

KENTON CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING:

Kenton City Council held a public hearing at 7PM prior to opening their 10th regular session. Present: President Joel Althaus, John McEntee, David Beazley, Antwillia Davis, Ray Lawrence, Pegg Wren, Robin Jones, Law Director John Schwemer, Mayor Lynn Webb, Safety Service Director Cindy Murray, and Hardin County Commissioners Roger Crowe & Tim Striker.

Schwemer: We're here this evening for a public hearing on the request to rezone property owned by the Hardin County Commissioners at 950 Kohler Street, which used to be the old Head Start School. Part of that property was annexed in from Pleasant Twp. and because it was a school it was left at R-1 Residential. As you know the Planning Commission held a public hearing on April 12th and following that hearing made a recommendation to City Council to approve the rezoning request. The Commissioners are requesting that it be rezoned from R-1 Residential to B-1 Neighborhood Business, which is more restrictive than most of our business uses so it's not a big step away from residential. It would kind of be considered a spot zoning because it's the only one in that location, but that building, if anyone drives by it, it's got what I consider a commercial parking lot and a building that would be good for offices. I think that this something that's not too objectionable in my opinion. So that's kind of the history. I don't know if anyone has questions of myself and we have 2 representatives from the Commissioners here tonight. I don't see anyone from the public here other than Tim Thomas (Kenton Times).

Althaus: Does anyone have any questions?

Beazley: I have a couple...does the County intend to keep this property?

Commissioner Crowe: Yes.

Beazley: Will there be any significant structural changes? (can't hear)

Crowe: New doors, but nothing else outside.

Beazley: Thank you.

Althaus: Any further questions? Okay, if there are no objections this public hearing is adjourned.

10TH REGULAR SESSION:

Kenton City Council met in their 10th regular session at 7PM in Council Chambers. Present: President Joel Althaus, John McEntee, David Beazley, Antwillia Davis, Ray Lawrence, Pegg Wren, Patti Risner (entered late), Robin Jones, Law Director John Schwemer, Mayor Lynn Webb, & Safety Service Director Cindy Murray.

Prayer given by Mr. Althaus & the Pledge of Allegiance recited.

MINUTES:

Althaus: Are there any additions or corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting? Hearing none, they'll stand approved as submitted.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TIME TO SPEAK:

Althaus: We have no one on the agenda this evening, however there will be time under the comments portion of the meeting for anyone who would like to address the Administration or Council. Well, would either of the Commissioners like to speak at this time?

Commissioner Crowe: We were here basically to answer any questions from the public hearing. I have something else, but I can wait & bring it up under comments.

Althaus: Why don't you go ahead now if you'd like.

Crowe: I wanted to express my sincere appreciation to the Administration & City Crew for their help in putting up the Veteran's Banners. The City Crew started at 3:30 AM to hang them as there is less traffic at that time, however unfortunately the truck broke...had a hydraulic leak so I was able to borrow one from Tom Brim. We have 400 banners in Kenton, 40(+) in Dunkirk and 15 in Roundhead, so it's really taking off. Thank you so much for allowing us to hang these banners. I believe it reflects well in the community. (Can't hear...static)

Schwemer: Commissioner, while you're up here, I'm going to draft legislation for the rezoning issue, but I wondered if there was any urgency on the County's part to pass this right away or can it go for the 3 readings?

Crowe: Actually, the quicker it's passed the better. We've been in negotiations and one of the conditions is that it's rezoned. So if you could include emergency language and we could move forward as soon as possible that would be great.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS/UPDATES:

None.

COMMUNICATIONS/PETITIONS:

Althausser: We have no communications other than a notice from the Division of Liquor Control notifying us that Fuel Mart is requesting a liquor permit. (Note: This notice was received because Fuel Mart is located within 500 ft. of a park). Council can either object to this permit or not.

Motion by Mr. Beazley & second by Mrs. Davis for no objection to this permit.

Althausser: Is there any discussion? **(Roll call vote, 6 ayes; motion carried)** We have no petitions...does anyone have any further communications?

MONTHLY/ANNUAL REPORTS:

Althausser: We have the Public Works monthly report and the WWTP Effluent Discharge report that I'll ask Cindy to discuss.

Murray: The Public Works report is a work in process...I basically challenged Burl to keep track of hours that the guys spent on different projects. For example, in Parks & Rec they spent just over 23% of their time in April. Now Rec doesn't pay for that time, but we just wanted you to get an idea. We can change how we're doing this if you want us to. The monthly Water & Sewer report...I hope to change how we do that report a little...there has been a fluctuation of water in our month to month (can't hear). The WWTP Effluent Chart I would like it to include how much water is produced vs. how much water is treated. (can't hear)

Beazley: Did something happen on the 21st because there was a big spike on April 21st & a big negative on April 22nd?

Murray: I'd have to check. (can't hear)...the flow meters have been set & fixed and you can tell that because we're not getting any rain. Ha.

Althausser: Okay, the other 2 reports are minutes from the Tree Commission (5/13/21) and the Parks & Rec Board (4/22/21). Are there any questions on either of these?

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance, Beazley: We met earlier tonight, and we will have legislation at our next Council meeting to reflect the financing of a SaniVac and also additional appropriations for a grant writer for the Fire Department for potential grants. (can't hear) I anticipate Pam will send out explanations of all that will be involved in that legislation as she normally does.

Cemetery, Davis: I just wanted you to know the Cemetery will close their gates on Sunday night and not reopen them until Monday after the Veteran's service to keep vehicles from driving through (can't hear).

Safety, Davis: Safety met and we'd just like to reiterate some of the places you can't park vehicles. There is a whole big list and I won't name them all, but I'll get a copy to the Kenton Times and maybe Tim can do something in the paper with it. But basically, you can't park on a sidewalk; within intersections; within 20' of an intersection or 30' of an intersection with lights or traffic devices; on bridges; tree lawns; within 10' of fire hydrants or fire stations, etc. (Note: this is Section 452.03(a) of the Codified Ordinances) So basically most of it is just using common sense.

Murray: I just want to add we've had the striping done throughout town, but the company is coming back to do the hash marks through the crosswalks downtown for extra safety for pedestrians. We've had several accidents and/or near misses and just had another one recently.

Althausser: BKP had an Open House & regretfully I could not attend as I was out in the field, but it was part of an ongoing emphasis on good public relations.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 21-012, 1ST READING, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE VACATING THE ALLEY LYING BETWEEN INLOT NUMBERS 6 & 7 OF HIRIAM KETTLES' ADDITION TO THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO.

Althausser: It is my understanding that this could probably go 3 reads.

Davis: John, should we maybe amend it because of the sale of the property?

Schwemer: No, I don't think that's necessary...HSLC owned it at the time of the petition and whoever purchased it will own on both sides of the alley. I don't think it will make a difference. There is a 4" water main there, but we always reserve utility easements.

Althausser: Okay, if there are no objections, we'll let this go to a 2nd read.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-013, 1ST READING, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR ROCK SALT FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, AND TO CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST AND/OR BEST BIDDER.

Althaus: Cindy, we just got into the hot weather...are you really that excited to buy salt? Ha.

Murray: Brenda is.

Althaus: I believe this can go 3 reads, correct? (yes) If there are no objections, we'll let this go to a 2nd read. Is there any other new business to be brought forth?

COMMENTS:

Murray: Patrolman Charles Carey is retiring after...I'm not sure how many years...

Chief Musser: 25 years.

Murray: Okay, Officer Carey is retiring after serving 25 years and we just want to wish him the very best. Our paving project will be starting in late June and those streets will be Grove, Carey, N. Market & Stevens and we're looking at possibly another one. The hydrant flushing project in the SE section has not started yet...that's because I want our city guys to borrow a topo from the County Engineer and go along with them when they're flushing hydrants so they can begin mapping them. On June 8th we are holding a police entrance exam. Thursday the 27th at 6PM is our last downtown phase II meeting with the public. I think we've had a pretty good turnout & interest so far. Also, we're getting ready to start union negotiations with AFSCME at the end of July. That's about all I have.

Mayor Webb: I just wanted clarification on where people are supposed to park if the gates are closed until after the Veterans ceremony is done?

Davis: This is something they always do, it's nothing new. Usually people park along the road.

Mayor: Okay, thank you. I wanted to let you know that we're having a pre-demo meeting this Friday morning with the contractor from McComb for the old McKittrick Hospital. This has been in the works for some time and I'm so grateful for past administrations working to get this done. The pool...I'm truly a fan of Mr. Level. It was really neat to watch them work. Originally, they were going to do 33 sections, but ended up doing 137 sections & this work has a lifetime guarantee with it. They also caulked around the perimeter of the pool, so everything runs to the drain as it was designed to do. The next critical piece will be from the deck to the building. We need to budget for this each year (can't hear)...caulking lasts 5-7 years. This year we used the \$20,000 we got from the Capital Budget, so we were very fortunate. The chemical guy was here & tested our water & said we were spot on, so that's great news since we're getting ready for Memorial Day opening. Next, we have a young man (in high school) that we got to help with the mowing this summer...we got him through the Job & Family Services summer program, so they are paying his wages, not the City, but we train him. But he will begin on Wednesday & he'll be working with Chase Fleece who is doing a phenomenal job along with Jake Purcell. Anyway, I think it's a neat program. Flags...I've had complaints on how the flags look all dirty & tattered. They've been ordered & they're supposed to ship tomorrow.

Murray: We ordered them the first of April...next year we'll order them in February.

Mayor: Right. Anyway, here's a project for anyone who would like to help and that is hanging the flags, provided they get here by Saturday. I'll take all the help I can get but I'll have to let you know when. One of the guys told me you could just pick up the aluminum pole and tilt it to unclasp the flag & put the new one on, but I tried to pick up one of the poles & couldn't do it. Ha. The Memorial Day Parade lineup is at 9:30AM and step-off is at 10AM. Roger (Crowe), I don't have a vehicle for you but I'm sure you'll come up with something snazzy because you guys are snazzy people! I also just want to say how grateful I am for the staff and especially the Safety Service Director. She is knocking it out of the park & I feel like we're making great headway. I appreciate Council and Finance for all you've done in working with us. With everything going on, it's kind of like trying to move a mountain sometimes so thank you. That's all I have.

Althaus: Okay, June 14th is our next meeting, so that's in 3 weeks not 2. This Thursday night is the final downtown informational meeting with OHM, the general public & business owners, to wrap up the overview on the project. If there is nothing else to come before Council, this meeting is adjourned.

