



City of Fort Wright

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

City of Fort Wright City Council Meeting October 1, 2025 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hatter called the Council Meeting to order at 6:08p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence, and role call was conducted at the Special Public Hearing Meeting held prior. All council members who were present are still present.

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

Also present were Mayor Hatter, CAO Jill Bailey, City Attorney John Brooking, Police Chief Colwell, Fire Chief Schewe, PW Director Bethell and City Clerk Kerrie Holland.

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

Mayor Hatter opened up the meeting to accept citizen comments and/or guests to speak. There were none.

MINUTES

Minutes from the September 3, 2025 City Council Meeting

Mayor Hatter asked for any comments or questions regarding the minutes, there were a few grammatical errors to be corrected(punctuation error and Rumpke contract expiration date), with the corrections, and with no further discussion, Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve the amended minutes, and Councilwoman Witt made the second. Ms. Holland called the role.

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

MOTION CARRIES

Minutes from the September 17, 2025 Special City Council Meeting

Mayor Hatter asked for any comments or questions regarding the minutes, Councilman Wessels pointed out that this was the first meeting that we did not have Councilman Abeln and mentioned having some comments of appreciation made for him. Mayor Hatter agreed and will present comments later in the meeting. With no further comments or discussion, Councilman Collins

made a motion to approve the minutes, and Councilman Weber made the second. Ms. Holland called the role.

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

MOTION CARRIES

Minutes from the September 17, 2025 Caucus Meeting

Mayor Hatter asked for any comments or questions regarding the minutes, and with no further discussion, Councilman Weber made a motion to approve the minutes, and Councilwoman Witt made the second. Ms. Holland called the role.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 02-2025 re: City Government Month(October 2025)

City Attorney Brooking reads Resolution 02-2025 aloud. With no further discussion, Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to approve Resolution 02-2025. Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve. Councilman Collins made the second. Ms. Holland called the role.

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

MOTION CARRIES

1st Reading of Ordinance 11-2025 re: FY 25-26 Tax Rates

City Attorney Brooking reads Ordinance 11-2025 aloud. Mayor Hatter reminds that the new rate for FY 25-26 Property Taxes will be .199 and the rate for Tangible Tax will be .385 after the 2nd reading is approved at the next meeting. Councilman Weber thanked the Chief Schewe, Chief Colwell, and PW Director Jeff Bethell for being frugal with the funds in their departments. With no further discussion or comments, Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 11-2025. Councilman Weber made a motion. Councilman Wessels made the second. Ms. Holland called the role.

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

MOTION CARRIES

Executive Order 01-2025 re: Board of Ethics(BOE) Appointments

CAO Jill Bailey explains that there are two BOE board members that have expired this year. They are Joe Nienaber, Jr., Board member and Katie Baker, Alternate Board Member. They are both in agreement to continue to serve in their existing capacity, which would take their new term to September 3, 2028. Mayor Hatter mentions the other two members of the BOE are former council member Adam Feinauer and former council member and city Attorney, Tim Theissen. CAO Bailey mentioned that there are still two vacant spots on the BOE. City Attorney Brooking reads the Executive Order aloud. Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to approve Executive Order 01-2025. Councilwoman Witt made a motion, and Councilman Collins made the second. Mayor Hatter thanked the BOE members for doing a great job. With no further discussion, Ms. Holland called the role.

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

MOTION CARRIES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

CAO REPORT

Reminds everyone that the yearly audit starts October 20, 2025. Chamberlin Owen will be in the office for several days doing fieldwork during the week. Mr. Chamberlin will have the report prepared for review by the end of the year and we will have Mr. Chamberlin will be in to present his formal presentation of the report most likely in December 2025 or January 2026.

First steps have been taken to adopt the Tax Rate this evening, once approved at the next meeting, we will begin to get the tax bills printed and mailed to the residents during the first week of November.

Thank you to everyone on their work this evening for the open house, department heads have done a fantastic job getting everything organized. Thank you to Chief Colwell's contact, First Serve Foundation and Justin Bowen. They donated 20 new bikes for the bike raffle. The work they have done is fantastic. Thank you to everyone again.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Administration – Reminder that every resident will receive a copy of their tax bill, even if they escrow. If you do escrow, please be sure to contact your mortgage company to make sure they have paid your bill. All tax information is up on our website for reference. If anyone has any questions, please call the City Admin office. CAO Thanked the City Clerk, Kerrie Holland and Finance Clerk, Nyoka Johnson for their help with the Open House as well.

Finance – None

Fire/ALS Dept. -Chief Schewe intends to attend the Bridge project meetings monthly or every other month, which meet once a month to provide a timeline update. Mayor reminded residents that he and CAO Bailey meet with KYTC periodically to go over the plans and updates.

Councilman Weber inquired about adding emergency lanes to the project on Kyles Lane, Cao Bailey said she send Stacey an email and haven't heard anything back yet.

Police Department – St. Agnes October Fest traffic detail went very well, appreciate everyone dealing with the updated pattern with exiting the parking lots.

Finished active shooting training at Noah's Ark-went very well. Pistol Team for PD received 2nd place at the NKY Chief of Police Pistol Match.

Werner St. traffic study-Highest speed was 30 mph, speed limit is 25mph. 656 vehicles during a 2-1/2 week period, Only one vehicle was at 30 mph, the remaining vehicles were 20-25 mph, and 16-20 mph. Mayor reiterated the importance of performing these speed studies.

Resource Officer started at St. Agnes-Kenton County hired resource officer, Matt Lambert. Councilman Weber asked if the resource officer's radio has communication with Fort Wright's, Chief answered, "Yes, he's on the county channel."

Public Works – Director Jeff Bethell- Riegler is putting final pavement today and tomorrow on Pickett and General, should be done within the week. They will come back in the near future to seal everything. Next up next year on the street plan-Hazelwood and Elder reconstruction. Reminder from Mayor to check the website for the plans of the street 5-year street program. Crack Seal project is close to wrapping up that project. They have until the middle of October to officially finish the project.

Legal Counsel – None

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS-

Building and zoning have a meeting tomorrow at the KCPC, Chick-Fil-A to review changes in drive thru in re stacking lanes, they are going to be extending them. They would like to revise their plans. Council may need to review the application. It is different from the original plans. KCPC will submit a recommendation, and FW will have 21 days to intervene if changes are necessary.

Thank you letter for Officer Brad Keller – from Chief Stanley of Park Hills PD.

Thank you letter for Officer Matt Betustak – from Chief Stanley of Park Hills PD.

Thank you letter for Officer Matt Betustak – from Chief Nader of Ft. Mitchell PD

Mayor Hatter-Special Thank You to Rudler for partnering our annual shred day. Thank you to the City of Fort Wright employees who assisted with the event that day as well.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Witt- Reminder Annual Fall Clean-up day on October 18, 2025. Thank you to residents and volunteers who pick up on residential streets throughout the year, which then allows us to focus on the main roads during our Community Cleanup Days in April & October each year. So far this year they have collected – 6 bags Valley Plaza, 31 bags from Henry Clay, 28 bags from Mt. Vernon and Beaumont, 4 bags from Lorup & Werner, 33 Bags from Park & George Huser, and 18 bags from Amsterdam, Pickett, and General. A total of 120 bags the

volunteers have collected. Councilwoman Witt expresses her well wishes in regard to Dave Abeln leaving City Council.

Councilman Collins – Expresses his gratitude to the City for providing police patrol during the St. Agnes October Fest. Thank you to PW for making the straw bales “disappear”. Councilman Collins expresses his well wishes in regard to Dave Abeln leaving City Council.

Councilman Weber - Expresses his well wishes in regard to Dave Abeln leaving City Council.

Councilman Wessels - Expresses his well wishes in regard to Dave Abeln leaving City Council.

Mayor Hatter – Council will be Inviting Dave Abeln back to the Council Meeting in December to give him the traditional sendoff. Mayor Hatter expresses his well wishes in regard to Dave Abeln leaving City Council.

With no further comments or discussion, Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to go into Executive Session under 61.810 (b). Councilman Wessels made a motion. Councilman Collins made the second. Ms. Holland called the role.

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

MOTION CARRIES

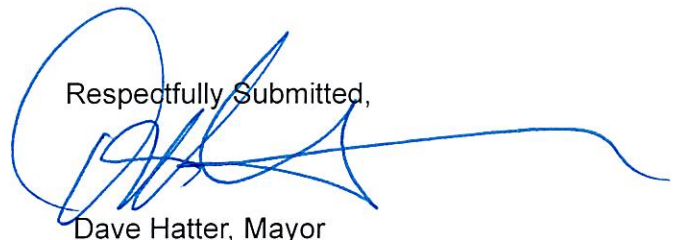
City Council officially adjourned in Executive Session 61.810 (b) at 6:54p.m.

The meeting reopened to the public at 7:40 pm. Councilman Wessels made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Collins made a second. All in favor.

The Meeting officially adjourned at 7:41 pm.

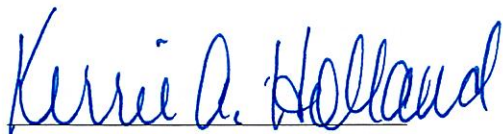
The next city Council Meeting is set for Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 6:00p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dave Hatter, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kerrie A. Holland, City Clerk