

CITY OF KETTERING
CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MINUTES
April 13, 2021

The Council of the City of Kettering, Ohio, met in a workshop session on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, in the Deeds Meeting Room, 3600 Shroyer Road, Kettering Government Center. The meeting came to order at 6:03 p.m.

Council Members Present included Mayor Patterson, Vice Mayor Klepacz, Mr. Lautar, Mr. Duke, Mr. Wanamaker and Mrs. Fisher.

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 and Kyle Boze were also in attendance.

Agenda Review – Mr. Schwieterman provided a review of the agenda for tonight’s City Council meeting.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations – Mr. Bergstresser explained that the City received a grant from the state to provide 50% of funding for EV charging stations at Delco Park and the Kettering Recreation Complex. The Kettering Government Center was not selected during this round but will be re-submitted in 2022 as a potential location. There were two main provisions for locations: proximity to electric service and close to or adjacent to ADA-compliant facilities. Two stations will be available for charging at each location. One space must be designated a handicapped space. No signage designating handicapped.

Mayor Patterson asked why there would be no signage for the designated handicapped space. Mr. Bergstresser stated signage could be put in place.

Vice Mayor Klepacz stated that soccer games will cause parking issues and specific signage designating those spots as EV charging stations will be necessary. Mr. Bergstresser stated he believes signage is a requirement.

Vectren / Ridgeway Updates - Vectren is finished repairing the gas main at Stroop Road and Far Hills Avenue, and the project was a success. Work on the Ridgeway Bridge should be shutting down Dorothy at 7:00 p.m., this evening as the crane arrives. It will be an all-night process tonight setting three beams and tomorrow night setting two more.

Facade Improvement Program – Mr. Bergstresser presented the proposed changes in color scheme and landscaping at We Care Arts. Changes must meet zoning requirements to receive up to \$25,000 with equal match. The City will include these changes for approval at the next Council meeting. The parking lot is in compliance with no changes necessary.

Broadband Services Update – Mr. Schwieterman stated that pursuant to Ohio Revised Code, Cincinnati Bell Wireless is extending their territory and coming to Kettering offering video services. The City was aware of their desire to move north. This will happen in a year or more. The City responded with requirements such as the franchise fee Cincinnati Bell Wireless would be subject to paying. Video service is the requirement; but, conversations have been about internet/broadband services. It is being determined whether or not they can use the fiber ring or what is required.

MVCC has been talking to Point Broadband about services to six of the seven MVCC communities. Point Broadband would bring fiber to home internet services creating competition in that arena. Fiber to the home would enhance services. The City has a right-of-way ordinance for which permits are required for everyone requesting use of it.

Charter Communications may also be potential competition. Jason Kirschner assured the City that everyone will play by the same rules. Charter Communications helped the schools during the pandemic. An announcement will be made for participation in an emergency broadband program with a 50% discount to income-eligible households (free and reduced lunch families).

Point Broadband is looking at a construction project this year bringing fiber to the home. It is a bit more intrusive than wires on poles. Fiber runs down the streets and is spliced into homes creating a high-powered WiFi network inside homes at a competitive price. Point Broadband is talking with DP&L to run from their poles.

Fiber Phase II – Mr. Schwieterman stated that fiber is being installed on County Line Road. Work is also being done on Stroop, Shroyer and Dixie. This is an over build of the City’s existing fiber to create the same level capacity as Phase I. It will be funded in partnership with MVCC.

COVID Update – Mr. Schwieterman stated that there is currently one positive case reported among City employees, five people are sick and two are in quarantine. The Task Force will discuss how the City will handle operations this summer.

Kettering Police and Fire Departments have been assisting with the vaccination process at the Dayton Convention Center. There is a possibility of funding to reimburse communities for their efforts in helping. There are going to be new locations for vaccinations as the Convention Center is no longer available. Synchrony will no longer be considered a vaccination site due to indemnification. Cities are not allowed to indemnify, and the building management will not allow a site without indemnification.

Showers and drinking fountains were closed throughout City parks and facilities early in the pandemic. The most recent Order gave guidelines and rescinded a number of documents lifting the restrictions. The City will begin re-opening drinking fountains and then showers. A testing service will ensure that the water is safe prior to allowing customer usage.

Orders have not been rescinded for senior centers. Washington Township opened their senior center following the guidelines. The City will continue monitoring. Seniors are able to go to the recreation complex. Employees were required to be tested every two weeks, and the City doesn’t test employees. Playing cards requires masks. Lunch programs are still not allowed. The City offers services at the Kettering Recreation Complex for seniors without the requirement of COVID testing for employees including bingo, fitness center and pool usage.

Mayor Patterson asked if playing cards could be allowed at the recreation complex. Mr. Schwieterman stated it would be possible if social distancing guidelines were followed.

Vice Mayor Klepacz asked if membership holders for the Lathrem Center are being charged. Mr. Schwieterman stated refunds or future credits were being offered. He went on to say that when the testing requirements are no longer required, the facility would re-open.

Geese Management – Mr. Schwieterman stated that the City’s methods to control the geese population were of concern to a citizen. An email to assure that methods are humane and necessary will be sent in response to the concern.

Vice Mayor Klepacz stated that the Charter allows changes to City Council member compensation once every two years in odd number years. If anything changes with Council compensation, it must be done by June. Changes would be made by two ordinance meetings in May would not go into effect until all members but Mrs. Fisher are no longer in office. The Personnel and Finance Committee will meet for discussion and present at next Workshop.

Mr. Hamer stated that if there is a pay increase, it would not be effective for any member of Council currently sitting. .

Mr. Duke stated that a press release from the National League of Cities would be published stating First Tier Suburbs would be awarded grant funding.

At 6:51 p.m., Mrs. Fisher made a motion to enter into executive session under Section 121.06 (k) of the Codified Ordinances for purposes of Personnel Matters; Labor Negotiations; Quasi-Judicial Deliberations; and Negotiations With Organizations or Individuals; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lautar. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

At 7:20 p.m., Council exited the executive session and went back on the public record.

The City Council Workshop Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

DONALD E. PATTERSON
MAYOR

LASHAUNAH D. KACYNSKI
Clerk of Council