



City of Fort Wright

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

Fort Wright City Caucus Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2025

6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm by Mayor Dave Hatter, followed by The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Kerrie Holland, City Clerk called the role.

Mr. Dave Abeln	Absent
Mr. Jason Collins	Present
Mr. Scott Wall	Present
Mr. Jay Weber	Present
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Present
Ms. Margie Witt	Present

Also present were CAO Jill Cain Bailey, City Attorney John S. Brooking, Chief of Police Jonathan Colwell, Fire Chief Steve Schewe, Public Works Director Jeff Bethell

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

None

ITEMS TO DISCUSS:

Restriping and Paving of Highland

Restriping is to be done in order to add a center turn lane, KYTC to add an uphill turn lane to turn into Werner Dr. Intersection at Kyles Ln-2 way left turn lane. It is currently scheduled to start during spring-summer 2025. CAO Bailey presented the issue to see if anyone wanted to comment or ask questions. This project will accomplish what the city had in mind for a turn lane, with the State taking care of the costs. Councilman Weber suggested sending a letter to the State to thank them. Marty Hellmann, City Engineer will submit the concerns that Mr. Abeln had mentioned in regard to attempting to turn out of Werner (left or right) onto Highland as well as Lorup.

OJL(LEL ighway/Christ Hosqhtal Sidewalk Grant

This issue was previously discussed at last month's Caucus meeting, but Marty Hellmann was not present at the meeting. Marty joins tonight to discuss the project and answer questions pertaining to the design and completion. Marty states the current issues that arise from not having a sidewalk there - pedestrian crossing is not ideal and there is a drop off from the street level of the sidewalk to the Christ Hospital parking lot below. Next step- meeting with the KYTC to discuss engineering. Mr. Weber asks if this project will be getting into the Christ Hospital property? Marty stated that some of their right of way property will need to be acquired. Mr. Weber suggests that maybe the hospital would donate it to the city since we would be making improvements to the area? Mayor asks if council wants to proceed with the project since it will be approximately \$330,000+/- out of the city's pocket after the grant money is applied. CAO Bailey stated that the money to pay for the project is available in the TIFF fund. CAO suggests that we need to reevaluate the numbers. Ms. Witts suggests that the sidewalk gets replaced now and check into doing all of the "pretty aesthetics" down the road. CAO Bailey states that it is in the best interest from an economic development standpoint to enhance the sidewalk, especially if the hospital leaves that area, what will go in there next? The application will be submitted and revisited in June

Short Term Property Rental Up_d_ate

The city has been looking into Air bnb's in the community due to some resident complaints that neighbors are operating short-term rentals at some properties. It was found that the city has approximately 4-5 properties operating a short-term rental. Violation notices have been sent to the violators by the PDS. There has been some advertising on Air bnb, VBRO, bookin.com, etc. The city's zoning code already prohibits short-term rentals. Mayor states that there is not much to do after the fact, except enforce the zoning code that is already in place.

Hotel Registry Ordinance

Zoning does not allow residential long-term stays in hotels. The registry will help keep track of who is coming and going in the property, it will help deter crime and help if a crime is committed at the property. If hotel manager does not live on the property, then an officer would have to locate them if there is a problem. Days Inn has 24-hour front desk. Lookout has the owner live on the property. No significant objections to the ordinance.

COFWWebsite Redesign Proposal

Systems insight currently maintains the website. The website has been active since Joe Nienaber was Mayor. The current website is not user friendly. Would like to make it easy

for everyone to navigate. Residents, visitors & businesses are the three basic groups of users. Main goal is to make it as user friendly as possible in order to get to the information as quickly as possible. Ms. Witt-most new buyers do not know the neighborhood names (Lookout Heights, South Hills, etc.) and would like that listed on the website as well. CAO Bailey and Mayor Hatter present the slide show of the new design and take questions and concerns. Ms. Witt would like to see the garden club have a designated spot on the new website. Mr. Weber would like to have the Guardian Angel statue mentioned on the site as well. Mayor Hatter tells everyone that all off the active content will be moved over to the new site. As of now, approx. \$26,000 has been spent on the project to get it to the current phase.

Elected Officials' Compensation:

Request came from Councilman Collins to be added to the agenda. Collins stated that the current salary for the Mayor is around \$1 per resident-would like to see it increase to maybe \$2 per resident. It would be effective for the next election round. Current salary is 24/25 fy \$7472, 25/26 fy \$7689. \$2900 for council. 2.9% COL raise for council +\$3,075. In future, a salary increase may need to be made in order to find the right individual for Mayor. Mr. Wall suggests leaving the current salary as is and let the COL increase say across the board. It was discussed and agreed to increase Mayor to \$8,000 for next election cycle. CAO needs to get the ordinance drafted and signed. The official ordinance from 1998 said "vetoed" with no explanations why. Ordinance would need to be updated to establish the Cost-of-Living raise.

Ambulance (Unit 764) Replacement & Bid Project Discussion

Chief Schewe and CAO Bailey stated that a substantial amount of time is needed to acquire a new ambulance. When a new ambulance was purchased in the past, it took approx. 6-9 months, now it takes 900+ days (2-1/2 years). The back-up ambulance is a 2010, the number one ambulance would go to the number two spot and number two would be sold. Schewe explains that this is currently an awareness discussion only, so everyone would be on the same page when a new ambulance is needed in the future. Mayor would like to proceed sooner rather than later since we are dealing with life-saving equipment. Mr. Weber asked when a decision needs to be made in order to place the order and get on the wait list for a new ambulance, Chief Schewe stated in well over a year from now. Council discusses and agrees to go ahead with the bid process to get it started. If one ambulance goes down, it does create angst with our neighboring cities.

Off Agenda items discussed-

Park Hills has signed the agreement for the EMS Services.

Mr. Council asked council and Chief Colwell if they have heard of the "flop cameras" that are set up in some cities. They catch images of license plates -it's a tool being used across the nation to help locate vehicles. Chief Colwell stated they are very expensive.

Working Group-South Hills, Park, Civic Club-1). Need to seek bid to tear down Civic Club located on Kennedy. 2). Continuing to work to see what comes next, Mayor would like to see something awesome built on that site. The working group agrees that it needs to be torn down based on the condition and amount of money it would need to be brought up to code. They discussed that they would like to keep some of the stone and the cornerstone from the building. They would like to keep the parking lot intact for use in case of resident need and/or snow emergency parking. Tearing down of the softball field backstop was discussed and agreed upon as well. The police and fire departments would like to use the building for some training prior to it being torn down if it can be done safely.

Being there is nothing further to discuss, Councilman Wall made a motion to adjourn the meeting in order to go into the executive session 61.810(c) Discussions of proposed or pending litigation. Councilman Wessels made a second. All in favor-Yes, Nayes-None.

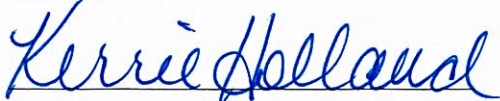
The meeting was adjourned for executive session at 7:31pm.

The meeting re-opened to the public at 8:06 pm. There being no further business Councilman Abeln made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Collins made a second. All in favor. The meeting officially adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mayor, Dave Hatter

ATTEST:



Kerrie A. Holland, City Clerk