

CITY OF FORT WRIGHT, KENTUCKY CAUCUS MEETING

MAY 20, 2009 – 6:00PM

Mayor Nienaber called the meeting to order with a Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. The following members answered roll call, Mr. Dave Hatter, Mr. Todd McMurtry, Mr. Adam Feinauer, Mr. Bernie Wessels, Mr. Scott Wall and Mr. Joe Averdick. Also present were City Administrator Gary Huff, City Attorney Pete Summe, Police Chief Dan Kreinest, Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe, Public Works Director Tim Maloney and City Clerk Joyce Woods.

Citizen Comments

Ann Flood a resident of Reeves Drive addressed Council regarding her neighbor who could not attend the meeting, but had a few issues to bring to Council members.

- 1) That the street light at the bottom of Reeves Drive be replaced.
- 2) Look into lighting on Highland Avenue from Werner Drive to Reeves Drive.
- 3) Had pictures of the area at Reeves Drive without signage for turning in at Reeves Drive.

Mr. Maloney stated that Highland Pike was a state road and he would look into having the light bulb replaced at the bottom of Reeves Drive.

Mayor Nienaber asked Mr. Maloney to look into the cost of having lighting on Highland Pike and also check with the Highway Department regarding the signage needed for the Reeves Drive area.

Vision Committee

Those present from the Vision Committee were Tom Jacober, Ann Flood and Roger Schroder. Mr. Jacober addressed Council and stated that they went through the draft of the Year 8 Plan. They plan to send out a flyer in the June Top of the Hill News newsletter to get ideas from citizens in Fort Wright.

Mr. Huff advised that he had a meeting with Scott Kimmich of Kenton County, who advised he will be following up with a consultant to see what the best uses of the land on KY 17 at Howard Litzler Drive. If the City could partner with Kenton County on this site for recreational purposes, we could get something done faster and maybe better than trying to develop this site alone.

Road improvements were discussed and Mr. Jacober suggested a feasibility study to get ideas on funding for street improvements. Mr. Hatter suggested that the Vision Committee work on an idea to get feedback reaction on having a street tax or different ways to fund this program.

Mr. Wessels suggested that we might consider a program for the seniors to help them fix up their property with some sort of help through the City.

David and Paul Flood, residents and property owners in the city, addressed Council regarding their property on Vidot Court where there have been issues with the pit bull and owner of the animal. There have been reports of two attacks on other animals by this pit bull. David Flood has started proceedings to evict the tenant because he does not want to get rid of his dog. This process can take up to 90 days and Mr. Flood asked if the City could have the animal removed. Chief Kreinest advised that we had filed a criminal complaint against the owner of the dog, but this process could take up to 2 to 3 weeks. Mayor Nienaber stated that he has talked to the owner of the dog and he advised he would be leaving the property as soon as he could find another place. The Floods were assured that the police would respond if there were any problems with the dog being unleashed.

Hope Box Derby

A representative of HealthPoint, Chris Goddard CEO, was present at the meeting and addressed Council regarding the fundraiser that they would like to have take place on Wessel's property on Wright Summit Parkway. Last year this event was held at NKU and had a great turnout. HealthPoint would like to partner with the City and Business Association to make this event successful and fun for all who attend. This would be a very family oriented event with vendors, maybe the 1st annual Taste of Fort Wright and games for kids, plus the derby itself. They would like to have a Police and Fire presence from the City in case of emergency. They hope to raise \$60,000.00 for the clinics. Council agreed that it was a good opportunity to raise funds for a very worthwhile cause.

Sanitation District #1 – Jeff Eger

Mr. Jeff Eger from Sanitation District #1 addressed Council and stated that he had attended all the Council meetings of the cities serviced by Sanitation District #1. Mr. Eger advised that they have finalized plans to reduce storm water and sanitary sewer overflows during the next five years. This will be a very expensive project, but necessary as part of a federal mandate to eliminate the overflows completely by 2025. There will be planned rate increases of 15% annually for the next 5 years. There have been public workshops held and information is available for review on line or at Sanitation District #1.

Committee Updates

Economic Development Committee

Mr. Wessels advised that Debi Martin would be giving us an update on the marketing logos at the June 2nd meeting, and these would be defined and brought back before Council for approval.

Mr. McMurtry advised we should modify our sign ordinance.

Board of Adjustment meeting was held and one electronic reader board sign for the proposed Walgreen's store was approved on the Dixie Highway side.

The Mayor advised that a committee of Todd McMurtry, Joe Nienaber Sr. and Donna Ross would research Grants.

There was discussion regarding City of Edgewood taking over the property we now have on Pinehurst Drive. Mr. Huff advised he had sent out letters to the property owners in Fort Wright and had a response from 5 of the six residents. Three wanted to stay in Fort Wright , 1 thought it made sense to be in the City of Edgewood, 1 developer who wanted to know if the property was Fort Wright or Edgewood and 1 no response. Council wants to turn this property over to Edgewood as soon as possible. City Attorney Pete Summe will research the legal aspect of de-annexing this property. Mr. Huff will work with him on this issue.

Northern Kentucky Tax Rates

Mr. Huff provided comparisons in the packet, of Northern Kentucky cities tax rates, waste fees etc. Fort Wright is #4 for the most competitive rates. Mr. Averdick suggested putting this information in the Top of The Hill News to advertise how attractive it is to live or do business in the City.

Employee Free Choice Act

Mr. Hatter stated that if the Employee Free Choice Act/Card Check would pass through the Senate, this would have a negative impact on businesses. Mr. Hatter drafted a Resolution for Council to look at and would like to propose taking action to approve this Resolution for the next Council meeting.

Mr. Hatter also supplied Council with a sample Resolution addressing global warming and climate change.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Nienaber Jr., Mayor

Attest:

Joyce Woods, City Clerk