

5TH REGULAR SESSION:

Kenton City Council met in their 5th Regular Session on March 14, 2022, at 7PM in Council Chambers. Present: President Joel Althausser, Sue Fox Buroker, Antwillia Davis, Ray Lawrence, Pegg Wren, Anda Tudor, Robin Jones, Law Director John Schwemer, Mayor Lynn Webb, and Safety Service Director Cindy Murray. Absent: David Beazley.

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

MINUTES:

Althausser: The minutes from 2/28/22 were included in Council packets. Are there any additions or corrections to those minutes? Hearing none, they'll remain as they are and we'll consider them approved as submitted.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TIME TO SPEAK:

Althausser: Tonight, we do have a special presentation, so I'll turn it over to Chief Musser.

Chief Dennis Musser: You want me to go first?

Althausser: That's where we've got you...normally we'd do that later, but let's do it right now.

Chief Musser: I had requested time on the agenda this evening to recognize Patrolman Melvin Yoder. Yoder responded to an unresponsive infant earlier this year with Patrolman Risner...Patrolman Risner being our newest officer in KPD. After the incident, Patrolman Risner wrote a memo to me requesting that I acknowledge Patrolman Yoder's actions that evening which I certainly did, so I'm going to start by reading Patrolman Risner's memo to myself. "On 1/8/22, the KPD was called to 221 S. Market St. for a report of a 7-month old unresponsive infant girl. Upon Patrolman Yoder's arrival, he acted quickly in assessing the situation which ultimately led to him performing life saving CPR until the medics could arrive on scene. I did follow up with the little girl's mother on 1/14/22 and was advised the little girl was alive and doing much better. Due to Patrolman Yoder's actions in the saving of a 7-month old infant girl's life, I'd like to nominate Patrolman Yoder for a life saving award. Attached is Patrolman Yoder's body camera footage." I entertained playing that in here for a moment, but I'm going to be honest with you it's pretty rough to watch at the scene. In watching it, there's no doubt in my mind the kid wouldn't have made it if Yoder hadn't responded. I don't know if our squads were tied up on other calls, they did respond but they weren't able to respond as quickly as we were. I can only assume Yoder was not far away when the call came in because he was right there shortly after performing chest compressions on this kid with a frantic family around him and other children as well, which can be pretty chaotic. Accommodation for Outstanding Service in the Line of Duty to Patrolman Melvin Yoder - Accommodation for Heroic Service Beyond the Call of Duty on January 8, 2022: On this date you responded to a call and upon entering the residence you encountered a 7-month old unresponsive infant. Your quick thinking and performance of CPR on the infant girl while waiting for Paramedics to arrive ultimately saved the innocent child's life. Your actions genuinely reflect your dedication to the public you serve. It is with sincere appreciation that we, the undersigned, recognize your actions and commend you on a job superbly done. The City of Kenton Administration considers itself fortunate to have such a truly outstanding member of the Kenton Police Department serving our community. Thank you for your service. (signed: Mayor Webb, Safety Service Director Murray & Police Chief Musser) As is custom when someone is awarded a lifesaving award it's the badge that's pinned on the dress uniform, so he'll be getting this as well as the Accommodation. I think the most recent life saving award was for Patrolman Newfer (now Sgt. Newfer) when he jumped into France Lake a few years back, so it's been a little bit. We like having Yoder around, he does pretty good. (laughter at this point). He's been an outstanding addition to our agency. He most recently joined the Special Response Team, and he fields Canine Cristo wonderfully and always has. So, I'd like to present this to Melvin (presentation & photos at this time).

Althausser: If everyone would join me in thanking Patrolman Yoder (round of applause at this time)

Patrolman Melvin Yoder: You guys are too kind, thank you very much. Thank you, Chief, for the kind words and thank you guys for taking the time to do this. I appreciate it. I just did my job that day and a lot of the credit for this does go to the department and to Chief Musser for allowing us to continue our training to be proficient at what we do, to support us, to have the confidence to go out & do our job without constantly worrying about if the boss is on my back. I know I've probably stressed him a time or two in this job, but he has done great leading his department. I feel very confident doing my job here and I feel well trained. Thank you.

Althausser: Thank you. Chief, thank you.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Althaus: I have a couple, one we might talk about more in detail later...well, we might handle it right now. We did get the annual letter from the fireworks committee requesting donations for fireworks. I'm trying to remember, did we plug something into the budget or not? If we didn't I'd really encourage we do that...\$1000 or so. Brian, in the past...

Auditor Brian Hattery: \$1500 or \$1000, I think.

Clerk: I believe it was \$500.

Althaus: They have a fundraising goal of \$15,000, other than that I believe the letter is exactly the same.

Davis: We did put the \$500 in the budget this year.

Althaus: Okay. Did I read this right, it's at Home Run Memorial Park?

Murray: I think that's where it was last year.

Tim Thomas of the Kenton Times: The spectators were out there but they still shot them off at the Fairgrounds.

Althaus: Okay, so if the \$500 is in there, and we have plenty of time to check, we wouldn't need to do anything. If you would decide to change that amount we'd have to address that. I'll just pass this around and then I'll pick it up from you, Sue, after the meeting. The only other item of communication I received was the Hardin County Farm Bureau always invites someone to attend from the City at their annual Policy Development Meeting. I have to admit I don't know how often we've gone in the past, but it will be at the Hardin Co. Courthouse from 11AM-1PM with lunch provided. We do have to RSVP by March 23rd so if there is someone that would like to attend see me afterwards. Does anyone else have any communication to share?

PETITIONS:

None.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Althaus: We'll start with KPD. Chief, do you have anything in addition other than your award?

Chief Musser: No, I was just going to point out they had a large melee on the north end of town, so I let Yoder get out of here as opposed to hanging around.

Althaus: A large melee?

Chief Musser: Yes, a fight at Forest Court so all of our officers are tied up out there and they've arrested some people, so Yoder is going out to help

Althaus: Next, we'll move to KFD. Bruce is here with us and there is a report from January. Chief, is there anything you want to add?

Chief Bruce Donnelly: One of the things we were talking about was an additional appropriation for the roof project at the fire station. The original proposal that I didn't catch early enough was actually only good through Dec. 3, 2021. Since that point in time, I talked to that contractor and he said they were going through price increases like every 2 weeks around that period of time. So what it is, we have a new proposal that's good for 30 days but it's an addition of approximately \$10,000. The original plan was for about \$54,000 and now it's up to \$64,000 with these additional costs. We've got a PO in place, but it's for the original amount so that's why we're asking for the additional appropriation to cover that increase.

Althaus: Everyone, if you'd pull out Ord. 22-004 that was in your packet...we've had no action on this yet tonight so we could correct it right now. So the proposal would be in the top section under General Fund to add Fire Building Maintenance of \$10,000. We'd also be changing the total General amount to \$357,785 to reflect that \$10,000. Then at the bottom, the total additional appropriations would also change to by \$10,000 to \$652,235. Again, it hasn't been read yet and we're just making a correction to this prior to it being considered. Go ahead Chief....

Chief Donnelly: The 2nd thing we're kind of looking at right now is we're looking at applying for a Hazard Mitigation Program grant through Ohio EMA. We're looking at adding additional tornado sirens around the community. Right now we have good coverage in quite a bit of the City, but we're probably a little lacking on the north side of town because we've got the siren down here by the river and we've got the high spot trying to get across. I know some people up around the elementary school say they can kind of hear it if they're listening for it and/or maybe outside. So we're looking at potentially 4-5 additional sirens around the community and what we're looking at doing is speaking with the Township Trustees and County Commissioners as it will be covering parts of their area and Hardin Hills, Soil & Water, Transfer Station, the County Garage, etc. So that's why we're checking to see if they would be willing to contribute towards the matching funds for the entire project. Other than that...

Davis: Do you have an estimate on that project?

Chief Donnelly: To do 4 additional sirens it's \$126,952. It's a 75/25 grant so matching funds are approximately just under \$32,000. If the 4 entities would go together that's about where we'd be looking at it, but if not all the entities want to go into it I don't know how many sirens we'd actually look at doing. If we don't get the grant, we won't move on the project at all.

Thomas: Bruce, will this go along with our existing sirens? Is it all part of the same company?

Chief Donnelly: Right now we are looking at...it's currently a Federal Signal Siren is what we have and yes that is one of the companies and we've looked at another company and there are some questions as to the reliability of it. There aren't a lot of people that are using this company in Ohio, so they've not had, and this is from their Rep, is that they haven't had good representation in Ohio. So it would be in addition to our current system that we have. One of the things I guess in addition to that is there is new software with this that we're looking at that is mobile, or cloud based so we can designate up to 5 people to have access to the systems on their phones. So like I could be one of them & if I hear something I can activate it from my house or I can get notified if it has been activated. The other thing with this is if there is a warning from NOAH and it hits within this area or a pre-designated area it will automatically set the siren off. Right now we have to manually set the siren off so somebody has to be at the station or here at the KPD to be able to set the siren off. So the new software is a lot more automated to the point where if we're tied up during the storm and stuff we won't have to worry about somebody coming in to the station to activate it.

Althaus: Okay, we don't have anything from Parks & Recreation, but we do have a monthly report from Income Tax and it looks like we're running ahead. We also have a report from the Treasurer & Auditor to the Mayor. Brian, did you want to comment on that or any other reports?

Auditor Hattery: Just that Pam emailed the February monthly reports including the excel spreadsheet with the balances (can't hear...static).

Althaus: John do you anything? Cindy?

Murray: The Espy Street bid opening was extended to this Thursday...some of the contractors were not willing to bid because they didn't think they could have the project done by Aug. 1st, which was the current completion time. So we extended it to Oct. 1st and we're working with ODOT to not start paving that until we get the waterline replaced. So it's kind of a juggling act going on right now so we'll see what happens this Thursday. We'll be advertising the Columbus St. Storm Project on March 17th and we're lining a portion of the Transfer Channel and that will begin next week on the 21st and then that project will be complete. That's all I have.

Althaus: Any questions for Cindy? Okay, Mayor Webb...

Mayor Webb: I have a couple of things and then I'll get a few things at the end. First I just want to touch base on the electric aggregation. I know we've had calls because of the piece of mail that people have received from Energy Harbor. So to give Council a heads up or tutorial, if a person has asked you saying hey I received this from Energy Harbor what do I do? If they received it from Energy Harbor they are in the City Aggregate so they don't do anything. It would be for the people who didn't receive it. Again, people don't understand because it can be a little bit confusing, but just for Council if you do have people come up to you if they heard from Energy Harbor they are already in the program so they don't have to opt in or opt out, they can just pitch it. It's the best rate that people will get. Some companies might say they can go lower but in no time it will be 3 times that. I think that takes place in May, right?

Murray: At the end of May.

Mayor Webb: Okay. So that's all I have to say right now, but I'll wait 'til the end for the rest.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND/OR SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Althaus: You see there is a report from Finance in your packet. Are there any questions?

Murray: Just so you are all aware, Dave is aware of the \$10,000 additional appropriations. He approved that this morning.

Althaus: MOP did meet last week, anything to report?

Wren: That meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday at 2PM.

Althaus: Oh it wasn't MOP, what was the other committee? (Utilities & Legislation). Public Utilities did meet but there isn't a written report. Robin, is there anything you want to talk about?

Jones: So we met on March 9th and discussed leaving the water rates to the scheduled increase because we are still on the plan from being in the hole from the previous administration. We also talked about the rates of the waste going up. I think that starts in June?

Murray: July.

Jones: So for the regular trash rates it's going to be a \$.58 increase on their bill & the seniors will see a \$.46 increase. So that's kind of what we talked about and our next meeting is April 13th at 4:30PM.

Althaus: Are there any questions? And the point was there was a scheduled/planned increase to water and they did not deviate from the recommendation of that plan. It is already a part of the Codified's and we're going to stick with that and the trash was in the plan also although (can't hear...static). So Legislation also met.

Davis: (can't hear...static)...we will have legislation coming to keep the existing city law on fireworks as it is. Our next meeting will be on April 7th at 4:30PM.

Althaus: So we're basically not going to allow fireworks just wherever you want to shoot them so the legislation will affirm our own ordinances.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Regional Planning – Did not meet.

Parks & Rec Board – Jones: Parks & Rec met on March 9th and all members were in attendance. The new Quarry Managers, Don & Deb Purcell, were introduced. They are very excited to get busy and they will have park hours on Friday, Saturday & Sunday and I believe that starts...

Mayor Webb: This week.

Jones: Okay. Jacqueline gave an update on goose control and Chuck Moore from the High School and his students will be out there with some plans & some permits to try to deter some geese. Jacqueline has filled out grants through the Hardin County Community Grant Foundation. She has her head lifeguard hired, which is Kylee Allmon, and an additional 11 lifeguards. The pool manager will be Donna Martin. She also gave updates on each of the parks (Wharton, Murray, Pioneer, Glendale & Jerry Cross Parks). The opening date of the swimming pool has been changed from May 28th to May 30th due to graduation being on that Saturday of the 28th. I think that's about it unless anybody has any questions. It sounds pretty exciting what they have planned. The next Park & Rec meeting will be April 13th in Chambers at 6:00PM.

Grove Cemetery Board – Davis: Grove Cemetery did meet and we're working on one of the county projects to redo our roads out there. We're going to be partially spraying that new film they're putting on things so they're nice & pretty & partially blacktopping. We are getting into the mowing season, and we'd like to remind everybody please do not park on the grass at the Cemetery. Please stay on the roadway and just pull over a little bit.

Althaus: Sue, were you able to make it to the Tree Commission?

Tree Commission – Buroker: Yes, we met on March 10th at 1PM and they discussed the Arbor Day Celebration. They've purchased 60 seedlings & they'll be passing them out at Murray Park. Other things they were talking about was looking at trees around town that are maybe dead or need attention. They need to mulch & stake ones that were just planted in the fall around town, and also they're talking about trying to raise some funds so they're looking at different ways to do that for taking care of the trees, especially since Joe Sherman is no longer part of the crew that I guess worked on those. He's down at the WTP now. So I think they were looking at maybe a professional...

Mayor Webb: Could be.

Buroker: Yes, so that will be something they'll be looking into and their next meeting will be April 14th and that's the 2nd Thursday in April at 1PM.

Althaus: To give everyone a little background, Lynn & I found out that we should've been appointing a Council member to be our liaison with the Tree Commission (can't hear...static)...they do a lot of good things (static)...we'll see what we can do if they need more funds. Thanks Sue. BKP Ambulance District Board meets one week from tonight, so I'll have the minutes from the last meeting I expect them any day now, so I'll forward them directly on as soon as I receive them.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Althaus: Does anyone have any to bring to the floor to consider?

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

Althaus: As you can see, we have no items on 3rd read, one item on 2nd and 2 items on 1st.

2ND READING:

RESOLUTION NO. 22-003, TITLE ONLY; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY NOT NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Althausen: It's my understanding there is no real hurry on this. Has anything changed or come up since then? If there are no objections, we'll read this for a 3rd & final time in two weeks at the next meeting.

1st READING:

RESOLUTION NO. 22-004, TITLE ONLY; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH OHIO RURAL COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO COMPLETE AN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY FOR THE DOWNTOWN PHASE II PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Althausen: Who wants to touch on this one?

Murray: I will. This is part of the financial ordinance package too. In order to apply with the USDA, we have to have an Environmental Study done of our project we're going to do and it's \$8500 and that's having it done through RCAP.

Davis: Do you need that passed or can it go 3 reads?

Murray: Well, we cannot even talk to the USDA until we have this done, so I'd like to...

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

Althausen: Cindy, do you want to clarify your comment that it pertains to the financial package?

Murray: It's down under Waterworks Downtown Incidentals at \$4,250 and also Sewer Downtown Incidentals for \$4,250, since both of those projects are part of the funding we're going to go get.

Althausen: (can't hear...static)...if you pass the resolution then you'd almost need to consider the ordinance is all I'm trying to say...we can entertain a motion regarding Resolution 22-004.

Motion by Mrs. Wren & second by Mrs. Tudor to approve Resolution No. 22-004.

Althausen: Is there any discussion? Just to clarify a little bit, I think the status where we are is looking at all of the funding options that are available out there. What that requires is to position yourself so you can be considered for those funding options. Talking about a project of this size and this scope we're going to spend a little bit here & there that we might not have thought we'd have to. But for us to even be considered for USDA funding there has to be an Environmental Study done. Any more discussion?
(Roll call vote, 6 ayes; motion carried)

ORDINANCE NO. 22-004, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2022 FOR THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Althausen: There are quite a few things in here. I don't know if anyone from Finance wants to touch on it, or Brian? A lot of them are fairly self-explanatory and have to do with things that were in the report from Finance 2 weeks ago.

Hattery: Pam included an explanation along with the Ordinance.

Davis: Yes, Pam does a really good job spelling it out for us. It's perfect.

Althausen: Are there any questions with regards to that? So, the only thing not in the explanation is the \$10,000 correction.

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

Motion by Mrs. Wren & second by Mr. Lawrence to approve Ordinance No. 22-004.

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

SCHEDULING OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Althausen: This is what we're trying to get accomplished that you'll always be able to go back to your agenda and see where they are. You see that MOP is scheduled for 3/16 which Pegg already mentioned, Finance is scheduled for 3/28 at 6PM, Utilities is 4/13 at 4:30PM that was mentioned by Robin...(can't hear...static).

Davis: Legislation is meeting on 4/7 at 4:30 PM.

Jones: Parks & Rec is meeting on 4/13 too.

Althausen: Well, this is really just committee meetings. Antwill, did you say April 7th?

Davis: Yes, at 4:30PM.

OTHER MATTERS:

Althausen: Any other matters to be considered?

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None.

COMMENTS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA:

None.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS & ADMINISTRATION:

Wren: I'd ask to be excused at the next meeting. I have some medical tests that I won't be able to be here afterwards.

Althausser: Okay, I hope everything goes well.

Mayor Webb: I waited for this comment at the end. The example we saw with Yoder and Chief, and with Chief Donnelly here, again what a fortunate community we live in with our safety service leadership at this level. I mean these guys bring the guys on and make sure they are elite, exceptional...I mean it's just awesome to be in here everyday to see how these guys work. We all work hard, but it's that piece of safety or a piece of mind that we can rest because we have fantastic leadership. Both of you guys, thanks, I appreciate it. The other piece is I'm supposed to be going to the School Board meetings but somehow School Board & Council are now on the same nights, so I don't know how that works...

Thomas: Chad & I discussed it at the last meeting & he's going to try and figure something out.

Mayor Webb: Okay, I'll try to get up-to-date even if I'm not there I'll try to touch base. And finally, it was a long time coming but the big announcement for the grocery store came out. It's a needed piece not only for our community but it's a needed piece for our economic development. So we're real pleased, real happy and look forward to it. It's another step in the right direction.

Althausser: Okay, I'd ask for a motion to excuse David this evening...he's a little under the weather.

Motion by Mr. Lawrence & second by Mrs. Wren to excuse David Beazley.

Althausser: Is there any discussion? **(Roll call vote, 6 ayes; motion carried)** So we've got the rundown of all the meetings. Our next Council meeting is here on 3/28 at 7:00PM, so until then we're adjourned.

Joel Althausser
President of Council

Brenda Hanna
Clerk