



City of Fort Wright

409 Kyles Lane | Fort Wright, KY 41011 | www.fortwright.com | 859.331.1700

City of Fort Wright Council Meeting Wednesday, December 1, 2021 – 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Dave Hatter. Mayor Hatter led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll.

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

Also present for the meeting were:

City Attorney Tim Theissen
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe
Police Captain Jonathan Colwell
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell
City Clerk Maura Russell

Mayor Hatter noted that City Administrator Jill Bailey would not be attending the meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

Steve Myers, 1596 St. Anthony Circle – Mr. Myers addressed Council to inquire about the Performance Automotive property development that was discussed at the most recent Council Meeting. He asked about the size of the garage they plan to construct, and Mayor Hatter said possibly 10 bays, but he would need to review the plans again to say for sure. Mr. Myers also asked about a lighting plan for the property, as his main concern is light pollution from the dealerships. It was determined that the lighting plan is reviewed as part of development process with PDS [Planning and Development Services of Kenton County]. Mayor Hatter offered to give Mr. Myers a path to communicate directly with PDS so he can stay in touch during the process.

John Trenholm, 1914 Mt. Vernon Drive (Rumpke Trash Complaints) – was not present at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council Meeting held on Wednesday, November 3, 2021. Councilman Feinauer made a second. Ms. Russell called roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Wall	Yes

Councilman Weber Yes
Councilman Wessels Yes
Councilwoman Witt Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Hatter recommended amending the agenda to table discussion about Resolution 12-2021, as Ms. Bailey informed him that some changes need to be made to the agreement with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet prior to Council approving this Resolution. Councilwoman Witt made a motion to amend the agenda to remove this item. Councilman Wessels made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MO 08-2021 approving Opioid Settlement Form – Mr. Theissen advised this is a follow-up to the allocation agreement Council approved at the last Council Meeting. He said this is phase two of the process and legally enters the City into the agreement to receive funds from the opioid settlement. Mayor Hatter added that the estimated payout to the City is \$88,000.

Councilman Feinauer made a motion to approve Municipal Order 08-2021, a Municipal Order of the City of Fort Wright in Kenton County, Kentucky, authorizing Mayor Dave Hatter to sign the “Settlement Participation Form” in furtherance of the settlement of the opioid litigation. Councilman Wall made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Municipal Order 09-2021 declaring surplus property from the Fire Department – Mr. Theissen read Municipal Order 09-2021, an order declaring surplus property and authorizing disposal of such property by destruction and/or recycling. He confirmed there is one item on this disposal list for the Fire Department, a hydraulic pump that will be listed for sale.

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve Municipal Order 09-2021. Councilman Abeln made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Municipal Order 10-2021 declaring surplus property from the JARCWM [James A. Ramage Civil War Museum] – Mr. Theissen said this is the same as the previous Municipal Order but identifies items that are being declared as surplus from the Museum closure and are being donated to Behringer-Crawford Museum.

Mayor Hatter added that the initial goal was for anything that was on loan to the Museum would be returned to its owner, and to the extent possible that process has been completed. He said these are items that were either donated or not wanted by the original owner and the goal is to give as much of it to Behringer-Crawford Museum so they can create exhibit space.

Councilman Abeln thanked everyone involved in cleaning the Museum space out and getting everything itemized for distribution, and Mayor Hatter thanked the staff at Behringer-Crawford Museum and Jeannine Kreinbrink for their assistance.

Councilman Feinauer made a motion to approve Municipal Order 10-2021. Councilman Wessels made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution 12-2021 Agreement with KYTC regarding Amsterdam Road – tabled to next Council meeting. [See above.]

Behringer FW Day – Holiday Event – Mayor Hatter said Behringer-Crawford Museum asked the City to consider hosting a “Holiday Traditions” day for Fort Wright residents. Two plans were available, and he said the City participated in 2019 in the “Jolly Good Time” Plan.

Councilman Wessels made a motion to participate in the other option, the “Yuletide Unlimited” Plan, at a cost of \$1,000, which allows an unlimited number of Fort Wright residents to attend Behringer-Crawford Museum on the City’s designated day. Councilman Weber made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

EO 09-2021 – Appointment of FW BOA Members – Mr. Theissen said the terms of two members of the Board of Adjustments are up at the end of the year. He said the request for this Executive Order is to reappoint Thomas Litzler and Harry Geimeier to the Board.

Mayor Hatter said they have both been on the Board of Adjustments for a long time and he thinks they have done a great job. He said he spoke with both of them, and they are both willing to serve the City again, and he appreciates the skilled and talented people in the City willing to serve.

Mr. Theissen advised this is a four-year appointment for both members.

Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve Executive Order 09-2021. Councilwoman Witt made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Improvement Committee – Chair Councilman Feinauer – Councilman Feinauer said the Committee recently met on November 17th to review action items, and there are a few items that they will work directly with Chief Butler and Mr. Bethell to complete.

Councilman Weber asked for an update on the plantings planned at the corner of Kyles Lane and Dixie Highway. Councilwoman Witt said the drawings have been approved. Mr. Bethell added that the plantings they want should be available through Ammon Nursery. He said they have also met with the Kentucky Highway Department to locate the rights-of-way, and he hopes to have this project finished by the end of the year.

Finance Committee – Chair Councilman Wessels – Councilman Wessels said the meeting scheduled for today was cancelled.

Mayor Hatter said the results of the audit should be coming very soon, and preliminarily the information looks good.

CAO REPORT

Ms. Bailey was not present for this meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Administration/Finance – Ms. Russell said that 2021 property tax bills were mailed on November 8th and are due by December 31st at 5 PM. She said the payments can be accepted in-person at the City Administration Building, via the locked drop-box outside the front doors, online, or through mail.

Ms. Russell said the Employee Appreciation Lunch was a success and thanked the businesses who donated items for raffle baskets and Chef Barone for the catered lunch.

Ms. Russell added that she has been assisting Mr. Bethell and Ms. Bailey with the last pieces of Museum distribution. She also said South Hills Civic Club continues to stay busy.

Councilman Wessels thanked staff for setting up the Employee Appreciation Lunch. Mayor Hatter thanked Chef Barone for catering that event and the Mayor's Group Breakfast. He also thanked the businesses that donated and Republic Bank for donating \$2,000 toward the purchase of chairs for employees.

Fire/ALS Department – Chief Schewe discussed the hydraulic pump that will go for auction at GovDeals now that it has been surplussed via the Municipal Order.

Chief Schewe said trainings are complete for the year and the department will be using an acquired structure for some additional training.

Legal Counsel – Mr. Theissen said he received answers on two foreclosures for the City. He also said there will be a Board of Adjustments meeting this month to discuss a set-back variance for Resurrection Church on Madison Pike and he will be attending that meeting.

Mr. Theissen also said tomorrow [December 2nd] is the hearing with the Kenton County Planning Commission regarding rezoning the Lookout Heights Civic Club lot. Mayor Hatter added that the Lookout Heights Civic Club would be considered non-conforming, but nothing would need to change unless the property is sold. Mr. Theissen agreed, saying this zoning change, if approved, would require any developer to submit plans for a zoning change, essentially going through the whole process instead of being able to do whatever they would like.

Police Department – Captain Colwell announced the Cram the Cruiser event will be Sunday, December 5th, at Walmart. He said the toys and donations received will go to students at Fort Wright Elementary.

Captain Colwell said that Officer Matt Betustak will graduate from the Kentucky Police Academy on Thursday December 16th. He also announced that Specialist Dan Hampton will be retiring on December 31st. He said they are actively interviewing to fill a current opening and Specialist Hampton's spot.

Mayor Hatter said Specialist Hampton will attend a future Council Meeting for a presentation. He said Specialist Hampton has been with the Fort Wright Police Department for ten years and the City will miss him.

Public Works – Mr. Bethell reported that the Public Works Department has been working to clean up landscaping around the City Administration Building and decorate for Christmas. He said snow removal equipment has been prepped for the season. Mr. Bethell said he is meeting soon with the City's engineer to review next year's street program.

Mr. Bethell announced that Kenton County Public Works will be on-site on January 11th to shred Christmas trees, and he asked residents to avoid plastic bags and wire wreaths. He said the drop-off area will be near the garden.

There was discussion about the speed humps installed on Amsterdam Road in Park Hills near Trolley Park. It was determined that those humps are removable and that may be considered by the City as an option.

Mayor Hatter addressed a parking issue on Amsterdam Road. He said the reconstruction of the road led to the loss of parking for some residents. He said the City provided the owner of five specific houses funding to supplement putting in parking areas for those rental homes but the owner has not started the project and those renters are parking on the sidewalks, which is not allowed. Mayor Hatter said he will be sending a letter to make it clear there is no parking on the sidewalks or on Amsterdam Road and the Police Department will begin ticketing and towing if it continues. He said this letter will be sent to those renters and the owner of the properties.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Employee Recognitions/Special Thank You's – Mayor Hatter acknowledged a letter thanking the Public Works Department for the reconstruction of Birchwood Drive. He also thanked again the businesses who supported the Employee Appreciation Lunch. Councilman Feinauer directly thanked Roger Schroeder [in attendance at this meeting] for his support.

Mayor Hatter read a list of upcoming events in the City, including the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 4th at 6 PM, Santa and Mrs. Claus' Neighborhood Visit on December 11th, and the tree mulching on January 11th. Ms. Russell added that the route for Santa's visit on December 11th is posted on the City's website. She also announced that Santa's Mailbox is outside the front doors of the City Administration Building.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Witt – She thanked everyone for getting ready for the Tree Lighting for the Garden Club. She said the tree was added to the yard last year and the Garden Club is excited for the lighting. She also thanked her friend Dave Schroeder, Library Director for the Kenton County Public Library, for lending his expertise to the inventory of the Museum items.

Councilman Feinauer – He thanked all the City employees for everything they have done this year and their hard work.

Councilman Wessels – He announced that NKY Bargain Outlet was raffling off a PlayStation 5 and all ticket proceeds would go to Cram the Cruiser for the Police Department.

Mayor Hatter – He added his thanks to staff and Council for their work, saying it is an honor and pleasure to work with everyone. He also thanked residents and business owners who make this all possible.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting. Councilman Feinauer made a second. Ms. Russell 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 adjourned at 6:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:



Maura Russell
City Clerk