

CITY OF KETTERING  
CITY COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 8, 2022

The Council of the City of Kettering, Ohio, met in a workshop session on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, in the Deeds Conference Room, Kettering Government Center, 3600 Shroyer Road. The meeting came to order at 6:04 p.m.

Council Members present included Mayor Lehner, Vice Mayor Fisher, Mr. Klepacz, Mr. Duke, Ms. Duvall, Mr. Scott and Ms. Hall.

Staff Members present included City Manager Mark Schwieterman, Assistant City Manager Steve Bergstresser, Law Director Ted Hamer, Economic Development Manager Amy Schrimpf and Community Information Manager Mary Azbill. Captain Dan Gangwer joined the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Mr. Sterling Abernathy was also in attendance.

City Council Retreat - Mr. Schwieterman began the meeting with options for the 2022 City Council Retreat. The current proposed plan is to invite a facilitator for the two-day retreat. Potential dates from which two consecutive days can be chosen include March 14-16, March 24-26 and April 1-2. These are Thursday/Friday and Friday/Saturday suggestions. Five Council members had no issues with the dates. Two members may have conflicts March 24 and 25. The Thursday / Friday dates are on hold at Marriott Union Center Boulevard in West Chester. Mayor Lehner initiated contact with a potential facilitator, Susan Bodary, who is preparing a proposal for submission. Ms. Bodary is a Kettering resident who wants to be a part of this. She will bring a co-facilitator on board, as well. The goal is to build the team during the retreat, but not in the form of traditional team-building exercises. The question for consensus is for big-picture items, such as “Where do you want Kettering to be in ten years?” It is hoped that the retreat will define the direction Council wants to go and what is needed from City staff.

The facilitator will launch the project and begin shaping engagement with interactions with Mayor Lehner, research and analysis. Pre-interviews will be conducted with staff, along with surveys. Retreat preparation and facilitation will include creating an agenda, establishing appropriate supporting materials and facilitation guide to achieve the goal of a consensual path forward. Ms. Bodary will provide a follow-up memo to include actions necessary moving forward. Mr. Schwieterman prepared a list of items for consideration including things important to City staff, as well as input from Council members. If Council members are comfortable with the itemized list, it will be given to Ms. Bodary who will move forward.

Lodging and meals will cost approximately \$3,500. Facilitator fees will be \$5,000, which is consistent with what the City paid for past facilitators. Ms. Bodary will donate \$2,000 of her fee to the Parks Foundation on her own. The retreat will run from 10:00 to 6:00 Thursday and 8:30 to 3:30 Friday.

Mr. Duke expressed concerns that there is never enough time to discuss all of the topics.

Mr. Scott suggested budgeting time and allowing extra for catch-up. When time is up for a topic, the group stops whether it is completed or not. The topic may be re-addressed during catch-up time.

Vice Mayor Fisher asked if considerations will be from Council’s perspective or residents to validate the City’s 10-year plan. Mayor Lehner stated that one of the outcomes is identification of those issues which is the first step in developing a strategic plan. Mr. Schwieterman hopes to come out of the retreat with a consensus. He stated that the City needs a strategic plan and the community should be involved.

Mr. Klepacz mentioned the City’s established benchmarks and advised they would be helpful to Ms. Bodary. Mr. Schwieterman agreed stating that a conversation will be had with Ms. Bodary and documents will be gathered.

Vice Mayor Fisher recommended a meeting invite be sent by Clerk of Council.

Flock Cameras – Mr. Schwieterman stated the introduction of the Flock cameras took place at a workshop in June 2021, during which Chief Protsman presented the information, and prior to several new Council members being elected. An email was sent to current Council members to answer questions regarding the cameras. Ten cameras will be mounted on and fixed to poles at major intersections at the perimeter of Kettering. Kettering Police Department would contract with Flock for provision of storage space for video footage retained on the cloud for 30 days. The City does not initiate a search unless an investigation is underway. If a vehicle is stolen, police will put a description (color, make and license plate) into the Flock database. If that car went through any of the intersections where cameras are mounted, the system will alert KPD that the car is going through or has gone through an intersection. Records retention then becomes the duration of the investigation. The rest of the footage stays in the cloud and deletes in 30 days. Duration of unused footage kept is determined by the legislative body. Flock will continue to look for a vehicle until KPD tells it to stop. Partial plates can be searched, as well.

Mr. Duke prefers to lower the duration unused footage is stored to ease suspicions.

Flock cameras are not used to read license plates on patrol. Its purpose is to assist in solving crimes. Springboro has these installed and has seen positive results. The cameras are not to be used for self-initiated activity such as warrants. The cost is \$2,500 per camera per year. The City can decide to have the cameras removed for a fee.

Mr. Scott asked how long the technology has been available and if anyone has had them removed. Mr. Schwieterman stated that a number of local communities have leaned toward using them. Centerville, Moraine,

West Carrollton, Vandalia, Springboro, Miami Township and Franklin have them. Kettering Fire Department has defined mutual aid agreements. KPD has collaborative efforts. If a stolen vehicle fails to go through one of Kettering's cameras, it might travel through one in another jurisdiction.

Ms. Duvall asked if citizens who have privacy concerns can opt out. Mr. Schwieterman stated that opting out is possible in limited circumstances.

Mayor Lehner asked about policy changes. Mr. Schwieterman explained that KPD is responsible for officer training and internal operations procedures and accountability. Policies are not mandates from City Council but functions of the Police Department.

Ms. Hall asked if the City could conduct a pilot program. Mr. Schwieterman stated that if City Council would like a report in six months to assess the functions of the cameras, it can be done. If the decision is to end it, that can be done. The contract allows KPD to stop at any time.

Mr. Duke stated that the busiest intersection is Dorothy and Wilmington which is in the middle of the city and asked why a camera would not be placed there. Mr. Schwieterman explained that cameras will be placed at each end of Wilmington Pike. Cameras can be moved if necessary.

Mr. Duke stated that these cameras are no different than people standing on the corner saying they just saw a car by the same description police are seeking. These cameras provide extra sets of eyes.

Mayor Lehner asked what concerns police have. Captain Gangwer stated there are minimal concerns as the cameras can help provide information for an investigation.

Mayor Lehner sensed that several members had reservations and suggested holding off for two weeks to answer questions. Mr. Schwieterman explained Council could vote at tonight's meeting or make a motion to amend the agenda to remove it.

Flock cameras will be pulled from the agenda to resolve action items before proceeding. Mr. Schwieterman asked Council members to provide questions and concerns for research and response regarding Flock cameras no later than Friday at 5:00 for presentation at the February 22 workshop.

Mr. Bergstresser recommended Flock cameras be placed on the March 8 agenda instead of February 22. Vice Mayor Fisher will make a motion to take it off the agenda after the invocation.

Crisis Intervention Specialist – KPD's Crisis Intervention Specialist salary was being paid through a grant from ADAMHS. Now that the grant is finished, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has agreed to provide 60% of funding for the CIS position, and the City will pay 40%. Ultimately, the grant money will diminish and the City will be responsible for 100%. The program works, and we are going to proceed.

Ms. Hall asked if one CIS is enough. Captain Gangwer stated that it is for now. Officers are trained, but not to the extent of the CIS in determining next steps for mental health issues.

Medic for Fire Department – The City is in the process of removing the 2021 medic from ARPA process and putting it into the General Fund process.

Rumpke - Rumpke will collect recycling missed during the winter storm Thursday and Friday.

COVID Update – The City currently has one positive case.

Land Sale – Montgomery County property records shows that the Wagner Wood site has sold to a new owner.

Online Job Applications – The City's online job applications will begin February 15.

Funding for Body Cameras - Mr. Schwieterman mentioned that since the City was among the first to allocate money toward body cameras for the Police Department, it is ineligible for grant money. There will likely be future opportunities.

MVRMA Training - Mr. Schwieterman reminded Council members to attend the training on March 9 at Yankee Trace.

Vacation - Mr. Schwieterman advised he would be on vacation from February 11-23 during which time Mr. Bergstresser would be Acting City Manager.

Emergency Ordinance February 22 – Mr. Bergstresser explained that an emergency ordinance would be on the February 22 agenda. FEMA updated flood maps for Kettering in effect March 8. Prior to March 8, the City needs to update its flood protection ordinance to be compliant with national standards. First reading and a vote the same night makes it effective immediately.

Snow Removal - Ms. Hall asked about snow removal requirements for property owners. Mr. Schwieterman will update residents during his community update at the meeting.

The City Council Workshop Meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

ATTEST:

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PEGGY LEHNER  
MAYOR

LASHAUNAH D. KACYNSKI  
Clerk of Council