

CITY OF KETTERING  
CITY COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MINUTES  
March 12, 2024

The Council of the City of Kettering, Ohio, met in a workshop session on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, in the Deeds Conference Room, Kettering Government Center, 3600 Shroyer Road. The meeting came to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Staff members present included City Manager Matt Greeson, Assistant City Manager Steve Bergstresser, Law Director Ted Hamer, Planning and Development Director Tom Robillard, Economic Development Manager Amy Schrimpf and Community Information Manager Mary Azbill.

Mr. Sterling Abernathy was also present.

Spark Kettering – Mr. Greeson told Council members the City is moving toward adoption of the new strategic plan in April. He explained that the vision, mission and values statements lay the groundwork for goals and strategies outlined in the document. The Steering Committee completed their work, and the public and City staff gave feedback. Council members have the final draft document, and the City is eager to hear feedback.

Mayor Lehner asked how the words “nationally recognized” were selected to describe Kettering rather than using “nationally regarded”. Mr. Greeson stated that some words might be ambiguous and need discussion. For instance, nationally recognized might mean accreditation, publications, certifications or awards.

Mayor Lehner asked where these phrases are defined. Mr. Greeson referred her to Goals 1 and 5, City services and the Kettering Story, respectively. Mr. Bergstresser stated that national recognition provides something for which to reach by employees. Mr. Greeson explained that being referred to nationally recognized could also be cultural as employees are encouraged to participate, lead and shine the light on Kettering by writing articles, presenting successful projects, etc. Mayor Lehner asked if it should be measurable at this level. Mr. Greeson stated it should not.

Vice Mayor Fisher struggled with how things will be approached strategically. She used the Bike Committee striving for silver level status as an example. Mr. Greeson referred her to page 50 outlining how to use the plan. He stated a goal owner would be established who will work with people to help define and achieve each strategy and how we will achieve each across the span of time.

Mrs. Hall feels the mission should state why Kettering is the place to live (i.e., family, retirement, healthy lifestyle and Midwest values). Mr. Sullivan stated that the plan is high enough to capture all of that with no personality. Mr. Greeson stated a bit of flair could be added without changing the tone of the document.

Mr. Greeson stated that the mission communicates with employees. Mr. Scott suggested that safety for our citizens could be added. Mr. Greeson stated that “protecting” covers that.

Mr. Bergstresser advised Council members that goals and objectives are equally important, and it is unnecessary to re-order anything.

Mr. Greeson stated the group will review implementation, goals and strategies next time.

Marshall Road Roundabout – Mr. Bergstresser stated the City applied for funding for Marshall Road improvements between David Road and Wilmington Pike. The City received funding three years ago for repaving. As part of the funding application 15 years ago, Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) asked the City to consider a bike path. The City complied with MVRPC’s suggestion and was awarded funding for roadway and bike path. Mr. Bergstresser said that interested parties and bike advocates made suggestions for re-routes and other improvements. . The City of Kettering worked with LJB Engineering and gathered feedback from residents to examine potential improvements to the Lincoln Park Boulevard and Marshall Road intersection to heighten safety for vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists. LJB Engineering looked at four alternatives to improve Marshall Road at Lincoln Park: do nothing and leave two lanes in each direction; build a roundabout; incorporate a lane reduction to one south of Lincoln Park to Whipp Road keeping one lane in each direction; and place a traffic signal at the site, which will increase accidents, cause unnecessary delays and decrease level of service. Mr. Bergstresser reviewed the benefits and problems with each of these options and said that pedestrian safety is the driver for this project. Thus, taking all feedback into consideration, City staff determined that a lane reduction (from two to one in both directions) will provide the most cost effective safety enhancements for the intersection. Going north on Marshall, one lane will open to two after the proposed pedestrian crossing just north of Lincoln Park. Southbound will still maintain two lanes coming off of Wilmington Pike and will reduce down to one lane as motorists approach the Lincoln Park intersection. Left hand turns would be maintained.

Mayor Lehner asked about statistics on accidents and was told it is not a high accident area.

Vice Mayor Fisher asked if the crosswalk would have a light. Mr. Bergstresser stated that signage would be used for this mid-walk crossing and that no legislation would be necessary.

9-1-1 Funding – Mr. Greeson offered additional information for the resolution to approve the Montgomery County Countywide 9-1-1 System Final Plan as approved by the Montgomery County 9-1-1 Program Review Committee. Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 128.06 requires the Countywide 9-1-1 Program Review Committee to maintain and amend a final plan for implementing and operating the countywide 9-1-1 system. ORC Section 128.08(B)(1) provides that the final plan is effective if further approved by the Board of County Commissioners and the legislative authorities of municipal corporations and townships that contain at least sixty percent of the County's population. The Countywide 9-1-1 Program Review Committee for Montgomery County has unanimously approved this plan, and has submitted the same for approval by the Board of County Commissioners and the various municipal and township legislative authorities within Montgomery County. House Bill 33, which was adopted last year by the state, requires updates and submission of new plans by every county. This helps the County cross the threshold of municipalities and jurisdictions representing 60% of the county. Moving forward the committee can make changes without 60% jurisdictional approval. HB 33 increased 911 fees and these additional dollars are to support public safety answering points. Kettering, Huber Heights and Montgomery County Regional Dispatch are currently the three largest centers. The City receives \$285,000 per year (one-third of 9-1-1 access fees). There will be a discussion in the coming months about distributing the increased access fees differently. There are eight centers in the county, and each will want some proportion of the new funding. The City will likely see a reduction, as other systems will get a share of those dollars.

Mr. Scott asked about the future allocations. Mr. Greeson stated that the short term plan is to mitigate funding until the revenues are known. City managers recommend that revenue distribution continues to be top three centers. The argument is calls for service vs. population.

At 7:10 p.m., Vice Mayor Fisher 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. Sullivan. The motion passed unanimously upon roll call.

At 7:26 p.m., the Council exited Executive Session and went back on public record.

The City Council Workshop Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

ATTEST:

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PEGGY LEHNER  
MAYOR

LASHAUNAH D. KACZYNSKI  
Clerk of Council