

CITY OF KETTERING
CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MINUTES
July 11, 2023

The Council of the City of Kettering, Ohio, met in a workshop session on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, in the Deeds Conference Room, Kettering Government Center, 3600 Shroyer Road. The meeting came to order at 6:03 p.m.

Council members present included Mayor Lehner, Vice Mayor Fisher, Ms. Duvall, Mrs. Hall, Mr. Klepacz 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, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Director Mary Beth O'Dell, Cultural Arts Manager Shayna McConville, Management Assistant Jenifer Baker, Economic Development Manager Amy Schrimpf and Community Information Manager Mary Azbill.

Mr. Sterling Abernathy, Mr. Kirkland Mizerek and Mr. Bob Snavelly were also in attendance.

Mr. Greeson opened the meeting with an introduction of Management Assistant Jenifer Baker. Ms. Baker worked for Warren County for eight years and now works in the City Manager's Office.

Mr. Greeson stated there would be a public hearing would take place at the Council meeting to rezone the property located at 2119 E. Dorothy Lane from Economic Development Overlay District #14 to B-Business.

Mr. Greeson highlighted upcoming events for Council members including:

- Electric aggregation open houses July 17 at the Charles Lathrem Senior Center and July 18 at the Sinclair Centerville campus.
- Groundbreaking ceremony for Gentile Park on July 20.
- Hotdog roasts starting July 19.

Rosewood "Silver Lining" Art Piece Presentation – Ms. McConville presented a proposal to install a nine foot art piece named "Silver Lining" outside of Rosewood Arts Center. She began by updating Council members on the Rosewood renovation progress and stated that the Arts in Public Places Committee received proposals for a welcoming art piece identifying Rosewood as a community arts center. The Art in Public Places Committee developed criteria and reviewed 37 proposals. The "Silver Lining" piece would stand nine feet among the landscape. Created by Susan Lynn from Brooklyn, the piece will provide a whimsical, calm environment. The mural that welcomes visitors was painted in 2022 was funded by a grant.

Mrs. Hall stated that people of all ages reviewed the piece and liked it.

Mr. Klepacz asked if the piece would need maintenance of any kind. Ms. McConville stated it would need basic maintenance.

Mr. Scott asked how the piece is being funded. Ms. McConville stated the total would be \$55,000 including indirect costs such as a plaque. She explained that the 1% for the arts program would cover some costs and stated that no grant funding is available.

Mayor Lehner asked when the project would be completed. Ms. McConville stated that fabrication would take place through fall and winter and installation in spring.

Mr. Greeson asked for authority to move forward, and members approved.

Aggregation Program – Mr. Greeson stated that electric and gas aggregation were approved by voters years ago. Miami Valley Communications Council communities moved forward with electric aggregation, and now the decision to participate in gas aggregation is on the table. He introduced Bob Snavelly and Kirk Mizerek from Palmer Energy to share information regarding gas aggregation.

Mr. Snavelly explained that similar to electric, natural gas has more to do with how utility charges for service. Savings for electric will average this year was \$300. As a group, you get a better rate than on your own. Gas bill varies each month. When natural gas prices rise, aggregation acts as an insurance policy. It is important to create an opportunity for gas aggregation when prices are lowest to achieve a fixed price. Opting out of the program is always possible for eligible residents and small businesses.

Mr. Klepacz asked how many communities would participate. Mr. Mizerek stated 10 or 11.

Mr. Greeson asked for approval from Council to move forward, and members approved.

Budget Schedule – Mr. Greeson presented a budget schedule similar to previous years. Capital Improvement Program inclusions would be presented in late August, the forecast presentation would be given by the end of September, and budget review would take place in November along with ordinances necessary to adopt them.

Mr. Bergstresser stated the plan will mimic pre-pandemic methodology using November 28, December 5 and 12 to ensure completion before the Christmas holiday. The plan also aligns with the City's payroll calendar. A finalized schedule will be emailed to Council members.

Mayor Lehner suggested that all Council members attend at least one national meeting or conference. Mr. Greeson announced there is one additional spot for National League of Cities. Mayor Lehner encouraged finding additional money to support sending each Council member to at least one national conference.

Mr. Greeson requested Council members to comment on the budget schedule after they have a chance to review it.

Mr. Greeson reviewed agenda items for the meeting including:

- Public hearing accommodating new business at the former Aaron’s Rent to Own.
- Ordinance for Human Resources reorganization deleting one manager and promoting coordinators.
- Flashers in school zones.
- Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts presentation.

Mr. Klepacz asked why the ordinance in first reading lists Civil Service Commission date as June 2023. Mr. Greeson explained the date shows when the document was revised by the Commission.

At 6:56 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; and Conference with Attorney, seconded by Mr. Scott. The motion passed unanimously upon roll call.

At 7:29 p.m., the Council exited Executive Session and went back on public record.

Mr. Scott asked if 57,000 residents would be receptive to spending more money on another art piece at Rosewood. He was told by Mrs. Hall the funding is from the CitySites Public Art Program and is already committed to public art projects and must be used for that purpose.

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

ATTEST:

PEGGY LEHNER
MAYOR

LASHAUNAH D. KACZYNSKI
Clerk of Council