



City of Fort Wright

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

City of Fort Wright Council Meeting Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 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 Administrative Officer Jill Bailey
City Attorney Tim Theissen
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe
Police Captain Jonathan Colwell
City Clerk Maura Russell

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

FW Fire/EMS Lt. Cynthia Ford (Retiring) – [See New Business]

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Wednesday, January 19, 2022. 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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

City Flag Project – Ms. Bailey presented several flag designs based off input from Councilmembers at the previous meeting. Suggestions were made by Council on their preference. Ms. Bailey said she would go back to the design company to get a sample closer to the color blue they are requesting.

There was discussion about the placement of the flags in the City. Ms. Bailey said flags would be purchased to be used on City flagpoles only, including at the City Administration Building and at the Shoppes of Fort Wright at the intersection of KY-17/Madison Pike and Highland Pike. Councilman Weber suggested having a few on hand to sell to interested residents. Ms. Bailey advised they are pricey, but she would review that option.

Councilman Feinauer made a motion to allow Ms. Bailey to move forward with the purchasing of the City flag design with a solid blue background. 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

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 05-2022 honoring retiring Fire/EMS Lt. Cynthia Ford – [This Resolution was corrected to be Resolution 04-2022.]

Mr. Theissen read Resolution 04-2022 recognizing and honoring Lt. Cynthia Beyer-Ford as she retired from the Fort Wright Fire/EMS Department effective January 31, 2022.

Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve Resolution 04-2022. Councilman Weber made a second. Mr. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Hatter said Lt. Ford was unable to attend this meeting to receive her Resolution and gift, but there was a lunch held for her last week at which she received her helmet. Mayor Hatter thanked Lt. Ford for her many years of dedicated service to the City.

Chief Schewe said Lt. Ford was one of the first group of individuals hired when the Fire Department switched to 24-hour shifts. He said she was instrumental in switching from BLS [basic life support] to ALS [advanced life support] for EMS services. Chief Schewe continued, saying Lt. Ford was skilled on both the Fire and EMS sides of operations and meshed well with all employees. He said it is hard to see her go and he wishes her the best in her future endeavors.

Ms. Bailey commented that Lt. Ford was one of the very few females in Northern Kentucky to reach rank in fire service. She said that was cutting edge 15 years ago and she thanked Lt. Ford for being a great role model.

2nd Reading Ord. 01-2022 amending various sections of the Traffic Code – Mr. Theissen read a summary of Ordinance 01-2022, an Ordinance of the City of Fort Wright, in Kenton County, Kentucky, amending various sections of the Traffic Code of the City of Fort Wright to amend speed limits, parking restrictions, listed stop signs, and City stickers, amending Chapter 70 to 75 of Title VII of the City of Fort Wright Code of Ordinances.

There was discussion about the guidelines that decide or recommend adding and removing stop signs in the City. Ms. Bailey and Mayor Hatter both agreed that there is a process, including international standards, sight distances, and emergency services professionals' judgement that should all be taken into consideration when adding or removing stop signs and no parking zones or changing speed limits, but ultimately it is up to Council to act within their authority.

Councilman Wessels advised there is a stop sign missing from the list on Wright's Summit Parkway at Frisch's parking lot exit, going east. Councilman Weber made a motion to amend the proposed Ordinance 01-2022 to include this stop sign. 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

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve Ordinance 01-2022 as amended. 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

Equipment Replacement – 1987 John Deere Backhoe – Ms. Bailey said Mr. Bethell is still working on gathering proposals for a new backhoe for the Public Works Department. She said he has some quotes but is still waiting to hear back from a couple vendors. She suggested tabling this item until March to allow time for more information to come in. Mayor Hatter approved.

NKAPC Appointment – Todd Berling – Mr. Theissen read Resolution 05-2022, a Resolution of the City of Fort Wright, in Kenton County, Kentucky, re-appointing Todd Berling as the City of Fort Wright Representative to the Kenton County Planning Commission for another four-year term, 1/1/2022 to 12/31/2025.

Councilman Abeln made a motion to approve Resolution 05-2022. 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

Councilmembers expressed their appreciation to Mr. Berling for continuing to serve the City in this capacity. Ms. Bailey said he was very interested in serving again and grateful for the opportunity. Mayor Hatter thanked Mr. Berling for stepping up to do this.

Luxury Car Development – Proposed Text Amendment – Councilman Wessels recused himself from this discussion.

Ms. Bailey said a working group was formed at a previous meeting to review the text amendment language proposed by Performance/AutoManage LLC. She said that language was reviewed yesterday and there are some concerns which have been relayed to Mr. Theissen to send to their attorneys. She said the recommendation by the working group, which involved Councilman Wall, Councilman Abeln, herself, and Mr. Theissen, was to not approve the text amendment language as provided.

Jay Bayer, President of Bayer & Becker, said the luxury car dealership project is moving full speed ahead and the group is very anxious to get started. He said they believe the text amendment is needed and are ready to submit a development plan. Mr. Bayer said architects are on board and contractors have been selected, so their group is ready to move forward with bringing a luxury car dealership to Fort Wright.

Mr. Bayer asked for the City's help in bringing the three parties [AutoManage LLC/Performance, Wessels Group, the City of Fort Wright] together to move this process along so it can go in front of the Kenton County Planning Commission as soon as possible.

Kevin Atwell, General Counsel for Performance Automotive, addressed Council saying it is very important to them that all three parties work together for this project. He said he believes the matters of contention are very minor and asked that Council authorize a meeting as soon as possible.

Ms. Bailey advised Council has already authorized the working group to meet with the other two groups and they will work to get it scheduled.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Improvement Committee – Chair Councilman Feinauer – Councilman Feinauer said there is nothing new to report from the last meeting, and the Committee plans to meet again in two weeks. He said they are hoping to move forward with the exit signs and there are concerns about littering in the City that they hope to address.

Councilman Feinauer added that Councilwoman Witt did a mini-clean up on Tuesday, February 1st, and collected a lot of trash.

Finance Committee – Chair Councilman Wessels – Councilman Wessels said this afternoon’s Committee Meeting was cancelled and will meet again next month.

Ms. Bailey said interest rates are forecasted to rise over the next 12 months and RedTree Investment Group will continue to monitor for the City. She advised that RedTree is tentatively scheduled to attend the April Council Meeting to discuss performance of investments so far and answer questions from Council.

Councilwoman Witt asked to have the initial investment total added to the information shared by RedTree monthly, and Ms. Bailey advised she will request that information be added for comparison purposes.

Mayor Hatter added that at the last Council Meeting John Chamberlin of Chamberlin Owens presented the City’s audited financial statements and it was another stellar audit. He reminded residents that the audit and associated documents are available on the City’s website. He also encouraged residents to review OpenGov, also linked on the website, which is the financial transparency portal the City uses to allow residents and businesses to see how their funds are being spent, down to the individual checks written. He also thanked Council for doing a great job as stewards of the residents’ and business owners’ money.

CAO REPORT

Ms. Bailey said Rumpke advised trash collection will begin on Thursday, February 3rd, very early in the morning because of the impending winter weather. She said Friday collection will depend on the weather and that the City will send emails and update social media once more information is available.

Ms. Bailey said an offer was extended for one of the open Police Department positions and the new officer will begin on Monday, February 7th.

Ms. Bailey advised the Public Works Department is preparing for snow and ice operations and Mr. Bethell is absent from this meeting to allow he and his team time to rest before the weather comes in. She said there were some equipment issues with the new truck, but it has been serviced and they anticipate everything going well for this storm.

Ms. Bailey added to the Community Improvement Committee report by saying the approval has come in for some of the Fort Wright gateway signs to be installed. She said bid documents will be prepared because the cost may be over \$25,000. She said they intend to get those out and back quickly because costs continue to rise.

Ms. Bailey advised that they anticipated opening bids for the 2022 Street Project this evening but that has been pushed to March because of a water main issue. She said she hopes to award a contract in March.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Administration/Finance – Ms. Russell said that Lt. Ford’s retirement party was a success. She said the quarterly employee lunch will be on Tuesday, February 8th, to celebrate the Cincinnati Bengals going to the Super Bowl.

Ms. Russell gave Council an update on the amount of delinquent taxes. She said the delinquent property tax amount, as of February 1, 2022, is \$72,056.72, and the delinquent tangible tax amount was \$42,577.53.

Mayor Hatter thanked everyone who paid their taxes on time, saying it was amazing that year after year the City is generally collecting over 95% of taxes on-time. He gave credit to Council and staff for their hard work.

Fire/ALS Department – Chief Schewe advised there is now an opening in the Fire Department with Lt. Ford's retirement and the departure of another employee. He said the lieutenant position has been opened for internal applicants and he hopes to bring someone to Council for approval soon.

Chief Schewe advised with the incoming winter storm that residents should be careful if wires come down. He also asked residents to be extremely cautious if they lose power and choose to use open flames like candles or fireplaces to stay warm. He also said there is danger in water damage from freeze-and-thaw cycles so monitor water pipes, especially those outside. Chief Schewe reminded residents there may be a delay in getting to residents or businesses if the weather is extreme.

Police Department – Captain Colwell asked residents to be prepared for severe winter weather with plenty of gas and dressing for the weather. He said there is a high potential for cars to slide off roadways and reminded drivers that going off the road or wrecking also puts first responders into the same situations. He asked people to only travel if necessary.

Captain Colwell said the officer hired is Mike Gross who currently works for the Independence Police Department and recently retired from Fort Mitchell Police Department. Captain Colwell said he is familiar with the area and expects it to be a smooth transition and the department is excited to have him. Mayor Hatter added that he is excited to have Mike Gross on the team.

Public Works Department – Mayor Hatter said Mr. Bethell and his crew are home resting before the incoming severe winter weather. He said they have been preparing and getting equipment ready. Mayor Hatter acknowledged that snow removal services were delayed during the last snow fall, but the team does a great job. He said a lot of money was spent on a new truck to plow and salt and a hydraulic issue became apparent early in the last storm, but they still got the work done. He said they are keeping a close eye on the weather.

Legal Counsel – Mr. Theissen wished his wife a Happy Birthday.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Employee Recognitions/Special Thank You's – Mayor Hatter acknowledged a letter from Behringer-Crawford Museum, thanking the City for participating in their holiday "Fort Wright Day". Mayor Hatter thanked Behringer-Crawford Museum for their hard work and assistance with the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum closure this summer.

Mayor Hatter said there was also a Thank You card from former Specialist Daniel Hampton, thanking everyone for their support upon his retirement.

Mayor Hatter asked everyone to share the open positions the City currently has, adding that when residents and businesses share that information it maximizes the reach for the largest pool of candidates.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Wessels – He asked Captain Colwell about the second open position in the Police Department. Captain Colwell said two interviews have been conducted for that position and they hope to decide soon.

Councilman Feinauer – He asked residents to be safe in the severe winter weather.

Mayor Hatter said the Street Program Plan is on the City's website and he encouraged residents to review the plan to see where their streets may fall in the plan. He said it is updated every two-and-a-half years through a complex process involving the City's engineer.

Mayor Hatter reminded residents again about the open positions in City departments and asked that the positions be shared by residents and businesses.

Mayor Hatter addressed snow emergencies, saying Kenton County has already declared a Level One Snow Emergency and he anticipates having to declare one for the City as well. He said he hates having to declare snow emergencies because he knows parking is at a premium for residents in many neighborhoods and it creates unnecessary grief. He asked residents to move their vehicles off the street if it is not inconvenient to make it easier for the Public Works Department to get their vehicles through the neighborhoods to salt and plow and reduce the chances a car could be damaged. Mayor Hatter asked residents to watch social media, the City's website, and local media for updates and he will try to decide as quickly as possible.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

Councilman Feinauer made a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting. Councilman Wall made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

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

MOTION CARRIED

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:



Maura Russell
City Clerk