



# City of Fort Wright

409 Kyles Lane | Fort Wright, KY 41011 | [www.fortwright.com](http://www.fortwright.com) | 859.331.1700

## City of Fort Wright Caucus Meeting Wednesday, May 17, 2023 – 6:00 PM

### CALL TO ORDER

The Caucus 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	Absent
Councilman Collins	Present
Councilman Wall	Present
Councilman Weber	Present
Councilman Wessels	Absent
Councilwoman Witt	Present

Also present for the meeting were:

City Administrator Jill Bailey  
City Attorney Tim Theissen  
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe  
Police Chief Ed Butler  
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell  
City Clerk Maura Russell

### CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

There were no citizen comments.

### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

**Brent Spence Bridge – Kyles Overpass Reconstruction** – Nicole DiNovo, Associate Principal with Human Nature, presented renderings on proposed overpass options for Kyles Lane. She reviewed the background of the designs, saying the team took into consideration the Civil War fort in the City and other existing and historic architecture and geography.

After discussion and review of the plans, Council requested to bring this item back for decision at the June Council Meeting.

**Panhandling Complaints/Concerns** – Ms. Bailey said the City has received concerns and complaints about panhandling occurring on and near Valley Plaza Parkway, Highland Pike, Madison Pike, and the I-275 interchanges. Mr. Theissen advised Council that it is illegal to disallow panhandling, as it is a First Amendment right and has been backed by the Supreme Court. Chief Butler agreed, adding that there is no action police officers can take unless the individual is doing something illegal like harassing others or walking around the roadways.

There was discussion about adding signage discouraging giving to panhandlers, similar to what has been added in Covington near the 12<sup>th</sup> Street interstate ramps. After discussion, Council disagreed with placing signage around the City and opted instead to place messaging in upcoming newsletters and on social media.

**CARES/ARPA Funding (Departmental Needs Review)** – Ms. Bailey advised the City has approximately \$48,000 remaining in CARES funding and \$1.5 million in ARPA funding available to use by 2026. She presented requests from the Police, Fire, and Public Works departments. After Council discussion, it was agreed that each department's list could be fulfilled and the City would also work to review other areas for improvement, including the Administration Building and Public Works Garage and sidewalk repairs on Dixie Highway.

**Dixie Highway Mural Project** – During the discussion on funding, it was decided to pause this project and gather ideas for other beautification projects around the City.

**Chronic Nuisance Properties** – There was discussion about five chronic nuisance properties in the City and options for enhanced action to abate issues. Mr. Theissen advised legal routes, including foreclosure, can cost upwards of \$5,000 or more, so Council would need to determine a threshold for legal action. No threshold was determined.

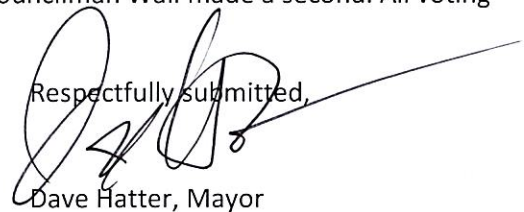
#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no need for an Executive Session.

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF THE CAUCUS MEETING**

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to adjourn the Caucus Meeting. Councilman Wall made a second. All voting in favor, the Caucus Meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Hatter', is written over the text 'Respectfully submitted,'.

Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Maura Russell', is written above the text 'Maura Russell, City Clerk'.

Maura Russell, City Clerk