

CITY OF FORT WRIGHT, KENTUCKY CAUCUS MEETING

11/19/08 – 6PM

Mayor Nienaber called the meeting to order at 6:00PM with a Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Motion by Mr. Wall, second by Mr. Averdick to open executive session per KRS 61.810(c). All member voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Mary Ann Stewart, Attorney- at- Law, was present to update Council on the lawsuit pending by Adam Webb of Multi-Media. This is the company that wanted to install billboard signs in Fort Wright, Crescent Springs and Erlanger. She advised that there are appeals pending to settle with a lesser amount of billboard signs in the cities. We do have an amended sign ordinance in place, but this is from the original ordinance concerning the language which was as stated as too general. To settle this lawsuit, they would accept one billboard sign 378 square feet in size, located at 1901 Dixie Highway. If judgment does not come back in the City's favor, we could have four 672 square feet billboard signs. Discussion followed and it was a consensus of Council to continue with the original lawsuit and see where it goes. Mr. Averdick, Mr. McMurtry, Mr. Hatter and Mr. Wall all stated no to settling, and Mr. Wessels abstained.

Mr. Summe updated Council on where other lawsuits stood, Bonnie Elliston, Navillus and Ms. Classic Car Wash.

Motion by Mr. Hatter, second by Mr. McMurtry to adjourn executive session. All members voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Roll call vote taken, Mr. Wessels, Mr. Wall, Mr. Hatter, Mr. McMurtry and Mr. Averdick were all present for the meeting. Also present were City Administrator Gary Huff, City Attorney Pete Summe, Police Sergeant Marc Schworer, Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe, Public Works Director Tim Maloney and City Clerk Joyce Woods. Mr. Adam Feinauer was unavailable for this meeting.

Health Insurance Renewal

Mr. Huff reviewed the information in the packet regarding the proposed renewal rates for health insurance for employees starting January 1, 2009. There will be a proposed increase of 16% for 19 employees that are insured. Discussion followed. We will probably go ahead with the renewal for 2009 and bring this before the finance committee to work on different options for next year.

Finance Committee Update

Mr. Averdick advised that the committee has been reviewing the budget line by line, to get a better understanding of the new layout and ask any questions they may have. It was discussed to consolidate some of the checking accounts, to pay less service fees for multiple accounts.

We will be paying for the new ambulance in full, instead of financing it and work on paying down the debt on the city building. Mr. Hatter stated that this is a much better approach. Mr. Huff advised we need to have an investment policy in place.

Community Preservation Committee

Mr. Wall reported that in their first meeting they discussed code enforcement, needs of the Fire Department etc. Chief Schewe advised they want to retain the personnel that are trained and not have them leave for another department. Incorporate over time that the part-time employees fill in when there are no volunteers.

Economic Development Committee Update

Mr. McMurtry reported on this meeting update. He advised they wanted to set overall goals and all the residents on the committee have common ideas to make Dixie Highway much more attractive. Identify key areas and market them and make the existing businesses more attractive. Determine uses and identify them. Mr. Wessels reported that they have a statement of purpose in place and lots of ideas and energy in the group.

Police Update

Sergeant Schworer was present and addressed Council regarding the break-in of vehicles and residences recently. Council stated there are issues that they would like to see achieved. The email system to residents that have signed up seems to be working pretty well to get the word out. Council stated that they would like to have someone other than the Police Chief send out the everyday e-mails and that he would send out the emergency e-mails. They also would like to see more public relations by the Police Department. Sgt Schworer stated that he would advise the Chief and officers of these suggestions.

Mr. Huff passed out the proposed renewal rates for the upcoming year of July, 2009-2020, from Transcare for ALS service.

City Clerk Joyce Woods advised the employee Christmas party would be on December 13th at the South Hills Civic Club. Please RSVP if you plan on attending.

Chief Schewe advised that the new life squad would be picked up from the dealer on Thursday.

The annual Appreciation party would be held on Saturday, February 14, 2009. More details later.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Nienaber Jr., Mayor

Attest:

Joyce Woods, City Clerk