



# City of Fort Wright

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## City of Fort Wright Council Meeting Wednesday, June 2, 2021 – 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 Chief Ed Butler  
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell  
City Clerk Maura Russell

### CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

Susan Ellis, former COFW Treasurer – Special Presentation – Mayor Hatter introduced Ms. Ellis, the former City Treasurer/Senior Deputy Clerk. He said she was with the City of Fort Wright for five years and has left to become the City Clerk for the city of Covington, Kentucky.

Mr. Theissen read Resolution 08-2021, a Resolution of the City of Fort Wright, Kentucky, congratulating Ms. Ellis and expressing pride in her accomplishments and commitment to the community.

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to approve Resolution 08-2021. Councilman Wessels 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

Mayor Hatter provided Ms. Ellis with a gift from the City and thanked her for her work, wishing her luck in her new role.

Ms. Ellis addressed Council, saying her relationship with the City of Fort Wright goes back to 1998 when she was a consultant. She said her work at that time led Fort Wright to recommend her to other cities, thus growing her business. Ms. Ellis said her daughter completed her Girl Scout Gold Award project in 2008 at Battery Hooper Park and James A. Ramage Civil War Museum, developing signage and a walking tour on the grounds.

Councilmembers each wished her the best of luck and thanked her for her work for the City.

There were no citizen comments or guests.

### **APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES**

Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council Meeting held on Wednesday, May 5, 2021. 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

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Wednesday, May 19, 2021. Councilman Wall 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

Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Caucus Meeting held on Wednesday, May 19, 2021. 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	Abstain	MOTION CARRIED

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**James A. Ramage Civil War Museum/Battery Hooper Park** – Mayor Hatter said ongoing discussion about this topic is to determine if the City will continue to fund the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum, which is in Batter Hooper Park.

Bernard O'Bryan, Board President for the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum, of Covington, addressed Council. He said it has been a great honor to serve the City as a volunteer and board member and he appreciates everything the City is doing. Mr. O'Bryan discussed the history of Battery Hooper Park and significance of the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum. He mentioned the Museum's recent recognition in a heritage magazine and outreach the volunteers to do maintain the Park's grounds, along with upcoming events the Museum has lined up. Mr. O'Bryan said he appreciates the lengthy discussion held at the prior meeting but thinks that shutting down the Museum would be short-sighted and not in the best interest of the City.

Randall Burnett, Board Member, of Covington, said he has volunteered with the Museum for about 18 years. He offered his services as an auctioneer to raise money for the Museum.

David Moore, Board Member, of Erlanger, addressed Council about parking, saying the Park and Museum cannot be supported by the limited parking as it currently exists. He also told Council that the Board is willing to raise money to support the Museum and asked that they give them a chance to do so.

Jan Mullikin, Board Treasurer and Volunteer Coordinator, of Florence, addressed Council saying she has strong ties to Fort Wright and enjoys bringing her family to the Museum and Park. She said she thinks it is important to the City and hopes Council will keep it.

Bob Langenderfer, Board Member, of Florence, addressed Council, saying he is an Emeritus Professor at Northern Kentucky University along with James Ramage, for whom the Museum is named. He said the Museum is a resource for the Fort Wright area and Northern Kentucky, and once it is lost it will likely be lost forever. Mr. Langenderfer appealed to Council to review ways to sustain and enhance the value and operations for the community. He suggested alternative uses for the Park, including disc golf, but said most alternatives would require an investment in parking.

Councilman Weber asked if the Museum is listed with the state's tourism commission. Mr. O'Bryan said he would check on that. Mr. Burnett said he has a meeting scheduled in Frankfort and plans to request to have the brown signs on the interstate updated to include the Museum.

Councilman Weber continued, asking if the Museum has plans for increasing advertising or getting television coverage for events. Mr. O'Bryan said he is working on advertising through social media and emails, and the informational page on the City's website.

Councilman Weber said that nonprofits need to be run like businesses because they cannot continue without income. He said nonprofits do not hoard money but need money to do things. Mr. Burnett asked about the \$4,000 per year that was promised to the Museum each year. Mayor Hatter said a previous Mayor advised the Board that the Museum must be self-sufficient, or it will not exist.

Mayor Hatter addressed the Board members, saying he appreciates the time they put in as he understands how hard it can be to find volunteers. He asked them why the City should be in the museum business, and asked what the benefit of the Museum was to the 6,000 taxpaying residents.

Mayor Hatter said that in 20 years in operations the Museum has generated only \$17,000. He said the City promotes and helps with events, and reminded the Board Members that every time Mr. Bethell and his Public Works Department goes to the Museum, Mr. Theissen researches, or Ms. Bailey does anything for the Museum it costs the residents money. Mayor Hatter recognized that the COVID-19 pandemic did not help the situation but said that the plan has been for the Museum to be self-sufficient for ten years. He also reiterated a prior issue, saying that there is a clear distinction between the Museum and the Park, and this issue being discussed tonight has nothing to do with the Park, which the City is not selling and is not closing.

Councilman Wall said the whole reason this got brought up was because of a request for more parking. He said a few years ago the City had an engineering firm review the options and the cheapest option was to spend \$250,000. Mayor Hatter said he might be willing to pay for parking at the Park for the Park amenities.

Councilman Abeln said there is no shared vision between the Museum and the City. He said there 126 pages of great ideas presented in 2008, but he has not seen those put into use. He said the Museum needs to be self-sustaining.

Ms. Bailey brought up the nonprofit status of the Museum, saying that it is a governmental entity and may not be able to claim that donations are tax-deductible because they are co-mingled with a government agency. She said she does not know if the City will be able to get the Museum 501(C)(3) status. Ms. Bailey addressed Council, saying the Museum has requested use of two City vehicles to use as shuttles and asked if Council would like to approve that request, though she said she was not sure if insurance would support the request without a special event designation.

There was further discussion about the amount of money the Museum currently has available, approximately \$4,000, and its upcoming expenses, including a \$2,700 insurance payment on July 1 and ongoing utilities. Ms. Bailey reminded Mr. O'Bryan that Council did say they would fund utilities for an interim period, but the Museum has operated at a loss for the last three years. Mr. O'Bryan disagreed with this statement.

Councilman Wessels thanked the volunteers for their time but said one of his issues is that the Museum has no direction and needs a master plan. He believes the building is in bad shape and is not on any historic registry. He said he would like to consider a different venue or approach with regard to the Park. Councilman Wessels also brought up the multiple Facebook pages the Museum has and communication being sent via email. He said that all must be run by Ms. Bailey for review because they are representing the City when they send any of that information out.

There was continued discussion about parking options and investments in the building. Councilwoman Witt brought up the previously discussed timeline, saying she is in favor of a deadline for the Museum to be sure it is running properly and not a burden on taxpayers. She said a plan needs to be developed to ensure the Museum is self-sustaining. Councilman Wessels agreed, saying he would be okay with a six-month deadline for funding and to see what the consultant's report says. He also said he is willing to take money out of reserves to pay for the consultant.

Mayor Hatter agreed with the consultant plan, but clarified that he wants the entire Park reviewed, not just the Museum, as he is against spending more money on the Museum. Ms. Bailey said \$25,000

has been budgeted for a consultant and Mayor Hatter said he knows that is not enough, but it will be a good start. He also said giving the Museum one year of operating costs while this plan is being developed is reasonable.

Councilman Wessels challenged the Museum Board Members to think outside the box for funding ideas. He reminded them that the City's staff does not have time to help with this, so they need to reach down deep and really work on a plan. When Mr. O'Bryan pressed for a dollar figure they must raise, Mayor Hatter suggested \$50,000 per year, with the caveat that the figure is not set in stone and could change based on updated information from the City's accountant. Mayor Hatter also reminded Mr. O'Bryan that the information discussed at the Museum's Board Meetings needs to be proactively provided to Ms. Bailey and Council for review.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Monarch Friends Project – Nature Center Walkway/275 Ramp** – Ms. Bailey said she was contacted by the Independence Chapter of Monarch Friends Project as they are interested in planting milkweed and other Monarch butterfly-friendly plants along the Nature Center trail where the SD1 [Sanitation District No. 1 of Northern Kentucky] project has completed. She said the organization has also received approval from the Kentucky Department of Transportation to plant along parts of the I-275 interchange with Madison Pike. She asked Council if they approve the plantings at the Nature Center.

Councilwoman Witt asked Ms. Bailey to clarify the cost to the City, and Ms. Bailey said this would all be done at no cost to the City and the organization will be using volunteers from the Grateful Life Center for plantings.

Councilwoman Witt explained that Monarch butterflies need to have certain plants to survive. She said milkweed is a perineal but not invasive, and typically blooms pink or orange, and this is what the butterflies will eat. She said she thinks this is a wonderful idea and adds to the butterfly waystation in the garden at the City Administration Building and complements gardens others in the City have planted.

Councilman Weber and Councilman Feinauer asked about SD1 and City right-of-way issues. Ms. Bailey said she believes the organization has SD1 approval already and that nothing has been marked out as she wanted to first make sure Council was comfortable with the project before she spent more time on it. Councilmembers agreed to proceed with the project.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance 05-2021 amending the FY 20/21 Budget** – Mayor Hatter said this Ordinance gets the current budget's projected figures in alignment with actual numbers. Ms. Bailey said the amendment incorporates audited figures as well.

Ms. Bailey said the intent is to do zero-based budgeting in the General Fund each year. Mayor Hatter explained that zero-based budgeting means every year the City starts at zero and each department has to justify their spending. He said the intent is to be sure department heads are not arbitrarily requesting money or increases they may not need.

Ms. Bailey explained some of the figures, including the City's receipt of \$625,000 in CARES [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security] Act funds. She said this Ordinance includes a proposal to move \$2.4 million to the Emergency Fund, Parks & Recreation Fund, and Capital Improvements Fund.

Ms. Bailey asked Council to determine, moving forward, how much they would like to be moved over to the Parks & Recreation Fund, as it is the one area that does not generate funding to support itself. Councilwoman Witt asked if there was any park in any city in Northern Kentucky that generated enough revenue to support itself, and Ms. Bailey said possibly Devou Park in Covington. Ms. Bailey said the Parks & Recreation Fund is separate so that expenses can be tracked.

Ms. Bailey mentioned the transfer of \$2.2 million to the Capital Improvements Fund and Mayor Hatter explained that the Capital Improvements Fund was set up under Mayor Neinaber to set aside funds to ensure the City can purchase large capital items with cash. He said items purchased from this account include fire trucks, ambulances, and police cars. Mayor Hatter said the City continues to maintain zero long-term debt because of this fund. Ms. Bailey added that it is like a big savings account and the money will not be spent but will be swept over to the next fiscal year in a starting fund balance.

Ms. Bailey added that the audit is scheduled to begin September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Hatter thanked Council and staff members for their hard work controlling expenses. He said the City has brought in more money than it has spent and that is due to creative thinking and not spending more than necessary. Mayor Hatter said the City is in the best financial shape since he started on Council, and even though the City has increased headcount it has decreased spending. He also noted that the City continues to have zero debt, generates more than it spends, and was able to cut property and payroll taxes this year.

Councilwoman Witt thanked the Finance Committee for their hard work, and Mayor Hatter added his thanks for their time and energy.

Mr. Theissen read Ordinance 05-2021, an Ordinance of the City of Fort Wright in Kenton County Kentucky, amending Fort Wright Ordinance No. 03-2020 and the budget adopted thereby for the City of Fort Wright for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, and ending June 30, 2021.

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 05-2021. Councilman Wessels 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

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance 06-2021 adopting the FY 21-22 Budget** – Ms. Bailey presented the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget, saying the City is projecting revenue of \$5.5 million and expenses of \$5 million, with an approximate surplus of \$506,000. She said the General Fund reflects increases for salary and market rate increases for staff, and everything else in that Fund is insurance and daily operating expenses.

Ms. Bailey reviewed each fund and anticipated income and expenses. Councilman Wessels noted that the \$506,000 surplus will be transferred to the Capital Improvements Fund. Ms. Bailey mentioned the following notes about each fund:

- Emergency Fund - \$665,000 with no planned expenses
- Municipal Road Aid Fund – starting near \$112,000; the state of Kentucky contract will bring in \$116,000 to be used for road salt, sand, signage, and road projects; anticipated expenses from this account will be \$226,000.
- Parks & Recreation Fund – starting at \$261,500 and budgeted for \$7,000 in revenue from South Hills Civic Club rentals; \$211,500 budgeted expenses but \$125,000 are ear-marked for a parking lot at Battery Hooper Park and an allocation for playground equipment at Volunteer Park and future equipment replacement at the Tot Lot.
- Dixie/Kyles TIF Fund – starting at \$386,500 with no funds allocated for expenses; Ms. Bailey said a meeting will need to be held for this Board soon to discuss improvement projects to use these funds; Councilman Wessels said the Finance Committee discussed a continuation of the new lighting Park Hills has installed along Dixie Highway and replacement of the guardrails in the Christ Hospital area.
- Capital Improvements Fund – beginning at approximately \$7,240,500, with allocations for additional Amsterdam Road funds to come in through the reimbursement process; the City is anticipating receiving \$1.4 million in ARPA [American Rescue Plan Act] funding; Ms. Bailey said the City is still waiting on final ruling from the Department of Treasury on what ARPA funds can be used for; a carry-forward of \$125,000 for the new Public Works dump truck; \$3.1 million for street paving, and some funds are ear-marked for projects, including for the Robke Bridge and Fort Henry Stabilization Project; Ms. Bailey said the Public Works Department has requested a new mower and trailer and the Fire Department has not requested any capital improvements; Ms. Bailey said that the Police Department has requested new body and dash cameras for officers, at about \$250,000 to come from the Capital Improvements Fund.
- Fire/EMS Fund – starting around \$337,500 with no plans for expenses above minor maintenance projects; Councilman Weber suggested a five- and ten-year projection plan for each department to plan for replacement of durable equipment, including PPE [personal protective equipment] and turn-out gear for the Fire Department; Ms. Bailey said a plan exists with in the Capital Improvement Fund, but it does need to be updated.
- JARCWM Fund – with a starting amount of \$2,125 and using numbers proposed by the Museum Board, outside of the insurance payment, they expect revenue of \$8,700 and expenses of \$10,625.

Councilman Wessels noted that the Police Department body/dash cameras and two new Police cruisers are the only major purchases planed. Councilman Weber thanked Ms. Bailey for her presentation of the budget, saying it is very easy to follow and make sense of the money. Ms. Bailey said her intent is to make sure Council and residents have a clear understanding of how their money is allocated and she hopes to build a history within these documents to be able to look across the past years in the line items.

Chief Butler described the body and dash camera purchase request, saying that in today's world high-quality videos of police encounters is a societal mandate. He said in court proceedings, bringing video is

the expectation now and cases have been thrown out without it. He also said it is a huge liability and losing one lawsuit because of no body or dash camera footage could exceed \$300,000 in loss to the City.

Chief Butler said the department currently has active body and dash cameras, but they are aging and not integrated together. He also said there is no replacement plan because the body cameras are no longer produced by the vendor, so if they break, they cannot be replaced. He said the plan he proposed is for purchase and lease renewal, which would replace body cameras at 30 and 60 months and dash cameras at 60 months, which would be two sets of dash and three sets of body cameras per officer. He said this plan also includes cloud storage and other things that will allow the department to operate more efficiently. Chief Butler said the company they plan to use, Axon, is well liked in the area, including being used by Covington, Villa Hills, and Cincinnati police departments, and is liked by prosecutors.

Chief Butler continued, saying there have been three officer-involved shootings in Northern Kentucky in three months, and compared that to his 21 years with the Kenton County Police Department when there were zero investigated officer-involved shootings. He said these cameras have auto-activation if an officer pulls a gun or taser, as well as activation of other nearby cameras in those situations, including other agencies.

Chief Butler discussed dash cameras, saying some cities are getting away from using them because body cameras are so good. He said he advocates for keeping dash cameras because then there is another plane of view if lights and sirens are running to an incident that can be helpful. Councilman Weber asked about the pre-record feature. Chief Butler clarified that, saying the feed is constantly recording and writing over itself until something triggers the full record feature. He said the pre-record can be set to capture 30 seconds to two minutes pre-activation, and thresholds for the dash cameras can be set, including speed and GPS location. Chief Butler said this is good for police work, but also for the City's liability protection. He added that Axon has off-site redundancy centers across the country for back-ups.

Mayor Hatter said the Police Department purchased body cameras in 2016, and said he agrees with everything Chief Butler has said. He said camera systems like this also protect residents, as there is evidence if they do not feel they are being treated with respect.

Mayor Hatter thanked the department heads for their work in not asking for items they do not need. He also thanked staff and the Finance Committee for their work, especially Ms. Bailey. Mayor Hatter said all budget information will be posted once the second reading occurs to allow for transparency for residents.

Mr. Theissen read Ordinance 06-2021, an appropriations Ordinance of the City of Fort Wright in Kenton County, Kentucky, adopting the annual budget for the City of Fort Wright for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2022.

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 06-2021. Councilman Wessels 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

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance 07-2021 re: Joint Code Enforcement** – Ms. Bailey said PDS [Planning and Development Services of Kenton County] has changed their process for allocating fees for joint code enforcement. She said the City was paying a 40% fee but will be moving to 100%, which is estimated to be around \$5,800 per year. Ms. Bailey said the City uses the Joint Code Enforcement services minimally because Mr. Bethell does a great job handling most zoning complaints and follow ups. She said this is the Ordinance needed to participate in the revamped service.

Mayor Hatter reminded residents that PDS provides building and zoning services to many cities in Kenton County. Councilman Wessels said the new board structure and administrator at PDS have already saved that organization \$1.5 million and a tax decrease will be proposed soon. He said PDS has refocused to concentrate specifically on their duties related to KRS [Kentucky Revised Statute] 100. Councilman Wessels said the Joint Code Enforcement is not one of the duties that is part of their focus, so the City will be paying for this only when used. He added that Mr. Bethell does a good job on this for the City, and Ms. Bailey said the City's contact at PDS, Rob Himes, does a good job with staying in contact with the City.

Mr. Theissen read Ordinance 07-2021, an Ordinance of the City of Fort Wright, in Kenton County, Kentucky, adopting an amended interlocal agreement between the Kenton County Fiscal Court and the cities of Bromley, Crescent Springs, Crestview Hills, Edgewood, Elsmere, Fort Wright, Independence, Kenton Vale, Lakeside Park, Ludlow, Park Hills, Ryland Heights, Taylor Mill and Villa Hills for code enforcement in Kenton County, Kentucky.

Councilman Feinauer made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 07-2021. Councilman Wessels 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

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Finance Committee** - Chair Councilman Wessels said there was nothing additional to add.

**Update – Standing Committee Transition to Project Specific Work Groups** – Mayor Hatter said there have been concerns raised by Mr. Theissen regarding the way committees have operated regarding open records and open meetings laws. He said the City wants to be sure everything is done according to the letter and spirit of the law and decisions need to be made regarding which committees will stay as committees and which will be eliminated to become project-specific work groups. Mayor Hatter said

they want to be sure nothing will fall through the cracks based on the decisions made. He said this will be a Council decision as long as it follows the letter and spirit of the law.

Mr. Theissen added that the open meeting laws in Kentucky require publishing meeting notices and inviting the public to attend. He said the current committees do qualify as a public body under the open meetings rules and it is creating more of a challenge than is necessary. Mr. Theissen suggested an alternate method of creating project-specific work groups that would not require the same formality of meetings.

Mayor Hatter clarified the formality of these meetings, saying they need to be advertised, have minutes taken, and have their own quorum set. Ms. Bailey said she and Mr. Theissen have been working on this matter and there does need to be an Executive Order or some formal action appointing Councilman Weber and Councilman Wessels, or whomever, to the Finance Committee. She said they discussed other committees that they have found through reviewing the Ordinances that need to be cleaned up, including a Sidewalk Committee and a Community Preservation Committee. Ms. Bailey said they are still working through this process.

Councilman Feinauer asked about the work groups and if they would still meet at specific times or days. Mr. Theissen said they could meet from time-to-time to work on a project, like the gateway signage for example. Councilwoman Witt said there are several projects currently ongoing in the Community Improvement Committee, and she believes that Committee should be treated with the formality of the Finance Committee. Councilman Feinauer agreed, saying he does not want to see important items get lost and everything dumped onto Ms. Bailey, who already has a lot on her plate. He asked where the list of action items would live if there were not a Committee.

After discussion, Mayor Hatter said it is agreed that the Community Improvement Committee would be maintained on a formal schedule and the draft Ordinance would be amended to account for the change. He said that Mr. Theissen's advice needs to be followed to be sure the City is within the laws.

## **CAO REPORT**

[Ms. Bailey gave her report during the Administration/Finance report.]

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Administration/Finance** – Ms. Russell reported that the food truck events have started. She reported that she is working with Ben Harrison, the City's contract Accountant, to assist with the transition from Ms. Ellis' departure. Ms. Russell also stated that passport acceptance has been suspended temporarily.

Mayor Hatter reminded residents that the City Treasurer position is open, and the posting is on the City's website and Facebook page. He asked everyone to share the post to reach more people and create a bigger pool of candidates as it is a critical position in the City.

Ms. Bailey added that a discussion will need to happen soon regarding South Hills Civic Club and reopening it to rentals. She said a cleaning fee may need to be incorporated as that would incur an

additional charge to the City. Ms. Bailey said it will be on the next Caucus Meeting agenda for discussion. Mayor Hatter asked if there was any reason why the Civic Club could not be reopened now. He suggested having it cleaned and reopened, charging the existing rate for rentals. Mayor Hatter suggested Council still review the rate structure to see if changes should occur.

**Fire/ALS Department** – Chief Schewe expressed condolences and sympathy to the family of Dennis Deye, a former long-time volunteer fireman, who died after a long battle with Alzheimer’s Disease.

Chief Schewe also said that the KBEMS [Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services] inspection will be next week and hopes no issues will happen so the ambulances are ready for the next year.

**Police Department** – Chief Butler expressed condolences for Captain Jonathan Colwell and his family, as his father died last week. He also gave thoughts and prayers to the officer involved in the shooting in Independence yesterday.

Chief Butler reminded residents to lock their car doors and not keep anything of value inside vehicles, as there are more attempted break-ins happening in Fort Mitchell. Mayor Hatter added that residents should call 9-1-1 if they see anything unusual. He also brought up the vacation check program, saying this free program is available to residents and businesses to notify the Police Department if they will be away so their property can be checked to be sure things are in order.

**Public Works** – Mr. Bethell said the first layer of base has gone down on Amsterdam Road between Morris Road and Redwood Drive, and sidewalks and driveway aprons have been poured. He said the rain is delaying Eaton Asphalt some, but they plan to be back toward the end of the week. Mr. Bethell also said the intersection at Fort Henry Drive and Redwood Drive would be closed until the second layer is down. He said the project is still ahead of schedule despite the gas main break last week.

Councilman Wessels thanked Mr. Bethell for his hard work and the long hours he has been putting in for the Amsterdam Road project. He also thanked the Police Department for their support with traffic control following the gas main break. Mr. Bethell added that Chief Schewe and Chief Butler were also there assisting, and he was glad no one was injured.

Mayor Hatter said his father lives in the project area and has said that great things have been said about Mr. Bethell and Ford Development, saying the neighbors have commended them for going the extra mile to work with residents. He added that the end is in sight for this project, which is the largest road project on a City road in the history of the City. He said 80% was paid for by a different entity, but it will improve traffic flow, safety, and aesthetics for the community. Mayor Hatter gave credit to Mr. Bethell and his team, and the Ford Development team, for the project going well.

**Legal Counsel** – Mr. Theissen said he has been working on couple items with foreclosures and taxes.

## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Hatter reminded residents that the food truck event is happening at the City Building on Tuesdays for the next several months. He said the schedule is on the website and Facebook.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilwoman Witt – She expressed sympathy to the Deye family.

Councilman Feinauer – He thanked everyone who attended the Memorial Day event on May 31<sup>st</sup>. He said it was a beautiful day and the speaker was great. He also asked everyone to be careful driving as school is out for the summer and kids are out riding.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no need for an Executive Session.

## **ADJOURNMENT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

Councilman Abeln made a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting. Councilman Wessels 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 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:



Maura Russell  
City Clerk