

CITY OF FORT WRIGHT, KENTUCKY REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

03/07/07

Mayor Weaver opened the Council Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. The following members answered roll call, Mr. Jeff Wolnitzek, Mr. Joe Averdick, Mr. Joe Nienaber Jr., and Mr. Scott Wall. Also present were City Administrator Larry Klein, City Attorney Pete Summe, Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe, Public Works Director Tim Maloney and City Clerk Joyce Woods. Mr. Dave Hatter arrived at 6:20PM. Mr. Adam Feinauer was unavailable for this meeting.

There was no Citizen Comments

Motion by Mr. Nienaber, second by Mr. Wall to approve the minutes of the 02/07/07 Regular Council meeting. Roll call vote taken, Mr. Averdick voting in favor, Mr. Wolnitzek abstained, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Averdick, second by Mr. Wall to approve the minutes of the 2/28/07 Special Council meeting. Roll call vote taken, Wolnitzek and Nienaber voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Resolution 3-07 – Land and Water Conservation Fund Application

Mr. Klein advised that this grant application is the one that we are proposing to fund construction of the Battery Park amphitheater. If awarded it would be worth \$75,000.00, the maximum allowed by this project. Staff and NKAPC have been working on this grant and chances look good that it may be funded. This Resolution is required by Council and states that Council is committed to funding the balance of the project should this grant be awarded. We would probably be notified in the next 2 to 3 months. There is a breakdown of cost in the packet explaining how the money will be spent and the part the City will be contributing. Discussion followed.

Motion by Mr. Nienaber, second by Mr. Averdick to approve the Resolution. Roll call vote taken, Wolnitzek and Wall voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Administrators Report

2006 Average Sick Time, Vacation Lost and Salaried Hours Worked

Annual report included in packet regarding sick time and vacation time used. Only 6.25% of sick time was used by all departments. Employees lost vacation time and floating holiday time also because it was not used within the year. Mr. Klein stated that we have a very dedicated and productive work force in the City.

January 27, 2007 Joint Meeting

Included in the packet is an itemized list of the projects and ideas that came out of the January 27th joint meeting between City Council and the Vision Committee. There are some very interesting projects on the list. The Vision Committee will meet and evaluate the ideas and bring them back to Council in the next couple of months. If there is anything you would like to add or modify please let us know.

Brent Spence Bridge Replacement Project Update

A mailer that the City received is included in the packet and also there is a website that is also posted on our City's website to check the timeline and bridge alternatives of this project.

Department Reports

City Clerk Joyce Woods reported that we have been very busy with passport applications and also have re-billed the delinquent taxes for 2006 for March.

Public Works Director Tim Maloney reported there was no monthly report as they have been busy with snow removal. There was a report passed out regarding the amount of salt and time used for 2006/2007 year to date. Thanks to the Fire Department for their help. An update on the road closures, everything should be open except for Park Road with at least one lane open on the others and that includes Highland Avenue and Henry Clay Avenue.

Fire/EMS Chief Schewe reminded everyone to check their smoke detectors on Sunday when they set their clocks an hour ahead. If anyone needs assistance with checking their detectors, please call the Fire Department for help. There has been a burn permit issued for Howard Litzler Drive and KY 17. Thanks to the City for the Appreciation Party. Everyone seemed to enjoy it.

Battery Hooper Park Plan

Mr. Klein advised that we had a Special Council Meeting on February 28th, with a presentation by CDS Associates and Human Nature Inc. regarding the plans for the Battery Hooper Park. They showed us drawings of the Park as it would be developed, with a family picnic shelter, amphitheater, playground etc., which would all be handicapped accessible. This would be a benefit and dividend to all residents of Fort Wright. Mark Breuggemann, Phil Partridge of CDS Associates Inc. and Gary Wolnitzek of Human Nature Inc. were available to answer any questions. Discussion followed.

Mr. Averdick stated he is all for the park, but has concerns about the number of times that the amphitheater will be used and how it will be marketed. Mr. Hatter advised that he has struggled with the cost of the project when we are in dire need of the streets being repaired. He suggested maybe a special tax on the ballot for this project and to let people vote on it if they really want it. Mr. Nienaber also has concerns over the price of the amphitheater. He would like to have a meeting with all residents invited, to get their input on the actual plan. Mr. Hatter also had concerns over the amphitheater use and cost. Mr. Wolnitzek spoke and advised that it is a lot of money, but something that would make this a well rounded community. Mr. Wolnitzek stated that if we put this off it will just get more expensive each year. Mr. Wolnitzek advised he is in favor of the project now and go forward with it and work on getting grants and dip into our rainy day fund. This will enhance Fort Wright and make it the unique City that it is and be a better asset for the community.

Tom Litzler spoke and suggested to Council that they need to figure out if the City can afford this project and really wants it. Try to determine if this project is really good for the City. Scott Wall stated that questions asked of him by residents were, are my taxes going to go up and if it is going to delay the improvement of my street, then I would like my street fixed first. Mr. Wall advised he likes the idea of the amphitheater and thinks we should move forward. Mr. Brueggemann suggested that if Council wants more input from residents that should happen as soon as possible. More Discussion followed.

Mayor Weaver suggested that we duplicate the presentation that was shown to Council and have the open meeting at someplace that would accommodate a few people or a few hundred before we go any further with the plans. It was suggested that notices be sent to each resident advertising this meeting, after a place and date has been chosen.

Mr. Averdick left the meeting at 7:15PM

Executive Order 4-07 – Appointment of Police Sergeant

Mayor Weaver explained the process of this advancement to sergeant. There is testing, written and oral, which is done by outside professional people in this field. Detective Michael Knight placed first after all of this process. We were very fortunate to have a very strong pool of candidates that went through the process for this promotion. Mr. Klein advised that Detective Knight has been a very good officer and hope he works for the City for many more years. Mr. Summe read this Executive Order.

Motion by Mr. Hatter, second by Mr. Wolnitzek to approve. Roll call vote taken, Nienaber and Wall voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Sergeant Knight spoke and introduced his family and friends, who were in attendance. He advised he appreciates the opportunity to be sergeant and thanked everyone for their support.

Emergency Dispatch Option – City of Erlanger

There have been a lot of discussions at previous Council meetings regarding the dispatch that we are currently using at this time. With the information that we have received, that Kenton County and Covington are discussing a merger, we are checking into other options. City of Erlanger had an open house and invited several Cities that expressed an interest to them about Erlanger providing dispatch service to other jurisdictions in the area. The meeting was very comprehensive and thorough and presented a plan to charge emergency dispatch at a rate of \$3.75, that would be added to the 911 fee that is billed through Cincinnati Bell. Currently we pay \$1.50 to Kenton County for the 911 fee. Kenton County and Covington through their proposed merger have suggested \$4.25 and up, but do not have a definite figure. Erlanger has asked that cities of interest respond back to them within 30 days, whether they are interested or not, so they can get a better handle on volume and price. This will not commit us to anything, just that Erlanger consider us in the pool of cities that are interested. We are requesting from Council permission to authorize by letter of our interest to carry this to the next level. Mr. Klein advised that each City wants to get the best service for their residents. Motion by Mr. Nienaber, second by Mr. Hatter to authorize sending a letter notifying Erlanger of the City of Fort Wright interest in joining their dispatch system

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Gene Weaver, Mayor

Attest:

Joyce Woods, City Clerk