ms. Donna Ross	Yes
Mr. Scott Wall	Yes
Mr. Jay Weber	Yes
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Yes
Ms. Margie Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIES

CITIZEN COMMONETS/GUESTS

Renee Cooper – 28 Park Rd; Speaking in re the oak trees on Park Rd. Concerned about the safety and destruction the trees have caused on the street recently. Appreciates the city reaching out to two separate arborists for their opinion. She would like to see some of the trees remain standing. Concerned for the tree directly across the street. Mayor let Ms. Cooper know that the Park Rd trees will be discussed later in the meeting.

Josh Wice- Introduced himself as the new Executive Director of PDS of Kenton Co. Mr. Wice gave his background history and opened for comments and/or questions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the October 1, 2025 Public Tax Rate Hearing

Mayor Hatter asked for any comments or questions regarding the minutes. With no further discussion, Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the minutes, and Councilman Wessels made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins	Yes
Ms. Donna Ross	Yes
Mr. Scott Wall	Abstain
Mr. Jay Weber	Yes
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Yes
Ms. Margie Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIES

Minutes from the October 1, 2025 City Council Meeting

Mayor Hatter asked for any comments or questions regarding the minutes. With no further discussion, Councilwoman Witt made a motion to approve the minutes, and Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins	Yes
Ms. Donna Ross	Yes
Mr. Scott Wall	Abstain
Mr. Jay Weber	Yes
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Yes
Ms. Margie Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIES

Minutes from the October 7, 2025 Special City Council Meeting

Mayor Hatter asked for any comments or questions regarding the minutes. With no further discussion, Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the minutes, and Councilman Wall made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins	Yes
Ms. Donna Ross	Yes
Mr. Scott Wall	Yes
Mr. Jay Weber	Yes
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Yes
Ms. Margie Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIES

Minutes from the October 9, 2025 Special City Council Meeting

Mayor Hatter asked for any comments or questions regarding the minutes. With no further discussion, Councilwoman Collins made a motion to approve the minutes, and Councilwoman Ross made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins Yes
Ms. Donna Ross Yes
Mr. Scott Wall Yes
Mr. Jay Weber Abstain
Mr. Bernie Wessels Yes
Ms. Margie Witt Yes

MOTION CARRIES

Minutes from the October 15, 2025 Special City Council Meeting

Mayor Hatter asked for any comments or questions regarding the minutes. With no further discussion, Councilwoman Witt made a motion to approve the minutes, and Councilwoman Ross made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins Yes
Ms. Donna Ross Yes
Mr. Scott Wall Abstain
Mr. Jay Weber Yes
Mr. Bernie Wessels Yes
Ms. Margie Witt Yes

MOTION CARRIES

Minutes from the October 15, 2025 City Caucus Meeting

Mayor Hatter asked for any comments or questions regarding the minutes. With no further discussion, Councilwoman Ross made a motion to approve the minutes, and Councilman Wall made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins Yes
Ms. Donna Ross Yes
Mr. Scott Wall Yes
Mr. Jay Weber Yes
Mr. Bernie Wessels Yes
Ms. Margie Witt Yes

MOTION CARRIES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Landscaping Enhancements & Maintenance of Various Public Right of Ways

CAO mentioned from a prior meeting that it was discussed to about the opportunities of landscaping some various right of ways to improve some of the aesthetics throughout the city. There were quotes given by Maddox Landscaping and a quote was given for the following: Maintenance plan-\$9,459.40 which includes spring mulching, 9 monthly visits and pruning, weeding, and spraying. The project cost with Maddox doing the installation would be \$9,253.35, and if we did the installation, it would be \$6,310.00 for a difference of \$2,900.00. Some permits would need to be acquired from KYTC. The permits would take some time to acquire. Public Works would set a schedule to have them watered. Councilman Weber stated that he is leaning toward the landscaping company doing the installation due to the issuance of the warranties and saving PW time. CAO Bailey stated that the cost does not include the Fort Henry-island installation and changes, or the Montpellier project. PW Director stated he discussed with Councilwoman Witt to have a tree place at the Fort Henry project. Councilwoman Witt would like to have the proposed landscaping be cohesive and streamlined throughout the city. Director Bethell has the list of suggested changes based on the discussion. Council discusses the possible benefits of having the

different plants and/or trees. Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to proceed with the authorization for the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Maddox for everything that was in the new proposal that covers the things in the original proposal with the changes that Margie is proposing, minus the West Henry Clay project and as long as the installation costs for the projects does not exceed the current proposed cost and the ongoing maintenance costs for the maintenance program does not exceed what they proposed. Jeff and Margie will review to ensure that it encompasses what is wanted. Councilman Wall asked why three different varieties were chosen, she explains the difference in the hardiness of the trees. With no further discussion, Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve the proposed landscaping quote, and Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins	Yes
Ms. Donna Ross	Yes
Mr. Scott Wall	Yes
Mr. Jay Weber	Yes
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Yes
Ms. Margie Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIES

NEW BUSINESS

Volunteer Park and Park Road Trees

CAO Bailey displays the tree layout on Park Rd and what the arborists concluded on their reports. The 5 trees are identified as large oak trees and numbered. The trees sustained substantial property damage and losses. There were also some power outages. Some of the damage caused to the trees was due to the extreme draught last year. The two companies that came out to look at the trees were Urban Canopy and Julie Collins, Arborist. The difference in levels of risk was discussed, and the removal of Tree A5 was agreed upon. Trees B4, C3, D2, and E1 are also problematic. It was discussed and agreed upon to have all five trees removed and new trees replanted. Councilwoman Witt recommends waiting at least one year to replant trees after ones are removed. Council discusses the options of where to plant new trees. Copies of the arborist's tree report are available through the City Office. With no further discussion, Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to proceed with the removal of the trees not to exceed \$5,000 each tree, not to exceed \$25,000. Councilman Wessels made a motion, and Councilman Weber made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins	Yes
Ms. Donna Ross	Yes
Mr. Scott Wall	Yes
Mr. Jay Weber	Yes
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Yes
Ms. Margie Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIES

2025 Fort Wright Board of Ethics(BOE) Annual Report

Mayor Hatter explains what the BOE is and the purpose of the board having to provide the annual report to the city. BOE Chairman Tim Theissen states there were no ethics complaints filed on the city this past year and presents the annual report to council. Mr. Theissen states the next BOE is to be held on January 21, 2026 at the City Building at 6:00p.m. Greg Voss has been appointed to the BOE. City Clerk Holland will post the report on the City's website.

Municipal Order 08-2025 re-appointing Todd Verling to the Kenton County Planning Commission
City Attorney Brooking reads the MO 08-2025 aloud and with no further discussion, Mayor Hatter requests a motion to approve MO 08-2025. Councilman Collins made a motion, and Councilman Weber made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins Yes
Ms. Donna Ross Yes
Mr. Scott Wall Yes
Mr. Jay Weber Yes
Mr. Bernie Wessels Yes
Ms. Margie Witt Yes

MOTION CARRIES

Municipal Order 09-2025 re-appointing Tom Litzler to the TBNK Board

City Attorney Brooking reads the MO 09-2025 aloud and with no further discussion, Mayor Hatter requests a motion to approve MO 09-2025. Councilman Wall made a motion, and Councilman Wessels made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins Yes
Ms. Donna Ross Yes
Mr. Scott Wall Yes
Mr. Jay Weber Yes
Mr. Bernie Wessels Yes
Ms. Margie Witt Yes

MOTION CARRIES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NONE

CAO REPORT

Tax bills being mailed on Thursday, November 6th. Thank you to Kerrie & Nyoka for the work in getting those prepared.

We received a grant from OKI to pave Highland Ave. in the amount of \$227,246.00. It is a Federal Surface Transportation Block grant and does require a 20% local match(\$45,449.00).

OKI Grant Funds

CAO Bailey requests a motion to move forward with the OKI grant as CAO discussed. Councilman Wessels made a made and Councilman Ross made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins Yes
Ms. Donna Ross Yes
Mr. Scott Wall Yes
Mr. Jay Weber Yes
Mr. Bernie Wessels Yes
Ms. Margie Witt Yes

MOTION CARRIES

CAO mentions that she is still working on the additional information in regard to the “anti-fraud/internal control evaluation” audit that the mayor requested at the last meeting. He explains what this audit would prevent. This is a review of our own internal processes.

Land Swap with the City of Covington

CAO spoke to the city, and they agree to move forward with the proposal of a 15-year clause on the property. We are waiting on paperwork to be drafted and reviewed. Will have more information and will be discussed at a future meeting.

Eagle Scout Nature Park Project

It was discussed at the last Caucus meeting and interest was raised and questions were asked in regard to bridges being added. CAO received some feedback from the City's insurance company, and they had some concerns with risk and liabilities. Mayor recommends placing this topic on the next Caucus meeting to further discuss the insurance company's concerns.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Administration-Reminder that every resident will receive a bill whether you escrow or not. Please contact your mortgage company to make sure they are sending the tax bill to the City of fort Wright. It will be posted on all social media.

Finance-Busy month, property taxes uploaded and printed. Good idea for residents to receive their property tax bill-opportunity for residents to make sure the info is correct. KEMI-Workers' comp audit, and the City's audit in October. Renewed Passport certification this month. Councilwoman had concerns that some properties were listed as "Covington" and were paying Covington taxes. CAO adds that it was reviewed recently. Mail service has been an ongoing concern.

Fire/ALS Department-NONE

Police Department-Council meeting on the day of open house-gave away 20 new bikes to kids in the city. PD was involved in 2-3 trunk or treats(local Elementary School, Detention center and a local business) Halloween went very well with no incidents, so officers were able to stay in the neighborhoods. Councilman Weber thanked to those who donated the bikes to the Open House bike raffle.

Public Works-Fall Crack Seal program- completed . Reevaluation of the road program is still underway. I had meeting with the company that uses the cameras and AI had meeting in Edgewood and they plan to have all data to us by December 7th. In order to start working on the 5-year plan.

Legal Counsel-NONE

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Message from resident on Beaumont-Thank you for putting out the fall decorations.

Card from Daniel Lange-Thank you to Kerrie for extra effort regarding SHCC and resident.

David and Cathy Bray-1806 Mt. Vernon-Thank you for the open house.

Joseph Abner-Thank you for opportunity to interview for City Council position and congrats to Donna Ross.

Reminder Veterans Day service is Sunday, October 12th at Highland Cemetery @ 2pm.

Thank you to all who contributed to the Leash and Collar donation drive for the Kenton Co Animal Shelter

Coat Drive for St. Vincent Depaul through December 31st.

Executive Session 61.810(b)

Motion made by Councilman Wessels and second made by Councilman Collins. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins	Yes
Ms. Donna Ross	Yes
Mr. Scott Wall	Yes
Mr. Jay Weber	Yes
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Yes
Ms. Margie Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIES

Meeting entered Executive Session at 7:29p.m.

Meeting re-opened to the public at 8:34 pm.

Ms. Bailey discussed the potential for constructing a Salt Dome/Storage Facility on the site of the current Tot Lot Playground and presented a site development plan prepared by the City Engineer. After additional discussion, Councilman Collins made a motion to move the project forward to the next stages by seeking proposals from various architectural groups for the preparation of design and construction plans. Councilman Wessels made a second. The City Administrator called the roll. All in favor.

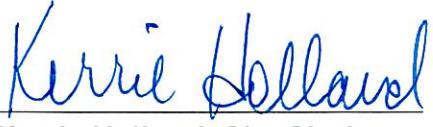
City Council discussed encouraging residents to Light Up Fort Wright this holiday season by decorating their homes with outdoor lights and decorations for all to enjoy.

Councilman Wessels made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Ross made a second. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 pm.

Next City Council Meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2025 @ 6:00p.m.

ATTEST:


Respectfully Submitted,
Dave Hatter, Mayor


Kerrie Holland, City Clerk