

CITY OF FORT WRIGHT, KENTUCKY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 3, 2012

Mayor Nienaber called the meeting to order at 6:10PM. The following members answered roll call, Mr. Bernie Wessels, Mr. Joe Averdick, Mr. Adam Feinauer and Mr. Scott Wall. Also in attendance were City Administrator Gary Huff, Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe, Sergeant Michael Knight, Public Works Director Tim Maloney and City Clerk Joyce Woods. City Attorney Todd McMurtry arrived at 6:16PM and Mr. Dave Abeln at 7:15PM. Mr. Dave Hatter was unavailable for this meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Wessels, second by Mr. Feinauer to approve the minutes of the 09/05/12 Council meeting. All members voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Feinauer, second by Mr. Wessels to approve the minutes of the 09/19/12 Caucus meeting. All members voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Judge Executive Arlinghaus was present at the meeting to address Council regarding the \$85.00 Kenton County 911 Parcel Fee that was added to the tax bills for next year and merging of the dispatch centers. There have been a lot of disgruntled tax payers because a fee is still added on the telephone bills and homeowners do not want to pay duplicate fees. Covington dispatch was merged with Kenton County on Sunday, 10/01/12 at 6AM. At this point everything has run smoothly and will make it safer and quicker for residents using these services. Judge Arlinghaus invited anyone to come out and take a tour of the facility. He stated what it would cost to continue to operate two dispatch centers, Kenton County and Erlanger and stated that there should be a fiduciary obligation to the residents that there be only one center for all of Kenton County.

Judge Arlinghaus and Commissioner Draud both agreed the fairest way for everyone is that a \$6.00 charge would be added to the Duke bill each month for the dispatch fee. A survey was taken and 66% of the respondents voted that way. Duke Energy did not want that to happen. The County Attorney was asked that the charge not be added to vacant lots etc. on the tax bills that were sent out to homeowners. His response was that it would be added to all tax bills. There is a form that can be submitted to appeal the fee and go before the Board for the charge to be forgiven. Forms are available on the website and at the Kenton County Courthouse.

A Resolution was drafted and a sample included in packet that the City Councils adopt an Ordinance removing a telephone landline fee from the residents of Fort Wright that would be effective January 1, 2013. As long as we are still with Erlanger Dispatch Center the County will take the average amount that is paid to Erlanger for November and December, and give that amount to Erlanger on behalf of the residents so there is no double taxation as long as we are with Erlanger Dispatch.

Discussion followed. Council thanked Judge Arlinghaus for explaining their position on the fees.

Old Business

Second Reading – Ordinance 14-12 – Imposing and Levying an Annual License Fee upon Motor Vehicles of \$35.00 per vehicle to help pay for repair and maintenance of roadways within the City of Fort Wright.

City Attorney Todd McMurtry explained the changes that were made to the Ordinance. There will be no sticker to be attached to the license plate and car dealerships and salvage yards will not be required to pay this fee as they only have the vehicles temporarily.

Motion by Mr. Averdick, second by Mr. Wessels to approve this Ordinance. Roll call vote taken, Feinauer and Wall voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Second Reading – Ordinance 15-12 – Increasing the Payroll Tax in Fort Wright from 1% to 1.15% and capping the amount at the FICA limit to help pay for the repair and maintenance of roadways within the City of Fort Wright.

City Attorney Todd McMurtry advised that this Ordinance was modified for the second reading. Motion by Mr. Feinauer, second by Mr. Wall to approve this Ordinance. Roll call vote taken, Wessels and Averdick voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Second Reading - Ordinance 16-12 – Increasing the Insurance Premium Tax in Fort Wright from 6% of the premium to 8% to help pay for repair and maintenance of the roadways within the City of Fort Wright.

Motion by Mr. Averdick, second by Mr. Wall to approve this Ordinance. Roll call vote taken, Wessels and Feinauer voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Mr. Feinauer challenged Council to research other methods of funding, so these Ordinances can be discontinued in the future if alternative sources of revenue can be found. Mr. Averdick stated that the Finance Committee will be researching other ways to fund the needs of the City.

Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Fort Wright, Kentucky and the City of Kenton Vale, Kentucky Relating to Fire and Life Squad Protection

Motion by Mr. Feinauer, second by Mr. Averdick to accept the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Kenton Vale. Roll call vote taken, Wessels, Abeln and Wall voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Administrator Report

Mr. Huff reported that \$48,000.00 was raised by the Hope Box Derby and this benefited Health Point to fund the clinics in Covington. Our car and driver were very good and the driver advised she will drive again next year if we would like her to participate.

Halloween is October 31st from 6-8PM. Please watch out for the children in costume.

Department Reports

Fire/EMS Chief Schewe reported that the ALS division of the ambulance had started on September 30th, and everything is running well.

Sergeant Michael Knight reported that our new Officer Jonathan Colwell starts his 20 week basic training at the Police Academy on Monday, October 8th and we wish him well. He will graduate on March 1, 2013.

Legal

City Attorney Todd McMurtry advised that Council would be adjourning to Executive Session after tonight's regular session

Public Works Director Tim Maloney advised that they have been in front of the Code Enforcement Board and have imposed fines on infractions that have occurred and will be back next week.

City Clerk Joyce Woods reported that tax bills have been sent out and are already being paid. The program is working well and thanks to Mr. Hatter for his programming. The due date in December 31st and we will be open until 5PM.

Thanks to the Garden Club for pulling out our old flowers from the planters in front of the city building and replacing them with fresh fall flowers and pumpkins.

Mr. Feinauer reported the Community Development is looking into the outside storage Ordinance to research recommendations for changes.

Mr. Abeln stated that he is in favor of the three ordinances passed at tonight's meeting, and would eventually like to try to have the tax passed for the roads only. Mayor Nienaber heard from Mr. Hatter and he expressed that he also was in favor of the ordinances to raise funds for street maintenance and repair.

Motion by Mr. Wall, second by Mr. Wessels to adjourn to Executive Session per KRS.61.81(f), personnel issue. All members voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Averdick, second by Mr. Wall to adjourn back to Legislative Session. All members voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Wall, second by Mr. Feinauer to adjourn the regular Council meeting. All members voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Nienaber Jr., Mayor

Attest:

Joyce Woods. City Clerk