



City of Fort Wright

409 Kyles Lane | Fort Wright, KY 41011 | www.fortwrightky.gov | 859.331.1700

City of Fort Wright City Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 3, 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.

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

Jared Capps, FW Police Recruit - Numerous family and friends of Officer Capps attended Introduction of Officer Capps was made by Chief Colwell and Officer Capps introduced his family in attendance. Badge Presentation-Presented by Mayor Hatter and Chief Colwell. Photos were taken and congratulations were given by all in attendance.

Former Councilman Dave Abeln – Special Presentation

Mayor read proclamation aloud, Citation of Appreciation from State Representative Stephanie Dietz, Key to the City and misc. gifts were presented to Mr. Abeln; Senator Chris McDaniel reads the given citation. Dave says a few words to reflect on his time at the city. Council members, CAO & Mayor comment on Dave's time on council. Adam Feinaur speaks on behalf of Mr. Abeln and his time spent at Fort Wright. Mayor comments further on Mr. Abeln's time spent on council. Congratulations were given by all, and photos were taken with Mr. Abeln.

MINUTES

Minutes from the November 5, 2025 City Council Meeting – TABLED UNTIL NEXT COUNCIL MTG
Minutes from the November 13, 2025 Special Council Mtg. – TABLED UNTIL NEXT COUNCIL MTG
Minutes from the November 19, 2025 City Caucus Meeting – TABLED UNTIL NEXT COUNCIL MTG

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dixie Highway Sidewalk Grant Project Update

Next steps to move forward is to notify the State that the designs funds that are authorized, to be released. CAO has a statement prepared –“City of Fort Wright would like to request the design funds are authorized for the Dixie Hwy US 25/42/127 Sidewalk Project 6-3042 as outlined.” Grant comes with local match of apprx. \$412,000, and OKI match of apprx. \$618,000. There is also \$56,000 allocated for easement acquisition, hoping to work with property owners to reduce that expense. CAO Bailey asks for a motion to authorize the submission. Councilman Weber makes a motion, and Councilwoman Ross made a second. Councilman Wessels asks if the City’s portion of funds will come out of the TIFF fund, CAO Bailey confirms the amount is available and funds have not been used since her tenor at the city. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Jason Collins	No
Ms. Donna Ross	Yes
Mr. Scott Wall	Yes
Mr. Jay Weber	Yes
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Yes
Ms. Margie Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIES 5-1

NEW BUSINESS

Tot-Lot Playground

Mayor explains where the Tot-Lot Playground is located. KYTC salt services agreement goes hand-in-hand with the discussion of the Tot-Lot Playground. No objections from council in discussing the two items together. KYTC is sending the City a contract to continue to store salt at their location. The City was purchasing salt from the county at a rate of \$88/T with the agreement. Mayor adds that we’ve always had this “handshake arrangement” that if we continued to plow and cleanup Orphanage on the state’s behalf, we could store our salt at the State’s location since we did not have a place to store our own salt. The dynamics are changing at the state level; therefore, the City is looking for a place to house the salt on our property. Once the salt is depleted from the County, we must purchase it from the state at \$108/T. The money is allocated in the MRA fund. Mayor feels that we do not have an alternative and is a gigantic cost increase. Councilman Wessels asks if the state would be making money on the cost they charge us? CAO Bailey states that a State employee needs to be at the state garage in order for us to gain access. Councilman Collins states that the City can lose our salt allowance if the state needs it. Their need outweighs our need for it.

Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to enter into the contract with the state for the purchase and storage of salt at the state’s location. City Attorney stated the contract has an end date of 4/15/2026. Councilman Wessels made a motion, and Councilman Collins made the 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 6-0

Councilman Wall expressed interest in what type of storage facility is to be built? A dome? A building? A storage facility located at a more convenient place would be beneficial to the city.

Discussions have been made to possibly have something on the property of the Battery Hooper location. Possibly have the salt storage located at the current Tot-Lot Park location. Demolition of the Tot-Lot Playground structure has been considered. The playground equipment is older. The Park is located in a difficult spot, with the emergency equipment being so closely located to the playground. Councilman Wessels made a comment that the playground will be replaced with a new and improved location. Ideally in a safer location. CAO Bailey asks for a motion to approve demolishing the Tot-Lot Playground structure. Councilman Wessels made a motion 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	Yes
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Yes
Ms. Margie Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIES 6-0

Executive Order 02-2025 reappointing Board of Adjustment(BOA) Members

City Attorney reads aloud the Executive Order that would reappoint Harry Geimeier and Tom Litzler to the FW BOA. Mayor asks for a motion to approve Executive Order 02-2025. Councilwoman Witt made a motion, 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 6-0

Municipal Order 10-2025 disposing of Surplus Property

Hikvision Camera System Model: DS-2CD2383GO-1
Hikvision Receiver/Recorder

Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to approve MO 10-2025. Councilman Weber 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 6-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NONE

CAO REPORT

Thank you to the staff and business that donated to the Staff Appreciation Event in November.

Apprx 72-73 staff members and family attended the event. Cash donations: \$5,000 and in-kind donations of \$6450 for gift baskets.

Parking lot-Emergency Call Tower in place but not yet functional. Parts had to be ordered. Will update the community when it is up and running. Call centers are located at various doors throughout the outside of the building.

Trees on Park Road are scheduled to be removed on December 15th, could be taken down sooner dependent on weather.

Reminder that the December 17th Caucus meeting is cancelled.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Administration-Busy with tax related items and decorating for the holidays

Police Department- 2 Cram the cruiser events-Walmart 12/10/25 from 630-830 in front of store.
Nky Bargain Outlet 12/13/25 from 9am-1pm

Mayor Welcome to Jared Capps, newest Officer hired.

Chief Colwell issued citation to Det Gross, he coordinated and made the Scam Training happen, it went very well. Overwhelming positive feedback. We will hold more in the future.

FBI leadership program-Chief Colwell took two years to complete along with a 10,000-word self-assessment survey, along with Capt Griffin completed.

Office Wiesner used excellent judgment in a situation that could have gone worse.

Fire Department-Chief Schewe-Ky Board of EMS inspections- passed with 100 and good for another year. Specs for new ambulance complete. Waiting for next direction to proceed. 27-28 time frame of receiving. Engine in for service, hope to be back in next week or two. Currently using reserve engine. Welcome to Aiden Dennis, newest FD hire.

Public Works-NONE(Jeff not in attendance) Mayor thanked PW team for their hard work and great job they perform. Thank you to Ben Wienser for coming in the help with snow removal.

Legal Counsel-NONE

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Santa's Mailbox -December 1-31, 2025 available 24 hours

Tree Lighting – December 6, 2025 6:00p.m. refreshments served and Carolers

Santa and Grinch visit Neighborhood December 13, 2025 2:00p.m.

Holly Jolly days at Behringer Crawford Museum December 20, 2025 9am-5pm

Tree recycling December 26-January 13, 2026

Coat Drive in Lobby thru December 31, 2025

Light recycling Through January 2026

Rumpke Garbage schedule is available on the website

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

With nothing further on the agenda to discuss, Mayor Hatter asks for a motion adjourn. Councilman Wall made a motion, 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

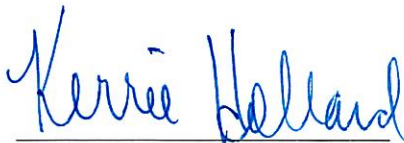
MOTION CARRIES 6-0

The next city Council Meeting is Scheduled for January 7, 2026 @ 6:00p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Dave Hatter, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kerrie Holland, City Clerk