



City of Fort Wright

409 Kyles Lane | Fort Wright, KY 41011 | www.fortwrightky.gov | 859.331.1700

City of Fort Wright Special Council Meeting Minutes January 15, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Council Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Mayor Dave Hatter. Mayor Hatter led the pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. City Clerk, Kerrie Holland called the role.

Mr. Abeln	Absent/Present @ 6:24p.m.
Mr. Collins	Present
Mr. Wall	Present
Mr. Weber	Present
Mr. Wessels	Absent
Ms. Witt	Present

Also present for the meeting were:

City Administrator Jill Bailey
City Attorney John S. Brooking
Police Chief Jonathan Colwell
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe
Public work Director Jeff Bethell
City Clerk Kerrie Holland
Finance Clerk Nyoka Johnson

*** Councilman Abeln arrives at Council Meeting at 6:24pm***

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS:

There were no citizen comments or guests

Mayor Hatter requested a motion to approve amending the agenda to move the presentation of Proclamation 01-2025 Posthumous Honoring of former Councilman Jeff Wolnitzek to the beginning of the agenda. Councilwoman Witt made a motion to approve, Councilman Wall made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Abeln	Absent
Mr. Collins	Yes
Mr. Wall	Yes
Mr. Weber	Yes
Mr. Wessels	Absent
Ms. Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 4, 2024 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Witt made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Abeln	Absent
Mr. Collins	Yes
Mr. Wall	Yes
Mr. Weber	Yes
Mr. Wessels	Absent
Ms. Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:

Councilman Collins made a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 18, 2024 Special Council Meeting. Councilman Wall made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Abeln	Absent
Mr. Collins	Yes
Mr. Wall	Yes
Mr. Weber	Yes
Mr. Wessels	Absent
Ms. Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS:**PROCLAMATION 01-2025 Posthumous Honoring of former Councilman Jeff Wolnitzek**

Mayor Hatter reads the Proclamation aloud. Mayor Hatter requests a motion to approve the Proclamation. Councilman Wall made a motion. Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Abeln	Absent
Mr. Collins	Yes
Mr. Wall	Yes
Mr. Weber	Yes
Mr. Wessels	Absent
Ms. Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Council members, staff and Mayor Hatter reflect on Mr. Wolnitzek's life, and his time spent with the City of Fort Wright. Mayor Hatter presents the framed proclamation to Mr. Wolnitzek's family. The family accepts the proclamation and group photos are taken.

Mayor Hatter requests a motion to amend the agenda to move Municipal Order 01-2025 re: issuance of an IRB for Wright's Point ahead of the scheduled agenda. Councilman Wall made a motion. Councilwoman Witt made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Abeln	Absent
Mr. Collins	Yes
Mr. Wall	Yes
Mr. Weber	Yes
Mr. Wessels	Absent
Ms. Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

MUNICIPAL ORDER 01-2025 re: issuance of an IRB for Wright's Point

Attorney Donnie Warner, City of Fort Wright's Public Finance Council from Frost, Brown & Todd Attys, presents the information for Wright's Point IRB. He explains the project structure and the purpose of the IRB Bond. He states that he has reviewed all documents on behalf of the city. The goal is to preserve the revenues for the City and to make sure the City is fully protected under the bond documents, and he feels that it has been achieved. The developer has indicated they will be ready to close on the bonds in the next couple of weeks. Final approval from the state today giving the order to authorize the issuance of the bonds. Mr. Warner opens the discussion for questions. Clarification on actions for the next steps on the Municipal Order were discussed and explained by Mr. Warner. City Attorney Brooking had no concerns or questions for Mr. Warner.

Mayor Hatter requests a motion for the approval of Municipal Order 01-2025 re: issuance of an IRB for Wright's Point. Councilman Weber made a motion. Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Abeln	Absent
Mr. Collins	Yes
Mr. Wall	Yes
Mr. Weber	Yes
Mr. Wessels	Absent
Ms. Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Kyles Lane Roundabouts (CT Consultants)

Marty Hellmann from CT Consultants (which is now Verdantas) presents peak traffic reports in re to the Kyles Lane Roundabout project. Mayor explains The City's position on the decisions as Marty walks through the slide presentation. Councilman Weber has questions about the Dutch Roundabouts and points out some concerns. Mr. Hellmann explains the timing of signals @ Kyles Lane and highland Ave will have to be adjusted as needed. Mayor asks Jeff Bethell about any snowplow issues that may occur on the new bridge design, i.e. median on bridge high enough, lack of emergency lane on bridge, will the roundabouts make it more difficult to get out of side streets? Some concerns were brought up tonight but In general roundabouts improve traffic flow, assuming they would go with the design, concerned about the lack of emergency lanes. Concerned if the roundabouts will make it more cumbersome to get in and out of streets off Kyles Lane. Reminder that all of the roadway is controlled by District 6 KYTC. CAO Bailey mentioned on behalf of Councilman Wessels that he would like to take a "fieldtrip" to Carmel, Indian to look at a roundabout they have in that city. Council addressed some statistics in regard to the roundabouts, i.e. how many sideswipes and/or accidents occur in roundabouts compared to a regular intersection, concerns such as having no emergency shoulders on the bridge, stop bar locations, amount of land being used for the project, placement of stop bars at crosswalks.

CAO Bailey will be sending Stacy from KYTC a list of new concerns for her to address and evaluate. Essentially the city has two issues with the roundabouts being put in – Aesthetics and safety concerns. Before we could give our endorsement, these issues need to be discussed and addressed with KYTC. Two emergency lanes must be added, and the median be lowered for ease of bridge upkeep. It was also mentioned that Council would like to see the ends of the roundabouts be "mirror imaged" with each other, so each rounding would be the same style.

Deanna Sutlich – Lookout Heights resident requests to speak in regard to the placement of Roundabouts on Kyles Lane. State of Ky has adopted a "Complete Streets" manual- Council may want to check in to that. No shoulder-snow removal clearly an issue. Would like to see a center

lane which is a mountable lane meant for emergency vehicles, issues of having to turn left on to Dixie then quick right on to George Huser. Possibly obtain a shorter-term traffic study. Why are stop bars back so far on Kyles turning onto Dixie? Concerned that the intersection of Kyles and Dixie will inhibit traffic flow on Kyles. Diameter of roundabouts are a major concern for semis to be able to drive through them. Concerned about the pedestrian crossing issue with roundabouts.

Highland/Kyles Traffic Flow Concerns (CT Consultants)

Some of the discussions from the roundabouts also addressed the Kyles/Highland concerns. Discussions were presented on how to have better traffic flow at the Kyles & Highland intersection. Some points of interest included the possibility of adding roundabouts at the intersection instead of having a signal, the realignment of Beaumont, putting in a turn lane all the way down Highland Ave. The issue of not being able to turn out of Werner Drive is a major concern. It was agreed that the Kyles/Highland are an issue and still need to be discussed at future meetings.

Robke/Dudley Bridge Inspection Report (CT Consultants)

CT Consultants met with SD1 on 1/15/2025. Weight Report – Posted 18T; Based on Design – 40T; Bridge can handle interstate traffic weight – now 43.5T. Some areas of concern and discussion were - Is the posted weight limit allowed on the bridge through an Ordinance? Could the bridge be insured? Does the current sign of 18T limit need to be removed? Not financially smart for the City to keep bridge – give the State money in holding (approx. \$75,000) with the ownership of the bridge? City Council will continue to work w/SD1, Kenton County & State to have the state take ownership of the Bridge. The sanitary sewer project is needed and will enhance the sewer system in our region and community as a whole.

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE 01-2025 re: Williams creek closing of ROW

CAO Bailey reminds when Williams creek was developed, there was a section of roadway that was going to be the demarcation of where private property and City property ended and began. There was some concern of the quality of construction of that section and the city asked them to take over the ownership of that roadway. Jeff Bethel stated that he met with them about a year ago and said they will need to correct the quality of the construction of the roadway or take over the roadway. The developer applied a surface coating and did not correct the damage; therefore the city was not comfortable maintaining the roadway because the city was not made aware of any repairs. They agreed to take the ownership of the street. It would terminate the public ROW at the end of Alex court at Williams creek. There are documents in the packet stating they have agreed to take ownership and is ready to move forward. City Attorney reads the 1st reading of Ordinance 01-2025 aloud.

Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to approve the 1st reading of Ordinance 01-2025. Councilman Weber makes a motion. Councilman Wall made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Abeln	Yes
Mr. Collins	Yes
Mr. Wall	Yes
Mr. Weber	Yes
Mr. Wessels	Absent
Ms. Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Municipal Order 02-2025 re: transfer of Barrington Surplus Property

This project started when Tim Theissen was the City Attorney. The attorney that represents the party who wants to acquire this property reached out to our City Attorney. The Council approved the sale of this property for the sum of \$5,000 plus \$1,000 towards attorney's fees back in October 2023. Brooks had the attorney draft the order and needs to be signed. The property was a piece of landlocked property that will now allow the new owner to expand their backyard.

Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to approve Municipal Order 02-2025. Councilman Abeln makes a motion. Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Abeln	Yes
Mr. Collins	Yes
Mr. Wall	Yes
Mr. Weber	Yes
Mr. Wessels	Absent
Ms. Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Improvement

Community Improvement committee met on 1/15/2025. They have been discussing some properties in the city that have code violations. Typically, those properties turn over pretty quickly thanks to Jeff (PW) and PDS, but there are 2 properties currently in the city that are abandoned. One of the properties we already have movement on, thanks to Brook. The other property we need to have some discussions at a caucus meeting if time allows. Someone is paying the taxes on said property, do we want to increase tax numbers on abandoned property or increase fees, or pursue foreclosure based on time abandoned? These are some ideas on how to move forward on abandoned properties. Mayor Hatter agrees that fines and follow up on abandoned properties need to increase. Once fines and complaints have been issued and remediated, the complaint and fine process start over. Council would have to make individual determination on each property as when to proceed and assess fines. Each property has different circumstances. Mayor wants the residents to be sure they know that we are not driving around waiting to foreclose on properties. Please take care of your property.

Finance Committee:

No Report

CAO REPORT:

February 5, 2025 Council Meeting has been canceled due to scheduling conflicts, it will be held as a special City Council Meeting and Caucus Meeting on February 19, 2025.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION:

City Clerk: Tax season is slowing down, still getting payments in but very limited amount. Ms. Holland will be working on the process of obtaining her clerk's certification.

Finance Clerk: Tax season is wrapping up, Ms. Johnson attended her 1st BOA meeting.

Fire/EMS: Chief Schewe mentioned that with the cold weather, please disconnect water hoses. Prescription pill box- collected 151lbs of pills from January 2024-December 2024. Mayor reminds residents that value of the RX drop off program. Mayor gave a shout out to Chief Schewe for coming in on Friday night to help fix the snowplow.

POLICE: Jonathan Colwell – Had a couple toy drives in December-Good turnout for the

toy drives. Stuff the Cruiser toys went the CHNK.

PUBLIC WORKS: Jeff Bethel - resurfacing bid (for Pickett, General & George Huser) advertisement goes out 1/16/2025. Mayor does not like issuing snow emergencies but sometimes they are necessary. Police will ticket snow emergency violations. Chief Colwell stated that police made every attempt to locate the owner before giving out violations.

LEGAL: No Report

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tom Schneider/Resident – Compliments to the Public Works Dept on a great snow cleanup.
Elaine & Bruce Demoret/Resident – Shout-out to the City and Public Works dept for outstanding response to the recent snow storm.
JoAnn Reese/Resident – City of Fort Wright excellent snow removal.

COMMENTS:

Councilman Weber – Coyote mating season; watch small pets.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

Councilman Collins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Weber made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Abeln	No
Mr. Collins	Yes
Mr. Wall	Yes
Mr. Weber	Yes
Mr. Wessels	Absent
Ms. Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:38 P.M.

Next Council Meeting to be held – February 19, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kerrie A. Holland, City Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,


Dave Hatter, Mayor