



City of Fort Wright

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

Fort Wright City Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 5, 2025 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm 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	Present
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, Finance Clerk Nyoka Johnson.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Bill Osterhage, resident of Rivard Drive, asks to speak in re: to the Fort Wright Civic Club. He is inquiring about the future plans of the building, i.e. if it was going to be sold, what would be developed there, and he mentioned that he would not like to see multi-family units be built there, he wants to keep it single-family or put a sand volleyball court in for the neighborhood to use. Mayor Hatter replied that the City currently has no plan of selling the property and he agreed about the single-family homes vs multi-family. Councilman Wall mentions that the idea of putting pickle ball courts in, has been mentioned.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes from the February 19, 2025 Special City Council Meeting.

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

Mr. Dave Abeln	YES
Mr. Jason Collins	YES
Mr. Scott Wall	YES
Mr. Jay Weber	YES
Mr. Bernie Wessels	Abstain
Ms. Margie Witt	YES

MOTION PASSES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2ND Reading – Ordinance 02-2025 re: Cannabis Licensing & Fees:

City Attorney Brooking reads the second reading of Ordinance 02-2025 aloud. No further comments or questions were made. Councilman Weber makes a motion to approve the 2nd reading. Councilwoman Witt made the second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Dave Abeln	YES	
Mr. Jason Collins	YES	
Mr. Scott Wall	YES	
Mr. Jay Weber	YES	
Mr. Bernie Wessels	YES	
Ms. Margie Witt	YES	MOTION PASSES

2nd Reading of Ordinance 03-2025 re: Verizon Franchise Renewal:

CAO Bailey explains the Ordinance in more detail. City Attorney Brooking reads the second reading of Ordinance 03-2025 aloud. Mayor Hatter asks for a motion to approve the 2nd reading. Councilman Wessels made a motion to approve. Councilman Collins made a second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Dave Abeln	YES	
Mr. Jason Collins	YES	
Mr. Scott Wall	YES	
Mr. Jay Weber	YES	
Mr. Bernie Wessels	YES	
Ms. Margie Witt	YES	MOTION PASSES

NEW BUSINESS

Fiscal Year 23-24 Audit Presentation – John Chamberlin, Chamberlin & Assoc.

Mr. Chamberlin introduces himself and his company and thanks the Mayor and staff for being so accommodating while his office was here last fall working on the audit. He has slides that he is presenting and takes any comments and/or questions pertaining to them. Councilman weber mentions that since the PVA assessed the properties this past year, the values went up, and council lowered the city's tax rate. He states that the Council, if not already, will receive the Governance letter provided by Chamberlin & Assoc. Mr. Chamberlin points out that the City has roughly 17 months of cash reserves on hand.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Improvement Committee:

Next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2025. Discussions in re: residential upkeep and how to proceed with code violations will be discussed at the upcoming March 19, 2025 Caucus Meeting.

Finance Committee:

The committee met on March 5, 2025, they discussed the upcoming budget review, Public Works COVID grant money and spending of the grant. The finance committee will have more information at the upcoming March 19, 2025 Caucus meeting. Mayor commends the hard work of Councilmen Weber & Wessels and staff on the spending of the budget. Councilman Weber mentioned the possibility of having to redo Kyle's Lane if construction takes place on the Fort Wright Civic Club.

CAO REPORT:

Report was in Meeting packet, nothing verbally reported.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION – Kerrie Holland

Sent out 45 delinquent tax bills in March down from 55 in February and 73 in January. Still processing tax payments as they slowly come in.

FIANANCE – Nyoka Johnson

Continuing Excel online course. Sent out the training opportunities to the BOA members. Continuing ongoing training. Finishing up FEMA training end of March

FIRE DEPT – Chief Schewe

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 9am-2pm – blood drive through Red Cross, 42 slots – 11 currently filled. More information will be posted on Social Media.

POLICE DEPT – Chief Colwell

Continuing effort on Amsterdam, Redwood and Morris Rd. Still receiving complaints about turning right on red. Speed trailer is currently on Amsterdam, going to move it to Kyles Lane to collect data for the new bridge.

PUBLIC WORKS – Jeff Bethell

Thank you to Jeff's employees and the public works department and to everyone who helped with the snow removal. The new replacement security cameras are due to be installed on March 18th. Mayor-spending \$25K on the equipment and it is much needed, the new equipment is more secure, made in America and NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act) compliant. Councilman Wessels asks Jeff Bethell about the SD1 storm project-Jeff stated that he spoke to Marty Hellmann, and they were still in the design phase of the project. Last update was approximately 3 weeks ago. Mayor Hatter commended the Public Works Dept and the hard continuous work during the winter. Thank you to the residents for cooperating with the snow emergencies that were put into place during the snowstorms. Cao Bailey thanked the Ben Wiesner and the police/Fire Dept for assisting. Councilman Weber-asks Jeff Bethell what the public should do if they come across a pothole. Jeff recommended calling the city building to report them, he can determine if it is a city or state road. Jeff mentioned that KYTC also has a reporting tool on their website as well.

City Attorney Brooking

No Report

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilwoman Witt-13th Clean Up Fort Wright Day will be on April 12, 2025 from 9am-noon. We will clean Kyles, Highland, Dixie & Madison Pike. Three hours of pickup then meet back at the city building for lunch. Volunteers will get a t-shirt, tools will be provided. Great opportunity for students to get service hours if needed.

Easter Bunny will arrive on April 12th @ 2:00pm for his annual neighborhood visit. The tour will last approximately 2 hours.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-61.810(c)

Motion was made by Councilman Wall to proceed in Executive Session under 61.810(c). Councilman Wessels made the second. Ms. Holland called the role.

Mr. Dave Abeln	YES	
Mr. Jason Collins	YES	
Mr. Scott Wall	YES	
Mr. Jay Weber	YES	
Mr. Bernie Wessels	YES	
Ms. Margie Witt	YES	MOTION PASSES

Regular Council Meeting officially Adjourned for Executive Session at 6:51p.m.

The meeting reopened to the public at 8:15 pm.

Councilman Weber made a motion pursuant to Resolution 03-2016 that Dean Dorton Allen Ford, PLLC be the payee of Occupational Licensing Incentive Payments formerly collected by VonLehman & Associates upon receipt of formal confirmation from Dean Dorton that they assumed all rights and obligations within the merger/acquisition of VonLehman & Associates with Dean Dorton Allen Ford. Councilman Collins made a second. The City Administrator called the roll.

Councilman Weber	Yes	
Councilman Collins	Yes	
Councilman Abeln	Yes	
Councilman Wall	Yes	
Councilman Wessels	Abstain	
Councilwoman Witt	Yes	MOTION PASSES

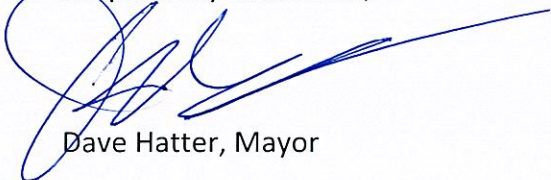
Councilwoman Witt made a motion to instruct the City Attorney to move forward with the filing of liens for applicable delinquent tax payments of real and tangible property taxes. Councilman Wessels made a second. The City Administrator called the roll.

Councilman Weber	Yes	
Councilman Collins	Yes	
Councilman Abeln	Yes	
Councilman Wall	Yes	
Councilman Wessels	Yes	
Councilwoman Witt	Yes	MOTION PASSES

There being no further business, Councilwoman Witt made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Wessels made a second. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Next Council Meeting is set for April 2, 2025 @ 6:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dave Hatter', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dave Hatter, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kerrie A. Holland', written in a cursive style.

Kerrie A. Holland, City Clerk