

Held

NOVEMBER 8, 2021

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**21<sup>ST</sup> REGULAR SESSION:**

Kenton City Council met in their 21<sup>st</sup> regular session on November 8, 2021, at 7PM in Council Chambers. Present: President Joel Althaus, John McEntee, David Beazley, Antwillia Davis, Ray Lawrence, Pegg Wren, Jacqualine Fitzgerald, Robin Jones, Law Director John Schwemer, Mayor Lynn Webb, and Safety Service Director Cindy Murray.

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

**MINUTES:**

Althaus: As you reviewed the minutes that were in your packets, are there any additions or corrections to either set of minutes? There should've been 2 sets...a special session on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> & a regular meeting on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>. Hearing none, they'll stand approved as submitted. Before we move forward, we do have a guest tonight that I'd like to come up & introduce herself. She won't be a guest for long...

Anda Tudor: I'm Anda Tudor and I've been living in Kenton forever. I'm the wife of John Tudor, an attorney, and also the mother of Andrew Tudor, also an attorney. I'm a retired teacher, basically, but I don't like the word retire so I volunteer at the officer every day, at the Elks and I do a lot of baking there too, and I'm an artist at heart so I do a lot of Artwork. That's about it.

Althaus: And you just got elected...

Tudor: I'm elected for Council At Large.

Althaus: So, we're waiting on the results or the certification of the ballot, but Anda wanted to be here tonight so welcome, and we look forward to seeing you.

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TIME TO SPEAK:**

Althaus: On our agenda this evening, we have Mr. George Wyndham to give us the update on the Lake of Lights. George, I enjoy this every year except I cannot believe it's already time.

George Wyndham: Neither can we. Ha. For those of you that don't know me, I'm George Wyndham and I've got Gary Whitmer here also and he's one of our committee members. The elves have been at work already...we spent last weekend putting things up. If you've driven out at the park you've probably seen a few displays suddenly popping up. We are doing a few things different this year, so I hope everybody will bear with us. We're going to be open until Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> for one thing, we've always closed right after Christmas and the committee thought maybe we should extend it a week to see what happens because family comes home for Christmas and that sort of thing. So, we're giving it a try. We also have the Romick Train is going to be out there one evening and we have the wagon ride back again this year. We couldn't do that last year because of the COVID, so we're hoping everybody will get out & enjoy that this year. We will have our live nativities and our character nights again, so check on Facebook or whatever it's called now, like us on Facebook and all the updates are on there as far as what's going on and when it's happening. And as always, we are looking for volunteers, both to join the committee and to help out putting the thing together and running it and taking it down again. We're working every Saturday & Sunday between now & Thanksgiving and then when we close it all up it takes another few days to tear it all down & pack it away, so volunteer help is always welcome. We do want to thank the City for letting us put this event on. It's kind of a labor of love for us and we hope that it brings a lot of people into the area. Our goal is to make the Lake of Lights & Hardin County area a destination during the holiday season so we like to promote everything we can...I know we send people downtown to look at the windows when they're out at the lake and any other activities going on we try to encourage people to attend those as well. Any questions?

Beazley: Are you still partnering with some of the other fundraising agencies that help you with the gates and things like that?

Wyndham: Yes.

Beazley: That's wonderful...

Wyndham: Last year we had 4000 cars go through and we gave about \$13,000 back to the groups that helped us put it together. We take the funds that get donated to us and multiply them out so everybody can share it.

Jones: So this year you're selling gift certificates too, so that will be a good thing.

Wyndham: I'm glad you mentioned that. We do have gift cards and they're the same price as the gate admission (\$5.00) but if you're a business looking to give something to your customers, or you just want to give somebody a ride through the park, we have gift certificates available that you can give them.

McEntee: And they are available through??

Wyndham: Through Lake of Lights...we have a Facebook page & you can contact us by email also at [lakeoflights08@gmail.com](mailto:lakeoflights08@gmail.com).

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Althaus: How many years is this?

Wyndham: For me it's my 13<sup>th</sup>. I think it was operating about 5 years before we started, and we started in 2008.

Althaus: George, it's something that has definitely improved every single year, every year it's better.

Wyndham: We have some new displays again for this year, so we try to make it a little better every time. I'm glad you enjoy it.

Beazley: My grandson can't wait.

Wyndham: Good, bring him through several times.

Althaus: You might have said, but when will opening be?

Wyndham: We open the Friday after Thanksgiving and we're open every day 6-9PM, weather permitting. We have closed when roads were icy or when we got struck by lightning, but generally we're open. You can check Facebook because that's where the updates will be found the fastest...if we do have something happen where we're not going to be open, we do put that on Facebook immediately.

Althaus: Okay, well we can't thank you enough.

Wyndham: Well, thank you for letting us continue with it and we hope to see you all out there.

Althaus: Alright, if there are other citizens in attendance who didn't make the agenda, there will be time during the comment section toward the end of the meeting where you can address Council.

#### DEPARTMENTAL NEWS/UPDATES:

Auditor Brian Hattery: I have nothing at this time.

Chief Bruce Donnelly: Nothing.

#### COMMUNICATIONS/PETITIONS:

Althaus: We do have some new business that kind of falls in this category when we get to that. I have no communications, does any Councilmember or the Administration have any to share? We have no petitions in front of us right now, so we'll move on...well, I guess this is more of a communication...you saw the Dominion communication in your packet and that's just a requirement that they need to notify us. You also have the Kenton Hardin Health Dept. minutes from Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> (5 pgs.) so if you have any questions on that please talk to the Health Dept. And we have the Leaf Pick Up Schedule.

#### MONTHLY/ANNUAL REPORTS:

Althaus: We have the Income Tax report. Questions about that? We have the KPD report for October and the KFD report for October. Chief is here for fire if there are any questions.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Althaus: Finance had a written report from 2 weeks ago. I know Finance met earlier tonight.

Finance, Beazley: That is correct, and I am pleased to say with the great cooperation of our Administration, Dept. Heads, Auditor's Office that you will see a balanced or even better than balanced general fund budget in front of you next meeting for first read. Excellent work by all of those who worked behind the scenes to make that come to fruition.

Althaus: Questions for Finance?

MOP, Wren: MOP has not met, but we're looking at having a meeting on Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 3PM if that works for everyone.

Safety, Nuisance, Cemetery, Davis: Safety met and we need to schedule another meeting this week. The annual meeting of the Cemetery Assoc. is the 22<sup>nd</sup> at our next City Council meeting between us and the Township Trustees at 6:30PM. You should get that soon, right Brenda?

Clerk: Yes.

Davis: Okay. Then at the Cemetery the back road in the newer section has been finished so there is plenty of accessibility out that direction.

Althaus: Thank you for reminding us about the joint meeting.

Regional Planning, Beazley: Regional Planning did meet & there were several pieces of information going forward for some projects which will be in front of us for both the City and the County.

BKP, Althaus: BKP did meet in a special meeting on Friday to go over some personnel issues. Their regular meeting will be in one week. So, if there are no other committee reports, we'll move onto old business.

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**OLD BUSINESS:**

Althaus: We have nothing on the agenda, but I want to check to see if anyone has anything to bring up.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 21-029, 1<sup>ST</sup> READING, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE VACATING THE ALLEY LYING BETWEEN INLOTS NUMBER 11, 12, AND 13 OF ADAM SCHNEIDER'S SUB-DIVISION AND INLOTS NUMBER 87, 88, AND 89 OF LETSON'S THIRD ADDITION TO THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO.**

Althaus: That has been to Safety & they've signed off and the Administration has no issues with it, nor the Police or Fire. I don't know of an emergency that I've been made aware of.

Schwemer: No, I'm not aware of any. Again, this was what we just changed the zoning on.

Althaus: So we can read this again in 2 weeks.

**ORDINANCE NO. 21-030, 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: I will say this is something we'd like Council to consider this evening. David, did you want to give an overview on this?

Beazley: I'd be happy to. This relates to the availability of a 2017 unit picking it up from BKP. The new equipment itself would include the purchase price of the ambulance & the outfitting with basic life support. We have 2 advanced life support bags that would complete the units down there so 2 of the 3 units, the primary 2 units, we'll continue to use and will continue to rotate 1, 2 & 3 to keep mileage as low as we can and service on all of these. So we'd have 2 units with complete ALS and this new unit would allow us to update our fleet quite frankly and not experience some of the issues we had when we had dual maintenance failures in one given week. Radio speaks for itself, and incidentals would be those supplies that we'd replenish & fill up the unit so it would be at full optimum capacity. So, it is the recommendation of Finance that we move forward with this tonight.

**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, 7 ayes; motion carried.**

**Motion by Mr. McEntee & second by Mrs. Wren to approve Ordinance No. 21-030.**

Althaus: Is there any discussion? (Roll call vote, 7 ayes; motion carried)

**ORDINANCE 21-031, 1<sup>ST</sup> READING, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND FOR TRANSFERRING FUNDS FOR THE YEAR 2021 FOR THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Althaus: This is for several year-end things & a couple that do require some urgency, as in now.

Beazley: I'll go ahead & take this too. If you'll notice a preponderance of the expenditures here are under hospitalization. With all of the changes & the illness & diminished capacity of our Auditor's Office over the course of this year, some of these things got set back until the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter that we might have come across earlier and we're now recognizing a little over \$66,000 of health insurance that was not allocated. This is for our number one resource, our employ group, so we need to make sure these are being paid and it's my understanding we're going to need these dollars for the December payment or before our next scheduled meeting. The balance of these deal with the change of Law Director & severance there and the Medicare that goes along with that, in Municipal Court they are simply catch up items, Grove Cemetery is an adjustment item...you'll see waterworks & sewer system Deputy Auditor when we allocated that it all went into the general fund and now we're actually going to have that money being allocated out of the proper enterprise funds for the allocation of that salary. That takes care of the preponderance of the additional appropriations. You can see the items on the back are transfers within the funds, again hospital & gasoline being the top items there. So, I would move the suspension of the 3-read rule because of the urgency of the hospital health insurance.

**Motion by Mr. Beazley & second by Mrs. Davis that the rules requiring legislation of a permanent or general nature to be read on three separate days, be suspended. Roll call vote, 7 ayes; motion carried.**

**Motion by Mrs. Wren & second by Ms. Jones to approve Ordinance No. 21-031.**

Althaus: Is there any discussion? (Roll call vote, 7 ayes; motion carried) Is there any further new business to be presented this evening?

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**COMMENTS:**

Murray: I just want to reiterate that leaf pickup will begin on Monday in the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward, the following week on Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> it will move to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> it will be in the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward, and Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> it will be in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward. It's the same schedule we've had every year. With our new piece of equipment that we got this year, hopefully it will go quicker and we can swing back around & hit wards a couple of times or maybe 3 times. But the beginning of leaf pickup will be on Monday. The other thing I want to talk about is we've had some issues with hunting and I just want to reiterate that you cannot discharge a firearm within the City limits. We are asking that there is no hunting done on any City property, even with bow & arrow. Now, that being said, in the past there has been hunting at the Quarry. We are looking at that, but at this time with Lake of Lights out there, we want no hunting at the Quarry. We'll address this after Christmas again if we need to do something to address the geese. Any questions for me?

Chief Donnelly: I'd just like to thank Council for moving forward on this legislation. I'm sure the guys will appreciate it.

Beazley: I would like to make note of a great event that occurred over this past weekend. The High School Music Dept. put on a theatrical production, Little Mermaid, and I will tell you if you didn't go you missed a real gem of a performance. They did an outstanding job and I want to offer my public congratulations for what they put out there. There were a lot of people all ages, young & old, that were able to enjoy it. It was a terrific event. Congratulations and kudos.

Lawrence: I just want to apologize for my absence at the last meeting. An unforeseen issue had to be taken care of surgically, but all is well.

Wren: I just want to congratulate everyone that was elected or re-elected to City Council. And I know we say this every year but maybe we need to reiterate it...I've seen a lot of people this week raking their leaves into the street & into the gutters. I know they do it every year, but please, please, please don't put your leaves in the street.

Davis: We usually leave that for John to bring up. Ha (teasing ensued).

Jones: I had a lot of positive comments during Trick or Treat...they appreciated it was during daylight so the kids could see & they could see. They wished it wasn't raining but I said well, you never know, it could be snowing. One lady said she always had to work during the week and was never able to take her kids...this was the first year and she was so excited. I thought that was good.

Mayor Lynn Webb: Okay, so first let's get the upcoming activities for Veteran's Day, I know there are several. The Kenton FFA is having a breakfast & they do ask for you to RSVP. That breakfast is 7-8AM in the AG room/shop. Also, Our Place Family Dining is doing a dinner, but first they'll have a meeting out at Frances Lake at the Veterans Circle...we're going to have a big fire out there & a ceremony & then come back and all active-duty Veterans will have a free meal and they'll have a band there. It sounds like a pretty good Thursday for our Veterans...well deserved. Also, let's see, school levy...huge, huge. It speaks a lot, it's not just the school it's the community. Cindy, what are you doing, what does that mean?

Murray: Kickball.

Mayor: Oh, right there's kickball...

Murray: Finish with the school.

Mayor: So, the school levy was huge, and it was decisive. It was a decisive yes vote so I hope people realize what that entails with this big yes vote on the first time. It is huge. Compare that to what the City is trying to do with the infrastructure. I think that evening we were talking about how big an event for the next 7 years, at least \$100 million investment in the City which is monumental. We have a lot of work to do on our end city-wide, especially with expense of infrastructure. At our last meeting Jon Cross was here and talked about having Director Mihalik here. It was a great meeting with her. As long as we're getting on their radar, they're now seeing what we're trying to do with a very good working Council, we have people that are diligent that this seed money can go a long way, we're good caretakers of the money, and we have some good strategic plans, so it was a very, very positive meeting. We'll wait and see on that. We've spoke to ODOT again on the final push on what that route looks like & they gave us \$10,000 more, so that's \$35,000 towards a safety study so we'll see where that goes. Also, we have a meeting this week with OEPA and we're going to get our story in and push to get more for principal forgiveness. Please know that we are chasing every bit of money that we most possibly can. We understand how big it is & how expensive it is & how needed it is. In the next 7 years there is a lot of money and a lot of dirt that is going to be moving, so it's going to require a lot of patience from everyone. It is a huge time for our City and what a great investment. Also, kickball which Cindy will speak on because I really couldn't tell you.

Beazley: I know, do you want me to fill you in? This Saturday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> at 10AM at the Athletic Bldg. there is a community kickball festival, which they're asking folks to come out & enjoy & have a good time. They will be accepting donations...this is being put on by the Dudek Family, the face of United Way

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campaign this year in Hardin County. This is to highlight the benefits of the agencies and to hopefully raise a few additional dollars and just get together and have a good fun time. It's for a good cause and it should be a lot of fun. I'd asked to be the celebrity umpire, but I've not yet been given the green light on that.

Mayor: I was hoping you were going to be the cleanup kicker.

Beazley: I think the Fire Dept. would be in bad trouble if they were out there. I'd rule against them a lot. Ha.

Mayor: We'll make that known to them. That's all I have.

Tudor: I'd just like to add for Veteran's Day that the Elks is having a breakfast, free for all Veterans and anybody else can come for \$5.00.

Beazley: That's Saturday morning.

Davis: Yes, the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Beazley: You can go straight from breakfast to kickball.

Althaus: You stole that right out of my mouth, Anda. I was just going to mention that. I'd like to also echo that I thought Trick or Treat went very well. Last year it got moved around a little bit because of COVID & weather & several things...I think last year it was on a Saturday also & it worked out...we all like traditional nighttime scary, I get that, but in this day & age and as small as some of these kids are that trick or treat...you get to enjoy the costumes an awful lot more because you can see them & it is a lot safer. When I went by the amount of vehicles up here at Newland-Heydinger's, it was hard not to stop and find a costume quick because there a lot of people passing out candy. I appreciate that and I think it went well.

Jones: The Fire Dept. was out, the BKP, & the KPD were all out passing out candy and I thought that was great too.

Althaus: I'd also like to reiterate again about the school. We're the City of Kenton and we are going to celebrate with Kenton City Schools. Folks, we're one & the same...we live & die, we survive & we fail with one another and that was a well put together effort, a very organized levy endeavor and it's going to be some exciting times in the next 5-6 years with that. I will say this, this Administration if you could ever get in here behind the scenes...if you ever want to I'm certain they'd show you, but they are doing something every single day multiple times a day to work on attracting more industry, business, and more people to Kenton. Not once in a while, not here & there each week, every single day. We are fortunate that we have that kind of focus and they're trying to make that focus even a lot more detailed. With that, I'd remind everyone our next meeting is Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> & we'll have a budget in front of us. I'm guessing Finance is not meeting at 6PM?

Beazley: We are not. We want to be here a little early so we can celebrate with Antwill and her Grove Cemetery Committee.

Althaus: The Grove Cemetery meeting is at what time?

Davis: 6:30PM.

Althaus: Everybody be here for that and again, you've heard me say this before, but we have 3 meetings left this year and we want to read that budget 3 times & I want everybody here to do that. Take your vitamins or whatever you've got to do, say your prayers, and we'll see you in 2 weeks at 6:30PM for the Grove Cemetery, Township Trustees & City Council joint meeting. Until then we're adjourned.

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Joel Althaus, President of Council

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Brenda Hanna, Clerk