



# City of Fort Wright

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## City of Fort Wright City Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 1, 2026

### CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Hatter called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of Silence. City Clerk Kerrie Holland called the roll.

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

Also present were Mayor Hatter, City Administrator Jill Bailey, City Attorney John Brooking, Police Chief Jonathan Colwell, Public Works Director Jeff Bethell, City Clerk Kerrie Holland, and Finance Clerk Nyoka Johnson.

### CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

Fire Chief Steve Schewe introduces the newest full-time Fire Department employee, Glenn Caminiti. Steve provides background information about Mr. Caminiti. Everyone welcomes him to the City of Fort Wright.

### AGENDA AMENDMENT

Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to amend the agenda to add the reading and approval of Proclamation 01-2026, the Redevelopment of the Days Inn and Atlas Fitness buildings located at 1937 and 1935 Dixie Highway, respectively. Councilman Weber makes a motion. Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Holland called the roll.

Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilwoman Ross	Not Present
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

## MINUTES

### Minutes from the March 4, 2026 City Caucus Meeting

Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Councilman Collins seconded. With no further discussion, Ms. Holland called the roll.

Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilwoman Ross	Not Present
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

### Minutes from the March 4, 2026 City Caucus Meeting

Councilwoman Witt made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Councilman Wall made a second. With no further discussion, Ms. Holland called the roll.

Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilwoman Ross	Not Present
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### Ambulance Bid Update

Fire Chief Schewe requested approval to proceed with issuing a bid for a new ambulance. He reported attending a truck conference in March in Indianapolis, where he reviewed available options. The proposed specifications include a heavier-duty light-duty chassis, four-wheel drive, and a Dodge Ram platform. The anticipated production timeline for the ambulance is a minimum of 2 years. Mayor Hatter asked for a motion to proceed with the bid for a new ambulance. Councilman Collins made a motion. Councilman Wessels made a second. With nothing further to discuss, Ms. Holland called the roll.

Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilwoman Ross	Not Present
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

### Walmart Drone Delivery Service Update

Walmart contacted the Mayor regarding a proposed drone delivery service. The Mayor responded that representatives must attend a city meeting before any discussions can take place.

### **Ordinance 01-2026 – Drone Moratorium (First Reading):**

A first reading of Ordinance 01-2026, establishing a moratorium on drone use with certain exceptions, was presented. The ordinance would require property owners' permission for drone

use, such as by realtors or roofers. Concerns were raised regarding discrepancies in Walmart’s presentation, specifically claims that drones would not use cameras, which council members questioned as impractical. It was noted that the proposal may have been misunderstood or inaccurately represented. Additional concerns included safety, noise, and the increasing use of drones, including in hostile military applications. Research indicating a significant rise in drone usage in cities like Atlanta was also discussed. It was suggested that the second reading of the ordinance be held at the next caucus meeting. With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Hatter asked for a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 01-2026. Councilman Weber made a motion. Councilman Wessels made a second. Ms. Holland called the roll.

Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilwoman Ross	Not Present
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

Qualified Manufactured Home Regulation Requirements

Council reviewed Ordinance 02-2026 regarding Qualified Manufactured Home Regulation Requirements, noting that the ordinance remains unchanged from the previous meeting. Council agreed to defer the first reading until the next meeting and to include it on the agenda for a special meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Proclamation April 1, 2026 – Wyler Automotive Group Redevelopment Project 1935 & 1937 Dixie Hwy

Jill read a proclamation regarding the Wyler Automotive Group Redevelopment Project for the Days Inn, Atlas Fitness Buildings, and provided an update on progress at the Atlas Building related to the Wyler development. With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Hatter asked for a motion to approve the Wyler Automotive redevelopment Project Proclamation. Councilman Wessels made a motion. Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Holland called the roll.

Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilwoman Ross	Not Present
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

Municipal Order 01-2026 disposing of surplus property

CAO Bailey presented MO 01-2026 to dispose of two surplus Police Department vehicles that have been replaced with newer vehicles. With nothing further to discuss, Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to approve the Municipal Order 01-2026. Councilman Wessels made a motion, and Councilman Weber seconded. Ms. Holland called the roll.

Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilwoman Ross	Not Present
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

Law Enforcement Navigator Program Update

CAO Bailey explains that, due to a delay in preparing the Inter-Local Agreement, the Law Enforcement Navigator Program update was tabled and will be placed on the next agenda.

Legislative Updates, Discussions, and/or Actions

CAO Bailey reported on various bills of interest, noting that some may benefit the city while others may not, including potential changes related to short-term rentals (SB9 and SB12, numbers to be confirmed). Councilman Collins inquired about any updates on HB612 regarding the proposed 4% alcohol tax. Mayor Hatter confirmed with Council that they were receiving the alerts from KLC regarding legislative updates.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

NONE

**CAO REPORT**

NONE

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Administration

City Clerk Kerrie Holland – Added that in addition to her submitted report, she has also worked on the preparation of the Days Inn Demolition Ceremony project

Finance Clerk Nyoka Johnson – Nothing in addition to her submitted report  
 Councilwoman Witt asked for an update on the status of the unpaid property tax/liquor license issue. One property has paid taxes in full, and the liquor license is current. The other property is still operational. Their taxes are not paid; they have paid and brought their occupational licensing account up to date. The complaint still stands with the ABC office. They have an upcoming court hearing in April. They also have some issues regarding with taxes and lease. They are still open and allowed to continue to operate. CAO Bailey explained the process if a business does not comply with the local liquor requirement. CAO explains the process for delinquent property taxes after the initial 3-month delinquent letters are sent.

Fire Department

Chief Schewe – Thank you to the Wyler Family Automotive group for allowing the usage of the Days Inn for some training opportunities.

Police Department

Chief Colwell – Also, thank you to the Wyler Family Automotive group for allowing the usage of the Days Inn for some training opportunities. Semi-permanent sign on Dixie Hwy; moved to Amsterdam Road. There weren't any requests for data on Dixie Hwy. It felt better serviced on Amsterdam Rd. Thank you to Public Works for helping with moving it. The Women's Self-Defense class had 30 women for April(22<sup>nd</sup> & 29th, two sessions). 100 more are on the waiting list for a later

date. Hoping to have several more classes throughout the summer. They are also looking to add more scam classes.

CAO Bailey added a special thank you to both departments for their help with the Easter Bunny Parade.

Councilwoman Witt asked if there would be an opportunity for feedback from the women's self-defense classes. Chief Colwell stated that a questionnaire will be passed out to participants to complete.

#### Public Works

Director Jeff Bethell - Public Works reported that the water project has begun on Elder Court and will continue onto Hazelwood. Preconstruction meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>, likely to get started on/after July 1<sup>st</sup>. It was also noted that signage for the street project has not yet been installed. Additionally, Councilwoman Witt and PW Director Jeff Bethell will meet to discuss tree replacement in Volunteer Park.

Legal – NONE

### **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

\*Demolition Ceremony of Days Inn to take place on Thursday, April 2, 2026 @ 10 am.

\*Spring Community Clean-Up Day is April 18, 2026 9:00am-Noon. Equipment will be provided, and lunch will be served at noon to participants. This will be our 15<sup>th</sup> event. A great opportunity for students to earn service hours. Check the website and social media for updates.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilman Wessels asks for updates on the salt storage building on the property. It was reported that the Tot Lot has been removed, and staff is working with Verdantas on the salt storage design. And bids will be sought for site development work related to the salt storage area, including dirt removal and pad preparation. The Mayor explained the previous salt storage setup and noted that the playground equipment was removed due to safety concerns and emergency vehicle access needs, emphasizing the importance of maintaining an on-site salt supply. Councilman Weber inquired about the size of the proposed salt building, which was estimated to be approximately 42–43 feet in diameter.

CAO Bailey reported speaking with Mr. Longshore, a neighbor of the Kennedy property, and shared the Verdantas plan; he expressed privacy concerns but is supportive of the playground concept. Council discussed evaluating the overall park plan, including the potential addition of a playground at the former civic club site.

An update was also provided on the bridge project, noting it may not be included in current plans and could be delayed until approximately five years after bridge completion. The playground to be located at the old Fort Wright Civic Center on Kennedy remains a top priority, though plans are not yet finalized.

Mayor Hatter provided an update on the KYTC's lack of response regarding the Brent Spence Bridge project and the City of Fort Wright's participation.

The Mayor reported that the State of the City letter has been sent out and posted on the city website. Residents are encouraged to review the document.

With nothing further on the agenda, Mayor Hatter asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Weber made a motion. Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Holland called the roll.

Councilman Collins	Yes
Councilwoman Ross	Not Present
Councilman Wall	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

**The meeting officially adjourned at 7:22 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Dave Hatter, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Kerrie Holland, City Clerk