

CITY OF KETTERING
CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MINUTES
June 22, 2021

The Council of the City of Kettering, Ohio, met in a workshop session on Tuesday, June 22, 2021, in the Deeds Meeting Room, 3600 Shroyer Road, Kettering Government Center. The meeting came to order at 6:06 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, Fire Chief Mitch Robbins, Human Resources Director Jenny Smith, Economic Development Manager Amy Schrimpf and Community Information Manager Mary Azbill.

Mr. Sterling Abernathy and Mr. Ron Solada were also in attendance.

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

COVID Update – Mr. Schwieterman stated there is nothing to report regarding COVID cases. To assist Human Resources and help facilitate the process, summer employees will be tracked through the City Manager’s Office. To date, one seasonal employee has been symptomatic.

Income Tax Report – Mr. Schwieterman stated that the May income tax (Revenue Net of Refunds) report looks very good as refunds are up 18%; however, comparisons are inconsistent due to the July deadline extension in 2020 and the May 17 deadline in 2021.

Sub. H.B. 110 Letter of Concern – Mr. Schwieterman shared a letter from Ohio Municipal League, Ohio Mayors Alliance, among other Ohio coalitions, to Governor DeWine and related parties, opposing language added in the Senate substitute version of H.B. 110 that would retroactively change a temporary remote working municipal tax law passed last year (Sec. 29 of H.B. 197). This measure provided stability to employers and communities at a time when millions of Ohioans were forced to work in a different location because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This temporary law "treated income earned by an employee required to work at a temporary worksite because of the emergency as being earned at the employee's principal place of work." The House version went back to January 2021. OML prefers December 31, 2020. The letter also expressed opposition to language that will effectively prohibit government-supported broadband networks. One of the lessons from this pandemic is the need for strong, affordable, and accessible internet access for all residents. The provision added to HB 110 limits government-owned broadband networks to only "underserved" areas and does not address this emerging need, which would be a significant setback for Ohio. Not only would it end existing municipal-run networks, it would also prohibit future efforts of local governments to provide affordable and accessible broadband access to our residents. There are 30 municipalities that are already doing this because there was no provider. OML thinks it will stay unless the Governor pulls it. OML believes fiber will stay but income tax will not stay in 2020.

Non-Entitlement Units of ARPA Funds – Mr. Schwieterman announced the City’s receipt of \$6.9 million. The money did not go through the state. Non-entitlement units under 50,000 developed a funding schedule. Ohio determined that townships are getting money. A new funding schedule was released for non-entitlement cities, villages and townships. Significant adjustments are being made to accommodate this. The City of Dublin went from receiving \$9 million to \$5.1 million. Washing

Township went from zero to \$3.5million. The state makes distributions to townships from the local government fund's distribution of ARPA. There was also concern that the federal government would take ARPA money away to cover infrastructure. Kettering is an entitlement city, but it cannot relax until it gets that second tranche payment.

Retirement Announcement – Mr. Schwieterman announced that Mary Lou Randolph, Volunteer Administrator is retiring after 31 years with the City. She is one of a kind and cares deeply for Kettering.

New Economic Development Manager – Mr. Schwieterman welcomed Amy Schrimpf as the City's new Economic Development Manager. Amy is a longtime resident of Kettering.

Kettering Health Years Ahead Care Center – Mr. Schwieterman announced the grand opening of the Kettering Health Years Ahead Care Center yesterday. Kettering Health is ensuring that residents of Kettering are given great health care options.

American Rescue Plan – Mr. Schwieterman discussed the doubling down theory which will enhance programs that have already proven effective. Department Directors will provide social services budgets, home rehabilitation assistance, lead abatement program for older homes, land bank demolition program--open up the façade and demo program to larger area, senior transportation, Partners for Healthy Youth and Cities of Service neighborhoods. The City of Dayton is doing this with their neighborhood rehab programs, as well. Kettering will also collaborate with schools.

Mayor Patterson stated the importance of helping schools, but would like to make sure they do not have their own money. Mr. Schwieterman assured it would be collaboration versus duplicating services.

Vice Mayor Klepacz asked if a value is being put on these services. Mr. Schwieterman stated that Mr. Bergstresser would use budget line item amounts for each. The City will meet with churches to evaluate their needs. An overall picture of potential uses of funds will be provided at a later date.

At 6:34 p.m. Mr. Duke made a motion to enter Executive Session under Section 121.06 (k) of the Codified Ordinances for purposes of Personnel Matters; Property Matters; Labor Negotiations; Economic Development; and Negotiations with Organizations or Individuals, seconded by Mrs. Fisher. The motion passed unanimously upon roll call.

At 7:18 p.m. the Council exited Executive Session and went back on public record.

The City Council Workshop Meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

ATTEST:

DONALD E. PATTERSON
MAYOR

LASHAUNAH D. KACYNSKI
Clerk of Council