

CITY OF KETTERING
CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MINUTES
JULY 12, 2022

The Council of the City of Kettering, Ohio, met in a workshop session on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, in the Deeds Conference Room, Kettering Government Center, 3600 Shroyer Road. The meeting came to order at 6:01 p.m.

Council Members present included Mayor Lehner, Mr. Klepacz, Ms. Duvall and Mr. Scott. Ms. Hall participated via conference call. Vice Mayor Fisher and Mr. Duke each 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, and Economic Development Manager Amy Schrimpf.

Mr. Schwieterman provided the following updates:

- There are currently 3 employees out due to COVID.
- He will be on vacation July 17-20. Mr. Bergstresser will be Acting City Manager while he is out.
- The City Block Party has been rescheduled for August 30.
- The Styrofoam Recycling Event will be held on July 16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Welcome Stadium. It is expected that a second recycling event will be held in April 2023, at a Kettering location.
- The City continues to explore opportunities for an electric aggregation program for residents. He attended a meeting with SOPEC at Miami Valley Communications Council on July 6 and a follow-up meeting is scheduled with Palmer Energy on July 21.

Council Workshop Calendar - Mr. Schwieterman passed around a draft document that contained tentative dates for 2022 Council Workshop meetings and 2023 Budget Timeline. He said Council members' availability was taken into consideration when scheduling the dates. He said it is expected that the Personnel Ordinance will be ready for approval during the December 13 Council meeting.

Mayor Lehner said dates for Strategic Plan meetings will need to be scheduled. Mr. Schwieterman said those dates will be added to the handout and that they will update the schedule once those dates are set.

Mr. Klepacz noted that Council members will need to be flexible the next six months.

Tenneco - Mr. Schwieterman said that the first round of layoffs at the Tenneco plant occurred on July 1. City staff and the Tenneco Response Group was aware of this date and scheduled information sessions to provide resume and interview assistance to impacted employees during the week of June 20, followed by job fairs during the week of June 27. Mr. Schwieterman said the job fairs were a huge success and that many employers wrote thank you letters to the County and requested that they be included in future job fairs due to the quality candidates among the Tenneco staff.

Mr. Scott asked if we are aware of future layoffs and whether the timeline has changed. Mr. Schwieterman said that Tenneco still plans to remain in the facility until November 2023. Amy Schrimpf said the Tenneco representative who sits on the Response Group said the next round of layoffs is likely to occur in late August or early September. The Tenneco Response Group will meet on August 19; that date was chosen at the request of our Tenneco representative as she said it coincides with the timeline when new layoff dates will be provided by corporate. The Tenneco Response Group hopes to be able to respond quickly once we have this information.

Mr. Klepacz asked about the future use of the site. Mr. Schwieterman said the owner is developing a master plan of the property and will be marketing the site to potential tenants. Ms. Schrimpf said she has submitted the site for three pending site selection projects with JobsOhio and that she has talked with the JobsOhio Automotive Sector Director requesting their assistance in marketing the site; JobsOhio is aware that the site will be available and intends to market it more heavily next year.

National Night Out - Will be held Tuesday, August 2 from 6 to 8 p.m.

KPD Staffing Update – Mr. Schwieterman asked Chief Protsman to update City Council on staffing changes within the Kettering Police Department. Chief Protsman said that when the City began handling Miami Township's dispatch services, three additional dispatchers were hired to take care of the extra calls. This resulted in one supervisor, a KPD sergeant, managing sixteen civilian dispatchers. Chief Protsman said that he would like to put that sergeant back on the street and hire two new supervisory

dispatchers to manage the staff. These supervisory positions would be trained dispatchers who could also take calls. Extra funds to pay for the new positions would come from the additional funding that the City receives from Kettering and Miami Township's portion of the mobile phone 911 tax and from a Court Security position that was left unfilled. With these changes, the City would save \$51,000.

Mr. Scott said this sounded like an excellent plan, and he especially liked the idea of putting a uniformed police officer back on the street.

Mayor Lehner asked what skills and qualifications would be needed for the new supervisors. Chief Protsman said he wanted to hire someone that had dispatching experience, but the City would be willing to pay for supervisor training.

Mr. Klepacz asked if Miami Township was paying for any of the costs associated with the new employees. Chief Protsman said that Miami Township funded the three additional dispatchers that were hired when Kettering took on their calls, and that they pay a portion of overtime costs in addition to providing the City with their share of the mobile phone 911 tax.

Mr. Klepacz inquired if the technology we have is up-to-date. Chief Protsman said it is and that the City continues to look at and add new technological services such as Facetime/video capability and caller location. He said there is a lot of technology available right now, and his office continues to evaluate the various options, the need and the costs.

Mr. Klepacz asked if there was any risk in losing the mobile phone 911 tax funding. Chief Protsman said there is always a risk that the County could change the formula for how those funds are distributed. He also said he would like Kettering to be a place where other communalities can come for dispatch service, so the opportunity exists for new funding opportunities.

Mayor Lehner inquired about the ADAMHS mental health line. Chief Protsman said that they would continue to handle those calls, they would not come to the City. He noted Nicole Fairburn—a KPD employee—works with ADAMHS to provide mental health services to residents.

Ms. Duvall inquired if a second social worker on staff needed and offered a personal testimony about the great service Ms. Fairburn provided. Chief Protsman said he did not feel a second social worker was needed at this time.

Mr. Schwieterman said that the City will formalize these staffing changes in the 2023 Budget and 2023 Personnel Ordinance. He also said that Administrative Systems will be making a couple personnel changes, as well, moving one current part-time position to full-time and then removing a part-time designer position.

Council Retreat Items – Mr. Schwieterman said that the Engineering Department is the remaining Government 101 session yet to be scheduled and anticipates this occurring at an upcoming workshop.

The Strategic Plan RFPs are due back next week. Staff will review and determine which to interview.

Nine applicants for the City's Sustainability Committee have been received to date.

Ms. Duvall asked how many spots are for residents. She was told all spots are open to residents, other than three spots designated for staff representation. Mr. Bergstresser said he plans to help with interviews of applicants.

Mr. Schwieterman showed Council members a photo of the mural that was recently completed at Rosewood Arts Center along with some photos of the progress of that renovation project.

At 6:42 p.m., Mr. Klepacz made a motion to enter Executive Session under Section 121.06 (k) of the Codified Ordinances for purposes of Personnel Matters and Property Matters, seconded by Ms. Duvall. The motion passed unanimously upon roll call.

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

Mr. Scott expressed concerns about the pace of progress on some of the items that Council identified as priorities during the Council Retreat. He encouraged Council members to keep these items at the forefront of discussions. Members agreed that the issues need to stay at the forefront, but they believe they are making good progress, especially when considering the time being put into the City Manager search. Mr. Schwieterman offered to tweak the document provided by the retreat consultant to add a job tracker feature to show progress being made on the various items. Council members thought this was a good idea.

The City Council Workshop Meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

ATTEST:

PEGGY LEHNER
MAYOR

LASHAUNAH D. KACYNSKI
Clerk of Council