



City of Fort Wright

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City of Fort Wright Council Meeting Wednesday, May 4, 2022 – 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Council Meeting was called to order at 6:01 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 Feinauer	Present
Councilman Wall	Present
Councilman Weber	Present
Councilman Wessels	Absent
Councilwoman Witt	Present

Also present for the meeting were:

City Administrative Officer Jill Bailey
City Attorney Tim Theissen
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe
Police Sergeant Jason Millay
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell
City Clerk Maura Russell
Finance Clerk Kelly Perry

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

Seth Cutter, Director Communications & Government Affairs at CVG – Mr. Cutter addressed Council to provide an update on the economic impact of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport. He said CVG is the seventh largest cargo airport in North America, with over 14,000 employees on its campus every day and an economic impact of over \$6.8 billion. Mr. Cutter said CVG is focused on a new strategic vision and plan to be a good neighbor and catalyst to transform the region.

Mr. Cutter provided some statistics about CVG, including the most non-stop flights and lowest average airfare costs of regional competitors and a 90% origination rate, meaning passengers starting or ending their travel at the airport. He also provided information on DHL and Amazon as cargo carriers, saying they exceed 1.5 million tons of cargo moved each year. Mr. Cutter added that the DHL hub is that company's second largest in the world. He added that Amazon opened their new cargo facility, a \$1.5 billion investment, in August 2021.

Mr. Cutter also discussed some improvements to the airport recently, including the opening of the consolidated rental car facility, which was a \$200 million investment, and the rehabilitation of the east/west runway, a \$70 million project. He said the reopening of this runway in October has caused an uptick in noise complaints, but the airport has added noise abatement information to their website and the ability to file complaints on excessive noise at cvgairport.com/flight/noise-abatement.

Mr. Cutter closed with information about employment, saying there are over 70 employers on their campus and they are working to consolidate all open job positions to one site – jobs.cvgairport.com. Councilman Weber asked if the airport works with local colleges or schools to promote the available jobs. Mr. Cutter said they have worked with local schools, Learning Grove, NaviGo, school systems, and employers to develop strong partnerships for externships, tours, and program development.

Councilman Weber asked about impacts from the global supply chain issues. Mr. Cutter said when traditional shipping channels are constrained there is not a ton of shift to air, but in the last year there has been an uptick because of logistics and supply chain issues. He said CVG Airport plans to move about 14,000 tons of cargo this year.

Councilman Wall asked if the Airport has any interaction with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet regarding the Brent Spence Bridge. Mr. Cutter said they work closely with KTC District Six regarding road projects around the Airport but support the local communities in their desires for better traffic circulation, particularly at the I-71/75/275 intersection and the Brent Spence Bridge because of supplier bottle necks.

Ms. Bailey asked about recruitment issues the Airport may be experiencing with their police and fire departments. Mr. Cutter said they staff about 55 fire and 50 police positions, and they also experience the long wait times to enter candidates into the Kentucky Police Academy. He said the Airport positions are unique, but they do operate similar to a municipal government, so they share similar concerns dealing with the state's retirement system and recruiting issues.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, with one correction to the discussion about the City's investment accounts during the Finance Committee report. Councilwoman Witt made a second. Ms. Russell called roll.

Councilman Feinauer	Abstain
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

RedTree Investment Group – Annual Update (Joe Violand & Ryan Nelson) – Mr. Nelson reviewed background information on the City's investment partnership with RedTree, and RedTree's background. He said the City started in March 2021 with \$3 million portfolio. He said monthly reports are provided to Ms. Bailey and her team. Mr. Nelson added that RedTree is the City's investment advisor and US Bank is the third-party custodian of the City's funds.

Mr. Violand reminded Council of RedTree's goals when investing the City's funds, which is the same for every entity they work with: safety of principal; liquidity for the city to access when necessary; and market rate of

returns. He provided an overall economic update, mentioning economic growth, employment, and higher interest rates as promising factors, and high inflation, job markets, and geopolitical risk as concerns. Mr. Violand said the City's projected interest gain is about \$17,000, which is much higher than what the same amount of money would have earned last year. There was a brief discussion about inflation.

Mayor Hatter reviewed the process Council took to get to this point, including a two-year internal review and discussion process to earn some interest on the taxpayer's money. He thanked Councilman Weber and Councilman Wessels for their time in drafting the City's Investment Policy and working with RedTree on the investments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Improvement Committee – Chair Councilman Feinauer – Councilman Feinauer said the Committee is reviewing the nuisance ordinance for updates and having ongoing discussions about litter in the City. He said they are still working on the City's gateway signage and other beautification projects. Mr. Theissen commented that there are five different ordinances tied to the nuisance ordinance updates.

Finance Committee – Chair Councilman Wessels – Councilman Weber had no report.

CAO REPORT

Ms. Bailey advised Ben Harrison has begun training Ms. Perry on her duties. She said she is working on budget proposals and will have information for Council soon.

Ms. Bailey said the renovations at South Hills Civic Club are going well and updating the policies and procedures will be done at the next Caucus Meeting. She added that the installation of the new playset at Volunteer Park is going well, with the curb and safety surface coming soon.

Councilman Weber commented on how nice the South Hills Civic Club looks with the renovations and inquired about the potential water issue behind the building. Ms. Bailey said they are waiting for a report from CT Consultants about correcting the issue. She said there is still about four to five more weeks of renovation work to be done and there are no new reservations being taken at this time.

Councilman Wall and Councilwoman Witt both said they have received positive feedback about the new playset at Volunteer Park.

Ms. Bailey said CT Consultants will be at the next Caucus Meeting to present a proposal for Battery Hooper Park. She said the City is soliciting proposals for a new playset at Fort Tot Park, on the grounds of the City Administration Building, saying that park is almost 30 years old and needs to be refreshed. Ms. Bailey added that dog bag dispensers will be added, and they are working on ordering trash cans and benches, all tied into the City's gateway signage branding.

Councilman Weber asked about adding the City's trash cans to Rumpke's existing routes in the City. Ms. Bailey said she will look into that with the next contract cycle.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Administration/Finance – Ms. Russell advised legal fees have been billed to outstanding property tax bills. She said Ms. Perry's training is going well. Ms. Russell announced that passport acceptance has been reopened and appointments can be made to complete that process at the City Administration building.

Fire/ALS Department – Chief Schewe reported the Department's KBEMS [Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services] inspection is coming at the end of the month. He said all paperwork has been submitted and they will be on-site for an inspection. He also reported that they have ordered most of the equipment they received grants for, and some items are delayed because of supply chain issues.

Chief Schewe said there are two new full-time employees, and they will be at the June meeting for introductions. He said their names are Joseph Schutzman and Clark Throckmorton and he is happy to have them onboard.

Legal Counsel – Mr. Theissen addressed an issue with Lookout Heights Civic Club, saying they have not paid their Kenton County or Fort Wright tax bills for a long time, citing their previous tax-exempt status. He said they are fighting to regain the tax-exempt status in court and the issue is now before the Kentucky Supreme Court. Mr. Theissen said the company that purchased the Kenton County tax bills once the property went into foreclosure is asking to proceed with the foreclosure, but he does not feel it should be foreclosed on yet. He said he would like Council's permission to file a memo with the presiding judge stating that, as the City does not want to undermine the organization and wants to support it where possible.

Mayor Hatter agreed that the situation with Lookout Heights Civic Club was unfortunate because of legislature changes. He said he would hate to see something happen to an organization that has been around in the community for a long time, and he said he feels the City should do what it can to help them until there are no other options and it is resolved through the Supreme Court. Council agreed to allow Mr. Theissen to file the memo with the presiding judge.

Police Department – Sergeant Millay had no report.

Public Works Department – Mr. Bethell said his department has been working on the renovations at South Hills Civic Club and the playset installation at Volunteer Park, along with mowing and trash abatement. He announced that the water main replacement on Morris Road will start Monday, May 9th, and will be completed by June 23rd. He said this is being done ahead of the resurfacing project that the City will begin after July 1st. Mr. Bethell also said there will be interviews for the open Public Works Laborer position on Friday, May 6th.

Steve Myers – 1596 St. Anthony Circle – asked about the fencing at Battery Hooper Park that had been previously discussed. He pointed out that the new apartment complex has paved a roadway that lines up directly with the City's path inside the park. Mr. Bethell advised they will be putting in a grass section to interrupt the path and still plan to put up a fence.

Mayor Hatter addressed nuisance properties in the City, saying there are only a handful, but he wanted residents to better understand the process on how complaints are handled. Mr. Bethell said code enforcement can be a long process and the City does not intend to come out with a heavy hand, instead issuing courtesy letters to remind residents of the need to keep up with their properties. Mr. Bethell said the courtesy letters typically receive complying results but if not, a citation will be issued.

Mr. Bethell also noted that the issues must be observable from the public right-of-way as the City and other enforcement officials cannot enter private property for observation without explicit permission from an adjoining property owner. He said some residents want to notify the City but do not want to be identified, but the City will work hard to maintain confidentiality where possible. Councilman Wall asked about drone usage to view problem properties and Mr. Theissen said the expense and liability of using drones is prohibitive.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Employee Recognitions/Special Thank You's – Mayor Hatter reminded residents of Primary Voting Day on May 17th and that all Fort Wright voting locations have been consolidated to the Fort Wright Civic Club.

Mayor Hatter advised that the Community Wide Yard Sale, coordinated by the City, will be held on Friday, May 20th, and Saturday, May 21st, and the permit form is on the City's website.

Mayor Hatter invited the community to attend the Memorial Day Ceremony, which will be held on Monday, May 30th, at 10:00 AM at the City Administration Building. He thanked keynote speaker Emily Burton, wife of deceased Staff Sergeant John Burton, for joining the ceremony.

Mayor Hatter also announced the next Hoxworth Blood Drive will be held on Friday, June 10th, with the Blood Mobile coming to the City Administration parking lot.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Witt – She thanked all the volunteers for attending the Community Clean Up Day on April 23rd. She said there were 37 volunteers who collected 135 bags of trash in under three hours, including four Council members and five staff. She said they are considering hosting a fall clean up day as well.

Mayor Hatter thanked Councilwoman Witt for her work in organizing the event and SubStation II for providing lunch to the volunteers. Councilwoman Witt said the oddest item found was a 30-year-old, legible check.

Councilman Feinauer – He thanked Ms. Bailey, Mr. Bethell, and staff for their work on the South Hills Civic Club renovations. He also reminded residents that school is almost out, and it is staying lighter longer and asked that drivers are cautious in neighborhoods, and that those out walking and riding make themselves more visible.

Councilman Wall – He congratulated Councilman Feinauer on being appointed a deacon in the Diocese of Covington a few weeks ago. He also thanked Councilwoman Witt for her work on the Community Clean Up Day.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an Executive Session.

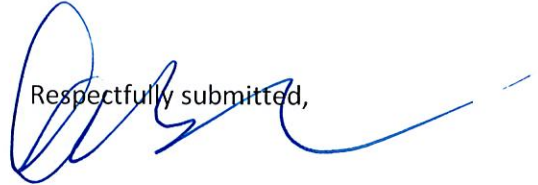
ADJOURNMENT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:



Maura Russell
City Clerk