



City of Fort Wright

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City of Fort Wright Caucus Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

6:00pm (5:00pm CST)

CALL TO ORDER

The City Caucus Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Hatter and led the Pledge of Allegiance with a moment of silence. City Clerk Kerrie Holland called the roll.

Mr. Collins-Present, Ms. Ross-Absent, Mr. Wall-Present, Mr. Weber-Present, Mr. Wessels-Present, Ms. Witt-Absent.

Also present were Mayor Dave Hatter, City Administrator Jill Cain Bailey, City Attorney John Brooking, Police Captain Rob Griffin, Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe, Public Works Director Jeff Bethell, and City Clerk Kerrie Holland.

Mayor Hatter asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add the following discussion items: Salt Dome Storage Building update, Cyber Security updates, and updates on the application process for hiring the new CAO. Councilman Weber made a motion. Councilman Wessels seconded the motion. Ms. Holland the roll.

Mr. Collins – Yes, Ms. Ross-Absent, Mr. Wall-Yes, Mr. Weber-Yes, Mr. Wessels-Yes, Ms. Witt-Absent

MOTION CARRIED 4-0

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

Fort Wright resident Mr. Tim Siegrist thanked the Police Department and City staff for addressing the traffic concerns on Henry Clay. He expressed his appreciation for how the City is operated and commended the City Council for doing a great job.

KLC Model Ethics Ordinance/Policy Update

The CAO presented proposed updates to the KLC Model Ethics Ordinance/Policy, including the removal of the outside employment provision in Section 16 and revisions addressing endorsements and social media in Section 18. Council discussed the proposed changes and requested additional review by Tim Thiessen, Councilwoman Witt, and Councilwoman Ross. Sections 5, 10, and 14 were also identified for further review, with Council to provide comments and recommendations to the CAO. Councilman Wessels questioned whether comments could be disabled on all City Facebook posts. Continued discussion regarding social media policies was requested. The matter was carried forward to the September caucus meeting. The CAO noted there is no immediate deadline, but the revisions need to be resolved by February 2027.

Trash Can Storage(Nuisance Code)

The CAO reviewed enforcement of the Nuisance Code regarding trash cans left at the curb or stored in front yards. Council agreed that trash cans should not remain at the curb for extended periods or be stored in front of a garage. Council discussed enforcement concerns and agreed that proactive enforcement solely for trash can violations was not necessary. A reminder will be included in the City newsletter encouraging residents to promptly remove trash cans from the curb after collection.

Dudley/KY 17 KYTC Project Update

The CAO provided an update on the KYTC projects affecting the Dudley Road/KY 17 corridor. KYTC is working on significant changes to the project that may substantially alter the corridor's function. Updated drawings are expected to be available this fall. Council discussed the Dudley Road and Madison Road projects and agreed to request a meeting with KYTC, including the City of Edgewood. The CAO will submit a records request to KYTC regarding the Sperti Drive project.

COFW 5-Year Road Plan Review/Discussion

The CAO revisited the City's five-year road plan and requested any additional discussion following the previous meeting. The proposed annual road improvement budget was discussed at approximately \$650,000–\$750,000. Council discussed the possibility of accelerating the road plan if sufficient funds are available, rather than extending projects over five to seven years. The Mayor requested that the Finance Committee review the proposal and determine whether an accelerated plan could be implemented without adversely impacting the City's finances. The road plan will be further discussed following the Finance Committee's review.

N. KY Regional Trails Plan Update

The CAO provided an update on the Northern Kentucky Regional Trails Plan and noted that additional funding may be needed. Council agreed to table the discussion until Councilmember Witt returns.

Salt Dome Building Shingles

Council discussed roofing options for the salt dome building, including the potential use of solar shingles. Councilman Weber explained the differences in effectiveness between various types of solar shingles. Council discussed the suitability and cost of solar shingles for the salt dome, as well as potential insurance depreciation concerns. It was agreed that pricing should be obtained for both standard and solar shingle options before making a final decision, including consideration of shingle color.

Cyber Security Updates – Mayor Hatter

The Mayor discussed cybersecurity concerns related to password management and email security. The potential risks of using email to reset passwords were reviewed, including the possibility that an individual could gain access to an email account and use it to reset multiple passwords. Council discussed the importance of maintaining secure password practices and protecting email accounts.

CAO Hiring Process Updates

The Mayor and CAO provided an update on the CAO hiring process. Ten applications have been received, and applications will be accepted through the deadline of September 18, 2026. The applications will be narrowed to the top five candidates, with the Mayor conducting initial interviews and recommending two to three candidates for Council interviews. The Mayor asked Council to assist in sharing the job posting to attract qualified applicants. Councilman Weber suggested utilizing the job board through the City Manager group. CAO Bailey confirmed that it is posted in that group. The Mayor preferred to utilize available networking opportunities rather than incur additional costs for media advertising.

Department Comments and Discussion

Public Works Director Jeff Bethell reported that the dumpster at Kennedy Park was full. The Mayor suggested having the dumpster emptied for one additional round. It was noted that Ludlow and Fort Mitchell also utilize dumpsters for similar purposes.

Mayor Hatter reported receipt of a letter from a resident regarding storm damage and conditions on Ridgewood Road, a private road. The Mayor noted that the City cannot perform maintenance or remove debris from private property. Council discussed residents' concerns and the need to identify possible solutions for private roads. The Mayor will respond to the resident's letter.

Mayor Hatter discussed a resident's concern regarding a shed and the requirements of the City's current ordinance. The CAO explained that the shed must meet the applicable restrictions, or the resident may seek

approval through the Board of Adjustments, which requires a \$500 fee and may be a quicker option than amending the ordinance. The Mayor will respond to the resident regarding the shed issue. Council discussed the need to establish how shed ordinance violations should be handled going forward.

With no further items on the agenda to discuss, Mayor Hatter asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Wessels made a motion to adjourn, and Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Holland called the roll.

Mr. Collins – Yes, Ms. Ross-Absent, Mr. Wall-Yes, Mr. Weber-Yes, Mr. Wessels-Yes, Ms. Witt-Absent

MOTION CARRIED 4-0

The meeting officially adjourned at 816 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted.

Mayor Dave Hatter

ATTEST:


Kerrie Holland, City Clerk