

4TH REGULAR SESSION:

Kenton City Council met in their 4th regular session on February 22, 2021 at 7PM in Council Chambers. Present: President Joel Althaus, John McEntee (Zoom), David Beazley, Antwillia Davis, Ray Lawrence, Pegg Wren (Zoom), Patti Risner (Zoom), Robin Jones (Zoom), Law Director John Schwemer, Mayor Lynn Webb, & Safety Service Director Cindy Murray.

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

MINUTES:

Althaus: If any of you on Zoom have issues hearing raise your hand & I'll try to watch for that. Are there any additions or corrections to the minutes from the last meeting? Hearing none, they'll stand approved as submitted.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TIME TO SPEAK:

Althaus: We do not have any citizens on the agenda this evening, so we'll jump into Departmental Updates. I'll turn the meeting over to Chief Musser.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS/UPDATES:

Chief Dennis Musser: Thank you. So, as I mentioned at the last Council meeting, I said I'd try to get our newest hire up here, so I brought him with me this evening. It's Officer Robert Shemeth. Robert is a Kenton native, been here his whole life, he's been here in the KPD about 3-4 months and he seems to be working out okay. It's been particularly chaotic on 2nd shift, which is where he's been, he even got to administer his 1st Narcan, so he's been learning a lot. I'll let Robert say a few words.

Officer Robert Shemeth: Like Chief was saying I was born & raised in Kenton, Ohio & played football on Robinson Field. Everything is kind of happening really fast & I'm kind of growing with the organization. I like it a lot, I like the people...good Chief, good Mayor. I'm proud to work for this department. Are there any questions?

Althaus: Welcome, we're glad to have you onboard.

COMMUNICATION/PETITIONS:

Althaus: I have no communications other than those you received from Pam (most recent reports). Does any other member have any communication?

MONTHLY/ANNUAL REPORTS:

Althaus: You do see the water & sewer in your packet. Also, there was Tree Comm. minutes from 2/11/21. Any questions or comments on either of those?

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance, Beazley: Thank you, Mr. President. Finance did meet...most of you were either online or in Chambers to meet with us. We did come up with a recommendation that I'll formally read to Council now for legislative consideration at a future meeting. "1) The Finance Committee did move to adopt the water & sewer rate increases per RCAP's final report dated January 2021 to begin immediately upon passage & continuing through the 2025 proposed rates. 2) Beginning 2026 we propose & recommend to adopt an automatic annual increase of 3% in both water & sewer Rates subject to an annual Council review. Said increase to be effective March 1st giving us ample time to see the prior years results & subsequent year budget. Should Council determine either or both funds to be sufficient, Council could, by vote, waive any increase upon annual review. 3) We did recommend to establish an Enterprise Fund for storm water to fund the maintenance & improvements of storm water projects within the City. 4) Establish an initial \$1.00/month charge per account beginning immediately upon the passage of such legislation." That would conclude our report this evening, Mr. President.

Althaus: Questions? The process now would be for John to develop legislation for Council to consider.

MOP, Wren: Nothing from MOP.

Nuisance & Safety, Davis: Nuisance will have a meeting on the 25th at 6PM. All are welcome to come to that. We're just going to go through every nuisance ordinance & update & correct as we need to. That will be a bi-weekly meeting for the foreseeable future. Safety has not yet met. The Cemetery's meeting is on the 1st of March at 7PM.

Regional Planning, Beazley: Next Thursday would be our next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 21-001, 3RD 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: Okay is there anything new that has come up with this? This will pretty much fall on Cindy's shoulders...this is the 3rd reading so I'd entertain a motion...

Motion by Mrs. Wren & second by Mrs. Davis to approve Ordinance 21-001.

Althaus: Is there any discussion? **(Roll call vote, 7 ayes; motion carried)** Is there any other old business to be presented?

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 21-002, 1ST READING, TITLE ONLY; AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF NEW MATTER IN THE UPDATED AND REVISED CODIFIED ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLICATION OF SUCH NEW MATTER; AND TO REPEAL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH.

Althaus: I don't know if John or Brenda want to comment on this, but this is something that's an annual item. I don't know that there is a time crunch...

Clerk: We got the invoice and it's already online & updated.

Althaus: So we can read this again in 2 weeks, or if you want to act on it now I'll leave that up to you all. Ok, I guess we'll read it again in 2 weeks.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-003, 1ST 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: I'll defer to...well Pam's not here, Dave do you want to...

Beazley: I guess it's me. As Pam had indicated at the last Finance meeting 2 weeks ago and put this in front of us, a number of these are time sensitive on paying for items already spent. For instance, Fire Incidentals is the Captain's test, we had some increases in our janitor costs that came with the new year that were not correctly budgeted in, the Police telephone allows for the connective devices in the patrol units for the laptops & ipad technology issues that we've developed as well. Finally, the Grove Cemetery was simply an adjustment to correct there. So I would move...

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 Mrs. Wren & second by Mr. Beazley to approve Ordinance 21-003.

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

COMMENTS:

Auditor, Brian Hattery: Pam sent out reports like she does every month & I'd just remind everybody that the one is kind of a summation called revenue/distribution report. We used to print these off, but we haven't for a while, but I'd encourage each Councilmember to look at that one. It's a great summary of where each of our funds stand our income & our disbursements...at the bottom she has shown what the downtown costs are. If anyone has any questions let me or Pam know. The trash is on there now also. That's all, thank you.

Chief Bruce Donnelly: Basically, we've been a little busy the last couple of weeks. They were out on 20 fire calls this month & approximately 55 EMS calls for the month so far. They're out right now on a mutual aid fire run plus an EMS call at the same time, so that's why I'm here at the station. Things do seem to be going pretty smoothly. We're trying to keep up with the maintenance of equipment, etc. That's all I've got for now.

Althaus: Any questions for the Chief? I'm trying to get Taylor on so she can address Council but for whatever reason it's not happening. Sorry Taylor...

McEntee: I'd like to thank the safety crews for the hard work they've put in on the snow removal. That was a lot of snow & I know they put a lot of hours in, so thank you to that. I'd also like to welcome and thank our new police officer. I know he's familiar with the community but it's nice to have him on the force. I truly appreciate those citizens that are willing to put in that kind of service. Thank you very much.

Davis: Just echo what John said.

Wren: Just echoing what John said. Thank you.

Risner: Same thing. Thank you so much for coming onboard & once again it's important that we pray for our firefighters & those who are out there doing things for us. It's a dangerous place out there so thank you to our fire dept., police dept., and anyone else who is helping...EMS, all of them. Thank you.

Jones: Just a big thank you to the City workers for all their hard work. I know with this snow everybody doesn't always sing their praises like they should, but we have a lot to be grateful for so thank you very much.

Schwemer: Can everyone hear me on Zoom through the other speaker? Just nod yes. Ok. So just an announcement & some of you may have heard this but Jason Miller, the Asst. Law Director/Municipal Prosecutor, will be leaving our office to move back to Chillicothe which is where his family is from. So I just wanted to notify everyone of that. We're kind of sifting through & working to see available candidates to fill that position and I'll let Council know once we have a decision on his replacement. He will be greatly missed. He's really been a part of the City for quite a few years & it will be a big hole to fill but I'll be working on that. That's all I have.

Mayor Lynn Webb: Ok, just let me touch base on the plowing. They did a phenomenal job. It's a tremendous amount of snow that accumulated in that one night. They came in at 5PM on that Monday (President's Day) & then they worked straight through until 3:30PM. I just wanted to get that information out so when Council is asked they can share & it kind of gives everybody a heads up what we do. So they did that & I think one of things we're learning is because we only had 10 guys on last week & only 2 of them really have that plowing experience with this amount of snow. So it's been a learning curve, we don't get to plow snow all the time. I know we have a lot of requests about intersections & push back of snow. I think everybody has to understand...as you drive around when the snow is melted look around & see how many fire hydrants are on corners. So we're very aware of push back of snow, private property...there's a lot that goes into plowing not just hit it & get it. I think the guys did an exceptional job. I know Cindy & I were out many times looking & I know alleys are an issue. So drive around with this snow & try to figure out where the alley is, it can be quite challenging. Not all of our alleys are straight through, some of them stop, so a lot of it is by memory. I hope as the future unfolds that we can get a lot of this on GPS or some sort of app that the guys can follow. But, with that being said, I think they did a great job. I think we have 63 miles of street not counting the alleys. Moving into this week the street crew is taking the snow off around the square. They come in at 3:30AM & start that process. They worked Columbus St. & Franklin St. because it is the least busy at that time of night. I think it will probably be Detroit St. or Main, they'll determine that tonight with the traffic patterns. The police Dept. does a great job. They call them in & they kind of help maintain the trucks that are coming through at night so we're getting that done a lot quicker. So the guys work until mid-morning & then we have another shift (we have to split the shift) to cover water leaks, sewer, & every other call they have. So I just ask for community patience because for the amount of manpower we have & we have to split those shifts, it's imperative that everybody just is patient with us. We'll get them sent out to where you need them to be but as we know the priorities are the mains, the collectors, then we go to sides & alleys. Another thing is it's tough when you have cars on both sides of the road. There are several streets we can't get a big plow truck down because of cars parked on both sides. Sometimes we can't even get the pickup down them. It's imperative that we stay on the schedule & get your car to one side of the road & encourage your neighbors to try to get to one side of the road. We have several citizens that have great communication with their street & they get the cars moved & we come in & plow their street & it's done & over with. So it does take a little bit of teamwork so I'd encourage that. Ok I've got Taylor's list so I'll read hers...We don't monitor Facebook anymore as far as the comments & everything, but we did put on our City website a request form so if you need attention on your street, a water or sewer problem or anything like that, then we answer that in 48 hrs. We'll direct that email to whatever dept. it needs to go to, but you will get a response back within 48 hrs. I think we've received maybe 50 since we started that on Friday. Also, moving over to Park & Rec I'll take over for Taylor on that, Dwayne Holcomb who was our Quarry Manager, he is moving into full retirement so we're going to be posting that job online so keep an eye out for that. As far as social media we had 95 page likes in the past 7 days, 62,596 people were reached the last 7 days, & 3500 individual page views in 7 days. I know the boys basketball team when they reached out that was a huge complement to our community & it really went far & wide. I think they had 40,000 views. That kind of stuff really gives us a big pump up for our community because it reaches far & wide & they did an outstanding job. I know I called them for several cars. Also, for the pool I think we'll Taylor talk about that the next time or she'll post about it, but she'll have all the rates for the water & sewer in the campground & then the pool rentals & the hours & seasonal passes, etc. So we'll get that out on the website & Facebook page this week. And that I do believe is all I have. Does anybody have any questions? Thanks.

Althausen: I believe that's it. Any last comments? Alright, we're adjourned.