



# 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 18, 2022 – 6:00 PM

South Hills Civic Club – 10 Bluegrass Avenue, Fort Wright, KY 41011

### 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  
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe  
Police Chief Ed Butler  
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell  
City Clerk Maura Russell  
City Engineer Mark Brueggemann

### CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

There were no citizen comments or guests.

### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

**Battery Hooper Park Update (Mark Brueggemann, CT Consultants)** – Mr. Brueggemann presented an updated plan for Battery Hooper Park based on Council suggestions given at the March 16, 2022, Caucus Meeting, saying this plan is being presented to spur thoughts and ideas for the next step of the design phase. Mr. Brueggemann presented an event center concept as well as a passive park concept, with each having a patio area near the existing battery to maximize the views looking southeast over the Licking River valley.

Mr. Brueggemann said the event center option would hold approximately 70-80 people and the passive park option would add two new shelters, restroom facilities, a dog park, and a walking path. Ms. Bailey added that there were not many responses given when the City requested feedback about parks, but the feedback that was received indicated a dog park was a popular request. She also said she spoke with Kenton County Administrator Joe Shriver regarding the former dog park at Pioneer Park, and he said the dog park was too difficult to maintain after multiple floods, but he would love to have another one in the county. After discussion, Council decided the preference was for the passive park, but to move the dog park out of the flat area in the park and put in another

recreation area, along with setting the parking lot for possible future expansion to add an event center. Mr. Brueggemann said he would take the suggestions to develop an updated concept for presentation to Council.

**South Hills Civic Center Improvement Project Update** – Ms. Bailey reviewed the expenses thus far on the South Hills Civic Club remodel that were approved by Council, including new flooring, tables, chairs, appliances, paint, decorations, new countertops, a television, and electrical work. She said the \$30,000 budget Council set has been maxed out and there are some additional improvements staff would like to make, including adding internet and a door locking system. Council advised Ms. Bailey to make a list of all outstanding items for discussion and possible approval at the next meeting.

Mr. Brueggemann presented plans for updating the grounds around South Hills Civic Club, including updating the parking area or moving the building to the back of the lot. He suggested opening the side wall to a new patio area, making the wall glass to make the space seem bigger. He also provided suggestions on updating the roof to bring in more natural light. Council agreed on potentially updating the existing building instead of building a new space and Mr. Brueggemann agreed to bring back additional ideas to a future meeting.

**Robke Bridge Maintenance & Ownership Update** – Ms. Bailey advised that Mr. Theissen reviewed documents concerning the bridge extending over Banklick Creek at the end of Dudley Road, saying it does belong to the City of Fort Wright. She said the City cannot assess Gateway Community & Technical College for assistance with repairs because they are a state entity and do not share maintenance or repairs unless they voluntarily agree. Ms. Bailey said some general repairs do need to be done to the bridge, which will cost about \$6,000 to \$7,000.

Mayor Hatter said he is glad Gateway is in the community and using the former Robke space, but as a taxpayer he does not want to spend residents' money on maintaining a bridge that continues to be impacted by heavy truck traffic and potentially fire truck traffic if the fire training center is built there.

**Fire Training Location & Facilities** – Chief Schewe presented information about a proposed fire training facility on a parcel of land adjacent to the Gateway Community & Technical College location, including a background on the previous location in Covington being sold to Rumpke. There was discussion on what the training facility, which would be owned by the Kenton County Fire Chiefs Association, would look like. Chief Schewe advised there would not be a huge burn tower built. Chief Schewe said he has talked with Morrow Gravel Company, located on Eaton Drive, and they are open to an agreement to allow the fire equipment traffic to access the site via their property, which would take that equipment off the existing bridge. It was agreed by Council that Chief Schewe would gather more information about the traffic redirection, including if the Kenton County Fire Chiefs Association can work with Gateway and the state of Kentucky on an agreement for maintaining the bridge.

**Old Madison Pike – Pavement Condition Update** – Chief Butler presented traffic study information for Old Kentucky 17/Old Madison Pike, advising northbound traffic was monitored for 13 days with 1,573 vehicles passing and southbound was monitored for 17 days, with 1,504 vehicles passing. He said he believes most of the traffic and its timing coincides directly with those who work on Helen Ruth Drive or are attending Ft. Wright CrossFit.

Mr. Bethell advised it would cost the City approximately \$1 million to correct the slide on both sides of the road. There was discussion about notifying the appropriate agencies connected with the cities of Edgewood, Erlanger, and Covington, and Kenton County prior to closing off through-access with concrete barriers. Ms. Bailey advised she would work with Mr. Theissen to draft a formal action to be voted on by Council at the next meeting.

It was requested to table the discussion regarding Nature Center Park to discuss the proposed changes to the Madison Pike/Dudley Road/Sperti Drive intersection. Ms. Bailey advised that landowners impacted by the proposed changes have reached out to the City with concerns about access roads cutting through their properties that would render them unusable. Ms. Bailey and Council discussed the proposed changes and suggestions. She asked Councilmembers to provide her with their opinions so she can accurately represent their wishes with state officials.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

There were no Council Comments.

Mayor Hatter passed along a message of thanks from Covington Mayor Joe Meyer, saying the Fort Wright Fire Department responded to a fire at his son's house and their family is thankful for the help.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no need for an Executive Session.

### **ADJOURNMENT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to adjourn the Caucus Meeting. 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

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:



Maura Russell  
City Clerk