

CITY OF KETTERING
CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MINUTES
NOVEMBER 8, 2022

The Council of the City of Kettering, Ohio, met in a workshop session on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, in the Deeds Conference Room, Kettering Government Center, 3600 Shroyer Road. The meeting came to order at 6:02 p.m.

Council Members present included Mayor Lehner, Vice Mayor Fisher, Mr. Duke, Ms. Duvall, Mr. Klepacz and Mrs. Hall. Mr. Scott joined the meeting via Zoom teleconference.

Staff Members present included City Manager Mark Schwieterman, Assistant City Manager Steve Bergstresser, Law Director Ted Hamer, Planning and Development Director Tom Robillard, Parks Superintendent Gary Schussler, Economic Development Manager Amy Schrimpf and Community Information Manager Mary Azbill.

Mr. Schwieterman reviewed the agenda items for tonight's Council meeting.

- A supplemental appropriation is being requested for an additional \$17,000 for EMS billing service expenditures in the Debt Service Fund. This additional funding is required for the administrative fees.
- A supplemental appropriation for a \$242,300.00 General Fund transfer is being requested for roadway and street surfacing improvements where bid prices were received over the budgeted amounts. Additional funding is necessary for the 2022 Curb, Sidewalk & Drive Approach program (\$149,200) and the 2022 Asphalt Program & Thoroughfare Improvements (\$93,100).
- On November 22, the annual citywide supplemental appropriations legislation will be requested to make sure that all accounts have a balance greater than zero.

Mr. Klepacz asked about street surfacing costs. Mr. Bergstresser anticipates a 30 percent increase over 2021's prices. The Ansel project came in under budget, showing that bid results depend on what the work involves and type of materials needed.

Mr. Schwieterman stated there was a slight revision made to the workshop minutes listing Mr. Duke as Council liaison and Ms. Kirchner as staff liaison to the Sustainability Committee to be approved at tonight's Council meeting and signed by Vice Mayor Fisher afterward.

Ms. Duvall announced she would abstain from voting; however, Mr. Schwieterman explained that this was unnecessary as she would be voting on Vice Mayor Fisher's approval of the revised version.

Engineering 101 – Mr. Schwieterman stated that Mr. Bergstresser would present the final piece of the Department 101 informational series to help Council familiarize themselves with City departments.

Mr. Duke asked about giving \$500 to the ombudsman's office. Mr. Schwieterman explained that in the past, the City gave the ombudsman's office \$5,000 which ended several years ago because the requests for money stopped. Mr. Duke asked why and recommended giving them money again. Mr. Schwieterman explained that the City would not be able to change it for the current year. He stated he would get the history from Mrs. O'Connell and report back next meeting.

Mr. Klepacz stated the ombudsman's office should be proactive in asking if they need to money. Mr. Duke stated he would ask them. Mayor Lehner stated they are doing things for our City.

Calendar Events – Mr. Schwieterman reviewed upcoming events of interest.

- The Kettering Leadership Academy Alumni Reception is Thursday, November 10 at 5:30 p.m. at Eudora. Vice Mayor Fisher stated she did not receive an invitation. Mr. Duke stated 50 people have RSVP'd.
- The Veterans Day ceremony is Friday, November 11 at 11:00 a.m., Delco Park Veterans Memorial Plaza.
- The Volunteer luncheon is Thursday, November 17 at 11:30 a.m., Presidential Banquet Center.
- A Gentile Park meeting will be held by the Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Arts Department and the Engineering Department at the Public Service building on Acorn Drive November 17 at 6:00 p.m.
- Police promotions will take place at the November 22 Council meeting.
- The joint meeting with Kettering City Schools will take place November 29 at 6:00 p.m.
- Round Robin will take place December 16 from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.
- Council meetings in December will take place on the first and second Tuesdays.

Mr. Duke stated he would not be in attendance at the December 13 meeting.

Income Tax Update – Mr. Schwieterman stated that income tax numbers for October rebounded a bit at \$120,000 under projected forecast for the year. He is hopeful that the gap closes in the last 2 months. Numbers are less than last year at this time due to the closure of Synchrony's operations and the L Brands call center moving to a work-from-home arrangement. There has not yet been enough overall increase in wages to compensate for these losses.

Kroger on Stroop Road – Mr. Schwieterman stated the Kroger site plan includes expansion into the former CVS Pharmacy space and tearing down two buildings on the out lots. Expanded parking is planned to replace the bank and Friendly's buildings. The pet store will remain. Remodel will include adding a pharmacy where the current cafe is located and moving Starbucks to the other entrance and a larger produce area. The building will not be as big as a Kroger Marketplace. It should be about the same size as the Dorothy Lane location after adding 2500 square feet. Mr. Schwieterman said this expansion is good news as Kroger is a top ten employer in Kettering. The final plans have not been approved.

Leaf Pickup.- Mr. Schwieterman stated crews finished round one on Monday after beginning a month ago. Leaves have fallen faster and earlier than normal this year. Crews will work this coming Saturday and worked last weekend.

Mr. Duke received complaints from those living on cul de sacs. Mr. Schwieterman explained that a Vac-All truck is used to collect from small areas with no outlet, and this truck had been down for repairs recently but is back in operation and catching up.

Fire Hydrants in Disrepair – Mr. Schwieterman stated there are 20 hydrants needing repair. Maintenance and repair is the responsibility of Montgomery County. Chief Robbins is satisfied with their progress. Supply chain is an issue. Chief Robbins is not aware of any areas of the city without sufficient water supply for fire suppression.

Tree Ordinance – Mr. Schwieterman explained that an ordinance in first reading to adopt a tree ordinance modification will come before Council November 22, to meet Tree City USA requirements. Mr. Schussler stated that each year the City submits the application to be a Tree City. Last year the organization recommended that the City create a dedicated tree committee or separate commission. One was created working with the Parks Board to create a sub-committee, which meets six times a year. It already identifies how the City manages and maintains trees throughout the community.

Mayor Lehner asked if the tree committee could be tied into the conservation or sustainability committees. Mr. Schussler stated the tree committee is already in place. When urban forestry plan was completed in 2019, the City was given guidance of how to manage it. The committee is active, researched topics and created social media content for tree advocacy. It is functioning nicely. Two representatives from Parks Board attend meetings and report back on work being done.

Mr. Duke asked if Kettering has guidance against removing healthy trees without going before a tree committee. Mr. Schussler stated this is a step in the right direction. It puts best practices in place. The City has three arborists on staff. Vice Mayor Fisher stated she was not in favor of Mr. Duke's idea to require residents to get permission from the City before cutting down trees on private property.

Mr. Klepacz asked if Tree City USA is driving what the City does. Mr. Schussler advised that it is an influential designation that is prideful for the community. This was in the works before the recommendation was made to the City.

Vice Mayor Fisher asked about the Sugar Plum Festival event and why a proclamation is being read. Mayor Lehner explained that the organization asked and the City complied. Vice Mayor Fisher stated that Council should attend.

Engineering 101 – As Engineering's Department Director, Assistant City Manager Steve Bergstresser explained its responsibilities and organizational structure. He explained there are three engineers overseeing the different functions of the department, including traffic, design and construction projects. The areas of responsibility coincide with capital improvement projects such as roadways (the biggest piece), traffic signals, bridges and drainage. Engineering is a full-service department as other cities hire consultants. Streets are assessed regarding their need for improvement and scheduling. Engineering maintains 28 bridges and the county maintains 15 consisting of those that cross water and jurisdictional boundaries.

Two traffic signal conversion projects will be completed in 2026. The City will have 51 signals with mast arms to better withstand windy conditions.

Mr. Duke asked about the use of roundabouts. Mr. Bergstresser stated the last assessment was in 2013, with little change since requiring such a big undertaking. Mr. Bergstresser will include the roundabout presentation made to City Council in 2012 in this week's Friday Packet to Council.

Mr. Bergstresser stated that there are over 3,000 street lights throughout the City, and nearly all have recently been replaced with LED including 850 City-owned lights on thoroughfares. He stated that Kettering is the regional leader when it comes to curb ramp compliance despite them being labor intensive. Upgrading ramps to full ADA compliance is a long-term project.

Mr. Bergstresser explained that the main CIP projects--thoroughfare repair projects and bridges—are primarily funded through ODOT, The vast majority went to roadway improvements in 2022. There are nine bridges being watched needing repairs in the future.

Mr. Bergstresser announced an upcoming project, as well. Montgomery County Environmental Services will start the construction of a water main replacement on Dorothy Lane from Far Hills to Shroyer. They have contracted with Milcon Construction to do the work. The project is scheduled to start around the week of November 28th. The water main will be replaced in several phases. Most of the new water main will be on the south side of the road which will impact east bound traffic the most. One lane of traffic in both directions will remain open at all times, but the water main crossing at the intersections will have a larger impact

Renovating the ice arena is the biggest unfunded CIP project on the City's horizon.

Boonshoft money earmarked for \$3 million each year for CIP will end in 2028. Other CIP funding sources include CIP general fund reserves, gas tax and ARPA funds.

Vice Mayor Fisher asked if there could be community fundraising for the ice arena. Mr. Bergstresser stated it is a very niche amenity that draws a smaller level of very passionate users and would likely cost upwards of \$20 million to upgrade.

Mayor Lehner asked how funding is leveraged. Mr. Bergstresser stated grants are matched with City funds.

Childcare - Mrs. Hall recommends doing research to find ways to provide affordable childcare in Kettering. Mayor Lehner suggested scheduling meetings outside of workshop and including it with the strategic plan. She also stated that schools need to be involved.

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

ATTEST:

PEGGY LEHNER
MAYOR

LASHAUNAH D. KACYNSKI
Clerk of Council