

CITY OF KETTERING
CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MINUTES
JUNE 14, 2022

The Council of the City of Kettering, Ohio, met in a workshop session on Tuesday, June 14, 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 and Ms. Hall. Mr. Scott had an excused absence.

Staff Members present included City Manager Mark Schwieterman, Assistant City Manager Steve Bergstresser, Law Director Ted Hamer, Police Chief Chip Protsman, Volunteer Administrator Dawn Kirchner, Economic Development Manager Amy Schrimpf and Community Information Manager Mary Azbill.

Mr. Sterling Abernathy was also in attendance.

Mr. Schwieterman reviewed agenda items for tonight's meeting including the following resolutions:

- The sale of 2808 and 2810 Gaylord Avenue, and making one or more Community Housing Improvement Program loans to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Dayton.
 - Ms. Duvall stated that the 2808 Gaylord Avenue parcel was purchased in 2003 and asked why it sat vacant for so long. Mr. Schwieterman replied that several parcels were purchased and some were demolished. During the last 15 years, lots have been sold to Habitat for Humanity and other equal housing organizations.
 - Mr. Duke asked if the City purchased 75 lots. Mr. Schwieterman stated the City was participating in FEMA grant funded flood plain properties.
- The third amendment to the agreement with the Montgomery County Board of County Commissioners to add \$850,000 to the STAYPUT program. There will likely be another amendment.
- Get quotes and improve former Fire Station #33 (Bobbie Place) to accommodate a Police Training Center.
- Use quotes to contract for strategic plan consulting services. Tonight's approval will simply authorize the request for proposals and contract; additional legislation will be needed at a future date to appropriate funds for the contract.
- The pickle ball court project requires \$160,000 to cover the City's share.
- A supplemental appropriation will be made for \$850,000 for the STAYPUT program and \$300,000 relative to the police training center.

Ordinances in first reading include:

- The installation of traffic signs on Ackerman southbound at East Stroop.
- Emergency ordinance for fireworks was presented by Mr. Hamer. Mr. Hamer stated there needs to be a motion, a second, and a vote for the fireworks ordinance since it is an emergency ordinance. Mr. Schwieterman stated the City will keep fireworks banned and comply with new state rules.
 - Mr. Klepacz stated there has been more than one resident expressing appreciation for the fireworks ban but asked what good it does if it is not enforced. Chief Protsman stated that residents should use the non-emergency number to report firework uses unless someone is injured in which case residents should call 911. Officers will be sent as complaints are received, but the activity typically has stopped by the time police officers arrive to fireworks scene.
 - Mayor Lehner asked how calls are prioritized. Chief Protsman stated residences with multiple calls would get priority.

COVID Update – Mr. Schwieterman stated there are zero positive cases and four sick employees.

Volunteer Office 101 - Ms. Kirchner presented Volunteer Office 101 providing an overview of the department and the history of the program. The department's mission is to engage citizens on a broader level making sure events are enhanced. The department is seeking opportunities and working to engage residents and modernize the program. Some projects include senior transportation, matching seniors to opportunities (photography, coaching, mentoring). Volunteers assist in the tax division, at Frazee and at summer camps. Other programs offered by the Volunteer Office include Kettering Leadership Academy, Neighborhood Pride and Cities of Service which will focus on the Van Buren neighborhood. The number of volunteer hours donated saves the City \$764,000 to \$787,000 per year.

Mayor Lehner asked how 2022 looks. Ms. Kirchner stated that numbers will be better than 2021, but will still be below average due to the pandemic.

Mr. Klepacz asked if volunteers on boards and commissions are recognized at the appreciation luncheon. Ms. Kirchner is going to look into this.

Ms. Kirchner went on to say that teen volunteers will be honored at the Habitat Center in the summer months when they are not in school.

Sustainability Committee – Ms. Kirchner is working to begin the application process for the Sustainability Committee. She, along with Mayor Lehner and Mr. Duke, are developing an application process to engage interested individuals. An advisory board will be established, as well.

Ms. Duvall asked if high school students will be included. Ms. Kirchner stated that there are subcommittees for education at the Habitat Environmental Center and a Kettering conservation team that is geared toward students.

Mayor Lehner stressed the importance of keeping the program educational and considerate of all perspectives.

Mr. Klepacz asked if non-residents could apply. Ms. Kirchner stated that non-residents are being considered for now, but that they wanted to ensure that non-residents had a connection to the City.

City Survey – Mr. Schwieterman stated that, once Council approves the survey, it will launch and results will be in by August 1. The City has not conducted a survey since 2017 due to COVID. Age-friendly questions were added. The City may use another tool at some point as part of the age-friendly network. He requested Council members review and send any remarks to Ms. Azbill by Wednesday.

Ms. Fisher asked if the survey promises to be valid. Mr. Schwieterman stated that Miami University is professional and has proven to develop valid surveys.

Ms. Hall asked if there was a baseline that the City is hoping to achieve. Mr. Schwieterman stated that, based on previous surveys, we are hoping to receive a satisfaction rating of 97% or better. The 2022 information will be compared with 2017 and 2015 results.

Mr. Duke asked about the removal of the comments section. He is concerned about quantifying question number 5 which asks about growth.

Mr. Duke asked if the survey is being sent randomly and asked about equal distribution for the districts. Mr. Schwieterman confirmed the survey is random. Council members should answer the questions if they receive a survey.

Nuisance Abatement – Mr. Schwieterman stated that there are three residential demolition projects relative to nuisance abatement including Wilmington Pike and Wilmington and Marshall. No supplemental is required.

Aggregation – Mr. Schwieterman attended a GovTech meeting June 13 at which aggregation was discussed in detail. Some communities have not gone to ballot to authorize aggregation preventing them from acting quickly enough to participate. Some that went to ballot are not interested in participating in aggregation programs. Communities like Kettering are authorized to make the decision. SOPEC would be the group with whom the cities would work. The City has three options: 1). do nothing and direct residents to the apples website; 2). pursue aggregation which would take 4 to 5 months and combine our buying power with Dayton through May 2023 and then go out to market; and 3). go out to market now without Dayton but only lock in until May 2023. Only 3% opted out of aggregation in Dayton. Kettering can do it with some risk. People are counting on us to help them.

Mr. Duke asked how important it is for the other suburbs to join with SOPEC and if Kettering will just join with Dayton. Mr. Schwieterman stated Kettering would become a member of SOPEC. The more people who join, the better the rate. So, joining with Dayton would get a better deal.

Mr. Klepacz feels the City needs to look into aggregation due to the perception among residents. Mr. Schwieterman stated the City would continue to research it.

At 7:15 p.m., Mr. Duke made a motion to enter Executive Session under Section 121.06 (k) of the Codified Ordinances for purposes of Property Matters, seconded by Vice Mayor Fisher. The motion passed unanimously upon roll call.

At 7:21 p.m., the Council exited Executive Session and went back on public record.

Mr. Schwieterman advised Council members that the Fire Department was dispatched to the Rec Center at 5:00 p.m., in response to a lifeguard pulling a 3-year old from the pool. The child was breathing and no transport was necessary. The media has been calling City staff about the situation.

Mayor Lehner, Ms. Duvall and Ms. Hall expressed concerns about staffing at the Rec Center. Mr. Schwieterman stated that if not enough staff is available, the facilities will not open. Mr. Schwieterman stated

appropriate aquatics staff is now in place and he is aware that the camps leader took another position outside of the City, but the city will address the opening.

The City Council Workshop Meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

ATTEST:

PEGGY LEHNER
MAYOR

LASHAUNAH D. KACYNSKI
Clerk of Council