

**KETTERING CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 15, 2020**

The Council of the City of Kettering, Ohio, met in regular session on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the December 15, 2020 meeting of the Kettering City Council was conducted by teleconference with video. Mayor Patterson presided and the Clerk of Council, LaShaunah D. Kaczynski, recorded. This meeting was telecast live on the cable access channel and streamed live at mvcc.net.

Council Members Present: Patterson, Klepacz, Lautar, Fisher, Scott, Duke and Wanamaker

Council Members Absent: None

Total Members Present: Seven (7)

Mr. Lautar recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Patterson gave the invocation.

Mrs. Kaczynski conducted an attendance roll call of council members:

Mr. Klepacz- Present

Mr. Lautar- Present

Mrs. Fisher- Present

Mr. Scott- Present

Mr. Duke- Present

Mr. Wanamaker- Present

Mayor Patterson- Present

Mayor Patterson introduced the cable TV operator Joe Mackenzie. He thanked him for his assistance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 8, 2020- Council Meeting & Workshop Minutes

Mr. Lautar reported that he reviewed the above minutes and moved the minutes be approved. Mr. Wanamaker seconded the motion of the above minutes and there being seven (7) yea votes and no (0) nay votes for the December 8, 2020 Council Meeting & Workshop Minutes, the motion was declared carried by roll call vote

PROCLAMATIONS, SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS, SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PUBLIC COMMENT ON LEGISLATION

Sterling Abernathy- He has comments this evening regarding agenda item number two, the city's 2021 budget. Two key points regarding this resolution is for the past eight years, the city has been spending down its governmental fund to pay for annual expenses. One day that will have to stop, but when that day arrives and the trend continues his concern is there will be tax increases. His second key point is in this year when many residents have reduced incomes and companies have moved jobs out of the city, city spending should be for necessities. The 2021 budget shows the city will continue spending millions for projects and services that are not necessities. In 2013, Kettering received \$42 million dollars in estate taxes, a one-time increase for the city's governmental fund. In the eight years since 2013, the city has withdrawn \$39 million dollars from this fund to help pay for annual spending. To pay expenses in 2020, the city withdrew about \$6 million dollars, and in 2021 the city will withdraw \$5.6 million dollars. Someday these withdraws will have to stop and the city can't cover its' spending forever by withdrawing \$5-6 million dollars out of the governmental fund every year. What happens when spending down the governmental fund stops? The answer is hard choices such as cut spending, raise taxes, and borrow money. The city's income taxes received this year will fall by \$3 million dollars from what they were in 2019. Residents' incomes are lower and Kettering is losing jobs. The city should spend for necessities. A couple of examples of necessities would include reconstructing residential streets, upgrading unimproved streets in residential neighborhoods where heavy rain cause streets to stay flooded for days, and rebuilding the city's storm water utility system. Three years ago, council was told that the fifty year pipes under the streets were crumbling, and staff recommended new taxes to be used to pay for this. Those are necessities. Here are a few projects in the 2021 budget that are not necessities:

1. Renovating and expanding the Rosewood Arts Centre- when tax revenues are down \$3 million dollars why would the city start a \$5 million dollars arts facility renovation when half

of the people that use the Rosewood Arts Centre do not live, work, or pay taxes in Kettering. Renovating Rosewood is not a necessity.

2. Landscaping new bridges- the city budgeted \$415,000 for landscaping the Schantz and Ridgeway bridges. Unlike replacing bridges, landscaping bridges for \$415,000 is not a necessity. Kettering is spending too much money to decorate and landscape two bridges. At the Schantz Bridge, the city installed rusty metal screens that cost \$420,000. Ridgeway Bridge is getting its own art decorations that will cost \$350,000. In total, landscaping and decorating these bridges will cost tax payers \$1,185,000 that is in addition to the cost of the bridges. Spending \$1.2 million dollars to decorate and landscape two bridges is not a necessity.
3. Government Center Campus Wayfinding- right now, the Government Center Campus has signs for its two buildings. This project will spend \$60,000 to upgrade and replace the signs. \$60,000 for signs in that area is not a necessity.
4. Miscellaneous building improvements- in his experience if a budget item is labeled miscellaneous it is either a small amount or designed to be obscured. This item cost \$742,000 and a project labeled miscellaneous costing \$742,000 is not a necessity.

Instead of spending millions on cosmetic and vanity projects like campus wayfinding, bridge landscaping and art, and projects like Rosewood Arts Centre that are not core infrastructure, lets focus on true necessities. For example, replace those fifty year crumbling storm sewer pipes under city streets and do that without raising taxes and fees.

ORDINANCES IN SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE

NO: 4353-20

BY: MR.KLEPACZ AND MRS.FISHER

TO PROVIDE FOR THE TABLE OF ORGANIZATION, POSITION CLASSIFICATION PLAN, COMPENSATION PLAN AND PAY SCHEDULES AND RULES AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO CONDITIONS OF WORK AND SUPPLEMENTAL BENEFITS FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF KETTERING, OHIO, AND TO REPEAL ORDINANCE NO 4334-19

Mr. Klepacz read the above ordinance and moved for approval. Mrs. Fisher seconded the motion.

Mr. Schwieterman, City Manager gave a brief description of the ordinance.

The following votes were recorded: Mr. Klepacz, Yea; Mr. Lautar, Yea; Mrs. Fisher, Yea; Mr. Scott, Yea; Mr. Duke, Yea; Mr. Wanamaker, Yea; Mayor Patterson, Yea. There being seven (7) Yea votes and no (0) Nay votes, the motion was declared carried and the ordinance duly adopted.

RESOLUTIONS

A RESOLUTION

NO: 10508-20

BY: MRS.FISHER AND MR.SCOTT

TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF KETTERING, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021

Mrs. Fisher read the above resolution and moved for approval. Mr. Scott seconded the motion.

Mr. Schwieterman, City Manager gave a PowerPoint presentation of the resolution.

Mr. Schwieterman thanked city council for their time and effort in approving and putting together the 2021 budget. He would also like to thank the Finance Department, especially Kelly O'Connell, Budget Manager and Nancy Gregory, Finance Director. It has been a very difficult year for the budget due to COVID-19 and other factors. He would also like to thank department directors who stepped up in a major way to ensure we have a positive operating margin. Back in October, numbers were compiled for the budget and we were in a deficit. We were able to make \$4 million dollars in adjustments over the last month for preparations for the budget. That would not have been possible without the help of city council and the department directors.

Mayor Patterson thanked all department directors for their help in putting the budget together. These are trying times and they have done a great job in keeping the budget down and taking care of things that needed to be taken care of. We look forward to 2021.

Mrs. Kaczynski asked for clarification on who seconded the motion to approve the resolution.

Mr. Scott stated he seconded the motion.

Mayor Patterson confirmed that the motion has been moved and seconded.

The following votes were recorded: Mr. Klepacz, Yea; Mr. Lautar, Yea; Mrs. Fisher, Yea; Mr. Scott, Yea; Mr. Duke, Yea; Mr. Wanamaker, Yea; Mayor Patterson, Yea. There being seven (7) Yea votes and no (0) Nay votes, the motion was declared carried and the resolution duly adopted.

ORDINANCES IN FIRST READING

CERTIFICATIONS AND PETITIONS

MANAGER'S REPORT/COMMUNITY UPDATE

Mr. Schwieterman, City Manager updated Council on upcoming and community events.

- Shop local Kettering businesses for the holidays
- Beginning November 24 through December 15, Kettering property owners are invited to upload a photo of the outside holiday light display of their home or business.
- City offices will be closed on Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25. Trash on Friday will be delayed by one day.
- The Community Blood Center is in urgent need of COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Donors. For more information call the Community Blood Center at 937-461-3220.
- Next road closure for the Ridgeway Bridge Replacement will begin early on Friday, December 18 and end late Saturday, December 19.
- City offices will be closed on Friday, January 1. Trash collection on Friday will be delayed until Saturday.
- 2021 dog licenses are currently on sale. Residents can contact Shelly Davis in the Police Department at 937-296-3266 to purchase dog licenses.

OTHER BUSINESS NOT ON WRITTEN AGENDA

Audience Participation (5 Minute Limit per Speaker)

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Lautar reported:

- Have a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Mr. Duke reported:

- Residents should remain vigilant as we still navigate through this pandemic.
- Have a merry Christmas and happy Hanukkah.

Mr. Wanamaker reported:

- City crews did a wonderful job on the 2020 leaf pickup program.
- Thank you to city staff for providing a plan to ensure residents receive essential services during the pandemic.
- Have a merry Christmas and have a happy New Year.

Mr. Scott reported:

- Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mr. Klepacz reported:

- Have a merry Christmas and happy holidays.
- Support local Kettering businesses for the holidays including purchasing gift cards.

Mrs. Fisher reported:

- Thank you to WilmerHale and Wenzler Daycare for supporting the Christmas basket program.

Mayor Patterson reported:

- Thank you to the Montgomery County Human Services Levy team for providing outstanding services to Montgomery County residents through this pandemic.
- Mayor Patterson played a video message thanking the community for their grace and perseverance during this difficult year.
- Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

They're being no further business to come before this meeting of the Kettering City Council; Mayor Patterson adjourned the City Council Meeting at 8:02 p.m.

LaShaunah D. Kaczynski
Clerk of Council

DONALD E. PATTERSON, MAYOR