

CITY OF KETTERING
CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MINUTES
March 26, 2024

The Council of the City of Kettering, Ohio, met in a workshop session on Tuesday, March 26, 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, Vice Mayor Fisher, Ms. Duvall, Mr. Scott, Mr. Suddith and Mr. Sullivan. Mrs. Hall had an excused absence.

Staff members present included City Manager Matt Greeson, Law Director Ted Hamer, Economic Development Manager Amy Schrimpf, Community Information Manager Mary Azbill and Human Resource Manager Amanda Harold.

Mr. Sterling Abernathy was also present.

At 6:01 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 property matters; labor negotiations; conference with attorney; economic development; and negotiations with organizations or individuals, seconded by Mr. Scott. The motion passed unanimously upon roll call.

At 6:31 p.m., the Council exited Executive Session and went back on public record.

Kettering Resource Center – Vice Mayor Fisher discussed plans for the resource center discussing its mission, vision, relative analytics and partnerships with Pathway Credit Union, Foodbank, Ascension, Greenmont and Community Development Block Grant Division for potential assistance. The building is an old fire station on Woodman Drive partially used by the police department for training. Operating costs, trash, electric, snow removal and pest control will be covered by the resource center. Vice Mayor Fisher then discussed possible board members including representatives from two churches, City staff member, a social worker and representatives from resources going in the building. School and library roles will be determined. Vice Mayor Fisher mentioned several nonprofits that might be competing for the same grant dollars. The resource concept will provide a better triage of citizens in need, as well as establish a baseline on effectiveness. The center is neither a solution for homelessness nor a hang out. It is a resource for Kettering residents.

Mayor Lehner asked about Ascension's affiliation with the project. Vice Mayor stated that Ascension is a partner that resourced 50% of the pantry.

Mayor Lehner asked if the center is insured. Vice Mayor Fisher stated that it is funded by Mennonite Mutual Insurance.

Mr. Greeson advised new Council members that Council gave consent to move forward with a not-for-profit project as the former fire station land is restricted for use for public purposes not affiliated with a church, but a standalone entity with whom the City could contract to be a tenant.

Vice Mayor anticipates a September move-in date.

Mr. Suddith stated the importance of evaluating leasing at no cost to a nonprofit. Mr. Greeson stated a representative from the City might be named to join the process to avoid conflicts of interest.

Mr. Sullivan asked Vice Mayor Fisher if the nonprofit has the funds, and she confirmed it does.

Mr. Scott asked if residents will have a problem with this plan. Ms. Duvall stated that a lot of Greenmont people will use it. Vice Mayor Fisher added that it has not been a problem to date as there is no shelter to keep people around.

Mayor Lehner asked if RTA Route 28 could include a stop at the resource center. Vice Mayor Fisher stated there is a bus line on Patterson.

Vice Mayor Fisher stated the name would be The Resource Center Non Profit - Neighbor to Neighbor Pantry.

Strategic Plan – Mr. Greeson asked Council members to review the goals and strategies of the strategic plan. He explained that staff will work with the plan and assign an executive level leader for each goal with cross departmental teams to bring goals to fruition. The building process will take months, and Council would approve when staff is ready. The document will influence other City documents such as our Comp Plan, Budget and Parks Master Plan. He explained that goals are higher level while strategies are specific objectives that will be prioritized as the implementation process develops. Mr. Greeson began reviewing the goals and strategies, one by one, with Council.

Mr. Scott stated that citizens need to be updated when the action steps are implemented. Mr. Greeson stated the City will come up with ways to achieve strategies and report progress.

Mayor Lehner asked at what point Council has input on the plan implementation. Mr. Greeson stated that after teams are built and an implementation plan is developed, Council will have the opportunity to approve.

Ms. Duvall stated that accessibility should be included in strategy 1.6.

It was suggested that Goal 2 should include child care if not mentioned somewhere else in the plan.

In strategy 2.11, it was mentioned that the appearance of businesses should be included. Mr. Greeson stated that the way it is currently written leaves room to create new programs.

Mr. Suddith recommended including citizen-led committees to accomplish Goal 3.

Mr. Sullivan asked if certain strategies could be assigned to citizen-led committees. Mr. Greeson stated that the teams would come up with these ideas.

Mr. Sullivan asked if residents know the name of their neighborhoods in response to discussing Goal 4.

It was stated that improvement needs to be seen regarding strategy 4.7

Regarding Goal 6, the Kettering Story, Mr. Greeson stressed the importance of consistent logos. Mr. Scott echoed that a consistent brand is vital.

Vice Mayor Fisher recommended mentioning volunteering with strategy 3.3 regarding engaging residents.

Vice Mayor Fisher asked about the timeline for strategic plan. Mr. Greeson stated that more information would be available as staff builds an implementation plan.

The City Council Workshop Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

ATTEST:

PEGGY LEHNER
MAYOR

LASHAUNAH D. KACZYNSKI
Clerk of Council