

3RD REGULAR SESSION:

Kenton City Council met in their 3rd regular session on February 8, 2021 at 7PM in Council Chambers. Present: President Joel Althausser, John McEntee (Zoom), David Beazley, Antwillia Davis, Ray Lawrence, Pegg Wren, Patti Risner (Zoom), Robin Jones (Zoom), Law Director John Schwemer, Mayor Lynn Webb, & Safety Service Director Cindy Murray (Zoom).

Prayer given by Mrs. Risner & the Pledge of Allegiance recited.

MINUTES:

Althausser: Okay, in your packets we have the minutes from the previous meeting. Are there any additions or corrections to those minutes? Hearing none online or in chambers, they'll stand approved as submitted.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TIME TO SPEAK:

Althausser: We do have a couple of speakers tonight. One on your agenda you'll see & we'll turn it over to her in just a second. I'll also let you all know we have Rep. Jon Cross here so as soon as Alex is done, I'll give Jon a little bit of time. But first, we want to start with Alex Haushalter. Alex, go ahead & unmute yourself & you can try to share your presentation. Do you know how to share a screen?

Alex Haushalter: Yes.

Althausser: It should work because I set it up that way, but if not, I'll make you the presenter.

Haushalter: Right now it won't let me use the screen share...

Althausser: Okay, just a minute...what do you have now?

Haushalter: We're good. As many of you know, I'm Alex Haushalter & I was the intern for the City this summer & a little bit over this past winter break. So, this is a project that I kind of worked on my entire stint at the City & my primary goal through this study was to illustrate the development growth trends of Hardin County & the City of Kenton by using a variety of metrics. For consistency, I compared Hardin County to all of the bordering counties. So, for use of understanding in all the charts that you'll see, they're arranged alphabetically so it will start with Allen County & end with Wyandot County. The first metric I used is called a human development index or HDI for short. It's a combination index that measures the distribution of wellbeing & opportunity with health, education & living standards to assess overall development. HDI is typically a national metric so every nation in the world is given an HDI index every single year. This index was further modified to be adopted for US States, so now every state in America is given an HDI index. I modified this algorithm a little bit more to suit counties so that I could calculate the HDI at the county level. This is a technique I learned & used for my honors project at Miami University. I used HDI because it's a holistic approach to analyzing elements...development is not just about the income in the area. A population with poor health & low educational attainment can never sustain long term development. Thus growth & development are affected by a lot more than just income. So, indicators that influence development through HDI are 3 overarching metrics...health, education & income. To measure the health of a community I looked at average (can't hear) to assess overall health because it measures mortality from birth to death through a specific population along with how long the population lives on average the higher the living standards & health of a community. So, you can see the life expectancy for Hardin County at 76.8. To measure the education of a community I looked at educational attainment for high school diplomas & bachelor's degrees. The higher educational attainment level is associated with lower unemployment & higher household income on average. Here you can see the educational attainment levels for all the counties. The lighter yellow bar represents the percent of the population that's obtained a high school diploma and the darker yellow represents that same percent of the population who has obtained a bachelor's degree. So then finally to measure income for living standards I looked at average per capita income. A community with a higher per capita income usually attracts more businesses since the community has a population that can afford to spend money at more establishments. Here you can see the average per capita income levels of all the counties. So, I used all of these indicators to create 3 basic dimensions...health measure & education measure & income measure. Within the report that I had written & should have been emailed to you, or I can email it to you after this presentation, I show the specific equations that I used to come up with these different dimensions so that you can kind of see the math. Then once I discovered what these dimensions were, I averaged all 3 to create an overall development index. So, this is the human development index. In this table you can see the individual expectancy for health, education & income as well as the overall development index. Health is represented by blue, education by yellow, income by green and overall is by red. All of the numbers are broken down (can't hear). The highest score a community can receive is 10, which means they're considered to be wholly developed. The lowest score for a community is 1, so not developed at all by this

metric. Here you can see that Union County has the highest education & income index, which is also translating it into the highest overall development with a 6.61. Marion County has the lowest health and education index, translating into the lowest overall development with a score of 3.08. Hardin County is the 2nd lowest with an overall development score of 3.70. Overall, Hardin County's indexes were very similar with no specific strength that can be seen in some of the other communities such as in Logan County the income index is much higher than the others, or for Auglaize County health & income are pretty high compared to education. So what does having a higher HDI mean? A higher HDI is synonymous with a more holistically developed community. A higher HDI has better health, more educational attainment & higher income which leads to less unemployment & better living standards. So to kind of sum it up in a very basic example, workers that are healthy (both physically & mentally) & well educated in general & within their specific field will be more productive. These workers will miss less work, will accomplish more during the workday & be more proficient at their jobs. More productive workers increase the efficiency of the workplace as a whole, which increases productive capacity & revenue. These firms will then hire more well-trained/educated workers, facilitating more employment throughout the community. Furthermore, productive workers will increase their income. With more income comes more consumption, consumption in more expensive necessities & amenities which increases the standard of living for the consumers & stimulates the local economy. So you may be wondering if HDI is an accurate measure. Let's take a closer look at some of the poverty indicators representing living standards & employment indicators within each county to the corresponding overall HDI. At the top, you'll be able to see the overall HDI for each of the counties, so the percent of poverty indicator is the percent of the population in poverty in each county. So as you can see, Union County has the lowest percentage of the population in poverty & coincidentally they're also considered the most developed by HDI standards. Marion County has the highest percent of population in poverty followed by Hardin and Allen Counties. These are considered the 3 (can't hear). The next indicator is percent of children on free & reduced lunch. The same trends start to appear where counties that have higher HDI's have less children on free & reduced lunches. The final indicator is the percentage of the population access to computers & internet. The light yellow bar represents households with computer access and the dark yellow bar represents households with internet access. While Hardin County scores the lowest for both of these categories the overarching trend is present and again more developed by HDI standards counties are reflected in having more access. Next is employment indicators. This graph demonstrates the rate of each county's population within the labor force, which is the blue bar, the unemployed which is the orange bar, & out of the labor force completely which is the green bar. Out of the labor force is not often looked at but it represents the percent of the population over 16 years old not in fulltime labor force or actively seeking. Actively seeking employment means looking for jobs, interviewing, contacting employers sometime within the last year. So as you can see, Auglaize, Union & Hancock counties have the most employment & are also the most developed by HDI standards. These counties also have less unemployment & less population that is out of the labor force. Overall, when comparing HDI to the poverty & employment indicators, counties with higher HDI's have less poverty & higher employment which proves that HDI is a reliable measure of development. So a more developed community will experience population growth. A community that is lacking in the physical infrastructure & human capital which is a well-trained & educated workforce, cannot sustain a growing population. Thus, I wanted to look at the population trends of the cities in the counties that I studied & compare that to their county's corresponding HDI level. Here you can see the HDI levels at the top & the population trends for the major cities within these counties from 1990-2018. In the papers emailed to you, you can see them all separately, but I kind of wanted to present an overarching view where you could compare them all on one screen. So you can see on average counties with a low HDI score have current down trending population trends such as Allen County & Marion County. Conversely, populations with a higher HDI score are currently on an upward trajectory such as Logan County & Union County. Although this trend does not follow for every city within the counties, it's strong enough to be a good measure. Now I'd like to focus on 2 population case studies of interest. The first one is the City of Kenton's population growth from 1990-2018. Almost every single city within the 8 counties highlighted for my study have experienced a definitive trend of population growth, whether its upward or downward. The most noticeable discrepancy was the City of Kenton. While we have experienced small dips & inclines in population, on average the population has remained at almost the same level for the last 20 years. The other population trend of interest was the City of Marysville's growth. While most cities experienced a shift in population, if you look closely the shift was not larger than a couple of hundred to a thousand for most cities. However, in the city of Marysville in 1990 they started with about 9500 in population. By 2018 the population was at 23,000 so more than doubling their population, which is a growth not experienced by any other city within this study. So how does a

community increase their human development index or in other words increase growth development...well, growth & development are very closely tied. Development is essentially growth & function capability. Thus, to further develop a community it must increase revenue, increase household income, & increase the government tax base while committing to be more productive. A community is more functional when it is more productive. To demonstrate what a more productive community increases growth & development I will use a macroeconomic model. This model represents the intersection of the labor & capital markets that firms, households & the government participate in. For the sake of this presentation, I'm demonstrating with a simplified rendering. In the report you can read more indepthly about what each line & variable represents which is also up here on the screen. In simplified terms what this model is demonstrating is that firms make revenue & spend it through investment. Households make an income and spend it through consumption. The government obtains income through taxes, which are charged to both firms & households, & spends it through government expenditures. All of the factors within this model affect how much each of these entities can spend on investment, consumption, and government expenditures – all of which if increased will stimulate growth & development in the local economy. Through this macroeconomic model, the only way to increase revenue income & money made by taxes is to have growth & productivity which essentially means that a firm can produce output (can't hear). So now this rendering models growth & productivity once it's introduced to the model. In explanation, this increases the firms by having productive workers, more capital, more infrastructure and those types of things. So an increase in demand for labor will increase the real wage of workers. In addition, when productivity increases, the production function increases & yields a higher level of output. Output is equal to total expenditure for this model, so the more the firms are producing the more output equates to higher total expenditures. Higher total expenditure means that firm investment, household consumption & government expenditure can all increase because of type of income, higher revenue...increasing a community's total expenditure for all of these entities means that employment will rise, living standards will rise & investment in the local economy will increase & the government will be able to finance more public amenities; translating to more development & growth. So how do you stimulate growth & productivity? There are 2 ways to increase growth in productivity. The first is to create a more productive workforce. There are a variety of solutions that fall under the facets that I'm going to talk about, but I'm just going to highlight quickly a few examples under these overarching facets. So strategies to increase productivity of the existing workforce are primarily rooted in educational programing & workforce training. So this could be creating more individualized & specialized educational plans for each student, this could be forming a closer alliance between manufacturing firms within the county & high schoolers & young adults to get into our program that's focused on workforce training skills. The other way to increase growth & productivity is to attract a larger workforce. So strategies to attract a larger & more productive workforce involve improving & expanding community amenities & attracting new industry. In Kenton, one of our biggest amenities is the historic downtown. So focus on revitalization of the area...one example would be maybe tearing down or filling more vacant buildings & then attracting industry. So having ways of keeping track of our development trends & our growth outlook to present more of an incentive for why businesses should come to locate here. So these strategies are examples of those being employed by other communities. Other strategies can be investigated & employed. Most important that the strategies employed are targeted towards growth & productivity. I urge the City & the County & anyone else who is interested in the development of Kenton to use the data provided within the study to assess where development is most needed & most easily be accommodated & craft solutions. Thank you so much for taking the time to listen to my study. All of the data & metrics analyzed a clear picture of Kenton & Hardin County. We are a community that is stagnant. We're not growing population wise nor do we have any one facet of development, education, health or income that is very highly developed. However, as a member of this community, I know that we have the potential to grow. We just have to start focusing on the right solutions. So if you'd like to read my study & did not receive a copy, or if you have any further questions or want to talk to me on a more personal basis, you can reach out to Lynn or Joel, they both have my email, and I'd be happy to send you my work or talk with you. Thank you so much.

Althaus: First, thank you very much, Alex, for that presentation. If you can stick around for a moment, I want to ask any Councilmembers or anyone in attendance if they have questions. Anyone out there virtually who has questions?

McEntee: I have one. On the poverty, what did you use as a poverty level?

Haushalter: I have...that's all indicators that I used so first was the percentage of the population in poverty. I can find you where exactly this data came from, but I can't remember from the top of my head, but probably it's from a census data is where I got a lot of it. But I also used the percentage of

children on free & reduced lunch & then the percentage of the population with access to computers & internet. Usually if you have to be on free or reduced lunch or if you lack the access to computers & internet, its usually somewhat of an indicator of living in not the best of living standards. So I kind of used those 3 just so you'd have more indicators to compare to HDI.

McEntee: I just wondered if it was something like households earning less than \$18,000 or something like that.

Haushalter: Yeah, you can definitely look at that as well which is somewhat similar to per capita income so like the income of all the individuals & also household income & compare that to the HDI results.

Althaus: Alex, if you went back some slides...John, I'm pretty sure it was per capita poverty level.

Beazley: US poverty numbers.

Davis: 120% below...

Althaus: Right, so it wouldn't have been household, it was per capita.

Davis: I'd have to google to be sure but it's like 120%-123% or something close to that.

Althaus: Next question.

Beazley: Has the study as prepared met peer or faculty review for comment on extrapolations of data?

Haushalter: Would you be able to repeat that Joel? I couldn't hear it.

Althaus: David's question was have you had this peer reviewed or faculty reviewed regarding the validity of the data and regarding the results?

Beazley: Extrapolations.

Haushalter: I've not had this study faculty reviewed, but I mentioned my honors project that I did for Miami University which was the exact same content except I was focusing on Butler County & the counties that surrounded that one. So it was basically the same sort of data collection & I got all my data from the same places & I did the same exact kind of algorithm of coming up with HDI levels and that I did submit for my honors project which was reviewed by faculty at the honors college & then by faculty at the economic study. So while this study wasn't reviewed in that way, all of my technique on collection was done & reviewed previously.

Althaus: Any other questions?

McEntee: I have a comment. Thank you very much for doing this study. I'm looking forward to seeing how we can use this information to affect results. I've got a couple of ideas that we can talk about later.

Haushalter: Thank you, that really means a lot to me. That was really my main goal of hoping to at least create some impact & bring some information.

Althaus: Alex, just an interesting observation as I was reviewing your data, I realized the focus was on Hardin County, but you used the surrounding counties as comparison. Did you look at the prison population...how does that impact Marion County, or had you even looked at that?

Haushalter: Its very interesting how that might affect especially since they're kind of out of the labor force (can't hear).

Althaus: That's what I was wondering how those statistics meshed out. Alex, I'm certain there will be some follow up questions...I know we'll use this data & I'm confident the administration will. Thank you again for all of the time you put into this.

Haushalter: Thank you so much.

Althaus: Okay, we'll move on...we have Rep. Jon Cross here. Jon, that's going to be a hard act to follow. Hopefully you were witnessing this...there was a potential high-end employee there...

Rep. Jon Cross: I was going to offer her a job, but she left/logged out.

Beazley: Joel & Lynn have her email. They can put you in touch with her.

Cross: Good evening everybody at home & everybody here. Thank you for having me back. Two years has gone by quickly & we're back in the cycle of government like you all go through. We're preparing for the biennium budget & I never thought I'd say this but it's nice to be back in a room with people. Sometimes we take things for granted so it's certainly nice to be back with you all. Just a couple of things I wanted to bring to Council's attention as we start planning & welcoming your feedback through the budget process. First, I appreciate the Speaker putting me back on Finance Committee & he's in charge of the Higher Education Subcommittee, which will look at workforce & economic development & higher education issues in that committee as it relates to budgets. We have 2 fantastic independent colleges here in the 83rd district, ONU and the University of Findlay, but we're going to be traveling the State over the next 3 weeks pretty intensely as we go through our subcommittee budgets. First let me talk about last term. Last term I was pleased that we were able to capture some capital budget dollars. The Mayor

requested some money for the pool & we were able to get about \$20,000 for capital budget to help with the pool, so we were pleased that we could do that. You're able to draw down those dollars now & you should be able to get the paperwork to access those dollars anytime between 2021-2022. I'm hopeful things go well & we can prepare for another capital budget in 2022 for the 2023-2024 timeframe. So I think we call attention to the county for a capital budget where we've never really been in a position to receive the kind of money we did & we were pleased that projects became available. In addition to the city pool we have \$200,000 coming to the golf course for the new community building/pro shop that's going to be built there which looks wonderful, absolutely wonderful. In total it was about \$450,000 we brought back to Hardin County so we're very pleased with that & we're already thinking of future projects...we're thinking of the new show arena potentially at the Hardin County Fairgrounds. I had a wonderful meeting today with the Museum and talking about the future location of things we want to do to be more collaborative with the Museum & 4H...we're thinking out loud, so I'll save that & let them share their thunder & their ideas. It's exciting stuff that we can look at future funding opportunities for Kenton & Hardin County. We hope the CARES Act funding has been helpful. Obviously, the federal government didn't make it easy for you all & us to spend that money as you see fit, but I think communities got pretty creative the best they could. I want to draw your attention to the Governor in his announcement of his budget. He calls for some one-time spending of about \$450,000,000.00 for local communities. Of that, if I have the numbers correctly, \$250,000,000.00 will be dedicated to broad band services. We all experience at our homes the issue with broadband, some better than others, and it's certainly not equal. So where I live I think I can now get a GB worth of upload/download speed but I still have folks in agriculture & owning farms call me & say they might get 10 MB up & down. So when the State of Ohio talks about rural development & rural communities they always think of SE Ohio, but I said please do not forget NW Ohio as there are a lot of rural pockets that don't have the proper broadband infrastructure that we still need to get access to. So we're working on that legislatively...we've got legislation to look at that. But the \$250,000,000 is broadband the other is \$200,000,000 worth of grants towards local infrastructure. The Governor & the Budget Director talked about blighted properties and dollars for infrastructure so immediately I thought of our downtown Kenton Historic District project with the Phase II coming up with blighted properties that every community has to deal with. We certainly want to look at those opportunities so I've already informed the Mayor that we just need to keep this on our radar because \$250,000,000 & \$200,000,000 isn't going to go very far & it will go very fast. So we certainly want to be good advocates to try to see if we can't chase some of those dollars for projects in the 83rd District. I'm sorry everybody at home...Joel's got the camera on me & it's not my best angle. Ha. I need to lose about 30 lbs. If I stand this way, I look thinner. Ha. The other thing I'm going to ask tomorrow because we have the head of the Highway Patrol coming in, Col. Fambro, & the public safety director for the MARCS Radio systems. I was very pleased to hear that the KPD & I think KFD have MARCS. It's so important that everybody be able to talk to each other through communications. But what we're trying to do to help the Chief & others is keep your costs low so Chief you're probably looking at what a \$10 subscription fee?

Chief Musser: Yes.

Cross: So it's a \$10 per radio subscription fee because the State of Ohio puts in money to help keep the costs local low. In the Governor's proposed budget last year, we worked really hard to put \$4,000,000 to help keep the costs low. The Ohio State Patrol typically always pays full freight so they're paying \$25 (+) per radio but the Sheriff's & local entities try to keep around \$10. The Governor put it back to \$0 on the line item, so we're going to have to work hard to get it back to \$4 million but I'd like to try to get it to \$6 million. The reason why I want to get it to \$6 million is it just helps guarantee that we can keep those rates low. We're also diving into having conversations with Dept. of Public Safety & the Dept. of Administrative Services on where this money is being used & why it's costing so much money. We just want to better understand the MARCS overall budget so every year we don't have to play this budget game of where we build it up to \$4-\$6 million & they take it back to \$0 & then we have to build it up again. I'm sure they do that so they can overall keep a \$70 billion dollar budget in line...I'm certain there are things they take out & they think the legislature is going to put back in so it's a little bit of a budgetary game we play. The other thing too is I'm going to be fighting for dollars for Highway Patrol. How does the Highway Patrol have anything to do with the City of Kenton? Well obviously with cases...we've had obviously incidents that happened this year the Highway Patrol assists our Sheriff's Office & our Police Departments and they don't charge you a single dime. So anytime that they use the helicopter, or they assist with any chases, there is no cost to the City of Kenton. So it's important that our Highway Patrol who hasn't seen any funding increases since 2003, I think it's really important that we look at that. Now I'm also saying that leveraging a great article from the Kenton Times & including that in there because it's important that when we do tell the story that people in Columbus when they read our local paper

understand the important issues because sometimes this gets lost in Cap Square. But it certainly gets recognized in our hometown media which is important. Lastly, Health Boards...obviously I think today but I don't have any data to verify it, but I heard today was one of the lowest days we've had of only maybe 2000 & some cases so it's substantially dropping & thank goodness. Hopefully the Governor will keep pushing the curfew back to allow us to stay out until midnight vs. 11PM. But with regards...I'm looking at how our local health boards are organized, how they operate, & one of the examples I'm looking at through legislative efforts is your Mayor gets to appoint 3 board members to the health board. Current ORC law says those board members can serve I think 5 yrs. per term, but I don't know if there are any term limits, so we're going to look at potential term limits & also look at taking it from 5 yrs. & shifting it down to maybe 2-3 yrs. The reason is if you have a Mayor that's coming in, he/she may not get to appoint anybody right away if current members are serving. Traditionally, and maybe they do this in bigger cities where the Mayor's will automatically ask for your resignation & I will appoint my people & you have to step off, but I don't think it traditionally happens in smaller communities like this. So, I'd like to see more turnover on the board so our Mayors, our Townships, & our Counties have more accessibility to appoint members that they see are fit to serve on those boards. We've learned a lot through this pandemic and so we have to look at what I think are outdated laws & make sure that our health departments are running as efficient with really good oversight & checks & balances as best as possible. So, we're looking at legislation with that. And then lastly, we're also looking at legislation...there is a lot of revenue that leaves the State of Ohio & I think we're all sensitive to this issue because we see it every day with trucks that are coming through our community. I learned that trailer registration, when you register your trailer in the State of Ohio you can only do it on an annual basis. We don't sell a 10-15 year trailer plate like some states do, we're not competitive by any means. So if you sit out here & watch all of the trucks go through you'll probably see 90% of those trucks, if not more, have out of state trailers mostly registered in Maine & in Indiana because of the costs, how inexpensive & the process is very, very easy. So process & price are 2 important things. The City of Kenton will never see a dime, Hardin County will never see a dime, if all those trailers get registered in Maine. Maine, the last I looked, is not writing us a check to take care of our roads & infrastructure in the City of Kenton. So, we're trying to change the fee structure to get competitive. To give you an example, we're looking at an 8-year plate per trailer long term & we could take the current formulas & squeeze it down to about \$143 for 8 years. Maine is \$127. Now our proposal, just to make sure you understand this right for everyone at home watching, it's 8 years now if you add it all up on the annual basis would cost you \$300-\$500 per trailer compared to Maine at \$127. We reworked the formulas to get it down to \$143...how do you rework the formulas & not scare you thinking you're all going to lose dollars? Well, we are looking at reducing fees & restructuring it where you might think you're going to lose money, but we're going to gain volume. The old sales trick is if we can cut some unnecessary fees, some cities & villages might be worried but the amount of volume that you're losing for local truck companies right here in Findlay & Kenton that are writing checks to Maine...Sherry, well I won't say who, but a local trucking company in the 83rd District just showed me a check for \$10,000 & it went to Maine, it didn't come to Hancock County or to Hardin County. So we're looking to try to do that & I think you'll gain volume back & you'll have a chance to get more revenue. Ohio is missing out on lots of revenue and that's money that's not coming here to fix your streets, your roads, your bridges, etc. So that is one small example of ways that we're looking at legislation to try to look to see where every penny goes when it comes to budgets. So with that, Joel, I appreciate the time and you know we stay in constant communication with the Mayor. We are going to have, if you'd like to put something out we're going to put a press release out, but Feb. 19th which is a Friday morning I'm going to host a breakfast...an elected officials breakfast at the Plaza where we're going to have a chance to sit down in more detail & talk about the budget. I want to use it as a town hall format to get your feedback & talk a little bit more about what we're hearing & what we're seeing in Columbus. I think we did this a couple of years ago & we did it when we had the transportation budget because we were discussing gas tax. I don't see any need for any increase of motor vehicle fuels, but I think we're going to look at how do we going forward in the future, how do we deal with gas tax & motor vehicle fuel charges with electric vehicles coming onboard. They've talked about how much you travel mileage per use...I think people have to realize that roads aren't free, driving on roads isn't free, someone has to take care of that & the way you subsidize that is through the motor fuel tax & how we invest to keep our roads nice. For anyone who wants to disagree with that I would encourage you to go to Michigan & drive on their roads & then come across the border & drive on our roads in Ohio. You will see that you'll need 4 new tires when you go to Michigan because the roads are horrible. Why are they horrible? Because in Michigan they don't have a dedicated funding stream for roads & infrastructure like we do. The gas tax gets put in its own lane & dedicated for roads & bridges funding, but in Michigan it just goes in their general revenue fund. When it goes in the general revenue

fund who knows if it ever gets used for infrastructure. So with that, we welcome you to come down to the breakfast. We'll have an official press release out to confirm the date & time, but I think it's just a good way to put everybody's heads together just to keep you well informed. We're going to do our best to help continue with local government dollars that we can. Through the county we're looking at indigent defense to keep their costs low. That's one way we're helping at a county level & particularly at a City level. We know there is a lot of blight whether its Columbus or Kenton, poor cities, wealthy cities, its things we have to deal with. Infrastructure, water, sewer, it's all the things that doesn't sound exciting, but I've never been so excited to see curbs & a beautifully paved road that we paid for and all the infrastructure below that we'll never see but understand hopefully you don't have pipes bursting every other week & how much that is so important to the City. So that's my report.

Althausen: Thank you, Jon. Any questions for Jon?

Tom Nesbeth of WKTN: You mentioned in the CARES Act that \$150,000,000 was going to broadband & \$250,000,000 was to the local infrastructure but you said a total of \$450 million so I don't know if I missed something...

Cross: You're fine, no problem. So the CARES Act funding is separate from this budget so the CARES Act money was money the federal government sent to the State & then we allocated those dollars already to the cities. So they have that money already. The \$450 million is new money the Governor is looking at & of the \$450 million, \$200 million would be used for local infrastructure & blight, and then \$250 million would be used towards broadband. That \$450 million is a one-time spending. So, I think the Governor is sensible to make sure we don't do a lot of ongoing programs so that when one-time spending is done, we don't have to figure out how to make that up.

Nesbeth: Thank you very much.

Cross: You're welcome.

Althausen: Other questions? Okay, thank you, Jon.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS/UPDATES:

Althausen: We do have both Chiefs in attendance either personally or virtually. So I'll start with Bruce, if you want to give a little bit of an update for fire? You have a chance for comments later, but I just wanted to give you the floor if you have some things you want to go over.

Chief Bruce Donnelly: The biggest thing really is money from the State Fire Marshall for the MARC's radio purchases. It wasn't as much as what we requested, but at least we did get some money out of it. We thought at first we might get shut out, but we did end up getting some so it will help defray some of the costs towards those radios. Also, we submitted applications for State Fire Marshall equipment grant & are in the process of working on the Assistance to Firefighter grant application. So we're doing a lot of grant applications at this point just to help with new equipment purchases or replacement equipment purchases. Other than that, we've had guys working on cleaning around the fire hydrants...I think people see them on the Facebook page so it's one of those things we don't think about but try to remember to do around the businesses...it seems like some of the outlying hydrants outside at the edge of town that were kind of getting covered up so I just wanted to say we're trying to be mindful of them to make sure we can have access to those hydrants. Other than that, it's been relatively quiet. There was a slight uptick in structure fires here in the last month, but that's not uncommon for this time of year especially now that we're getting some colder weather & people using space heaters & stuff. Other than that, everything seems to be going pretty well & hopefully we'll get some funding from some of these grants. That's all I've got.

Althausen: Bruce, thank you very much. Chief Musser anything you want to cover right now?

Chief Dennis Musser: As Mr. Cross mentioned with the MARCS radios, we are having them programed currently & plan to have them in use by next month (can't hear). We also did hire our 17th officer...I guess it would be our 16th officer since Sgt. McNamara retired & Sgt. Newfer replaced him as the new sergeant. I'll get our new officer, Robert Shemeth, up here maybe at the next Council meeting. He's rotating to 2nd shift, so I'll make sure & get him up to be introduced. I understand we're getting more snow, so we're working with the Mayor & City Garage about the vehicles on the road. We're not about trying to tow people's cars...we've had to do that with a few unfortunately. The crews are trying to make the roads safe for travel & if they can't because they can't get around your vehicle, if that becomes the case & we can't find you, your car is being towed. So people seem shocked by this but we've got it out here on every possible social media platform out there. (Can't hear)...

Althausen: Any questions for Chief Musser? Mr. Hattery is there anything from you? Taylor, is there anything special you want to talk about from PIO perspective, or do you want to wait until comments? I might have caught her off guard there...

Taylor Klinger: It wouldn't let me unmute...I'll just wait until comments.

COMMUNICATIONS/PETITIONS:

Althaus: I have nothing to present. Do any Councilmembers have anything?

Beazley: Mr. President, I'd note for those who were not here earlier that we did receive a communication from the State Auditor's Office about the advent of our annual audit. So it has begun & departments are in the process of cooperating & providing the data they request so that is underway.

Althaus: Thank you, David. I'd also note we received the Mayor's "Year in Perspective" via email today. So I don't want to steal any of her thunder, but that would be a communication I'd call everyone's attention to.

MONTHLY/ANNUAL REPORTS:

Althaus: In your packets you did see a few reports. Beyond Alex's data, you have the Kenton Hardin Health Brd. minutes from 12/15/20. As far as specific reports go we had the Income Tax report through the end of January. Any comments on that report? Then we had Water & Sewer for the month, plus we had a KPD report for the month & then Brenda today sent us KFD for the year & the month. Any questions on any of those?

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance, Beazley: Just a reminder Finance did meet tonight & the focus was principally on the RCAP rate recommendations. We've agreed to meet again in 2 weeks on the 22nd at 6PM. Coming out of that meeting, Finance will have a recommendation to Council as a whole. We'll also entertain full Council participation as we did tonight, so thoughts questions & whatever at that time & Finance will put forth a recommendation to the balance of Council to move legislation forward. Regional Planning didn't meet.

MOP, Wren: Nothing.

Nuisance, Safety, Davis: Nuisance met on a week ago Thursday on the 28th & we've been going over some ways to bring the ordinances together to make all the costs the same. We're going to have another meeting, I'm getting some of that stuff together, on Feb. 11th at 6:05PM in Chambers. I'll have agendas out tomorrow sometime...I'm hoping by noon so if anybody on that committee wants something on the agenda let me know. Cemetery nothing to report, and nothing for Safety.

BKP, Althaus: BKP meets a week from tonight so we've not met since our last mtg. As soon as I get January minutes which should be sometime this week, I'll forward those.

OLD BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 21-001, 2ND READING, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING KENTON CODIFIED ORDINANCE CHAPTER 1284 RELATING TO A WELLHEAD PROTECTION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Althaus: As stated, this is the 2nd reading for the wellhead protection plan introduced 2 weeks ago. I'd entertain any general questions at this time. Has anything changed or anything we need to be brought up to speed about in the last couple of weeks? John is shaking his head no. Any desire for Council to move forward on this this evening? If not, we'll read it again in 2 weeks for a 3rd read. Hearing nothing to the contrary that's what we'll do. We'll read this for a 3rd reading in 2 weeks. Does any member have any further old business to be presented?

NEW BUSINESS:

Althaus: We have no new business on our agenda. I'd ask if there is any new business to come from the floor?

Beazley: Mr. President, I would note that Finance did put forward some information for additional expenditures & transfers that will be in your next packet as it will be pending legislation under new business.

Althaus: David, refresh my memory...MARCS radios when we added that to the budget...

Beazley: Actually, I believe it was an expenditure in 2020.

Althaus: Right and we also did not plan on the grant.

Beazley: The grant money would be back in our favor...we approved an expenditure in the full amount of \$180,000ish.

Althaus: I don't know if Bruce that also answered some of your questions. We knew that grant potential was there, but we didn't anticipate necessarily a specific dollar although we'd love to get all of it.

Chief Donnelly: Right, we basically encumbered the money to buy the radios so we knew one way or another those radios would be able to be purchased.

Althausser: I just wanted to make sure I remembered that correctly. Well then, I believe if there is no other new business to be presented, we'll move on to comments & start with Cindy Murray. I think Cindy is going to talk to us virtually.

Murray: I'd like to welcome Ryan Boyd. He is a new Firefighter. I think Chief Donnelly touched on that awhile ago. And we had a new equipment operator start on the street crew today, so we'd like to welcome him too. A big shout-out to, as the Mayor calls it, the Road Warriors. They've done a great job this last week with snow removal and they've been at it hard this past weekend. Also, to the public workers who tackled 3 water main breaks in the past 1 ½ weeks so a big shout-out to them. If you'd watch these guys...like last night, we were watching them & the wind chill was 1° - 2° and they're out here working in water. So a huge shoutout to them. That's all I have.

PIO, Rec Dir. Taylor Klinger: I have my Park meeting Wednesday at 7PM. It's going to be via Zoom so if you would like to be invited just send me an email & I'll send you the link. I'll also have some meeting notes for the next time Council meets. Then also on Wednesday at 5PM I have a meeting with Matt Jennings & the folks that put on the fireworks in Kenton. Actually, we thought this year to see if I could help with any advertising & also ideas on partnering with the (can't hear). Then I'll report back on what I find (can't hear). I have an interview with Ohio Health on Thursday & that is going to be...sorry, my son just came in. Okay so the meeting with Ohio Health will be interview style regarding Hardin Memorial and how they're handling vaccines & also how they're handling people who are coming in for emergency care. We're going to try to do a series with them. I had a meeting with Marcus Thorpe who is the PIO at Ohio Health & I actually had a relationship with him...I worked at NBC 4 with him in Columbus, so him & I have kind of been bouncing ideas off of each other & I want to do a series where we do a partnership between them. So our first taping will be on Thursday & I'll give you guys some updates on that. I don't know if you've seen our post, but ice fishing is prohibited at the Quarry. What I found is the ordinance has been in place since 1964, but apparently it's been allowed in the past so we've had some push back from that. It might be something the board brings up on Wednesday & we might bring to you guys, but as of now it is prohibited and has been since 1964. Also, I am partnering with ONU...a fraternity actually reached out to me & asked if they could partner with us on some City projects, so I'll let you know where that goes but as of now its just in the preliminary stages but they're willing to form a partnership & donate some hours for projects in the City.

Althausser: Questions for Taylor? Taylor, I do like some of the posts on social media.

Klinger: Well, I'm really sick of winter. I'm so over winter. Ha. We're getting there & people are liking it so its good.

Nesbeth: You said BKP was scheduled for the 15th. I was just wondering when & where?

Althausser: That's at 6PM at BKP. Talk to me afterwards...you should be receiving a notice, so I want to doublecheck that.

Jones: Thank you to the City Crew...the streets look good & I appreciate their efforts & the water breaks too. That's crazy when you think you have to boil water & it turns out you don't, so I appreciate all of their hard work.

Schwemer: I'd just again like to state with respect to the street crew that we don't have more people on our crew, but it seems to be a more coordinated effort. I was very impressed with how quick they got to the streets as well as the alleys, which are important for like a house like mine. So I think it's a combination of the crew working in the organized fashion as well as the social media portion really helps everyone keep more informed. That's a valuable resource & I appreciate the administration & the crew working to coordinate that effort. Unfortunately, it sounds like this isn't going away, but it really seems like the crew is doing a great job this year. I greatly appreciate it. That's all I have, Joel.

Mayor Lynn Webb: Okay first, welcome back Emma to the City Bldg. It's great to have her back...we brought Emma back because she is kind of watching Brenda too in case Brenda decides to go somewhere so she can fill in. So, we welcome Emma & that's going very well as far as people coming up here. I think most people do it online, right?

Emma Boutwell: Yes, a lot of them pay online or mail payments in.

Mayor Webb: It's been a nice addition. Thanks for Alex...every time she's home for her breaks she spends time here with us & she's a very valuable tool. I know her internship in Indianapolis will be amazing for her. So its another great piece of networking that we can count on. I hope its always pro-bono. Thank you to Rep. Cross. We are in constant contact 2-3 times a week. I know we share concerns about our seniors in our community & lack of getting food for those who are less fortunate. His office is working with us trying to find grants & new ways to help out our senior community to make sure they're

getting food. Also, please support Our Place Family Dining...they are an example to our community. They have stepped up, they've taken initiative & they have, whether it was Thanksgiving dinner or Christmas dinner, they're always reaching out to the community. They started a dish program which is for seniors that encourages them to come & socialize at the restaurant to get them out &, as long as they qualify, it's a free meal that they can choose from. She also received CARES Act money back from the aging agency out of Lima for the Thanksgiving & Christmas dinners so she's currently running a raffle for Angels for the Elderly...also Valentine's Day they're doing a big raffle for that, so she really gives back to the community and I commend them...they don't ask questions, they just go. I think they're doing a phenomenal job, they're very solution oriented. Also, if you watch that area of S. Main Street, the block there from the Fillin Station to the Barber Shop & to Our Place Family Dining, they all count on each other & help shovel the walks. One will shovel the walks & they all feed each other. It's a very neat thing & it's an example that I'd like to see replicated throughout our community. I'll touch again on the snow emergency...it's been a great job working with not only the police but the crew. Joe Sherman is the head of the street crew, he's that crew leader, and he's just done a phenomenal job. We do a debriefing every day to see what he needs & where we want to go. Like Chief said, it's not about towing it's only if we have to. For the most part the police can go up & ask people to move their cars. It is for efficiency so the quicker we can get down roads the quicker we can get to other spots. We really focus especially up around the school area, collector streets & the main streets. They've done a phenomenal job. I also want to reiterate that when we do salting we don't salt while it's snowing naturally, but when we salt roads we do not salt side roads. The whole purpose of that is because salt on cars doesn't work very well & just the spray. So side roads are never salted, just FYI in case people want to know. Starting last night, the street crew...as the water crew started on the water main break, the street crew came in at midnight & they started snow removal from around the curbs around the square. So that will go on through the rest of the week. We also coordinate with the police department to make sure...they started on Columbus Street last night & they'll finish that, so we have police presence because we basically shut down Columbus Street to make it safer for our crews. Tonight, they finish Columbus & then they hit Franklin Street, and then we'll decide Main Street & Detroit Street, but we'll keep everybody posted. Once again, thank you Taylor for social media. It's been a Godsend just to get that word out. I think we average like 8000 hits easily. Chief Donnelly reminded everybody to clear their fire hydrants...we've had community service people who needed some time & they've been for the most part very helpful going around helping us do that. So I appreciate that. Also, a reminder...trash totes, get them up to your house especially now because they may not survive a snowplow. Help your neighbor...do the right thing, it's just really a simple task. So until the next snow falls I do believe we're quite ready. That's all I have.

Althaus: Any questions for Mayor Webb? Okay, we will then look for the next meeting on February 22nd here in Chambers at 7PM. The Finance meeting is beforehand at 6PM. We will plan, I don't see anything changing that drastically in 2 weeks, so we'll plan the same format. I'll open it at 6PM or a little before and we'll just have Finance be able to share that meeting with whomever wants to be involved and then we'll go right into the Council meeting at 7PM. It seemed like it worked out for everybody. Okay then, if there are no objections, we are adjourned until that time. Good night everybody.

Joel Althaus, President of Council

Brenda Hanna Clerk