

3RD REGULAR SESSION:

(Note: The Oath of Office was given to Sue Fox Buroker, 1st Ward Councilmember, prior to the meeting)

Kenton City Council met in their 3rd Regular Session on February 14, 2022, at 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers. Present: President Joel Althaus, Sue Fox Buroker, David Beazley, Antwillia Davis, Ray Lawrence, Pegg Wren, Anda Tudor, Robin Jones, Law Director John Schwemer, Mayor Lynn Webb, and Safety Service Director Cindy Murray.

Prayer given by President Althaus and the Pledge of Allegiance recited.

MINUTES:

Althaus: Hopefully everybody has had a bit of time to review the minutes that were in your packets and got distributed at the end of last week. Are there any corrections or additions to those minutes as printed from January 24th? Hearing none, we'll mark them down to be approved as submitted.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TIME TO SPEAK:

Althaus: As you can see, we have no citizens requesting time to speak tonight. Anyone in attendance who would like to address Council and did not make the agenda, there will be time at the end of the meeting under comments.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Althaus: I would call your attention to the minutes from the Kenton Hardin Health Department minutes from December 14, 2021. Does anyone have any questions regarding those? And then the other set of minutes from the Tree Commission meeting on January 13th. Sue, I will get with you on this...that is one of your assignments is that you are on the Tree Commission, so we'll get you up to speed there. Any questions on those minutes?

PETITIONS:

Althaus: We have none, or I'm not aware of any.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Althaus: The Police Chief does have a report. Chief is there anything you want to talk about in addition?

Police Chief Musser: I'm sorry, I missed that...

Althaus: I know I can be boring, but was there anything else you wanted to talk about in addition to your report?

Chief Musser: I can do it now or later...

Althaus: It's up to you.

Chief Musser: I wanted to point out that Lt. Lutes has been working hard to get these...we've had a ton of vehicles that we've been towing and essentially doing a B&B Affidavit or forfeiture and seizing junk vehicles. A lot of them are left on the side of the roads and so on & so forth. Those are probably going to go up as the weather clears so I'd encourage people...we try to have a friendly conversation first, but we've had so many in the last couple of weeks we were running out of room. So, we've been able to move a lot of those out of there, but I think it's fair for the public to know it's coming if we haven't knocked on your door already. If you have a car that's been sitting out there that hasn't had a tag on it since last year, or hasn't moved, or is incapacitated, it's probably in their best interest to get it off the roadway. So that was one thing I had. The 2nd thing I had I was under the impression there was a Finance meeting tonight, but I got your email, so I appreciate that but, we need to have a conversation about our cruiser situation. It's getting to be again a safety issue for me, so I'd like to have that at the next Finance meeting if we could. The financials of it, where we're at, & how we're going to fix it like within the next month. I don't want to have another "we'll talk about it later on" conversation, I'm going to be honest with you. So, I want to prep you guys for that, and we can have that discussion.

Althaus: Is there a need or any possibility of meeting before then?

Beazley: Well, I think Chief was putting together some numbers and was going to have those into our hands prior to that meeting was my understanding. That was the last information I was given.

Althaus: Well, there have been some developments since then as you know...

Beazley: No, this was as of Friday after the vehicle went down on Thursday.

Chief Musser: Yes, the developments are essentially nothing new. We had money in our budget for 2022 for cruisers and that money has since disappeared. I'm going to need an explanation for that from somebody, number one, and number two we're going to have to put it back. That's what it's really

going to come down to. We have a build date for 1 car of April 4th, which will put the car in our possession hopefully sometime in March (May), but like I've been saying and all of you are aware there is a supply chain issue in this country and I'm not leaving anything to the chance that we'll get it when we hope we'll get it because we may not. So the sooner that we get build dates for cars and the sooner we get them the better. Is that helpful, Dave?

Beazley: That was helpful to me, but my understanding from the Safety Service Director was that you were working with the Deputy Auditor to have numbers.

Chief Musser: Yes, again that's a discussion we have to have...we've had these discussions before that this is how much money we have, well not exactly, well it kind of is, well it isn't but it's projected. I'm willing to have that discussion, but the cost of the cars hasn't changed and the fact that we need them hasn't changed.

Beazley: What happened to the one that was gifted?

Chief Musser: That's the one that has the build date for April.

Murray: We need to look at other alternatives because if that build date keeps getting pushed out...we'll have this discussion, but we need to look at other alternatives if there are any. If we go to buy a new one and we can't get it for a year, it's not going to do you a lot of good.

Chief Musser: Yeah, I'm hoping that is not the case. If you guys want to have that meeting before that I'm perfectly fine with that.

Althausser: The other suggestion I had would be several years ago Brian really worked with us to work on a 5-year plan and those 5-year plans are out there somewhere. I believe the police departments had some discussion about cruisers in it.

Beazley: That has modified over so much time because at that point in time we were buying used vehicles.

Althausser: That's fine...

Beazley: And they were having to be turned over twice as often.

Althausser: I'd encourage you to get the most recent adoration of that plan out because I'll be straight up, one of the things I've encouraged Chief several times is let's figure out how many cruisers we need and get them on a rotation. I think he's done a little bit of that in the 5-year plan so that's kind of on us if we haven't followed that.

Chief Musser: If you make a 5-year plan in 2016, and then in 2017 I'm asked for another 5-year plan, and then in 2018 you ask me again for another 5-year plan...we should be down to the 2-year plan now that I wrote 3 years ago. I'm not trying to be difficult, but you buy things, they get old, you replace them. It's not rocket science. I feel like the onus has been placed back on me and pushed back time & time again with we need to know exactly what it is you need Chief. Well, we need new cars because we're driving 250,000 miles and they stop working. When you buy a car, it gets to 100,000 miles you need to start rotating that car out and bringing a new car in.

Beazley: I presume the one that was in the accident on Thursday was totaled?

Chief Musser: I don't think so. They're very optimistic about it.

Beazley: So what's our turnaround time on that? Do we have any idea?

Chief Musser: I don't. The assessor will be here tomorrow....

Beazley: So that's put us in an immediate pinch. We have one down because of an accident.

Chief Musser: We have the car down for the accident, we have car 3 that went down with a water pump, & we have car 8 that went down because it is simply old and we keep doing this, right? We bought 2 cars on a lease in 2019 and those cars are paid off and we have not filtered out the older cars and put a new one in replace of those cars, if that makes sense.

Althausser: I know we're getting into the weeds of what you'll discuss, and I don't want to get into the other vehicles like some of the SUV's, but cruisers are our patrolmen's main patrol vehicle. How many ideally working ones would you want? 5?

Chief Musser: Yes, 6 to be exact.

Althausser: That would be the ideal?

Chief Musser: Yes.

Althausser: At this very moment in time we have 2?

Chief Musser: 2.

Murray: That doesn't include those for the School Resource Officers, does it?

Chief Musser: No, we have 2 cars for the SRO's, but 1 is a SUV and 1 is a Taurus. I'd rather not have those out on patrol because they're older cars. For the SRO it's no problem because it goes to the school and gets parked, and they go out & do truancy checks in them. That's perfectly fine but our cars on the road anything can happen.

Beazley: If you ordered a vehicle tonight, when would it be built based on the current information you have?

Chief Musser: I'd say May, somewhere around there...I'd hope for a build date of May.

Althausen: Anything else for the Chief? Chief, anything you want to add?

Chief Musser: No, like I say I didn't want to drag this out tonight, but I'd be happy to meet before next meeting. If you guys want to, just let me know.

Beazley: When you have the numbers & the information with the Deputy Auditor let us know.

Chief Musser: Okay. Thank you.

Althausen: Thanks, Chief. The Fire Chief, Bruce, could not be here tonight & he doesn't have a report. So we'll move on to Parks & Rec. You do see the report for their meeting from January 27th and Robin was there, so Robin do you want to highlight that?

Parks & Rec - Jones: Well, we had a meeting also last Wednesday on Feb. 9th and we had all the board members present and they voted on a lot of things...we voted to keep all the campground fees the same as last year so the 2022 fees for Saulisberry Park will be the same as 2021. They also voted on swimming pool fees & passes & those were all approved by the board. Swimming pool hours will change a little bit...was that concrete or set in stone? (Yes) So the swimming pool hours will be 1-6PM this year because after 5PM it's basically dead out there. Now they talked about having more special events, parties, maybe like a teen night, or an over 65 senior night, but something to like spur interest to make up for after 5PM because you have a full staff...so we talked about that & it was voted on. They also recommended the hiring of the new Saulisberry Park managers, but I don't know if that's been released to the public yet. But they approved somebody to hire in that position and they were highly recommended, and I think they'll be great candidates so maybe we'll have more information at the next Parks & Rec meeting. I think we have a really good Parks & Rec Board & they have a vision for the Quarry. They want to get some docks put in...before they wanted to build wood docks & now they're thinking about doing vinyl sided docks because they can move on those quicker. They're even talking about getting a dock for kayaking out there and they addressed the nuisance Canadian Geese problem out there. They're actively seeking nuisance permits to take care of that on a couple of different levels. It was a 2-hour meeting & it was a good meeting, and I think they have a really strong board & you'll see a lot of good things come from that this year.

Althausen: Any questions for Robin?

Althausen: Income Tax has a report & Emma is here if you have any questions on that.

Beazley: I'd ask if we'd be able to identify any reason that we're running that far ahead after the first month?

Income Tax Administrator Emma Boutwell: I'm sure a little bit probably has to do with when we forwarded our mail from 555 W. Franklin back to 111 W. Franklin, they were just forwarding it but that forwarding has run out. So we have some payers that are coming in a little bit later. That might be some of it, but not the majority of it.

Althausen: You see the report from the Treasurer & Auditor to the Mayor. Are there any questions? (static...can't hear)

Beazley: (static...can't hear)...we have over 2 million in a money market account...is that a better rate than Star Ohio?

Auditor Brian Hattery: Star Ohio was a better rate, but in the last year it kind of flipped...that's something we can look at with the Treasurer on, but I couldn't tell you exactly right now.

Althausen: If we have questions like that for a few of these, I have no problems asking Terri to try to make a meeting if you guys have questions for her. Any other questions on that? John, anything you need to update us on right now?

Law Director Schwemer: No.

Althausen: Cindy, anything?

Safety Service Director Murray: I just want to remind the citizens that the water rates will increase in March and will show up on the May bill. We might as well start getting it out there now so it's not a big shock to everybody. The Street guys did a great job this last snowstorm getting the streets cleared. I'm sure the Mayor is going to touch on that a little bit...we had 77 hours of overtime plowing those 2 days and an additional 43, well 44 hours were turned in as comp time. The guys worked 16 hours on Thursday and 12 hours on Friday and they did a great job. Dave Stuck is retiring & his last day will be February 28th after over 12 ½ years with the City. He works at the WTP and we have not yet posted a job down there...we're looking at maybe redoing some of how their hours or how their staffing is working down there. The last thing I have is we're getting a lot of calls from people getting telephone calls about the electrical aggregation. The City will not call you and if they call you it's on their own. Again, we are

currently with IGS and it should say that you're paying just over 4 cents per kilowatt hour. Then on the June bill we'll be going to Energy Harbor and that's at .5610 cents per kilowatt hour. Those are both great rates and you can opt in or opt out at any time if you think you can get something better. I will try to keep people abreast that if it looks like there is something else out there better I will give you a head's up that it's out there. The bids for the Espy Street Water Main replacement go out February 24th and are due back in on March 10th. We've sent out Requests for Qualifications (RLF's) for the N. Detroit Street project for 2025 and they're due back in February 25th. Any questions?

Mayor Lynn Webb: I just want to, like Cindy said, touch about the plowing & snow removal. It's a great collaborative effort because early on with our preparation ahead of time...a shout out to Chief and the PD because they did a lot of going up to people & saying hey this is sitting here and we're getting this storm so you might move it. It's all about preparation. I know it's easy to say hey I'm plowed in, but we're probably still going to have to face snow so we need to think of how can we prepare. It's not all the time you're going to be able to park...if you're a person who has to park on the street you may not be able to park right in front of your house so I would be creative. I looked into some other communities and they utilize some public parking spaces and find a way so once that area gets plowed then they can go park there. It's just certain things like that, and I'll try to get some stuff out on Facebook with suggestions on how that goes. But each time everybody does better & I know the guys driving thought there was a pretty nice significant response to trying to get to odd or even. I think what throws everybody off is on a one way street, especially if it's narrow. North Street is pretty wide so it's easy to jump back & forth, but streets like Summit Street you don't have room in-between. So if everybody's not jumping it doesn't work. It's communication & collaboration, but for the most part we did an excellent job. I think what people didn't know was right smack in the middle when it was blowing & snowing hard, we had a water leak on W. Carey Street. So we pulled 4 plows off & they used the new SaniVac to dig that water leak as the snow was coming down like crazy & they still kept up. We didn't do a water shutoff, they did it under pressure, so again it's what people don't see. That was a phenomenal piece of work. They also had a leak last week up by Garfield Avenue & they used the SaniVac and didn't have to call OUPS to locate gas lines because of it. The guys will be up here at the next meeting to give a presentation about the SaniVac...they're pretty excited about it. (can't hear....static)...Joe Sherman & the street crew had the downtown cleared within a week right after, which was huge, and that wasn't just the square, it was one block off. That helps our community with people getting in & out of parking spaces & not having to climb up over the drifts. We're also working with, well I reached out to the school because when the bussing route came in where they pick kids up for school, we never had that conversation with the community & the City with what this looks like...we really have some issues where bus stops are because if we can't push that snow back, we have kids standing out in the middle of the street. With a significant snowfall we have some issues...I know people say hey we need snow pushed back from intersections and I just caution, once again sometimes what you think is just the obvious...a lot of times on these intersections you have small stop signs, or you have fire hydrants, so once that snow gets packed up in there you don't know how far to push. So then that becomes an issue too. We have some young kids out there plowing and they did an excellent job for never plowing before. Sometimes we error on the side of caution and not push it back so we don't create a bigger problem. But hopefully we can sit down with the schools and try to figure out what would be the safest way to keep these kids safe at the bus stops with the amount of snow. Other than that, great effort, great preparation...so until the next time...

Althaus: Any questions for the Mayor?

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND/OR SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Finance, Beazley: If you'll look on the back of your agenda, we do have a Finance Committee meeting scheduled for Feb. 24th at 6PM prior to Council. Any, and all are welcome, and Finance is expected to be here.

Althaus: The only other committee that I'm aware of that has met was MOP...I meant Legislation.

Legislation, Davis: Correct. Legislation met and we started to go over some things dealing with commercial nuisances. Our next meeting is at 5:30PM on March 3rd. Again, if you would like to attend, please do.

Althaus: As far as MOP, Streets & Alley, I don't believe any of them have met yet. I think I heard Cindy was trying to get the Utilities group together at some point here.

MOP, Wren: MOP will probably have a meeting sometime the first of March to see where we need to go.

Althaus: Okay. Anything I missed?

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Althausen: Anything from Regional Planning?

Regional Planning – Beazley: Regional Planning did not meet in February, Sir.

Althausen: Parks & Rec Board...Robin has already handled that unless you want to add anything.

Parks & Rec Board – Jones: It was a 2-hour meeting, and it was a really good meeting. They went over a lot of really good things and everything they voted on was pretty unanimous.

Althausen: Cemetery Board?

Grove Cemetery Board – Davis: We met last week and we're looking at getting the new road chipped and sprayed and we're going to be spraying the Cemetery's roads again with that new spray the County does with the County budget. And then we had some equipment repair. We also wanted to thank everybody for understanding that during a Level 3 the Cemetery was not open and even on a Level 2 there is a possibility they could close (can't hear...static).

BKP – Althausen: BKP will meet one week from tonight (can't hear...static).

OLD BUSINESS:

Althausen: Is there anything that we should be discussing?

NEW BUSINESS:

Althausen: Does anyone have any new business outside of Ordinances or Resolutions?

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

Althausen: You will see we have no 3rd readings & no 2nd readings, but we have one 1st reading.

1ST READING:

ORDINANCE NO. 22-002, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2022 FOR THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Althausen: If you remember Pam talked about this a little bit and I also think it was in an email. David, would you like to address this?

Beazley: I'd be happy to share. The Civil Service Commission met more frequently than normal, and we neglected to pay them, so we need to make sure we get them paid. In addition, the Tree Commission number is a donation, so we need to appropriate the donation amount. That actually came from the Kenton Rotary Club, if you read that in your notes. Because of the urgent nature of getting these fine people paid for the work they've already done, I would move to suspend the 3 read rule...

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. Beazley & second by Mrs. Wren to approve Ordinance No. 22-002.

Althausen: Is there any discussion? **(Roll call vote, 7 ayes; motion carried)** Is there anything we missed?

SCHEDULING OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Althausen: You see that Finance is on there as was already mentioned, Legislation will meet on March 3rd at 5:30PM here in Chambers, and MOP will meet soon. (Static....)

OTHER MATTERS:

None.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None.

COMMENTS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA:

None.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATION:

Althausen: Welcome Sue! Is there anything you want to say?

Fox Buroker: I'm just glad to be here. Thank you.

Davis: I'd like to thank everybody for excusing me on the 24th.

Lawrence: I've attended the last 2 meetings of the Parks & Rec Board and I'd encourage you to attend. This Park & Rec group really work well together, even if they don't always agree...(can't hear...static)

Althaus: Anda raised the bar tonight by bringing in treats. Thank you.

Jones: I'll get with Cindy on that training, I read her email, and then I'll get with Antwilla and then we'll get a meeting set up. And Sue also.

Althaus: I thought I emailed that, but I'll email it again to make certain you've got it, but the 2 committees Sue will be on would be Utilities and MOP.

Mayor: And the Tree Commission.

Althaus: Right. Any last comments? Okay, just a reminder our next meeting is in 2 weeks at 7PM on the 28th and we're very happy to have you here, Sue. Welcome. I'd also add I'm duly impressed with our crews during last week's snow and maybe that was Mother Nature's big snow event for the year. Alright, if there are no objections, we're adjourned.

Joel Althaus
President of Council

Brenda Hanna
Clerk