City of Fort Wright
City Caucus Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 17, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The City Caucus Meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Mayor Hatter, and the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence were held prior to the City Caucus Meeting. City Clerk Kerrie Holland called the roll.

Mr. Jason Collins	Not Present
Ms. Donna Ross	Present
Mr. Scott Wall	Present
Mr. Jay Weber	Present
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Present
Ms. Margie Witt	Present

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

Amy Clark, 301 Hazelwood - was scheduled to attend to discuss her request for a streetlight shade, but she was not present.

Ken Padgett, 115 Rosa - addressed Council regarding stormwater runoff affecting his property. He distributed a map of the area and requested the installation of a curb to redirect water that currently flows down his driveway toward Edna Lane, stating that it would help prevent erosion in his front yard.

Public Works Director Jeff Bethell explained that Mr. Padgett's situation differs from others on the street due to the way water sheds along that side of the roadway. The Mayor recommended that Mr. Padgett's engineer coordinate with the City's engineer to review the issue and discuss a potential solution.

ITEMS TO DISCUSS

Drone Delivery Services – Zoning Code Text Amendment

Josh Wise of PDS presented the results of his high-level legal research regarding the regulation of drone delivery operations by local governments. He explained that federal law generally prohibits local municipalities from regulating air traffic and provided an overview of the applicable regulations and current legal limitations. Mr. Wise also noted that the current moratorium on drone delivery operations is set to expire on October 15.

Council discussed the potential for drone delivery services to expand beyond the current operator and expressed concerns about widespread commercial drone activity in the future. Council Member Wessels stated that the City should consider the long-term impact of allowing multiple businesses to utilize drone delivery services throughout commercial areas.

CAO Bailey inquired about establishing hours of operation and whether the City could impose a landing fee for drone deliveries. Mr. Wise explained that state statute governs the circumstances under which local governments may assess fees and noted that additional research is needed to determine whether a separate ordinance or other mechanism could be used to impose fees as a potential deterrent.

Council Member Weber asked whether the City should begin working with the Federal Aviation Administration and whether an attorney specializing in aviation or drone law should be consulted. Mr. Wise stated that PDS has researched how other municipalities across the country address drone delivery operations, as there are few local examples.

Following the discussion, the majority of the Council expressed support for moving forward with filing the appropriate application on the Council's behalf while continuing to refine the City's approach and ensuring that any local regulations do not conflict with Walmart's ability to operate in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

<u>Stop Sign/Children at Play Sign Request</u>

The Mayor discussed requests for additional stop signs, noting that traffic control devices should be based on traffic data and adopted by ordinance. He stated that while he does not believe stop signs are always an effective solution, he would support their installation if residents desire them and the appropriate process is followed. Council Member Donna Ross excused herself from the Council table at 7:13 p.m. to speak on behalf of the Glengarry Homeowners Association regarding traffic concerns within the neighborhood. Council reviewed traffic data collected in the Glengarry subdivision over a one- to two-week period, which indicated approximately 1,200 vehicles entering and exiting the neighborhood. It was noted that the data included delivery vehicles and rideshare traffic. Discussion focused on a requested stop sign at the intersection of Glengarry and Tartan. Residents expressed concerns about limited visibility due to vehicles parked along the uphill section of Glengarry and the speed of traffic through the neighborhood. The Mayor recommended reviewing the traffic data before making a final decision, but stated that if the neighborhood supports installing a stop sign, he would be agreeable to moving forward. Police Chief Colwell suggested that restricting on-street parking may be a more effective solution than installing a stop sign. Additional discussion included pedestrian warning signs, which Council Member Ross stated have not proven effective in addressing the concerns. Council also discussed the potential use of speed humps as a traffic calming measure. The Mayor noted that he had previously believed speed humps were not permitted, but has since learned that neighboring cities, including Ludlow and Park Hills, have successfully installed them. CAO Bailey discussed the testing process for traffic-calming devices and recommended using speed humps rather than speed bumps. It was noted that speed humps require signage to accommodate snow removal operations, and some residents may object to the additional signs. The Mayor suggested that the City consider developing standards and criteria for installing speed humps to ensure consistent evaluation throughout the community. The discussion also included conducting surveys on neighborhood streetlights. The Mayor directed that an ordinance establishing a stop sign at the Glengarry and Tartan intersection be placed on a future agenda for Council consideration. Council also discussed a request for a four-way stop at the intersection of Rosa and Kennedy, noting that the future park development may increase traffic in the area. Council agreed that a four-way stop could be beneficial and directed that an ordinance be drafted for consideration. The potential loss of an on-street parking space due to the placement of the stop sign was also discussed.

Dixie Highway Development Agreement(Wyler)

Council discussed the proposed development agreement with Wyler for approximately $1.3 million in funding, which will require approval from both the County and the City. Discussion focused on the allocation of project costs. The City has proposed contributing 25% of the funding upfront, while Wyler has requested a 75% upfront contribution. Council discussed placing the City's contribution into a restricted fund to ensure the funds are used solely for the approved project. It was noted that once Wyler submits its final development plans and all parties reach an agreement, the City could proceed with the provision of its committed funding. Council also reviewed an issue identified in Wyler's application regarding the proposed connection through the Christ property to provide access for Christ employees. The City expressed a preference for directing ingress and egress through the existing traffic signal rather than the proposed connection. It was noted that the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) has been contacted to determine whether such a change would be approved. Additional discussion included the acquisition of right-of-way for a proposed sidewalk connection and improvements at the Fortside intersection. The Mayor recommended that Council Member Wessels, CAO Bailey, and the City's engineering consultant, Verdantas, meet with Wyler to further discuss the project details. It was acknowledged that KYTC will have final authority over decisions affecting the state highway.

At 7:49 p.m., the Mayor left the meeting. By consensus and vote, Council Member Wessels assumed responsibility for leading the remainder of the discussion. Councilman Weber made a motion to have Councilwoman Wessels assume the responsibility to lead the meeting. Councilman Wall seconded the motion. Ms. Holland called the roll.

Mr. Collins	Not Present	
Ms. Ross	Yes	
Mr. Wall	Yes	
Mr. Weber	Yes	
Mr. Wessels	Yes	
Ms. Witt	Yes	MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Council further directed that, in addition to communicating with Lindsey at KYTC, Councilman Wessels will work with the City's engineer to assist Wyler in evaluating project alternatives, including the potential use of the existing sidewalk as part of the proposed improvements.

Banner Project

Council discussed a proposal to install decorative street banners throughout the City. The proposed plan includes commemorative banners recognizing the nation's 250th anniversary, along with patriotic-themed banners to be displayed along major roadways where suitable utility poles are available. Staff reported that approximately 50 banner locations were initially identified; however, only 33 utility poles are currently suitable for banner installation. The proposal includes 20 custom Fort Wright-themed banners along Dixie Highway and 20 patriotic 250th-anniversary banners, with the intention of leaving certain banners on display throughout the year. The estimated cost for brackets and banners is $9,520. An additional proposal for ten decorative light post banners displaying "Fort Wright" was estimated at $1,462. Duke Energy permit and installation costs for ten banner locations are estimated at $1,170, bringing the total project cost to just under $18,000. It was also noted that banner designs must be finalized before permit applications can be submitted. Council Member Witt noted that decorative banners have been discussed for several years. While supportive of banners recognizing the nation's 250th anniversary, she expressed concerns about displaying banners year-round, stating that faded or worn banners could create visual clutter and become an unnecessary maintenance expense. She also indicated she was not in favor of installing banners at all 33 proposed locations or using seasonal banners throughout the City. Discussion included limiting banner placement to a portion of Dixie Highway, such as the stretch between Kyles Lane and City Hall, and the possibility of displaying patriotic flags in highly visible locations instead of decorative banners. It was noted that symmetrical banner placement is not feasible due to the location of existing utility poles. Council also discussed ordering approximately 30 banners featuring the American flag and Fort Wright branding, rather than Kentucky-themed designs. Smaller banners or flags were not recommended for areas such as Walmart or Valley Plaza.

Parking restrictions(24 hours vs 72 hours)

Council discussed concerns raised by a Knob Hill resident regarding the City's on-street parking restrictions. The City Attorney advised that he had drafted an ordinance reducing the allowable time a vehicle may remain parked on a public street from 72 hours to 24 hours.
Council also discussed the proposed penalty for violations, recommending a $25 fine. It was noted that the current 72-hour parking restriction is consistent with Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS), and Council reviewed the proposed amendment to determine whether a shorter time limit would better address neighborhood concerns.

KLC Updated Model Ethics Policy

Council reviewed the revised Ethics Code model ordinance, with the City Attorney providing a comparison of the proposed revisions. The proposed changes were included in the Council meeting packet for review and discussion. Council expressed concerns about the proposed provisions on social media activity and the reporting of secondary employment. Members also discussed the financial disclosure requirements for candidates seeking elected office and indicated they would not support eliminating them. CAO Bailey recommended that the City Attorney prepare a draft ordinance incorporating the revisions Council is comfortable with, including appropriate language reflecting Council's direction. Once completed, the draft ordinance will be submitted to the Ethics Board for review and recommendation before Council considers formal action.

CAO Bailey added to the meeting's discussion that the City Council Meeting scheduled for July 1, 2026, would be canceled due to some scheduling conflicts, and a special meeting would be held in its place prior to the City Caucus Meeting on July 16, 2026. All pertinent issues will be handled at the July 16, 2026, Special Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

With nothing further to discuss, Councilman Wessels asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Witt made a motion, and Councilman Wall seconded the motion. Ms. Holland called the roll.

Mr. Collins	Not Present
Ms. Ross	Yes
Mr. Wall	Yes
Mr. Weber	Yes
Mr. Wessels	Yes
Ms. Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

The Caucus Meeting officially adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

The next scheduled Caucus meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mayor Dave Hatter

ATTEST:

Kerrie Holland

Kerrie Holland, City Clerk