

**19<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION:**

Kenton City Council met in their 19<sup>th</sup> regular session on October 11, 2021 at 7PM in Council Chambers. Present: President Joel Althausser, John McEntee, David Beazley, Antwillia Davis, Ray Lawrence, Pegg Wren, Robin Jones, Law Director John Schwemer, Mayor Lynn Webb and Safety Service Director Cindy Murray.

Prayer given by Mrs. Wren, a moment of silence was observed for the passing of Councilwoman Patti Risner, and the Pledge of Allegiance recited.

**MINUTES:**

Althausser: Are there any additions or corrections to the minutes as presented? Hearing none, they'll stand approved as submitted.

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TIME TO SPEAK:**

Althausser: We do not have anyone on the agenda this evening as far as citizens requesting time to speak. If anyone who is here would like to speak, you'll have that opportunity under comments.

**DEPARTMENTAL NEWS/UPDATES:**

Auditor, Brian Hattery: For departmental updates, we did hire a new Asst. Dep. Auditor. Her name is Tina Weber and her first day was today. As such it was a bit of an overwhelming experience, so I didn't ask her to be here tonight, but I fully expect her to be at the next meeting to introduce you all to her and her to you all. The other thing is we did receive, and I haven't had a chance to talk with Safety Service Director yet, but our Electric Aggregation is coming to an end with our current contract. The company we usually work with did solicit bids, we have received some back just this past week, so we will be coming to you with more information as we have the time & a chance to discuss it. As always, it will be a contract for a recommended amount of time and it's an opt out program. Everybody will have a chance to opt out, they'll get letters & communications and things like that. One interesting thing I did see that's a possibility and is something I just experienced recently is moving...typically if you moved or if you moved into the area there is no way to get in on it. There does look like the possibility that if somebody wanted to, they could contact this company and opt into it if they're new to the area. So that's an interesting option. Those are my only two updates, does anybody have any questions? Thank you.

Althausser: Thank you. Chief Donnelly anything you want to talk about now?

Chief Bruce Donnelly: I wanted to let you we selected two gentlemen to be new members of our fire dept. We have start dates of Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> for them so hopefully or definitely going to help with our staffing issues we've been having. The other thing I was going to bring up, and I mentioned it to Finance earlier, it's something that's in the very early stages & stuff that Chad Smith approached me after we'd used their squad when both of ours were down and asked if we were interested in purchasing that squad to add to or update our fleet a little bit. So I mentioned it to Finance tonight and now to the full Council just to let you know that we are looking into it & I'm trying to figure out the final numbers as to what it's going to take to actually put that fully functioning at our station. So we're working on the final numbers just so if we can move on something like that so we can possibly have a newer vehicle without having the new vehicle price tag to it.

Althausser: The legislation is already in here.

Beazley: No sir.

Donnelly: No.

Althausser: I'm holding it...

Beazley: No, that number is not represented in what you have in tonight's legislation.

Davis: That's the truck.

Althausser: Well, you might as well talk about that then too.

Donnelly: The fire vehicle line for the \$23,600 should actually be equipment maintenance.

Beazley: Which we will amend the ordinance when we get to it.

Donnelly: When it was being proposed & I was reading through it, I was looking at the dollar amount to make sure I had the right figures, and I didn't pay attention to the line item. So that will be \$1600 towards repair of the 2 ambulances and also I put in for \$22,000 for repairs to the ladder truck. Right now, we're at about \$11,000 because the main part (hydraulic swivel) was covered under warranty. It was supposed to be shipped back to the service center on 10/4/21, so hopefully they've got it by now. They have to install it and then kind of diagnose all the other issues we were having with it to see just what all the other costs were. One of the original problems that I was told originally that the 2 circuit boards that are part of the controls for the ladder itself were fried. That's what I was told. His techs looked

at them & he said he thinks they're okay and the problem with them not functioning properly was because of the short in the swivel. So he's hoping once they get the swivel on those will be fine & we won't have to replace them. That gives us 2 ways if we would have to replace them...they're about \$9400 for the two so that's why I added those extra dollars for installation & other repairs. The best case scenario is if they do have to replace them since they were potentially damaged by the faulty hydraulic swivel they may be covered under warranty also. So the extra dollars are for the worse case scenario, but hopefully we won't have to use all of that money. The \$2800 is to update the computers at the fire station. We use one of the towers as our own server and I think Chris Griffin said that's running off Windows 98 so that's the age of a couple of those computers down there. The other one is to replace the computer tower that controls the tornado siren. We've had a lot of issues with it whether it does the Wednesday afternoon test or not, so that's why we're looking to update that plus some other software & hardware that goes along with it. The overtime line items...I'm hoping I've got it padded to where I'm not coming & asking again for the rest of the year. Basically, I've figured in for the 5 holiday pays we have coming in the last 2 months of the year, the additional staffing coverage that we're having right now which hopefully Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> will be the last time we have to do that for the rest of the year, and then additional monies for emergency callbacks. So hopefully there is enough there to cover all that and more than I actually need. So that's the rundown of all those items.

Althaus: Thank you. Chief Musser, anything?

Chief Dennis Musser: I just wanted to make everybody aware we're scheduling a civil service test for Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> for police. We're not planning on hiring anybody off of it immediately or filling a vacancy, but we will have exhausted our current list. So I don't see us losing anyone, although I do have some guys that could go anytime they want. They assure me they're not, but you never know. So that's Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> if you know anyone that is looking for that kind of a job. That's all I've got.

Althaus: Thank you. Taylor, anything you want to talk about?

PIO/Rec Director, Taylor Klinger: Nothing right now.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS/PETITIONS:**

Althaus: Just to mention in communications you have the Kenton-Hardin Health Dept. Board minutes from Aug. 24<sup>th</sup>. Questions on those? Then on petitions we do have an item requesting an alley vacation between 826 & 840 S. Detroit St. The map is here and it's down by Letson...It's 1879 Electric. It's really behind them, well beside them, I guess.

Clerk: They own on both sides of the alley.

Althaus: Right. Okay we'll pass that to...what committee has time right now? Special Projects? Oh, we don't have a formal Special Projects. What's Safety working on?

Safety, Davis: Safety can do it...we're going to have meet about some lights.

Althaus: Again, they do own all around it. Does the Mayor or either Chief have any issues? Do you want to take a look at it or can you tell enough from the map?

Davis: You want us to answer you right now?

Althaus: It's up to you.

Davis: I was unaware of where we were going on this. Let us take a look at it...like I said, we have to meet this week about lights and then we'll come back in 2 weeks.

Althaus: Okay, we'll revisit that at the next meeting. In fact, even if you want you can always let John know also if you don't have any issues...

Davis: I don't foresee any issues, but I'd feel much more comfortable if Ray & I actually went and took a gander at it.

Clerk: Check for utilities...

Althaus: I don't think there are any utilities unless there is some major junction there.

#### **MONTHLY/ANNUAL REPORTS:**

Althaus: We have quite a few...you have Income Tax. Any questions on that? Cindy & the Mayor have quite a few reports...you've got the Water Loss report, the Public Works monthly report, and the WWTP Daily Discharge report. Is there anything you'd like clarified or comments or questions? We also have a couple of months of reports from KFD (Aug. & Sept.), and also KPD has their Sept. report. Any questions for either Chief on those?

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Althaus: We have Finance Committee minutes from 9/27, so David do you want to start?

Finance, Beazley: We did meet this evening & discussed the legislation presented 2 weeks ago and any pending questions on that, as well as what Chief reviewed for us already on the finance portion of that. We're working diligently on the budget and in 2 weeks we'll have our almost entire session dedicated to that. That is obvious the Auditor's Dept. has been short staffed so grinding through all the things they need to do in addition to the budget has put us behind the 8-ball on this process. Just a reminder in 2 weeks at 6PM is we'll meet again.

Althausen: Any other committee reports this evening or any special assignments? Ok, I'd just report BKP did meet in a special meeting on Friday with respect to what Chief talked about in regard to an ambulance (the Ford they have). Their board did approve that to be sold depending on what the City decides. They're already buying a different one too. I know several of them are out for training this week so nothing will move on that.

Beazley: With regards to that, we're simply waiting for Chief's final number on that. It appears like it's a very attractive price for us for what we're getting. We feel very comfortable & we'll be moving forward with that once we have definitive numbers to place in front of all of Council. (including additional costs to outfit it & repair/maintenance)...

Althausen: Right, they're pulling all the goodies out of it.

Beazley: We need to do the outfitting & any maintenance issues as well as purchase...

Althausen: I know he's open to sharing the maintenance reports.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **RESOLUTION NO. 21-006, 3<sup>RD</sup> READING, TITLE ONLY; A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Althausen: We've had this in front of us for a couple of meetings in a row. It's an annual event. Any questions on that? It is a 3<sup>rd</sup> if Council is so inclined to consider it.

**Motion by Mr. Beazley & second by Mr. McEntee to approve Resolution No. 21-006.**

Althausen: Is there any discussion? (Roll call vote, 6 ayes; motion carried)

##### **ORDINANCE NO. 21-023, 2<sup>ND</sup> READING, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2021 FOR THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Althausen: I'm guessing there was a little discussion on this tonight...very minimal?

Beazley: No questions, no opposition and Finance is fully prepared to move forward with this this evening.

**Motion by Mr. Beazley & second by Mrs. Wren that the rules requiring legislation of a permanent or general nature to be read on three separate days, be suspended. Roll call vote, 6 ayes; motion carried.**

**Motion by Mr. McEntee and second by Mr. Lawrence to approve Ordinance No. 21-023.**

Althausen: Is there any discussion? (Roll call vote, 6 ayes; motion carried) Does any member have any old business to be presented?

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Althausen: You can see we do have 5-6 items on the agenda...I think there are two B's on here.

Clerk: Whoops, we do. Sorry...

Althausen: 6 different items on the agenda.

##### **RESOLUTION NO. 21-007, 1<sup>ST</sup> READING, TITLE ONLY; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR OF CITY OF KENTON, OHIO TO ENTER INTO A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION/CONSERVATION PROJECT PASS THROUGH GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Althausen: Obviously, this must have been talked about quite a bit in Parks & Rec I'm guessing. Taylor, did you want to explain more of it?

Schwemer: Joel, I can explain it. Obviously the leveling & sealing of the pool done in the spring, this is where the City is recouping some of that money. The work has been done and the money has been spent. We're just trying to get money through the grant to basically cover our cost for that. So we'd really like for this to be passed tonight. This is not asking for any monetary contributions from the City, it's just trying to get money back to cover repairs we've already done. Timing is kind of critical, so again we'd be asking to waive the 3 read rule.

**Motion by Mrs. Davis & second by Mr. Beazley that the rules requiring legislation of a permanent or general nature to be read on three separate days, be suspended. Roll call vote, 6 ayes; motion carried.**

**Motion by Mrs. Wren & second by Ms. Jones to approve Resolution No. 21-007.**

Althaus: Is there any discussion? (Roll call vote, 6 ayes; motion carried)

**RESOLUTION NO. 21-008, 1<sup>ST</sup> READING, TITLE ONLY; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE DISTRICT PUBLIC WORKS INTEGRATING COMMITTEE AND TO EXECUTE A PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION FOR A CITY OF KENTON CITY-WIDE STREET RESURFACING IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Althaus: I don't know how much anyone wants to talk about this, it can go another read, but we'd probably need to do it at the next meeting per Mark (Doll). This is for OPWC (Round 36). Are there any questions at this time?

**RESOLUTION NO. 21-009, 1<sup>ST</sup> READING, TITLE ONLY; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE DISTRICT PUBLIC WORKS INTEGRATING COMMITTEE AND TO EXECUTE A PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION FOR A CITY OF KENTON EAST COLUMBUS STREET RESURFACING IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Althaus: The same thing goes here, the same timing. This will get the ball rolling for the Columbus St. project. Any questions on it right now? Any objections to moving it on to a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading? Ok.

**RESOLUTION NO. 21-010, 1<sup>ST</sup> READING, TITLE ONLY; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE DISTRICT PUBLIC WORKS INTEGRATING COMMITTEE AND TO EXECUTE A PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION FOR A CITY OF KENTON DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS-PHASE II PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Althaus: So, much the same as B&C before...this is the Phase II portion. Questions? We'll read this again in 2 weeks.

**ORDINANCE NO. 21-024, 1<sup>ST</sup> READING, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022 AND TO CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST AND/OR BEST BIDDERS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Althaus: Sounds like this is something we have a similar time frame on if we want. Ok, we'll consider it next meeting.

**ORDINANCE NO. 21-025, 1<sup>ST</sup> READING, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2021 FOR THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Althaus: Chief went over this in great detail & Finance is very up to speed on it. Anything you want to add David?

Beazley: No Sir. We are fully in favor of moving forward with this with great expediency...even tonight if you'd like.

Althaus: I'm waiting....

Davis: What line item do we need to amend?

Beazley: Mr. President, in order to make this proper and get the information correct, the first item instead of fire vehicle 1 would propose we amend that to say fire maintenance of equipment. This encompasses the repair to the 2 existing ambulances and the ladder truck which has been out of service for an extended period. It should not say vehicle, it should say fire maintenance of equipment.

**Motion by Mr. Beazley & second by Mrs. Davis to amend Ordinance No. 21-025 by changing fire vehicle to fire maintenance of equipment.**

Althaus: Is there any discussion on the amendment? (Roll call vote, 6 ayes; motion carried)

Ok, that's been amended and we would need a motion to suspend the rules and pass that in order to move forward on this.

**Motion by Mr. Beazley & second by Mr. Lawrence that the rules requiring legislation of a permanent or general nature to be read on three separate days, be suspended. Roll call vote, 6 ayes; motion carried.**

**Motion by Mr. McEntee & second by Mrs. Wren to approve Ordinance No. 21-025 as amended.**

Althaus: Is there any discussion? (Roll call vote, 6 ayes; motion carried) Is there anything you want to add to new business, anything else we need to discuss? Ok, we'll have plenty to do in 2 weeks.

#### **COMMENTS:**

Klinger: Just two quick things. So we have a Parks meeting this Wednesday here in Council Chambers at 7:30PM, if anybody would like to come. We will be discussing the vacancy for the campground manager...DeWayne has been with us the last 2 years and he is actually retiring fulltime now,

but he will be fulfilling his contract until the end of the year, but we are hiring for a new campground maintenance manager and that person will just be specifically for the campground not the France Lake part. So, if anybody knows anybody...we have it on our website under employment and if you have somebody you'd like to suggest for that, that would be awesome. We're just getting ahead of the game, but DeWayne is actually here until the end of the year. Also, be looking out for the same posting that we did last year for running the pool. We're just trying to do it ahead of time this year so we get it in before all the holidays and everything and get everything squared away. If you have anybody you'd like to recommend, that's super helpful...let Stephanie or myself know. Any questions? Alright, thank you.

Bart Steele: My name is Bart Steele & I've come before you numerous times in request for repairment of sidewalks or putting in sidewalks. I spoke with the Mayor and she has assured me that it is all underway and it will be taken care of, it's just a matter of time. For that I thank you all.

McEntee: Nothing other than regrets for Councilwoman Patti Risner & family.

Beazley: I have nothing further to add other than Patti will be missed.

Davis: Same.

Jones: I'd just like to extend my sympathies to Patti Risner's family. She loved Kenton and she loved the Lord so I guess she's shining down over us.

Schwemer: With regard to Patti, this is one of the things she absolutely loved. She felt bad that she wasn't able to be here for the last several months, but her heart was in it & she was still engaging and keeping aware of what's going on in the City. She will be missed, and she missed everyone sitting around this room, but she is in a better place. She has gone through a lot, so I feel very bad for that, but I'm happy for her. Just a reminder at the next meeting, we'll be doing this at the beginning, but we'll have that rezoning hearing at 7PM so we'll just open our Council meeting with that. I'll plan on having legislation at the request of Mr. Carmean because after the next meeting we'll have had 2 public hearings and he's requesting that we do take action. So, if you guys could review in your notes to see if there are any questions and drive by the property again so hopefully everyone is informed, we can move that along and I'll have the legislation in place to present to Council. That's all I have.

Mayor Webb: Just to update, this past week we've kind of went on an abatement letter spree. We do have some money left from not having to go full bore on the McKitrick Hospital, so one of the places...we'll be meeting tomorrow night with the Architectural Review Board about the archway over the alley, so that's one. I think that bid came in around \$15,500. We also sent some other residential ones that we're looking at so I'll keep everybody up to date on that. Also, we have applied...Safety Service Director Murray did bring up where we've applied for a sewer and water grant funding through the Dept. of Development. It's a \$5,000 max...I mean \$5,000,000 on water & \$5,000,000 on sewer so we maxed out both. We thought it would be advantageous for us to reach out to the Director of Development Lydia Mihalik, she's on Governor DeWine's cabinet and she's in Findlay so we reached out to her to come and look at our community & see what our project is...we're shovel ready and we're trying to basically put on a good explanation why we deserve a good chunk of money. So she will be here Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> and we really look forward to present to her so we're pretty excited that she's willing to come down and hear about what our future is. She's a person who makes a lot of that work so we're pretty excited about that. Also, Cindy & I went last Monday to ONU & we reached out to the engineering dept. It sounds like we're going to have a pretty good little mix for their capstone projects so they're pretty excited because their capstone projects are going to be about city revitalization and it just happened to work. So they're very excited about it and I think we might be able to form a neat partnership. It's a win win not only for the students to see what they're getting into, but also what we're getting into. It's kind of a neat thing & we're excited about that. That same Monday we went over to see Patti & she was in great spirits. She was very upbeat like Patti always is, but she knew what was ahead and she was tired but she was ready. We'll miss her. I think one of the things Patti was also passionate about...she was always passionate about our City, but she was also the prayer warrior for our first responders. She was consistently covering first responders and I believe her prayers were answered and that's why we're doing pretty good there and we're going to keep those prayers going. Also, we also did lose Wayne "Beano" Mendenhall in our community, and he has left a tremendous legacy. Everywhere you go you see Beano's work...what he did for the community, for the schools, parks...up at Murray Park the two pillars he put those in at no cost & he has plaque up there with his name on it, the back stops...everywhere in this town he has left his mark so I talked to the family today & I know that Mercedes & those will continue to press that on. Tomorrow is the funeral and I've asked the Public Works Dept. and Police to make sure we give him a nice procession that is well deserved. Darn it, he was a good one. That's all I have.

Althaus: Thanks, Lynn. I just offer that the couple of times I went over to see Patti as John described and Lynn did as well, she was...it was very important to her to finish her term. She always was

attempting to figure out ways that she could be involved to the point of wanting me to sit down with John and find out if there was any way the legislation was going to change back to our COVID mentality of being able to call in because she would've. In fact, if you recall, the first meeting after July 1<sup>st</sup> she actually called in even though she couldn't vote just so she could keep abreast of what was going on. I know that we all will miss her so much and she had such a huge impact on this community. I think Patti came on to Council I believe when Randy (Manns) came on as Mayor...I believe it was that same term or right in there, so she's served a good number of years...this would be her 10<sup>th</sup> if I'm counting correctly. Patti was never afraid to voice her opinion and always her opinion was researched, and she understood what she was talking about. She was very passionate about her community, her work, her family. Our prayers are with her family tonight. Wayne...that's a terrible loss to our community. We've had so many people taken by COVID...he was a young man, well I thought he was a young man anyway because he's just a couple of years behind me...he's got a strong family though and Mercedes wants to keep right on plugging away. Our thoughts go to their family too. We will move forward as expeditiously as possible and if any Councilmembers want to understand how the process of Patti's passing affects us from here, I can talk about that after Council. I haven't talked to the Board, but I'm certain the Board of Elections will be putting a note on the voting machines tomorrow for early voting and I'm certain in November that's what they'll do on the machines because she will still be on the machines. We will ask the Central Committee of the Republican Party to move forward...I'm going to be honest, the reality of them doing so in 10 weeks and actually having someone here I don't know, we'll see. But she was elected as a republican so that's how we'll proceed. Our next meeting is Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> but I'd ask if there is a Councilmember that would like to, at least in the short run, fill in Patti's place on Parks & Rec?

Jones: I will.

Althaus: Okay, Robin. Just remember the Council person is a representative to that committee, not a voting member, but you can hear what was said. Taylor said her next meeting was this Wednesday in here...did you say 4:30?

Klinger: 7:30PM. I emailed you right?

Jones: I haven't checked but I'll come.

Althaus: Okay, so we'll meet here Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> at 7PM, Finance will meet at 6PM, and we'll have that hearing right at 7PM. If there is nothing else to come before us for the good of the order, we're adjourned.

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Joel Althaus, President of Council

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Brenda Hanna, Clerk