



City of Fort Wright
409 Kyles Lane
Fort Wright, KY 41011

City of Fort Wright Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 4, 2019
6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 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
Interim Police Chief Jonathan Colwell
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell
Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis

CITIZEN COMMENTS (after Schworer)

Ms. Dionna Sholler of Covington addressed the council and expressed gratitude and appreciation for the council and mayor for the very timely response looking into the issue with the dog on East Henry Clay Avenue. She asked if there was anything else to do as a collaborative effort for the animal. Mayor Hatter thanked her for the feedback and referred to Interim Police Chief Colwell. Chief Colwell reported that currently the ordinances are very loose but that the county was looking into stricter options. Animal Control reports that the owner is only has to provide access to a shelter, food every 48 hours, and water every day. The dog is an

Akita which is bred for extremely cold weather. The owner states that dog does not go into the doghouse and chooses to lay outside. It does not react well to being brought into the house. Officers are checking on it every day and every time someone calls in, it gets checked on. It is 100% an outside dog. As far as it is known, the dog is being taken care of according to the law. Mayor Hatter commented that Kenton County recently passed animal ordinance and recommended talking to Kenton County and possibly attending a Kenton County Commission meeting.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2019 Public Hearing. 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

Councilman Abeln made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2019 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Witt 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 Weber made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2019 Special Meeting. Councilman Feinauer made a second. Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Abstain	
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 November 20, 2019 Caucus Meeting. Councilman Weber made a second. Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolution 8-19 – Disposition of Firearm

City Attorney Todd McMurtry read the Resolution.

Councilman Wall made a motion to approve the Resolution. Councilwoman Witt 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

Resolution 9-19 - Recognizing Chief Marc Schworer

City Attorney Todd McMurtry read the Resolution.

Councilman Feinauer commented that the City should issue a proclamation to designate a Marc Schworer Day.

Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve the Resolution. Councilwoman Witt 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

Each staff member and council member shared memories of and accolades for Chief Marc Schworer and wished him well.

Mayor Hatter presented Chief Schworer with his fire arm and parting gifts.

Verizon/MCI Telecommunications Franchise Agreement

Mr. McMurtry provided background on this agreement and previous discussions stating that the agreement must be allowed. It is a legal right and sets guidelines. Mayor Hatter also provided an explanation of the agreement. Mr. McMurtry explained "right of way". He stated that the agreement had been revised with input from council. It is now a 5-year term as recommended by Tim Broering, Executive Director of Telecommunications Board of Northern Kentucky, because things are changing so quickly. City streets versus state streets was discussed. Fort Wright would only get the portion that involves city streets. The state is receiving 1.8-1.9%. The Fort Wright agreement increases the City's amount to 5% which is the upper limit of what is considered acceptable. Fort Mitchell is charging 3%. The minimal rental rate is \$8000.00 but may only be about 5 miles. This needs to be discussed to finalize and may need to be revised. Mr. McMurtry recommended \$5000 as it would be sufficient and protect city. Verizon is in agreement with this. Once it has been finalized, it will be put in place.

Councilman Weber asked if Council should we give Mayor Hatter the ability to make minor changes if negotiated. Mr. McMurtry responded, "Yes."

Councilman Feinauer made a motion to approve resolution to approve the agreement, put it out to bid, and allow the Mayor to negotiate a rate of 3-5% and rental of \$5000-\$8000. Councilman Abeln 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

Ms. Bailey commented about needing to level the playing field with Duke and Cincinnati Bell. Councilman Weber recommended it be put on the list to address at a later time.

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Order 12-19 – Adopting a Flower/Gift Policy

City Attorney Todd McMurtry read the Executive Order.

Councilman Feinauer made a motion to approve the Executive Order. Councilman Abeln 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

Municipal Order 7-19 – Disposal of Surplus Fire/EMS Equipment

City Attorney Todd McMurtry read the Municipal Order.

Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve the Municipal Order. Councilman Abeln 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

CAO REPORT

City Administrative Officer Jill Cain Bailey reported doing additional hiring. Conditional offers for a part time person in the Fire Department and a full-time person in the Fire Department have been made. Interviews for the City Clerk are scheduled for next week and then Police Chief. The Finance Committee met and will be meeting weekly as they investigate investment options. Minutes from these meetings will be provided. Ms. Bailey referred to her written report for any other items.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

A resolution was needed to transfer property out of the City's name that had previously been held through industrial revenue bonds.

Councilman Abeln made a motion to amend the agenda to allow for a vote on Resolution 10-19 to convey property back to Wessels, Inc. 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	Abstain	
Councilwoman Witt	Yes	MOTION CARRIED

Resolution 10-19 – Convey Property Back to Wessels, Inc.

Mr. McMurtry summarized the Resolution. He explained that the City held this deed to minimize taxes to promote economic development. The agreement has been completed. Next year this will result in additional tax revenue. The bond is paid off, so the property needs to be titled back to the owner. The resolution will authorize the Mayor to execute the deed.

Councilman Witt made a motion to approve the Resolution. 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	Abstain	
Councilwoman Witt	Yes	MOTION CARRIED

MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Hatter provided additional comments regarding the meeting of the Finance Committee. He reported that the audit has been completed, and although the final report has not been submitted, there was nothing negative. He commented that the City has amassed substantial amount of cash and is "losing" money by leaving it where it is today. The Committee is reviewing financial restructuring and looking for additional secure and reasonable proceeds to generate substantially more income. Additional research is needed including review of the state laws and model investment policies from other cities

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Administration/Finance - Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis provided an update on taxes collected thus far. She reported that the new tax software is working well and providing noticeable time savings. Mayor Hatter reported that as a result of security issues he was choosing to err on the side of caution and that the City would be unable to accept credit cards this tax season.

Fire/EMS Department - Fire Chief Steve Schewe reported that Regis Huth, a Fort Wright resident, was hired as Fire Lieutenant and would be starting December 16, 2019. He also reported that the staff car came in today. They are still waiting for the ambulance and the return of the pumper back. He is working on confirmation date for a blood drive. Hoxworth will bring the mobile to the City. The event will be advertised.

Legal Counsel - City Attorney Todd McMurtry reported that he received an email from Ron Perry who is handling the CERS case reporting that the court decided not to take oral argument. He should hear soon from court of appeals. There will be opportunity to take up to supreme court if necessary.

Ms. Bailey added that as a result of changes with TBNK, this meeting was the first one broadcast through live streaming on internet. Effective in February, meetings held prior to August 2019 would not be available online. If someone needs a copy of the recording, they would need to complete an Open Records request.

Police Department – Interim Police Chief Jonathan Colwell reported that the onsite accreditation went through well. The Northern Kentucky Honor guard participated at the Veterans Day Ceremony. This month the Police Department will be participating in “Shop with a Cop”. The Women’s Self-Defense classes are on pause this month. He will be working on new dates and will be announcing them on social media.

Public Works - Public Works Director Jeff Bethell reported that the department has been getting ready for winter, winterizing, shutting off the sprinkler system, and doing leaf clean up. There was a small snow a couple weeks ago that provided a good opportunity to run routes and prepare. They have been installing new furniture around office building. The crushed sidewalk on George Huser should be completed.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Employee Recognitions/Special Thank Yous

The following were received since that last Council Meeting:

- Thank you from the Colwell Family for the baby gifts.
- Thank you from Lois McClure for the Police Department for the vacation watch. Mayor Hatter promoted that service as well as reminded everyone about the Internet Safe Shopping Zone.
- Letter to Mayor Hatter, Ms. Bailey and Council from Kathleen Romero thanking them for support for Veterans Day Ceremony.
- Letter from the family of Gina Casey for the flowers for her mother.
- Thank you from North Point Development for working with them through their Stage One Development.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Margie Witt wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Councilman Adam Feinauer echoed Councilwoman Witt's wishes.

Councilman Dave Abeln added Happy New Year wishes.

Councilman Jay Weber wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and reminded everyone to watch winter safety. Mayor Hatter added that even though he is reluctant to declare a snow emergency, asked everyone to be vigilant and cognizant of the weather to get vehicles off the streets so that they can be cleared.

Mayor Hatter also announced Civil War Christmas at the Museum and the Behringer Crawford Christmas festivities, both events on December 8, 2019 for free.

Councilman Scott Wall wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Bernie Wessels asked about the Board of Adjustments meeting scheduled for December 10, 2019. Ms. Bailey responded that that meeting would be cancelled.

Mayor Hatter announced that this was the last televised meeting of the year. He wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and that he appreciated everyone's support. The January meeting would be rescheduled as the first Wednesday is New Years Day. He also reminded everyone that taxes are due December 31st.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

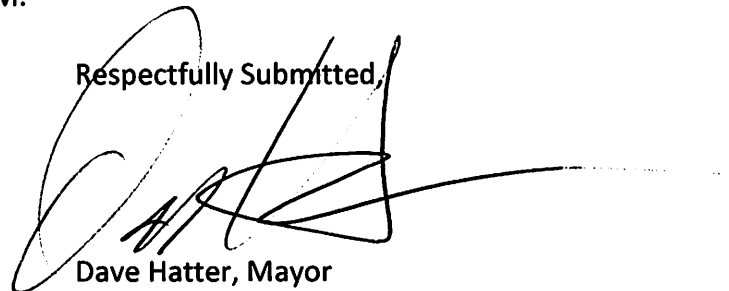
Councilman Wall made a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting. Councilwoman Witt made a second. Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk Susan Ellis called the roll.

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 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Dave Hatter, Mayor.

Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Susan Ellis, Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk.

Susan Ellis, CMC, KCMC
Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk