



City of Fort Wright

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

City of Fort Wright Caucus Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 15th, 2026 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

The Caucus Meeting was called to order at 6:07 P.M. by Mayor Dave Hatter following the close of the Special Council Meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS:

None

ITEMS TO DISCUSS:

Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal – Nature Center:

The Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal consists of rerouting trails at the Fort Wright Nature Center to mitigate the need for the use of bridges, which have rotted out and been removed. There are five (5) spots that used to have bridges, so they would reroute the trail in five (5) places. It will consist mainly of using natural resources to level the gaps that the bridges were needed for or clearing out brush to allow trail users to go around the gaps. Additionally, some benches that have worn out overtime would be retouched. Lastly, the bulletin on the trail head is missing Plexiglas and would be fixed as well.

CAO Jill Bailey stated one of the components to this project is that the Eagle Scouts needed funding in the amount of \$200.00. A donation was made, and the funding was able to be secured.

Working Group on Recreation Property Update:

CAO Jill Bailey updated council with playground options for the Fort Wright Civic Club property from the Kompan company. Additional inclusive equipment options such as merry-go-rounds and teeter totters were shown, as well as color, and safety options. The playground is aimed at accommodating children 2-12 years of age.

Councilman Weber asked about swings. CAO Jill Bailey explained that there would not be any swings due to the amount of space needed to maneuver them.

Additionally, CAO Jill Bailey mentioned the Robina Village product line, which will get a patina film on it over time and turn gray. This could be a maintenance issue later and feels that a low maintenance option would be best to consider.

Mayor Hatter and council agreed on two designs that they would like pricing on.

This project was discussed to be completed in two (2) phases. The second phase of discussion will include structures such as bathrooms and shelters.

Councilman Collins stated that he isn't sure a bathroom is needed. Councilwoman Ross brought up that maybe a public forum could be beneficial on the issue. Mayor Hatter and Council Wessels do not think a public meeting would be beneficial in this matter.

Councilwoman Witt stated that they should first do the playground and then get the input of the rest of it that includes bathrooms and shelters in phase (2) two.

Councilman Wessels did inquire about site prepping and the possibility of the grating where the parking lot may be changed.

CAO Jill Bailey will be getting quotes on Friday on the items that the council agreed upon.

Legislative Updates and Discussion:

Mayor Hatter stated that final updates on what happened during this session will be emailed from KLC.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

DEPARTMENT AND COUNCIL REPORTS:

Mayor Hatter asked the following if they had anything to report:

Fire Chief Schewe – A Fire/EMS staff vehicle that has been budgeted for the past few years that wasn't available before, is now available to purchase.

Public Works Director Jeff Bethell – Stated that the water main projects are moving along.

Finance Clerk Nyoka Johnson – Nothing to report.

Police Chief Colwell – Nothing to report.

Councilman Weber – Lone Star ticks are now in the area and can cause a severe allergy to meat if you are bit by one.

Councilman Collins – Stated that a car on Beaumont is parking halfway up on the grass and a car with a flat tire was parked on the street for three (3) days. Police Chief Colwell responded that they spoke to them and already had it moved.

Secondly, Councilman Collins inquired about the handling of electric bikes and scooters on sidewalks. Police Chief Colwell responded that the City of Fort Mitchell has an ordinance that doesn't allow for people riding those to exceed 15 miles per hour on the sidewalks. Another concern council had was walkers being hit or kids getting hurt by riding through stop signs. Police Chief Colwell responded that kids cannot ride in the street because you must be 16 years or older to do so.

Councilman Wessels recommended doing research on this issue before creating an ordinance.

CAO Jill Bailey stated that the city has older ordinances that need to be looked at in a future meeting and make any corrections now that electric bikes and scooters are commonly around.

Lastly, Councilman Collins inquired about occupational licenses regarding companies like Amazon who have drivers delivering packages in their personal vehicles. Police Chief Colwell responded that police officers cannot stop them and ask for occupational licenses. To pull someone over, police need a probable cause.

Mayor Hatter feels this is not worth using the police for and would take away from other important Matters. He agrees it is not fair to those who do pay for occupational licenses. Additionally, it makes sense to occasionally go out and see what can be enforced, including code enforcement issues, but we are not going to go out just to make people angry.

Councilwoman Witt – Stated that some residents are leaving their trash cans out for days at a time and blocking sidewalks with them. CAO Jill Bailey responded that the ordinance regarding trash cans may need to be looked at and rewritten to enforce certain issues.

Additionally, Councilwoman Witt reminded everyone that Saturday is Community Clean Up day.

AJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Hatter asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Witt made a motion, and Councilman Wessels made the second. Ms. Johnson called the role.

Ms. Donna Ross	YES
Mr. Jason Collins	YES
Mr. Jay Weber	YES
Mr. Bernie Wessels	YES
Ms. Margie Witt	YES
Mr. Scott Wall	NOT PRESENT

All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 7:44 P.M.

The next City Council Meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. in the City of Fort Wright Council Chambers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:

Nyoka Johnson, Finance Clerk