



City of Fort Wright

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

City of Fort Wright Caucus Meeting Wednesday, December 15, 2021 – 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Caucus Meeting was called to order at 6:13 PM by Mayor Dave Hatter following the conclusion of the Special Council Meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

There were no citizen comments.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

CORA/Devou Park Trails Project – Jason Reser – Liv Birkenhauer, President of CORA [Cincinnati Off-Road Alliance], spoke in place of Jason Reser, as he was unable to attend. She gave background on CORA and their trail system, which consists of 110 miles of trail in Southeastern Ohio and Northern Kentucky. She said the Devou Park trail system is one of the nicest trails in their system. Ms. Birkenhauer said the organization uses volunteers to build and maintain the trail systems, following the US Forest Service's

standards for trail building. She said the organization's trail systems allow for hiking and riding and they are working to connect more residents to more trails in Northern Kentucky and Ohio.

Lee Ransdell introduced himself as the lead trail steward at Devou Park. He said the trail system at Devou Park was started in 2008 and they have used volunteers to build the trails, but through private grants and donations they have been able to have 10 of their 12 trails professionally built. Mr. Ransdell said there are three phases of the Park's master plan, and they are now in phase 3B which entails obtaining an RFP to build the remaining trails. He said the economic impact study done in 2017 showed that the trail system at Devou Park brought \$1.8 million to the region.

Patrick Moore, Park Project Coordinator for the City of Covington, added that phase 3B is the last keystone piece to finish up the trail projects. He said they are asking the City of Fort Wright to work with the City of Covington via an interlocal agreement to create a trail through the wedge property formerly known as the Wessels Property [1681 Sleepy Hollow Road], which will allow Covington to begin the RFP process with a professional trail builder.

Ms. Bailey added that there is no expense to the City of Fort Wright for this proposed interlocal agreement, other than the time it will take to work out the agreement.

There was discussion about aspects of the project, including recreational indemnity, there being no need for an easement if the interlocal agreement exists, and the ability to include an option for the City of Fort Wright to rescind use in the future. Mr. Moore said those aspects are covered in the interlocal agreement.

There was discussion with Chief Schewe regarding Fire Department access, and it was suggested that the Covington Fire Department could work with the Fort Wright Fire Department to handle access logistics.

Councilman Wessels gave background on the Glengarry and Don Martin Drive developments, saying the builders left open space per the request of the City to allow for passive recreation. He asked that the City of Covington consider an exchange for a one- or two-acre piece of land that would allow for passive recreation for this parcel in question to be used in the trail project.

There was concern that expansion of the trail system would cause additional traffic in the Glengarry subdivision. Mr. Ransdell advised that visitors primarily use specific lots within the park and that the Glengarry Trailhead is not listed on any signage nor considered a primary trailhead.

Mayor Hatter summarized the discussion, saying no one appears to have any serious objections and Mr. Theissen will begin work on the interlocal agreement. He said he would still like to see an alternate arrangement for residents in that neighborhood.

Mayor Hatter requested an amendment to the agenda to include discussion about the Madison Pike/Sperti Drive realignment. Councilman Feinauer made a motion to amend the agenda. 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

Discussion began on the proposed realignment of the Madison Pike and Sperti Drive intersection. Councilman Wessels said he was surprised to see the City of Edgewood passed a Resolution to oppose the realignment. He acknowledged many voiced concerns about the left turn lane. Ms. Bailey advised that money has been allocated but she does not know where the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is in the process.

There was discussion about the Michels property, with Councilman Wessels saying half the property was sold to an investor with Joe Michels having no knowledge about any agreement for this realignment.

Ms. Bailey said she would work with Edgewood leadership, including Mayor John Link and City Administrator Brian Dehner, to set up a meeting with Bob Yeager of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. She added that she would work to include leadership from Gateway Community & Technical College in the discussion because the proposed interchange will impact access to their facilities.

Ms. Bailey said she plans to have a Resolution on the agenda for the January Council Meeting. Mayor Hatter said he will reach out to Representative Kim Banta and Senator Chris McDaniel to see if either of them can assist.

Snow Removal Operations/Salt Storage Update – Ms. Bailey said there were some issues during the last snow season with access to the City's salt supply, which is held at the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's garage on Madison Pike. She added that the state has acknowledge a staffing shortage this season will result in some City roads not being treated or having snow removed like they have previously. She acknowledged the roads will need to be done but added that it puts extra stress on City staff.

Ms. Bailey said a solution for the salt storage would be to build the City's own storage on City-owned property and she has a proposal from CT Consultants that includes plans and costs. Mayor Hatter said the salt storage is something the City needs to consider, as the City is setting itself up for issues if the state decides to rescind their handshake agreement that currently exists.

Mr. Bethell discussed the salt access and storage issue, saying he has a good relationship with the state employees at the site that holds the City's salt, but there are concerns that if the state does not have staff at the barn then the City cannot access its supply. He also acknowledged the staffing shortage the state is facing, along with the contractors who assist the state in snow removal and treatment.

There was discussion about the informal agreement between the City and the state for road treatment and snow removal in exchange for storage access on Madison Pike. It was agreed that the arrangement needs to be in writing. There was also discussion about which roads become priority for City staff to maintain during snow or ice storms.

Ms. Bailey presented information about the proposed salt storage facility that could be placed on the City Administration building property, connected to the Public Works Garage. There was concern expressed about the salt being housed close to equipment and the damage it could do, in addition to the trucks that haul salt causing damage to the driveways on property.

Mayor Hatter summarized the discussion, saying continuing to be dependent on the state is not good and a solution to build the City's own facility is the best option. He acknowledged that hard decisions would have to be made on road treatment, including how to prioritize roads and communicating with residents to maintain expectations. Mayor Hatter said Senator McDaniel and Representative Banta should be involved in discussions, and he will bring it to the Mayors Group.

There was discussion about replacing a 35-year-old backhoe for the Public Works Department. Ms. Bailey asked Mr. Bethell to get updated numbers and present more information to Council in January.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

Councilman Wall made a motion to adjourn the Caucus Meeting. 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

The Caucus Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Hatter", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maura Russell", in a cursive style.

Maura Russell
City Clerk