

CITY OF KETTERING  
CITY COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MINUTES  
June 9, 2020

The Council of the City of Kettering, Ohio, met in a workshop session on Tuesday, June 9, 2020, in Council Chambers. The meeting came to order at 6:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Mayor Patterson, Vice Mayor Klepacz, Mr. Lautar, Mr. Duke, Mr. Wanamaker and Mrs. Fisher. Mr. Scott had an excused absence from workshop.

Staff Members Present: City Manager Mark Schwieterman, Assistant City Manager Steve Bergstresser, Law Director Ted Hamer, Economic Development Manager Gregg Gorsuch, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Director Mary Beth O'Dell and Community Information Manager Mary Azbill

Council Meeting Agenda Review – Mr. Schwieterman reviewed the agenda including three resolutions.

Ridgeway Bridge – Mr. Bergstresser stated the construction plans for the bridge are being finalized. The right-of-way acquisition from two Oakwood residents is being finalized. Changes for design details since last September will require approximately \$30,000, \$24,000 of which will be charged to the 1% for the Arts Fund. The change order does not require Council action. \$800,000 Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) funding for the project is currently in question, due to the financial impacts of the pandemic on the State's budget. Staff is monitoring legislation being considered by the Ohio General Assembly that would provide the OPWC funding for the project. \$2,000,000 in funding through the Ohio Department of Transportation's Municipal Bridge Program has already been approved and is secure for now. If the City delays starting past the end of the year, there is risk of losing funding from ODOT. Staff is planning to move the bid opening date from October to November as we continue to monitor the status of OPWC funding.

2021 Sidewalk Program – Mr. Bergstresser discussed the 2021 Sidewalk Program and explained that the projects will proceed as long as the budget allows. Engineering staff will be examining streets in the Indianola neighborhood in the coming months. Letters will be sent to residents in this neighborhood prior to staff marking and measuring concrete that is in need of replacement.

Station 32 – Mr. Bergstresser stated that Engineering and Kettering Fire Department are working on modifications to the traffic signal near Fire Station 32 on Far Hills, near Winding Way and Greendale. The modification will add a traffic signal at the intersection of Greendale and Far Hills to Fire Station 32 to stop northbound traffic when fire apparatus is leaving the station on an emergency call. Mayor Patterson asked if RTA has considered removing the trolley cables along Far Hills. Mr. Bergstresser stated that RTA receives Federal revenue for having the trolley cables throughout their system, and that the cables are used to charge their newer electric/battery powered buses; therefore they have no plans to remove the cables.

Rosewood Arts Centre Project – Mr. Schwieterman recommended to Council that the design portion of the project move forward in 2020 and construction in 2021. City Council did not object to this plan.

Gentile Park Project – Mr. Schwieterman recommended the design be completed in 2020 and the remainder of the project be put on hold until 2022 or later. City Council did not object to this plan.

Mayor Patterson asked about grant funds for both projects.

Mr. Schwieterman explained that Rosewood has \$450,000 secured through the State Capital Budget, and the grant dollars will need to be spent in 2021 or they will be lost. Gentile has a \$150,000 grant for playgrounds through the NatureWorks program and is more flexible.

MVCC / GovTech Fiber Ring – Mr. Schwieterman stated that other jurisdictions have shown interest in utilizing the fiber ring. Trotwood requested 20 miles of fiber ring. FEMA would pay 100% of the cost for Montgomery County 2021 bill back construction costs

Mr. Schwieterman explained that FEMA would reimburse between \$400,000 and \$1.1M for construction. The cities hope to lease strands of fiber to other jurisdictions. Looking for revenue and swapping fiber. Mr. Schwieterman congratulated MVCC for a job well done.

Financial Update – Mr. Schwieterman stated that the City's year-to-date income tax revenue is currently \$2.1M below forecast. Withholding is approximately 4.3% higher than last year, but individual returns are lagging. The next two data points are June 20 and after the July 15 individual filing deadline for 2019 returns. Mr. Schwieterman also explained the City's process for income tax collections for individual filers that are late or behind on their tax payments. There is a three letter notification process that the Tax Division follows, and if a tax filer is still unresponsive, the case is turned over to the State Attorney General's office or the Law Department/Courts. Mr. Lautar asked what the success rate is for income tax filing. Mr. Schwieterman responded that he would get the information. He explained that the goal is to get taxpayers to do what they can as far as payment. The average minimum monthly payment is \$75. Mr. Schwieterman stated the City will work with the filers based on their individual situation but they are still required to pay the balance due plus interest. Mr. Klepacz recommended educating the public regarding payment options. Mrs. Fisher agreed as some people cannot afford it and end up feeling deep in debt.

### COVID-19 Updates

Mr. Schwieterman presented the following COVID-19 related impact on the City.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts began offering more re-openings – The state released guidance last week. Re-openings were announced on Channel 7, Dayton Daily News and social media. No reverse decisions will be made (water park, Frazee and Go 4<sup>th</sup>). PRCA is doing a nice job opening things. Fitness centers at the Rec Center and KFCW (Trent) opened May 26, as well as tennis courts, pickleball courts and the skate park. On June 10, playgrounds will open. On June 15, the walking track at the Rec Center, BMX track and locker rooms will re-open. The indoor pool, splash pad, group programs, personal training and Habitat programs are slated to open at the end of June, as well. In July, youth baseball and adult softball will be offered. Polen Farm is open. The Lather Center will remain closed.

Mr. Klepacz asked about disinfecting playground equipment.

Mrs. O'Dell stated that PRCA will be using a solution used by MetroParks that requires spraying to sanitize once per week.

Employees furloughed and laid off who are still available will return each Monday, as needed.

All City employees will be back in their traditional work spaces on or before June 29.

The Volunteer Program is gearing up to re-open.

Vacation extension requests may be higher this year due to COVID-19. The City Manager has authority to extend. Employees will send their requests through Department Directors. Requests able to be approved will be through February 2021.

Unity March – There were approximately 1500 people in attendance at the Unity March at Lincoln Park June 3. The event was peaceful and well managed. Thank you KPD and all departments for keeping it safe.

Follow-up emails requesting information are being handled by KPD. Our Police Department is accredited and current on best practices. The use of force policy is comprehensive and always up to date. Concerns from the public about de-escalation, reporting force, choke holds, bias training, etc., are included in KPD policies and procedures and benchmarks are in place.

Mayor Patterson asked about forming a committee to relay the answers to the community.

Mr. Klepacz stressed the importance of transparency, training and statistics.

Mr. Duke brought forth other issues such as children needing information, as well as parents.

Mayor Patterson advised that these committees are underway regionally, as well.

The workshop meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

ATTEST:

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DONALD E. PATTERSON  
MAYOR

LASHAUNAH D. KACZYNSKI  
Clerk of Council