

CITY OF FORT WRIGHT, KENTUCKY REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

8/01/07 – 6:00PM

Mayor Weaver called the meeting to order with a Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. The following members answered roll call, Mr. Joe Averdick, Mr. Dave Hatter, Mr. Jeff Wolnitzek, Mr. Joe Nienaber Jr., Mr. Scott Wall and Mr. Adam Feinauer. Also present were City Administrator Larry Klein, City Attorney Pete Summe, Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe, Police Sergeant Michael Knight, Public Works Director Tim Maloney and City Clerk Joyce Woods.

There were no citizen comments.

Motion by Mr. Feinauer, second by Mr. Nienaber to approve the minutes of the 07/05/07 Special Council Meeting. Roll call vote taken, Averdick, and Wall voting in favor, Wolnitzek and Hatter abstained, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Battery Hooper Park Improvements

Mr. Phil Partridge and City Engineer Mark Brueggemann were in attendance from CDS Associates, Inc. to explain the revisions of the Battery Hooper Park Improvements. Mr. Partridge addressed Council and advised that revisions were given to Council for review. There should be two different revised budget and drawings from the originals. The first option shows the overall site with the deletion of the amphitheater, but utility lines will be included if the amphitheater is added in the future. The park shelter revisions, one larger shelter would be 40'x60' in size and the smaller shelter would be 40'x44' in size and this would also include reducing the size of the rest rooms from capacity of 175 to 100. The fireplace has been eliminated and also some tables. This would reduce the size of the storage area also. The main playground has been enlarged to accommodate 50 to 60 children with swings, a play structure and bridge. By the smaller shelters there will be small swing sets with more playground opportunities. The cost of the playgrounds increased from \$16,000.00 by \$80,000.00 for the larger equipment. The entry feature and the two shelters at the far west have not been changed. These changes will bring the budget down to \$1,530,480.31 for the larger shelter concept and \$1,436,398.98 for the smaller shelter concept. These figures are just projected. Questions and discussion followed.

Mayor Weaver stated that since we are discussing the Park, there have been suggestions to move the Veteran's Memorial, which is now in front of the City building to Battery Hooper Park. Mr. Hatter asked about the cost of moving this and Mr. Partridge advised that there was a \$25,000.00 allowance set aside for this project. Discussion followed. Council decided to re-visit this idea in the future and for now leave it as is at the City building.

Mr. Feinauer advised he is not ready to move forward tonight with a vote on the Park Plan. He wants to look at the comparisons and see what we need to do to make this project a reality. He stated he does not think we should reduce the size any further than the plan submitted to Council tonight. Mr. Hatter stated that his opinion has not changed and he is against spending anywhere near the amount of money proposed. He likes the playground and shelter house, but has a problem with cost for utilities and other earthwork. He advised the playgrounds and shelter houses were fine with him. Mayor Weaver stated that he knows that cost is a very big factor to everyone, but if we cut costs now, it will cost more in the future.

Mr. Wolnitzek suggested that we may want to consider shelving this project for now if we are not prepared to spend the money. If we are only willing to allocate the \$1,000,000.00 now, we should wait until we have the resources to have the entire amount to do it right. We need to establish a budget and let the professionals do their job.

Mr. Nienaber thinks we should settle on a Park Plan and then come up with the money to finance it. Take the time to solicit funds from Grants and other options. Mayor Weaver advised we can't go out and solicit Grants without a plan. Mr. Nienaber feels like we already have a park on this site and should qualify for the Grant money we have already received.

Mayor Weaver advised that every time we send Mr. Partridge and Mr. Brueggemann back to the drawing board with changes, it is costing the City more money. We either need to make a decision that we are going to move forward with the project or put it on hold.

Mr. Averdick stated that we should make a decision, but his opinion has not changed and he thinks this is not the time to spend the amount of money it would cost.

Mr. Hatter agrees that if it is between spending \$1,500,000.00 or shelving the project, he would have to vote to shelve it.

Mr. Nienaber agrees that we should work on getting the project done through Grants and outside funds. Mr. Klein advised that when you apply for Grants you have to show a physical plan and financing plan for what the project looks like and where the grant money fits in. The City needs to make a commitment on what their part and contribution will be in the project. Additional discussion followed.

Mayor Weaver suggested tabling this item until next month and to be prepared to vote at the September 5th Council meeting.

Administrators Report

Battery Hooper Days 2007 – August 18/19

A flyer regarding the Battery Hooper Days at the park on August 18th and 19th was distributed to everyone. There will be Bluegrass music on both days, kid's activities and much more. The flyer will be included in the newsletter that is going out for August and also listed on the website.

Eagle Scout Projects

There are a number of Eagle Scout projects going on, both in the Nature Center and Battery Hooper Park. At the park a group of scouts just finished a project behind the museum, they re-layed stone wall and removed all weeds and it will now become a shrub and flower garden. A group of scouts from Florence are working on the segment of the trail behind the church, over to the park property. Another group is building a bridge over the ravine, between the museum and Bluegrass Swim Club. There are also projects in the Nature Center, a fishing dock, steps and clearing of brush. Our first Girl Scout project has started and they are going to produce a brochure identifying trees in the park.

Notice of Intent for 2008 Storm Water Permit Cycle

This will be coming up again. In order to meet the State and Federal requirements of the EPA Clean Water Act most of Northern Kentucky, cities and counties entered into an interlocal agreement with SD1. This will allow them to be the agency to submit and implement all permit requirements. A notice of intent will need to be re-filed in 2008.

Model Sign Ordinances

Included in the packet was a notice of a Public Hearing at NCAPC on Thursday evening regarding model sign ordinances. The same attorney that drafted the Sexually Oriented Business ordinance has

come up with the model sign ordinance. They will come before Council in the coming months. Mayor Weaver stated that the digital signs or electronic billboards will be on the agenda to decide if it is necessary to have a short term moratorium on these signs.

Fort Henry Repair Update

The repair is on the way. The letter included in the packet outlines the time table for these repairs. This should be completed by October 26th. They will be replacing a 265 ft. section of Fort Henry Drive where the water pipe burst. The Water District has been very cooperative in this project. It was suggested to pass out a flyer to the residents that are affected on Fort Henry and in the area letting residents know what is happening.

Insight Cable Television Franchise Renewal

A letter from Insight Communications included in packet, stating they are beginning the process of renewing the cable television franchise process. Mr. Tom Litzler is our representative on the Telecommunications Board of Northern Kentucky.

Council Committee Reports

Community Affairs

Mr. Averdick stated that he attended a Parks and Recreation Board meeting and discussed Battery Hooper Days and the cost. There was discussion that eventually they might move the celebration to October when the weather is a little cooler.

Economic Development

Mr. Wolnitzek reported that he heard Wessels Company may be close to starting his next building on Dixie Highway.

Legal Matters

Ms. Classic Car Wash

Oral arguments scheduled and we should have a response in 4-6 weeks.

Wessels LLC vs. SD1 and City of Fort Wright, et al
Still pending.

Long Range Plan

Vision Committee meeting for July was tabled.

Department Reports

Public Works Director Tim Maloney reported that employee Jeff Bethel and wife Diana are the proud parents of a baby girl, born today. Everything is going well.

St. Anthony and Marcella are proceeding, all concrete work is almost complete and other issues are being addressed. Mayor Weaver suggested when the restoration is done, let's have it done correctly and go a step beyond. Mayor Weaver complimented Tim on co-coordinating the residents and the workers. The Nature Center is closed temporarily because the Sanitation District has two projects going on. There is about a two month window for the projects, signs have been posted and an article about this in the Top of The Hill News.

South Hills Civic Club renovation has been started. Completion on this project will be 75-90 days. Redwood and Amsterdam Road water pooling problem has a temporary fix for now, but it should drain better.

Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe reported that we are close to filling our Lieutenants position and hopefully have new employees by next meeting to introduce.

Sergeant Michael Knight reported that Chef Kreinest is out of town. In July, 9 of the 12 Officers attended training for incidents similar to the Virginia Tech incident. All Officers in the surrounding areas will be trained the same. The remaining 3 Officers will be in training later in the month. Officer John Mairose arrested an employee of the BP Station for burglary. Officer Danny Martin observed water coming from under a garage door while conducting a vacation check at a residence on Monticello Drive and contacted the emergency contact and this problem was fixed in a short period of time. Sergeant Marc Schworer arrested two individuals at Wal-Mart who were being looked at for several burglaries and shootings in other Counties. Thanks to all the Officers for a job well done.

Mr. Averdick stated that he was contacted by several residents on Beacon Hill regarding pot holes in the area. Mr. Maloney advised he had looked at this problem and will be working on them. There are many areas in the City that needs pot holes filled.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Gene Weaver, Mayor

Attest:

Joyce Woods, City Clerk