

CITY OF KETTERING  
CITY COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MINUTES  
May 9, 2023

The Council of the City of Kettering, Ohio, met in a workshop session on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, 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, Vice Mayor Fisher, Ms. Duvall, Mr. Klepacz, Mrs. Hall and Mr. Scott. Mr. Duke had an excused absence.

Staff Members present included City Manager Matt Greeson, Assistant City Manager Steve Bergstresser, Law Director Ted Hamer, Economic Development Manager Amy Schrimpf and Community Information Manager Mary Azbill.

Mr. Sterling Abernathy was also in attendance.

Mr. Greeson started the meeting with a brief review of the agenda citing an ordinance in second reading regarding zoning code amendments.

School Crossing Guards - Mr. Greeson explained a resolution that would authorize 50/50 percent cost sharing with Kettering Schools for the adult crossing guard program. Mr. Bergstresser explained this valuable partnership provided to elementary schools, as well as the difficulty in filling these positions.

Bulletproof Vests - Mr. Greeson stated that the police department hopes to apply for a body armor grant to cover 75 percent of the cost to purchase 16 vests at \$1,311 each. The City's 25 percent match would cost \$5,247.

Fire Department Expenditures – Mr. Greeson mentioned noteworthy expenditures to be incurred by KFD. A fire prevention grant will cover the purchase for smoke detectors distributed to residents whose homes are not equipped. KFD does not leave the home without providing resources or assist property owners. These are not handed out to the public without cause.

Mr. Greeson also stated that the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association will provide experienced personnel and materials for an upcoming assessment center for the promotional process for the position of captain. There are 23 firefighters in the promotional process.

Mr. Klepacz asked if every applicant is accepted into the promotional process. Mr. Greeson stated that if requirements are met, everyone is given the opportunity to present their skills.

School Zones – Mr. Greeson advised that the schools were notified that flashers would be installed at Van Buren Middle School, Fairmont High School and Kettering Middle School in the coming months and administrators are excited about our efforts.

Financial Update – Mr. Greeson briefly discussed the quarterly status report produced by the Finance Department. There is notable ebb and flow of revenue from the rental assistance program. Additionally, charges for services at Frazee differ from year to year due to pre-sale timing. An accounting adjustment related to investment earnings shows an increase in revenue. At the end of the year, the City will see better interest earnings due to investments. Income tax information through April will be shared soon, and numbers appear to be tracking ahead of forecast.

Mr. Scott asked for information on year-to-year property taxes. Mr. Greeson stated he would follow up. Mr. Scott asked if the numbers are constant to which Mr. Greeson stated year-to-date information would fluctuate due to different disbursements.

Mr. Klepacz asked if Economic Development funds were exhausted. Mr. Greeson stated that a supplemental appropriation would cover any necessary costs.

Strategic Plan – Mr. Greeson announced that the Steering Committee appointed by Council is a joy to work with, and interactions are effective. Meetings are focused on the process for community engagement to participate in the strategic plan. The program name is Spark Kettering which taps into generating new ideas while not forgetting our history. Some anticipated barriers cited by the committee are apathy, skepticism of local government, past processes and discomfort in engaging with a group. Members will engage with civic groups, schools, Chamber of Commerce, churches and as many organizations as possible.

Mr. Scott asked about working with business organizations. Mr. Greeson advised they would make sure to engage with that facet.

The committee will work at pop-up events including the Community Block Party. Consultants are creating a snapshot report of our community and summarizing information about our services. This will help with informed decision making.

Mr. Scott stated the City does not have a handle on housing and the number of rental properties. Mr. Greeson stated this will be part of the summary in the form of percentages rather than numbers.

Mr. Greeson advised that the engagement process will occur in two rounds. The first wave will be generative involving community brainstorming on values and cherished parts of the city and ideas for the future likely to be lofty and broad. The second round will hone in on feasible ideas and action steps. There will be two public workshops during round one on June 20 and June 29 at the Senior Center and the library at Wilmington and Stroop from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The purpose of round one is to get people connected with the process, introduce them to the public and generate excitement. This diverse group will use email, flyers and cards to spread the word.

Mr. Greeson stated that a Meeting in a Box will be offered and will likely be the best way to attract engagement because it is facilitated by an individual known to the group. This will be made accessible for all. Meetings in a box will be hosted by city staff, steering committee members and Council members with questions that will be asked in public meetings. An example was given that a neighborhood leader would facilitate the Spark Kettering questions asked at the public meetings and put them in the box to be included in the process.

Vice Mayor Fisher asked for timeframes. Mr. Greeson stated these events would take place in June and July and again in September and October.

Mr. Greeson invited Council members to host meetings in a box. He also advised that early in June before public engagement, the chair committee would update Council and that each Council member would be interviewed at some point.

Mayor Lehner advised Council members to bring any concerns to her or Mr. Greeson.

Mr. Klepacz asked for a chart showing major milestones. Mr. Greeson confirmed that a schedule and scope of work would be blended to give that information.

Childcare - Mrs. Hall stated that the community development coordinator conducted a survey of people who use childcare. Available options were researched, as well as potential CDBG funding. Mr. Greeson stated the importance of ensuring that Council is informed along the way.

Mayor Lehner requested a five-minute presentation at a Council meeting to educate the public and provide an article for publications.

Mr. Scott requested a future real estate update. Mr. Greeson will provide the information.

At 7:05 p.m., Vice Mayor Fisher made a motion to enter Executive Session under Section 121.06 (k) of the Codified Ordinances for purposes of Personnel Matters, seconded by Mr. Scott. The motion passed unanimously upon roll call.

At 7:13 p.m., the Council exited Executive Session and went back on public record.

Mr. Klepacz expressed concern about companies providing fiber to home not informing residents prior to doing work on their property. Mr. Greeson explained that it would be impossible for the City to track providers. Mr. Bergstresser stated engineers are always happy to assist with questions from residents.

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

ATTEST:

---

PEGGY LEHNER  
MAYOR

LASHAUNAH D. KACZYNSKI  
Clerk of Council