

13TH REGULAR SESSION:

Kenton City Council met in their 13th regular session on July 12, 2021, at 7 PM in Council Chambers. 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. Note: Patti Risner wasn't present, however she was on speaker phone listening to the meeting.

Althaus: While Patti is on the phone, as of July 1st we can no longer vote in a remote manner, but Patti wanted to make certain she could hear the proceedings & have the opportunity to make comments at the end of the meeting or ask questions as we go.

Prayer given by Mr. Beazley and the Pledge of Allegiance recited.

MINUTES:

Althaus: The minutes from the previous meeting of June 28th are in your packet. Hopefully you've had a chance to review those minutes. Does anyone have additions or corrections to those minutes? Hearing none, they'll stand approved as presented.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TIME TO SPEAK:

Althaus: On our agenda we have Theresa Allen here with us. Theresa is Chairperson of the Ohio Passenger Rail News & she's going to give us an update on All Aboard Ohio. Theresa, if you'll come up...

Theresa Allen: Thank you for allowing me to speak tonight. There has been a lot going on for All Aboard Ohio...for those who are new, again we are a State non-profit advocacy group for passenger rail & mass transit. I've been on the board since 2012, I have served as Vice-Chair for 1 ½ years & currently I'm Chairperson, which is quite a feat when we have board members from all of the populated urban areas. So that's kind of a big to do right there. We've moved our meetings, which are state-wide, for our board members to Zoom to be current with the needs of our board members. So I'm going to share just some highlights of what we're doing. On behalf of our board, board members & the citizens of Ohio, we've served in dealing with Amtrak's cutbacks on the Lakeshore Ltd. & Capital Ltd. These are lines that serve northern Ohio, particularly through Cleveland and east, and then west out of Cleveland. With our advocacy & support & letters we've written along with local groups there that have been involved in this effort, we've helped secure funding with Ohio Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur to get an amendment approved in the pandemic stimulus that ties restoration of the daily service which had been cut to future Amtrak funding requests. That worked and that daily returned May 31st. One thing to keep in mind, many of us are blessed in the rural areas to own vehicles & be able to afford to own vehicles but in urban areas many people boomers & older but particularly millennials don't own cars. They travel by passenger rail, light rail, streetcar, buses, etc., so this kind of effort on our part was a big deal. We also continue to advocate for more passenger rail & transit friendly initiatives now that we have a new administration in Washington DC. We're hopeful with the new administration & their previous connections with Amtrak that the funding will be secured. We also work with counterparts like the Rail Passenger Association out of Chicago and state & national groups some of which you know as MORPC (Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission). To that end, we're playing a leadership role in a number of statewide & national efforts aimed at increasing the amount of funding directed at rail. If you've been watching the news, you know they are closer & closer to a compromise bill on funding for infrastructure and Amtrak or passenger rail is a big part of that budget. We hope to see those benefits in Ohio as well. Some of the initiatives we've been advocating for this past 1-2 years since Charles Horn & I saw you last are based on announcements from Amtrak. They have asked congress for additional support & one of the initiatives with that funding from congress is they want to expand & update 5 corridors in Ohio. I apologize...I wanted to have the newsletter here for you tonight as we've done in the past, but there was a delay in the mailings to board members to distribute them so I hope to get them this week & I'll get them to you so you can see this in detail. The corridors that Amtrak is proposing, and again this is based on their profitability study not All Aboard Ohio's, is the Cincinnati-Dayton-Columbus-Cleveland Corridor, the Cincinnati-Indiana-Chicago Corridor, the Cleveland-Toledo-Detroit-Pontiac Corridor, the Cleveland-Buffalo-Albany-New York Corridor, and the Cleveland-Pittsburg-New York Corridor. Now as you know, some of these corridors are those that All Aboard Ohio has long supported. We continue to advocate for those & with the help of MORPC & the Rail Passenger Assoc. we've had additional meetings & Zooms with the head of Amtrak & Amtrak Officials to not forget or overlook important corridors like Columbus-Marysville-Kenton-Lima-Fort Wayne- Chicago and then another beloved route for Ohioans is Columbus-Toledo. So we're still advocating, MORPC is onboard & supporting that as well. We want them to reconsider their study of profitability because we think those 2 are viable corridors to include in their funding with monies from congress. Added Ohio routes...as I said we're working on a multistate initiative to develop fast frequent

trains linking Chicago, Fort Wayne, Lima, Columbus, Pittsburg & seek north/south passenger rail between Detroit, Toledo, Columbus, Portsmouth, Huntington as a part of that connected national system. Our Executive Director, Stu Nickelson, has been in great demand...he's testified at the Statehouse in support of the Amtrack corridors & improved wording in the Dept. of Transportation funding to allow equitable funding for passenger rail & mass transit in the state budget. There have been snafu's for years with that to allow that to happen so Stu has testified on that & he's given local, regional, statewide & national interviews...he is doing Zoom calls with legislatures both state & federal. Our Public Affairs Director, Ken Pendergast, has helped with some of those and I as Chairperson have helped with some of those, so we've been busy doing Zooms & advocating for all of these corridors & for the funding. As you well know Ohioans pay our fair share of taxes & we deserve to get the benefit from the taxes we pay to the federal government. One of the things I've been doing to help Stu, because he's in such high demand writing letters & advocating & testifying at the statehouse, is I've been doing Zoom calls with the National Infrastructure Bank Coalition. This is a group that's been formed to offer an infrastructure bill in addition to what the President & Congress works out. This is based on the American Civil Engineers Association recommendation that to update all infrastructure nationally we're talking 5 trillion dollars minimum. So this would be an addition to supplement that. When I talk about infrastructure we're talking about bridges, tunnels, roads, broadband nationwide, water & sewer nationwide, which I'm sad to see Kenton has already been funding that, but this would help cities & states with the outdated water & sewer, passenger rail, mass transit and in those places where its applicable highspeed rail, and then housing & retrofitting older buildings with solar & older homes with solar, and many other things. The benefits of this bill are several. There are no new taxes or debt, it's based on bond debt. It would create up to 25 million Davis Bacon jobs. There is a stipulation in the bill to buy American, so materials on these projects would have to be US Steel and American products to deal with the infrastructure. That bill is called HR3339, its been introduced in Congress by partisan support and it's going through the process in the House & Senate. So again, this is above & beyond what they're working on. I've been heading up the Zooms for All Aboard Ohio so that we have a foot in the door & keep abreast of this so I can report back to them & to you. Again, this is in addition to whatever compromise bill on infrastructure that the White House, Congress & the Senate work out. As we did 2 years ago, All Aboard Ohio joined with a coalition of organizations to secure increased funding for nonhighway forms of transportation in Ohio. Then & now we successfully secured \$70 million annual increase in public transportation funding from the Ohio General Assembly. We were among the leaders in that effort giving testimony & advocating for that with state legislatures and also now we're working to get Ohio back in the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission so that we have people at the table representing Ohio. So those are some of the biggest updates I have to share and as I said to Pegg & Antwillia, MORPC is behind these Ohio initiatives 110% and they've been advocating & doing Zooms with us to advocate with Amtrack and all of these other initiatives I've talked about. A couple of other things I want to share that are my personal perspective on some of these issues and then I'll be finished is I think it's essential that with all we have going for Ohio with our residents & existing businesses and the new businesses we want to attract & new people we want to attract to live here in Ohio, and the fact that our current Governor has proposed millions of dollars to spend to attract & retain millennials, I think it's more worthwhile with state dollars to remember the studies that have been sent to the Governor's Office by All Aboard Ohio & ODOT for years is that boomers & older don't want to drive, don't like construction & traffic, can't afford vehicles any more, etc. and millennials & younger want walkable cities, they want passenger rail, mass transit, etc. Many millennials in cities don't own cars because as I reminded my kids when they went on their senior class trip to NYC people in the cities can't afford to park their vehicles. They pay premium dollars to park them so that's why they use subway, light rail, buses, etc. So as a marketing tool I think it's essential that Ohio doesn't lose this opportunity as we did in the previous governorship where we turned away 400 million dollars that the federal government was going to give us for passenger rail. Several states did an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal when that happened & said thank you Ohio for passing up that federal money...we took advantage of it. Here's the thing, All Aboard Ohio also submitted studies to the State in the past few years that neighboring states on average spend 2-4 times as much per capita on passenger rail & mass transit then Ohio does. I don't have the study right before me, but I think we spend \$.64 on the dollar per capita. Neighboring states and that includes W. Virginia & Kentucky & many states that aren't as well off as Ohio, spent 2-3 times more. So I hope that in the effort for residents & our businesses and future businesses coming to Ohio serving our communities and for a marketing tool for our colleges & universities who have mass numbers of national & international students who come from areas where they have high functioning passenger rail & mass transit, what a marketing tool if we could better serve Ohio. So that's one of my personal things and the other personal perspective I have is funding...we all pay

federal tax dollars & if our state doesn't avail ourselves to those dollars our citizens & our businesses lose out. We need to be smart & not lose money as the previous governor did politicizing economic development money. We need to do what's good for everybody. My other perspective is Ohio needs to stop being the donut hole of mass transit & passenger rail for the country. We need to better serve our citizens & our businesses and grow for the future. As studies have indicated the governor wants to attract millennials but there are ordinary things that should be done for all Ohioans regardless of zip code that will attract & maintain those millennials without spending any additional money on special projects. So that's my personal opinion, Ohio needs to stop being the donut hole of passenger rail & mass transit and we need to make sure we get our share of the pie. So that's my update and I'll have these newspapers to you hopefully this week. We're doing our annual meeting by Zoom for the whole state on July 24th from 9:30-11:30AM and we'll have some great speakers from Virginia's Passenger Rail Commission, Northern New England Passenger Rail Commission and others. We'll be giving away All Aboard Ohio t-shirts if you register and you can register through our Facebook page on All Aboard Ohio or Event Bright. It will be a good event & every half hour we'll be giving away t-shirts which was a recent fund raiser we did. So I hope you can join me on that Zoom & learn a lot of additional things, but do look at us on our Facebook page or our website...there are more detailed things there every day & things are happening so quickly in congress & senate in funding and here in Ohio with the Amtrack announcement of the 5 corridor proposal that's what delayed us in getting our newspaper out. I appreciate your understanding that & I hope you'll consider doing our annual meeting. I'll be working with Antwill & Pegg to get back in contact with MORPC so they remember to give you all the feedback that you need to keep posted directly so I'll work on that as well. I appreciate your time and if you have any questions my phone number or text is 419-889-7780 and my email is tvallen338@gmail.com so if you have more questions from my presentation or questions perhaps our executive director could answer more fully, I will certainly field it & if I can't answer I'll get those questions to him. Thank you so much.

Althaus: Thank you, Theresa.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES:

None.

COMMUNICATIONS/PETITIONS:

None.

MONTHLY/ANNUAL REPORTS:

Althaus: You saw in your packet...well first at your station tonight was the KFD report activity report for June and in your packet was the KPD report for June. Also, you have the Income Tax report and it sure looks like things are going in the right direction. Emma is here if you have any questions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None from Regional Planning, MOP, Nuisance, Safety or Cemetery.

Finance, Beazley: We do not have a report, but I'd announce that prior to our next session on 7/26 Finance will be meeting in these chambers at 6PM.

OLD BUSINESS:

Althaus: If memory serves me, I think items A & C we'll ask you to consider tonight...

Clerk: I talked to ODOT & they said we could go 3 reads & I'll scan it to them.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-005, 2ND READING, TITLE ONLY; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT FOR THE LEASE OF A GAPVAX COMBINATION JET/VACUUM MACHINE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Althaus: Brian, correct me if I'm wrong but I think we have time on this...do you have any comments on the urgency?

Auditor, Brian Hattery: We do have time.

Murray: This is a purchase, not a lease. The agreement says lease, but it is a purchase. I got clarification from Pam on that.

Hattery: I'm glad it's a purchase.

Althaus: It might be appropriate if someone were to move an amendment to amend the legislation to read purchase & financing as opposed to lease.

Beazley: I will move that Mr. President because I did ask for that clarification & the SSD responded to me tonight with that information.

Motion by Mr. Beazley & second by Mrs. Davis to amend Resolution No. 21-005 by changing the wording from lease to purchase and financing.

Althaus: Is there any discussion? **(Roll call vote, 6 ayes; motion carried)** Okay, that has been amended and if there are no objections we'll move this to a 3rd read in two weeks.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-016, 2ND READING, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING KENTON CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTIONS 660.03(d), 660.05(f)&(k), 660.07, AND 660.08 AND ADOPTING SECTIONS 660.18 AND 660.19 RELATING TO SAFETY, SANITATION, AND HEALTH IN THE CITY OF KENTON, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Althaus: Anything that has occurred in the interim Antwillia that you want to add?

Davis: I've had no questions from any Councilmembers or citizens. Have any of you?

McEntee: I had one question. Squirrels are considered rodents, right?

Davis: Yes.

McEntee: There's a thing in there that says we're not allowed to have rodents.

Davis: We're not allowed to have infestations. Don't raise them in your house...make sure they stay outside in the trees. Ha.

Althaus: I know it was the committee's intent to definitely have that read 3 times to give people time. Any other comments? Alright, we'll read that again also for 3rd read in 2 weeks.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-017, 2ND READING, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO TO ENTER INTO A HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Althaus: Just as a refresher this is work to be done in 2022. As Brenda stated, she will have to scan & email it to ODOT but we will have time for a 3rd read. So, if I hear nothing, we'll read that in 2 weeks. Is there any other old business to be presented at this time?

NEW BUSINESS:

Althaus: We have no new business...does anyone present have new business they wish to consider at this time?

COMMENTS:

Althaus: We'll start with, as we always do & always, should Cindy Murray.

Murray: Okay, the Transfer Channel...we did the major work installing the new piping today so that project is wrapping up & everything is going smoothly. Tonight, as somebody alluded to, I think Dave did in the prayer, hopefully we are fixing 2 but we're definitely fixing 1 water main leak on Decatur Street. Both are located on Decatur Street. Hopefully we don't have to do a water shutdown, but we may. We tried to put it out there this morning that there may be a water shutdown tonight and we apologize for the short notice, but we tried to get as much information out as we possibly could. We do have another big waterline project coming up which is the Lynn Street replacement project that our crew is going to do. I know the Mayor is big on our guys digging every day. The last thing I have is we'd like to invite you to come tour the WWTP at the 1st meeting in August (9th)...we'll start at 5:30PM down there & it's on Gilmore Rd. not Gilmore St. I think everybody knows where it is. Are there any questions?

Davis: When are we going to start Lynn Street?

Murray: I don't have an exact date for you, but I'll let you know at our next meeting. Hopefully within the next couple of weeks.

Davis: Are we anticipating a shutdown on Lynn also?

Murray: No.

McEntee: Do you have an update on the McKitrick Hospital project?

Mayor Webb: It has to be done by the end of July.

Murray: We're just waiting on the guy to come tear it down. Also, on the paving we've been trying to get Bluffton Paving to give us a date but we're more of a filler job for them...we'd like to get the word out that you can't be parking on the street when we come to pave it so we're trying to get that information.

Hattery: Thank you, Mr. President. Just an update...my Chief Dep. Auditor Pam Romanko, and I think Cindy gave an update at the last meeting, but she is doing better. She wanted me to give you an update that she's working part-time from home. She's still doing outpatient physical therapy working on her endurance, but it might be a while before she is actually here. Not many people go to the extent to which she has gone & then bounce back. So she's doing very well & I just wanted to give you that update in case you were wondering. It's a slow steady road but she's actually doing really good. She's feisty as you might imagine so she's fighting her way back. That being said, my Asst. Chief Dep. Auditor is on

vacation this week. The last 4-8 weeks have been a little bit tumultuous in my office and my Asst. Dep. Doris had already planned this vacation & the plane ticket purchased & was concerned about going. Because I wasn't here, I have a fulltime job outside of this, I can't thank the Safety Service Director enough for stepping up to cover the office. I have to thank her because she's just been wonderful. She hasn't complained at all and it's kind of embarrassing how much she has been doing...my office is functioning at a somewhat normal level, if you will, because of her. She's really extended herself outside of whatever I've ever heard of a Safety Service Director doing to keep things running. I'm happy for the help and I'm very thankful! Also to follow up on that, and I'm sure some others might say it, but we just finished an outdoor summer swim season and we had 4 home meets and this past weekend was the Swim Champs hosted at Kenton. Almost at every single one of those swim meets afterwards sometimes at 8-9PM I've seen both the Mayor and SSD there hauling trash on their own, trash cans flipping them upside down. I can't believe that a Mayor & SSD are doing things like that and doing whatever they can to help out. (can't hear) I can't believe how much they do to make this City look good...they're doing an outstanding job and I think the City is very lucky & blessed to have them. They smile the whole time they're doing it.

Althaus: Thank you, Brian. Glad to hear Pam is on the mend and if anyone can beat this just because of her attitude it would be Pam.

Chief Bruce Donnelly: I apologize for being so late, but I was at a Pleasant Twp. Trustee's meeting.

Mayor: I see where we rate. Ha.

Donnelly: Well, they actually had questions for me tonight, so it went a little longer. Just one of the things...I got an email back from Patrick Magnem from Cleveland State University & he said he gathered by the evaluations & stuff that the confined space training went very well for our guys. Just to let Council know the lead instructor for that class plus a hazmat refresher class that we did for the fire dept. is probably one of the best instructors I've ever had for hazmat type classes. He kept it very interesting & everything & it sounded like they got a lot of compliments from our staff also. I talked to the instructor for the confined space class & he gave me a couple of dates for doing the rest of the class for our dept. & the public works guys, so I have a couple of dates in August that I'll be discussing with the Mayor & SSD & the other dept. heads in terms of what dates will work best for them. Last Tuesday we did get the ladder truck over to Fire Services for them to start evaluating the truck to see whether our big issue is going to be covered under warranty or whether they say it's some other factor caused for the failure of that. I called today to try to get an update, but he didn't return my call yet so hopefully we'll get some good news out of that. He gave us a nickel tour when we were over there and he got about 3 phone calls on his cell phone in about 15 minutes and that place was packed with trucks to be worked on so I know he's a pretty busy man over there & he's got a lot going on. I can understand where he is trying to get to us too and having to work with the part manufacturer & everything to see if it's covered under warranty. We got a few things going on this month and right now I think we're still on pace for running about 1200-1300 runs the year right now. It's been a little hectic & I know our overtime for this last quarter has been up some, but part of that was due to some staffing shortages with guys being out sick or injured. We had a few 24 hr. shifts we had to get covered and it kind of hurts to do that, but I know for our citizens to provide all the services we do it was needed. Other than that, things seem to be going pretty well. We've been doing a lot of training & in this last month we've already had 16 hours of dept. training and we've got 16 coming up in August. Then we've got CPR & First Aid...basically we're on a 2 year schedule so everybody in our dept. had to do theirs & we did ours a couple of weeks ago. Since we've got guys that are CPR instructors, we thought we'd offer it to the other employees as a service so if somebody gets in trouble. Are there any questions?

Althaus: That's a good idea, Chief. You should try to let us know when you do that.

Beazley: You weren't in Chambers yet, but we'll have a Finance meeting on 7/26 at 6PM so if you have some updates for us at that point.

Donnelly: Hopefully I'll have some good information by then.

Dave Kiper: I apologize, I'm not as well prepared as I intended to be. I was visiting in town & got called away out of town & just barely got back here and I left all my notes at my house. I just had some questions & I've struggled how to ask them. Before I say anything I just want to thank you folks for what you do and I mean that from my heart. I follow you in the newspaper & I appreciate that and online just to see what's happening in our community. I've been in service with people my entire life and I appreciate and fully understand what kind of things it takes. I've lived in several different states & different large cities and small cities at different times over the past 40-50 years, but we've been here for 29 years and we love our community here & our county. I've had over the years a lot of frustration I guess or confusion when it comes to the nuisance laws & the incongruity ...it seems to me like we just deal with it constantly. Every place I've lived has had the same problems so it's not like I think we're causing any problem. When

I saw this was up, I read through it & I have lots of questions, but I have a history as an editor, so I tend to evaluate things with a more critical eye. My big thing is I've watched over the years, time & again as a Pastor and property owner and helping out people, where somebody gets called out for a nuisance or served for a nuisance & houses on both sides of them are in worse shape and they don't get called. I've not really ever asked how it's determined...I've had some people brag to me that they got so & so in trouble because they reported something. I'm sure that goes on everywhere and you're not going to stop that, but it burdens me & if I were younger I'd probably offer to organize a nonprofit group that would get people together and folk that need community service hours and take them around and do it. I still spend quite a bit of time mowing yards for seniors. We have a lot of senior citizens that get called into the hospital and they have nobody following up on them...if a neighbor or one of us doesn't go by the grass grows and that was one of things that really caught my attention was the 6". A few weeks ago we had 3-4 days of rain & 4-5 days of hot weather and in less than a week I had grass that had been cut just before the rain and it was easily 8". (can't hear) I don't have an alternative or an answer, but it is a concern and I'm hesitant to even come before you. I just had a church member a few months back was served because they left some junk out by an outbuilding. They admitted it was that way, he was working overtime and they just didn't do it, but he asked the officers that came well what about the crack house next door that has 2 junk cars in the back yard & weeds growing up everywhere and they said well that's not on our list. They weren't angry about it, but I see that a lot. My biggest concern with what I saw in this is there anyway...I don't think anybody is just going out jumping on people but is there a way for example if I have an older couple in the church or somebody I know about that has grass growing that I couldn't cut or they couldn't get to, we don't want you to have to go through the process but if somebody reports them then they go through all of this ordeal and when it comes to the tall grass I noticed it was the only ordinance that was mentioned as I read it that said even if you go ahead & do it you're still guilty of a misdemeanor. At least that's how I read it in there and I was puzzled by that part. It seemed to me like a lot of ambiguity. I didn't see anything in any of the papers I read on any of these ordinances that clarified how it was determined or at what level. It just seems difficult to me and it seems like we're just perpetuating what seems to be the problem all along. I don't know if you have questions for me or if I've brought up something I don't have an answer to, but it's been a burden for me. And we have the sidewalk situation...we have a lot of properties that don't have sidewalks including a lot of city properties, parks and so on. If someone has a sidewalk that's deteriorated who decides that needs to be done? If it's deteriorated, I don't see anything in here that says they have the option of tearing it out & planting grass there. But in the areas where we don't have...our church is in the south part of town & we have nice sidewalk on 2 sides of our building, but the last the last 30-40 feet there's no sidewalk back to the alley. We purchased an old property across the street right after a house was torn down with the intention of just keeping it up and we've maintained it, but there is a section along Leighton Street that had a sidewalk at one point because I can see little remnants of one as I mow over it every week, but if someone reports us do we have to go to the expense of putting a whole sidewalk in that area when just down the street is the park with no sidewalks on Leighton Street? It just seems like I have questions I don't see answers to. That's all I'm asking is if someone might discuss that or look it over. I'd love to sit down with someone on the committee or whoever is responsible and just go over things. I'll be glad to do what I can to help coordinate people...I'm at a stage in life where I'm not doing so much as I used to, but I want to. But I see this as a problem that this isn't really going to solve...

Davis: I'll let John handle the legal, but as far as the 6" for the grass...this is taking ordinances that are 50-60 years old & we're combining it and making punishments & the fees all the same so it's easier for people if something happens then this is what happens. It's all listed and it's all the same and there are no questions. As far as the 6" go, the problem is by the time you get to the 8" we have to wait 5 more days on top of that and then we go to mow and it's 15"-20"...we're tearing up mowers, we're stressing what little staff we have, so to be able to keep up with it we had to knock it down a little bit. Now what we did to make it a little bit easier is take out a lot of the weed ordinances. So that being said, you still can't have weeds, but they have to be 6" so it all has to be 6". In the previous ordinance you weren't allowed to have dandelions. We're not asking you to go out & pick every dandelion...we're just saying when you mow keep it under 6" and cut the dandelions off. So, it just somewhat simplifies it for people.

Kiper: Well, I didn't have the privilege of looking at the old ones & I figured that was probably a lot of what was going on. It still seems to me like an awfully difficult...I guess I'm looking at it like I drive down the road even by some of your houses, not on purpose but I just looked as I drove by, some of them have grass today that is about 6". I mow my grass at 4" generally but in the spring I go down. But again, I'm saying if you go over here & this person gets called because it's 6" now and we want to get to it before

it gets tall and they don't have a history of doing it, does everybody on that street need to be...I like continuity and I just have trouble seeing...I guess that's my big battle & is there a way to work that.

Beazley: Pastor, I agree with the premise of what you're saying, but I think you've already stated yourself that you agree there is a problem. To use an old adage...how do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time. You have to start somewhere. I think that's what the goal of this is. This Administration has been working for a couple of years to address it more in a pride standpoint for people to react on their own. We've reached the point where there has been some that have clearly reacted and cleaned them up and then there are some other properties that have not. Those are the ones that we're trying to target. Will there always be tattletales? Yes. With tattletales you have to respond because if they're in violation you have to respond.

Davis: The Chief of Police came to us & said we have a problem. We don't have an easy way to fix this, it's creating paperwork, causing hours of payroll up, etc. Recently since we've started some of these new initiatives people are taking pride. We may just have to go give a warning and before they go back to serve, it's handled where previously we were sending city crews out to take care of things. Recently we've had multiple people who have handled it themselves where in the past we've had to send the city out for. So I think we're building a pride in our community. But yeah, we're not going to kill all the birds with one stone.

Kiper: I have to say at this point we've had numerous times that even city properties because of weather situations...right now even the hospital even though it's not a city property has some of the tallest weeds in town and nobody's dealt with that.

Althaus: That's not a city property.

Kiper: No, that's what I said it's not city.

Althaus: Then why use that as an analogy?

Kiper: I was just using it as an analogy of something that the city is working on the process of getting abolished...

Murray: They were personally served so it doesn't show up in the newspaper.

Althaus: While you could be charged with a misdemeanor, I don't think we've done that...that's not changed in the ordinance.

Schwemer: It's a mechanism to address the issue, but it's not used most of the time. But some people abuse the system...

Althaus: The 6" is a change, but the committee did lots of research and spent a lot of time on it. We need neighbors helping neighbors...that happened to me where I couldn't mow and a neighbor mowed my yard. You also have to remember if a complaint is lodged, we have to respond. As far as sidewalks, I'd be interested to know who has been charged...(can't hear) remember, this is a different Administration and they're only 2 years into this, but they are establishing procedure and pride on how Kenton does business, not the Mayor, Kenton. We want to free up the KPD so they're not spending all this time on nuisance complaints and can be doing other things. (can't hear) And, what we don't do well as a city is we're lousy at enforcing the sidewalk law because it's expensive to repair/replace sidewalks.

Schwemer: I'd like to touch on a couple of things...first and foremost, we do not have enough people that voice their concerns, so we appreciate you coming tonight. You may walk away feeling that you wasted your time, hopefully not, but we appreciate it. So many times people don't and then we just hear about it on social media and...

Kiper: Can I just say I was surprised when you said you had no comments because I had people calling me. I don't know why they were except that I'm a Pastor they wanted to complain to. I'm sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt you...

Davis: We have asked for the comments and we ask for people to come to the meetings and we haven't had any response.

Beazley: We've been working on this for probably 6 months.

Kiper: I follow your minutes and I missed it. The first time I caught it was in the paper after the last meeting.

Lawrence: I'd like to reach out to you and sit down one on one and maybe we get a handle on this and go through your concerns and I can bring them back to Council.

Kiper: Thank you, I don't want to take any more of your time and I interrupted John...

Schwemer: So we have a limited budget and there are basically 2 components with the nuisance...community pride or throw money at it by having 1-2 nuisance officers that can handle it so Cindy is not doing all of the paperwork as well as overtime as we have to take these people to court sometimes. So everything costs money and typically we do not get most of it back. So that's one component and then when the city looks at okay where are we putting our money the reality is how we

spend our money is largely on police & fire because we have to keep those departments going. But legally, if we have potholes in the streets, we can be liable, so our streets are very important too. I know people complain about our streets, but we do a good job with the money that we have on the streets to ensure they're safe. Then there is the increased burden, and of course everyone has different feelings about the downtown project, but if we walk away from this we have huge EPA issues, & the discharge permit there are conditions we have to follow, so a lot of our money is going to areas to keep that up. So the sidewalks truly have been put to the side. The past Administration...Randy Manns, when he came in he wanted to get these sidewalks addressed. But then when he looked at all the components, it's like how do we do it and can our residents afford for us to go that route? It's very difficult. The last thing I want to touch on is these nuisances a lot of times how we go about citing one vs. the other is based upon complaints. We do not have the resources to go after everyone on every violation so it's a matter of trying to do the best we can with the resources. It's like what's been said with our police dept. so they're not always doing nuisances...other communities have a lot larger tax base and they have departments that work on this and also they started it at a time where people had more community pride. 20-30 years ago, there were not near as many people and they got a jump on it and got the enforcement & program started early so then when sentiment changed they have the ability to go after them. We have been behind the ball on that and I don't see an easy fix for that, but we have to keep trying. We have to just keep working on it and trying to find a better way to do it, so that's kind of what we're working with. Is this a perfect solution? No. A perfect solution is getting a lot more money and really enforcement across the board. But like I said, it's very expensive.

Kiper: I apologize for taking so much of your time, but I really appreciate you and I said it earlier if there is a way I can help, and I'll talk to Mr. Lawrence about it...I think some of the answer may be some of us outside of the government that can be involved. They just need to be organized.

Althaus: Dave, you've been a servant for the residents in this city for years, the church that you pastor is a wonderful addition to that part of town...I greatly appreciate your involvement in the fair and in Kenton. You have the right idea trying to get some community organization, you should probably get with Jacqueline Fitzgerald sometime...I don't know if you know Jacqueline, but she has some of the very same ideas.

Kiper: Over the years I've worked with lots of folk that needed community service, they call begging for it...it wouldn't stop the people that need to get their own lawns mowed but maybe to take some of the pressure off, but that was sort of what was motivating my coming tonight.

Althaus: I know this Administration looks at those hardships & when they find them out they'll do what they can...

Jones: The Council on Aging does have a mowing service and I don't know the cost of it, but I mean that could be also another alternative to maybe somebody in your church that can no longer mow.

Kiper: Right, we've been able to handle it as we're a small church and we do it for others too. A lot of times it's older folk, they're poor, they're unemployed, they don't have a lawnmower...I've delivered more lawnmowers I bought at yard sales to people just so they can get their yards mowed because they don't have the money or they don't have the motivation or pride to go get the lawnmower.

Jones: That would be a great sermon sometime on how do we change the mindset because that's kind of what it is, how do you change somebody's mindset? What your perception of what a nice property is, is going to be different than what my perception is.

Althaus: Dave, we'll leave that you'll get with Ray & you guys can go over this and we'll try to continue to work on doing better.

Lawrence: I'll reach out to you this week.

Kiper: I appreciate you and again, thank you for giving me the time. And, thank you for what you do. I mean that very much. We appreciate it. Thank you.

McEntee: I have nothing other echoing what Brian said about the Administration. I couldn't agree more and I couldn't have said it better so I'm not going to, but thank you.

Beazley: What they said.

Davis: Pretty much the same.

Wren: Yes, thank you.

Jones: So I went to my first swim meet last weekend and I had a blast. So you know what? I think I'll be back some more because there are a lot of very hard working parents that help out with that swim team and if we could just like tap into some of those people & say hey we've got a project...I know all of them don't live in the city & they have young children but it was like I pulled in there & it reminded me of going to 7 on 7 years ago when my son played football. It was so exciting with all the tents set up and all the opportunity for kids to make friends. And you can't say enough about Cindy & Lynn because they were

fixing the toilets, they were dumping the trash, they were mopping the floor, they were filling the toilet paper & soap dispensers...there are a lot of needs at the pool that need to be met still, but it's come a long way from when they took over the task of running the pool how it needs to be ran. But it was a great weekend, so I'll be back.

Risner: (can't hear)...thank you for excusing me and thank you for your thoughts & prayers...

Althausner: Patti, we're all praying for you so keep working at getting better.

Mayor Webb: I'm going to make this quick because we have a water situation to get to, but anyway my one big shoutout is to Kenton Elks 157 bringing home that National Championship once again. Antwillia is the Exalted Ruler Queen and David was the Coach, so we're really excited with Kenton showing their excellence. Again, I want to reiterate about this past weekend, it was busy & it was a blast. I can't stress enough our team at the pool...these young kids that we have for lifeguards are just phenomenal kids. We had a meeting on how we wanted our pool to work for the Swim Champ meet and they did great. I need to give a big shoutout to Jake Purcell, Chase Fleece & Dillan James...they're our mowing crew & they had the grounds looking spot on. Robin didn't say it, but she was in there mopping floors and cleaning with us. The Western Ohio Aquatics League (WOAL)...the night of the first day of the meet they sent a message out talking about our wonderful facility. Pegg, you were there from the very beginning of getting that pool in here, correct?

Wren: No, but shortly after.

Mayor: It's been a long time coming, but the WOAL gave the Kenton Facility gold stars and high fives to the Kenton Team. So thank you, Council, because you approved getting that pool going and have said yes to everything we've asked for. So from the bottom of my heart, I appreciate that because it did wonders for these kids...that is pride in these kids and they can say hey this is our facility. So I'm real, real proud and the Stingrays...that group is a real example...when you want something done watch how these guys operate because it is a well-run machine. They do a great job. Okay, Eats on the Streets was a blast. Everyone had a great time. Our police & firefighters sat down there with EMS & we had a great time with those guys. Again, they go above & beyond. Firefighter Blair was walking around handing out suckers & pens and just getting in with the crowd. It's just a really neat thing how our firefighters reach out to the public. I'm real proud of them. The Decatur Street dig...I just want you to know this was on our list. We knew we had a leak but our problem was we had this Transfer Channel and we knew we were shutting the water down probably today so that was the whole piece where we were trying to balance everything. Then last night we had some messages that we have another leak so that's why we're working on that. Dale's team did a phenomenal day today with the Transfer Channel and Burl coordinated with his guys, so once again let's hope everything goes well & goes safe. We have a very understanding community so we reach out personally to Ohio Health, Durez, (can't hear) etc. because we want to make sure this causes the least impact and get these guys ready to roll. We communicate well with them & give them lots of updates throughout the night. I just appreciate the entire business community, the restaurant community because it impacts them too. Other than that, I also want to reiterate it is not just the administration...it is all of us...Council, the Auditor's Office, every department...we just have a tremendous, tremendous team and I just appreciate each & every one of you. We have people...Emma picks up when people can't be in here, everybody will pick up slack & it's a tremendous team and I'm glad to be a part of it. That's all I have.

Althausner: I'd just reiterate Lynn with a shoutout to the Elks. That's a big deal & a huge accomplishment and that's a dedicated team. Thank you, Dave Kiper, for coming tonight & expressing your concerns. I hope you get to know Ray when you meet because he has a lot of compassion for his ward (can't hear). Lastly, I'd like to give a shoutout to the Hardin County Chamber & Business Alliance on a successful Eats on the Streets. There are some new staff there and it's a big deal for them and a lot of work and I think Holly and her crew saw that it went off well. Before we adjourn, I'd say I can't agree with Brian's comments more...we are very fortunate to have who we have in this Administration. Okay, Finance Committee on 7/26/21 at 6PM before our Council meeting at 7PM. Just keep in mind the WWTP tour that evening as well at 5:30PM. Okay, unless there are other items we're adjourned.