

CITY OF KETTERING
CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MINUTES
February 27, 2024

The Council of the City of Kettering, Ohio, met in a workshop session on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, in the Deeds Conference Room, Kettering Government Center, 3600 Shroyer Road. The meeting came to order at 6:01 p.m.

Council members present included Mayor Lehner, Ms. Duvall, Mrs. Hall, Mr. Scott, Mr. Suddith and Mr. Sullivan. Vice Mayor Fisher had an excused absence.

Staff members present included City Manager Matt Greeson, Assistant City Manager Steve Bergstresser, Law Director Ted Hamer, Public Service Director Dave Duritsch, Human Resources Director Jenny Smith, Economic Development Manager Amy Schrimpf and Community Information Manager Mary Azbill.

Mr. Sterling Abernathy and Mr. Pat Lance were also present.

Mr. Greeson briefly reviewed the agenda for tonight's City Council meeting.

Strategic Plan - The proposed strategic plan was distributed to Council members. Mr. Greeson explained that the Steering Committee wrapped up its work on the plan in January. He asked Council to review the latest draft of the strategic plan so that the document could be discussed and finalized in March. Once finalized, priorities in the plan will be prioritized across the next five to ten years.

Mr. Scott asked how the sequence of things will be developed. Mr. Greeson stated that Council needs to give feedback on what is most important.

Mayor Lehner asked how strategic plan inclusions were quantified. Mr. Greeson explained that the plan has been reviewed by the Steering Committee, the public, City staff, as well as Council members along the way. Mr. Bergstresser added that reviewer comments were available in the appendices showing how things were quantified. Mr. Greeson explained that themes were modified to become statements, goals, objectives and actions.

Mr. Sullivan asked if prioritizing inclusions in the strategic plan would be part of a Council retreat. Mr. Greeson stated that a retreat depends upon the amount of work to be done resulting from Council's feedback regarding this final draft.

Mr. Scott asked when a retreat might take place. Mr. Greeson responded that it could be broken into multiple sessions during the next two months.

Go Fourth Celebration – Mr. Greeson announced that changes are being made to the traditional Go Fourth celebration at Delco Park. Fire code requirements and changes to the flammability of roof materials at the former Tenneco building led to necessary modifications to the traditional layout and fireworks used at Delco Park.

Mr. Bergstresser stated that fireworks are traditionally launched from the north side of the pond. Proximity to the Tenneco facility has put it in the safety radius. Traditionally, fire personnel are stationed on the roof, formerly comprised of rock and tar, to detect hot spots. Water supply was an issue when big hot spots arose. Tenneco's new roof is comprised of a rubber membrane which is highly flammable and susceptible to sparks. The Fire Department, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts (PRCA) and the City Manager's Office decided to move fireworks south of the pond which would cause the stage to be removed and seating to be relocated. This decision considers ADA parking, public safety access, food trucks and family-friendly activities throughout the park. The layout is not yet finalized by PRCA. Some considerations include playing recorded music rather than having a live band and dispersing focus around the park rather than crowding in one spot. The ball diamonds will not be accessible for this event. Three issues currently being navigated are: emergency medical and helicopter access; ADA parking and viewing areas and removing the stage. Mr. Bergstresser then explained that the shell size for fireworks will decrease from four-inch to three-shells. The larger the shell, the higher they fly. The three-inch shells will be lower and wider supplemented with a lighted drone show. Other locations were considered, such as Indian Riffle Park; but, ultimately, Delco was most feasible. The event will have a different look and feel, but it will be very nice. In fact, the general public will likely not see a big difference in the show. The main thing people will notice is the crowd control. The City will communicate it as a positive change. People viewing outside of the park might notice a difference since the fireworks will be lower.

Mr. Suddith asked which vendor provides fireworks. Mr. Greeson responded that American Fireworks is the vendor this year.

Mr. Greeson announced that the plaques for Mr. Duke and Mr. Klepacz are in place at Ridgeway Road Bridge and Town and Country Shopping Center, respectively.

Ms. Duvall stated that applications for Kettering Leadership Academy (KLA) will open Monday. She said the KLA advisory staff is hoping for a larger pool of applicants and are requesting that Council members to reach out to their networks for applicants. KLA can accommodate 16 students.

Mr. Greeson announced that Chief Protsman would serve as Acting City Manager through Friday.

At 6:41 p.m., Mr. Suddith made a motion to enter Executive Session under Section 121.06 (k) of the Codified Ordinances for the purposes of labor negotiations; and property matters, seconded by Mr. Scott. The motion passed unanimously upon roll call.

At 7:06 p.m., the Council exited Executive Session and went back on public record.

Ms. Duvall reminded the group that First Tier Suburbs would meet at Rosewood Arts Center at 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 28.

Mr. Scott asked for more publicity regarding the senior rides program.

Mr. Sullivan stated the Sustainability Committee met and inquired about timing for another discussion regarding hiring a Sustainability Manager. Mr. Greeson stated that this recommendation would coincide with the City's budget process to be considered by staff.

The City Council Workshop Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

ATTEST:

PEGGY LEHNER
MAYOR

LASHAUNAH D. KACZYNSKI
Clerk of Council