

CITY OF KETTERING  
CITY COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MINUTES  
June 13, 2023

The Council of the City of Kettering, Ohio, met in a workshop session on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, in the Deeds Conference Room, Kettering Government Center, 3600 Shroyer Road. The meeting came to order at 6:00 p.m.

Council members present included Mayor Lehner, Vice Mayor Fisher, Ms. Duvall, and Mr. Klepacz. Mr. Duke and Mrs. Hall had excused absences. Mr. Scott arrived at 6:10 p.m.

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

Mr. Sterling Abernathy was also in attendance.

Mr. Greeson opened the meeting with a review of the agenda for tonight's Council meeting.

- A resolution authorizing Municipal Court to apply for a grant from the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections for \$332,600 to cover the costs of a full-time probation officer and vendor services with no matching funds required.
- Supplemental appropriations include:
  - A request for \$149,100 to carry over budget from 2022 to 2023 in order to complete the 2022 ADA ramp program. The original vendor started work in 2022 but did not complete the project.
  - A request for \$69,200 to relocate the Senior Services Office to the Kettering Government Center. The total project cost, estimated at \$95,780, includes design,
  - A request for \$20,950 for the cleaning and conservation of various pieces of art as part of the 1% for the Arts program.

Mayor Lehner inquired as to whether the City's art collection is covered under the City's insurance policy. Mr. Hamer stated he believes art is considered city's property and therefore covered, but will double check.

Strategic Plan – Mr. Greeson explained that two workshops would take place in June. On June 20, a workshop will be held at the Lathrem Center from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. On June 29, another opportunity for residents and businesses to participate will take place at the Wilmington-Stroop Branch Library from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. An online survey is available, as well.

Mayor Lehner asked for a status update on participation. Mr. Greeson stated there were 90 comments from residents thus far.

Mr. Scott asked what interactions were expected from Council members. Mr. Greeson stated it would be helpful if Council members listen, answer questions, and volunteer to help facilitate without steering conversations.

Gentile Park – The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department would like to have a groundbreaking ceremony at Gentile Park on July 20 to show residents that the long-awaited promise of a park is being realized.

June 27 Council Meeting – Due to the Steyr, Austria trip, only four members will be available June 27. Mr. Greeson recommended the meeting be canceled. Members stated they were comfortable with canceling the meeting, as well as having a groundbreaking ceremony at Gentile Park.

Mr. Scott asked where the short fall fund for Gentile Park would come from. Mr. Greeson stated ARPA funds would be used. Mr. Bergstresser added there is \$2.5 million remaining in the fund. Mr. Greeson confirmed that unallocated ARPA funds will be used to complete projects.

RTA Project Ideas – Mr. Bergstresser stated that earlier this year, the City talked with RTA about restructuring routes. The removal of trolley lines along Far Hills Ave has also been a discussion point. The trolley line system on Far Hills has impeded snow removal and according to the RTA has not been utilized for the past three years. The trolley system extends south through Oakwood and Kettering to Stroop Road and turns around to head back north to downtown Dayton, however, RTA is planning to implement more direct connections between suburbs and circulator routes within suburbs. Because the trolley system along Far Hills was designed to connect to the downtown Dayton hub, the trolley system does not align with RTA's future route plans, as well as existing and projected ridership trends. Kettering is in the early stages of planning for a possible bicycle and pedestrian improvement project between Stroop Road and Dorothy Lane which would remove one of the northbound vehicle lanes and construct a wide multi-use path in its place, along with enhanced street lighting. Kettering is also considering widening sidewalks and adding lights on Far Hills in the third northbound lane. Oakwood, RTA and Kettering met to discuss options, and a letter is being drafted by both Kettering and Oakwood requesting that RTA remove the lines. Council showed approval with making this request.

Aggregation – Mr. Greeson stated the board of directors for aggregation would be reviewing proposals on Thursday. He is optimistic that savings will result. Residents may opt out before it is launched. The board is planning for a September or October start date.

Mr. Scott asked if 11 cities would expect offers at end of the month and if gas would be tackled next. Mr. Greeson confirmed and stated gas is a different market and will be scrutinized.

EMS Billing Rates - Codified ordinances require periodic review of EMS billing rates. The Fire Department completed the valuation and found that 98% of revenue comes in from insurance payments and between 70% and 80% of that is covered by Medicaid and Medicare which is indicative of the older population. Less than 2% is from individual payment. The Fire Department has recommended an 8.7% increase to EMS fees. Mr. Greeson is in agreement with the Fire Department for their recommendation. Council did not object to the increase, and staff will move forward with the implementation with the City's billing vendor.

At 6:38 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; Property Matters; Economic Development, and Conference with Attorney, seconded by Mr. Scott. The motion passed unanimously upon roll call.

At 7:22 p.m., the Council exited Executive Session and went back on public record.

Ms. Schrimpf noted that an inquiry was received regarding installation of a par 3 golf course in Kettering. Upon research and review, the city does not have the acreage to facilitate such a course.

The City Council Workshop Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

ATTEST:

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PEGGY LEHNER  
MAYOR

LASHAUNAH D. KACZYNSKI  
Clerk of Council