

CITY OF FORT WRIGHT, KENTUCKY CAUCUS MEETING

December 20, 2017 – 6:00 PM

Mayor Hatter opened the caucus meeting with a Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. The following members answered roll call: Mr. Dave Abeln, Mr. Adam Feinauer, Mr. Mike Hoerlein, Mr. Scott Wall, Mr. Bernie Wessels, and Ms. Margie Witt. Also, present for the meeting were City Administrator Ed Butler, City Attorney Kyle Winslow, Police Chief Marc Schworer, Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe, Public Works Director Jeff Bethell, and Assistant City Clerk Susan Ellis.

There were no Citizen Comments.

Discussion Regarding Elsa Sule Home on Monticello

Mr. Butler provided an update. The home is owned by The Point for adult special needs and is deemed residential. Initially there was some citizen concern. Advertising and an open house drew attention to it. It is not like a group home which requires different zoning. Residents are special needs legitimately working adults. There is a similar home in Edgewood which has had no issues. Mr. Butler was confident that the zoning code would not allow transition or group homes. There have not been any further conversation or concern from residents.

Discussion Regarding Kyles Lane

A resident from the Marcella area has sent numerous emails. The same resident continues to email even though he has been informed that the state controls Kyles lane. As this is a state road, the City has limited capability to do anything there. A sign cannot be put up, the traffic pattern cannot be changed, new lanes or traffic lights cannot be added without state approval. Building another road would require homes to be purchased and residents would be opposed. The City has requested the state to look into the situation, but in the past there has been no response. The only other complaint has been from a resident across the road.

Discussion Regarding the KLC Legislative Agenda for 2018

Separation of CRS & KRS – The Mayor and City Council continue to support separation of CRS & KRS. The Mayors' Group Legislative Caucus will be held at the Erlanger City Building on January 6, 2018. Support is needed from all mayors as this is being forced upon the cities and the excessive payments will result in a significant drain on financial resources. Cities unable to make the payments will be subject to penalty, interest, consequences of the law, and payments to their retirees would be impacted. The potential of holding payments in abeyance or escrow pending the outcome of the lawsuit was discussed. Concern was expressed that the state is not doing anything to generate funds. The City needs to explore all other options besides raising taxes to fund the budget increase. Political advocacy is also needed.

Other Items – Mr. Butler will review the list of other items to determine if there is anything that needs to be addressed.

Discussion Regarding Insurance Premium Tax

Concern was expressed as to how the City can determine it is received the amounts it should. This has been a long time issue. It has been tried unsuccessfully in the past. It was determined it was not worth pursuing. There was also discussion regarding different cities collecting different percentages.

Discussion Regarding the City's Nuisance Ordinance

Concern was expressed regarding a non-stop barking dog and how to enforce the nuisance ordinance. Mr. Winslow responded that the procedure is to file a complaint and have public works follow through with an investigation. Once Public Works records the barking, the owner can be cited.

Discussing Regarding PDS Council Appointment for 2018

The representatives need to be elected officials. This is a 1 year appointment. Mr. Feinauer agreed to serve as representative and Mr. Hoerlein agreed to serve as the alternate.

Discussion of Covington's Lateral Transfer Policy

This policy will affect police department hiring down the road. It allows people to join departments without taking an entry level test. This is a hiring platform to lure experienced people and could potentially be a threat to hiring/retention. Fort Wright's policy is that if a police officer leaves within three years of attending the academy, education costs must be paid back to the City. Currently Covington's policy is not an issue. This is just informational, but it is competition from Covington that has not existed in the past.

Discussion Regarding Employee Health Insurance

Mr. Butler has met with those employees who have been on the traditional plan. He has received no real negative feedback and is ready to move forward. Sherrill Morgan and BB&T found the City's contribution to preload the HSA account to be generous. BB&T assisted employees with setting up their accounts. Initially it was expected this change to be expense neutral but the cost is actually trending downward. Ten employees will be getting health insurance at a cost of approximately \$205,000. The City has done everything it can to make this transition as seamless as possible.

Discussion Regarding KLC Rate Stability Agreement

Mr. Butler recommended a three year agreement for liability insurance to stabilize costs. The local broker sees it as a good idea as locking in mitigates exposure. The downside of this would be if rates don't go up but it is not expected that there would not be more than a 3% increase. Mayor Hatter thought that it made sense and the rest of the council members were in agreement. No issue with moving forward.

Discussion Regarding the Madison Pike TIF

A list of capital projects using TIF funds needs to be put together. Ideas included curbs, trees, sidewalks, and redesigns. Working with state and pursuing grants was suggested.


Other Comments

Mr. Butler has looked into sexual harassment training for all staff. It is available through the employee assistance program at no additional cost. Training will be planned for January.

A lawsuit by Roger Kuchle is currently in court regarding Kyles Land and Dixie Highway.

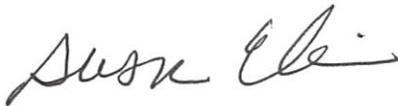
Motion by Mr. Abeln, second by Mr. Wessels to adjourn the caucus meeting. All members voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:



Susan Ellis, Assistant City Clerk