

## CITY OF FORT WRIGHT, KENTUCKY CAUCUS MEETING

FEBRUARY 15, 2012 – 6:00PM

Mayor Nienaber called the meeting to order at 6:00PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. The following members answered roll call, Mr. Todd McMurtry, Mr. Dave Hatter, Mr. Adam Feinauer, Mr. Joe Averdick and Mr. Bernie Wessels. Also present were City Administrator Gary Huff, Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe, Police Chief Dan Kreinest, Public Works Director Tim Maloney and City Clerk Joyce Woods. Mr. Scott Wall arrived at 6:30PM.

### Vision Committee Recommendations

Mr. Tom Jacober was in attendance for the meeting to update Council regarding the list of tax alternatives and cost saving ideas that Council asked the Vision Committee to review and add new ideas. Mr. Jacober stated that they had met three times and discussed the list. Some of the ideas were already done or in progress, others were eliminated all together and labeled not at this time, and others were discussed and would be sent to the Economic Development Committee for discussion.

There were four new ideas added:

1. Look at an increase in the payroll tax for the City.
2. Merge Police and Fire Departments with other cities.
3. Check out purchasing systems for supplies with surrounding cities.
4. Take the 4% property tax increase often.

Mr. Jacober stated that the list should be revised to either eliminate or use strike-outs on the list to bring it up to date. He suggested that the City prioritize the list each year with active items.

### City Property on Park Road

Mr. Jay Bayer and Mr. Dan Ruh were in attendance for discussion on this item from the agenda. This concerns the Goettsch property at 1860 Dixie Highway with acreage on the backside of the property, to be subdivided into two lots. Mr. Ruh has a contract on one of the lots to build a residence and the other would eventually be developed into a residential property. Mr. Bayer displayed a map and explained to Council what they would need for future lots to be developed and have access to Fort Wright. Mr. Huff suggested that they would need to dedicate a right-of-way across an easement.

We could have final documents or final approval at the next Council meeting in March if there is no objection from Council. It was approved through discussion from Council to proceed with final plats.

### ALS

Mayor Nienaber advised that notice was given to Rural Metro regarding the City providing ALS service to residents in conjunction with Fort Mitchell Fire Department. This would occur tentatively around October 1, 2012. The City has a meeting scheduled with Mayor Catchen from Park Hills explaining a contract with their City for full service. It will be proposed to charge \$33,880.00 per year, adding in the ALS funds now paid to Rural Metro. Insurance payments from Park Hills would propose to bring in \$98,000.00 a year.

Mr. Huff advised we will speak to the City of Bromley regarding ALS runs.

## Personnel

Mayor Nienaber stated that as everyone knows, we have lost some personnel to a neighboring City for more money, extra vacation, insurance coverage etc. He stated there were no complaints or grievances from any of the officers. The need for remaining personnel is to consider an increase this year and to give it three months early, as there have not been any raises given for two years. This can easily be absorbed in the current budget. Council is in agreement for the 2% raise to personnel and starting it earlier than July 1, 2012.

Officer Spanyer is one of the officers that have left and Fort Mitchell Police Department would like to purchase his bullet proof vest for \$350.00. This is approved by Council and will bring it to the regular meeting for a vote.

## Future Funding of Streets

Both in this past budget and the upcoming budget year we have \$250,000.00 set aside for paving streets. We need at least \$500,000.00 a year to keep our streets in good condition. After much discussion on this subject it was suggested that there is two ways that would be the easiest to raise the extra funds.

1. Add an extra \$50.00 per vehicle through the renewal registration when taxes are paid on each vehicle in Fort Wright.
2. Raise payroll tax by  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a percent to people working in Fort Wright. This will raise \$250,000.00 per year.

These two options would not be done at the same time and will be brought back at the next Caucus meeting when discussion of the upcoming budget will take place.

The empty sign at the drycleaners on Ashwood Circle was mentioned as an eyesore, and Mr. Maloney stated that he would look into it.

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

Mr. Averdick left the meeting at 7:55PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Nienaber Jr., Mayor

Attest:

Joyce Woods, City Clerk