

CITY OF KETTERING
CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MINUTES
July 28, 2020

The Council of the City of Kettering, Ohio, met in a workshop session on Tuesday, July 28, 2020, in the Deeds Conference Room, 3600 Shroyer Road, Kettering Government Center. The meeting came to order at 6:02 p.m.

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

Staff Members Present included City Manager Mark Schwieterman, Assistant City Manager, Steve Bergstresser, Law Director Ted Hamer, Economic Development Manager Gregg Gorsuch and Community Information Manager Mary Azbill.

Mr. Sterling Abernathy was also in attendance.

Agenda Review – Mr. Schwieterman reviewed the agenda for this evening’s meeting with the Council members.

Neighborhood Pride Awards - Mr. Bergstresser stated that the Neighborhood Pride program was accomplished virtually this year using social media and publications to announce and advertise. It is anticipated that winners will be recognized via video at a City Council meeting.

Paving Project – Mr. Bergstresser announced that concrete work is being done on Wilmington Pike, south of Stroop in preparation of paving in late August or early September.

Charging Stations – Mr. Bergstresser explained that, as a result of a lawsuit with Volkswagen regarding claims for fuel economy, Ohio received a settlement and is soliciting applications from communities to install and offer electric vehicle charging stations. Kettering would like to participate in the application process; however, Montgomery County is second tier among counties throughout the state lessening Kettering’s chances. The grant would fund 100 percent of the regular charger. The application deadline is end of September, and legislation will be submitted soon.

Refuse and Recycling Update – Waste Management collected 34,000 carts between June 24 and July 10. Carts were transported to Ankeney Middle School in Beavercreek. Waste Management relinquished ownership of carts after July 13 to Rumpke. City staff drove the city to find rogue Waste Management carts. As of July 10, 380 carts were found. As of July 27, less than 100 Waste Management carts remained for pickup by Rumpke.

Mayor Patterson stated he has not yet received his additional smaller cart.

Mr. Bergstresser explained that Rumpke is in the process of doubling back to deliver to those who have additional carts that are still missing. When Rumpke began delivering carts, they did not realize that some of the four family units were not covered in Kettering’s contract. Waste Management, in turn, mistakenly took away carts at these locations. Some of the four family units were canceled by Waste Management and some were not affected.

Mayor Patterson added that people are not happy with new size and want to change their subscriptions.

Mr. Bergstresser mentioned that in early June, Waste Management missed recycling due to manpower issues. They are offering refund checks to everyone (curbside - \$3.35 and house side - \$7.70).

Mr. Bergstresser confirmed to Mr. Lautar that Rumpke is continuing with a third pickup for house side subscribers.

Mr. Bergstresser explained the main concerns from residents about the transition. There is a \$2.95 service fee for one-time, online payments. If customers opt for recurring payments, there is no fee.

The cost for overage bags is of concern. Customers are encouraged to opt for an additional cart for \$4.00 per month versus purchasing an overage bag for the same price.

The city is working with Rumpke to accept cardboard boxes that will not fit in the cart.

Mayor Patterson asked why the boxes are not considered large-item pickup to which Mr. Schwieterman explained that the protocol is industry standard.

Mr. Schwieterman and Mr. Bergstresser complimented Mary Jo Csizma, Amy Hayslip and LaShaunah Kaczynski for their exceptional work in fielding customer calls.

Vice Mayor Klepacz asked about trash collection for condominiums owned by individually. Mr. Bergstresser confirmed that their trash is handled by the HOA.

Mr. Schwieterman confirmed that Waste Management provides service for Greenmont.

Police Department Renovation - Mr. Schwieterman provided Council with an update on the renovation of the Police Department. The Dispatch Center is in the process of moving to the Fire Department so that renovations can be made to the north end of KPD's building. Dispatch will remain at KFD headquarters through the completion of construction at KPD.

COVID-19 Items

CARES Act Funding – Mr. Schwieterman stated that last week the Ohio Office of Management and Budget held a webinar to clarify uses for the money. Reimbursable items include: 1). necessary expenses, 2). expenditures not previously budgeted and 3). expenditures incurred between March 1 and December 31, 2020. There are exceptions for public safety and health. For the City of Kettering, KFD personnel are presumed to be substantially dedicated to COVID-19. Therefore, CARES is waiving requirement two and allowing cities to seek reimbursement for fire personnel expenses and fringe benefits for straight time. All of our uniformed fire personnel are allocated to COVID-19. Based upon EMS run volume, 75% of personnel costs will be put into the model. Guidelines require a declaration by the City. The declaration will be broader for additional CARES dollars or other funding sources. Money is in a separate fund - \$782,000 – and we will allocate expenses to draw down the funds. Departments will continue to track COVID-19 purchases. FEMA will also provide a 75% / 25% reimbursement.

Mr. Duke asked if the City prepared information for the National League of Cities. Mr. Schwieterman stated that a proclamation was passed, letters were sent and the NLC survey was completed through the Ohio Municipal League.

Working Remotely – Mr. Schwieterman explained that, by August 11, Department Directors were asked to send ideas and processes to improve the work-from-home model. The City brought 100% of employees back to work spaces June 29. Huber Heights and Washington Township are back to the remote model and City Council meetings via Zoom. Wearing masks and social distancing is fine, but we are prepared to return to video conferencing for Council, if desired. Mr. Schwieterman stated employees serve, and employees should be here. But, if it hits hard, the City needs to act.

Mayor Patterson recommended buying laptop computers with CARES Act funding for remote work situations.

Mrs. Fisher asked how much foot traffic the government center gets per day.

Mr. Bergstresser stated 45 to 50 before COVID. Now, the number of visitors coming through the front door range in the 20s.

Montgomery County Auditor Tentative Revaluation Update – Mr. Schwieterman reviewed information from the Montgomery County Auditor’s 2020 Triennial Update. It is anticipated Kettering will see an estimated 9.21% increase. Countywide, Kettering accounts for the largest increase of 16% followed by Dayton at 12%. In 2017, Kettering received a 7% increase equaling \$535K. In 2020, at a 9% increase, the city should expect around \$600,000. Final numbers will include 2020 new construction and agricultural values. Tornado updates will continue. Tornados hit after county did drive-by and aerial photos. The county redid photos afterward to make adjustments--2600 lost value accounting for an \$84M decrease. This week, residents will receive tentative value letters. The resident can call the auditor’s office and ask questions.

Census Update – Mark explained that Kettering has a 74.5% self response rate. Deadline is extended through October 31. Non-response followup as early as 8/11. State is at 76.9% and county at 66.6%. Using publications and social media to publicize and encourage participation.

Mr. Lautar asked how they are handling nursing homes. Mr. Schwieterman advised that administrators will have to do it.

Tax Update – Mr. Schwieterman anticipates tax numbers to come next week for July 15 data point. Decisions on hiring freeze and bringing people back cannot be made until then.

Police Publication – Mr. Schwieterman stated that a two-page summary from Police Department will be coming soon.

Board of Community Relations – Mrs. Fisher shared the binder created by the Police Department with the Board of Community Relations. Ideas for project implementation include a survey, speaking with high school freshmen to get youth perspective, have three business owners of color have a conversation. The Board of Community Relations wants to act as listeners and learners. As a group, everyone is reading *Me and White Supremacy* to work from the same vernacular. The group as a whole does not want to get in front of Dayton.

The workshop meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

ATTEST:

DONALD E. PATTERSON
MAYOR

LASHAUNAH D. KACZYNSKI
Clerk of Council