

### **8<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION:**

Kenton City Council met in their 8<sup>th</sup> regular session on April 26, 2021 at 7PM in Council Chambers. Present: President Joel Althaus, David Beazley, Antwillia Davis, Ray Lawrence, Pegg Wren, Patti Risner, Robin Jones, Law Director John Schwemer, Mayor Lynn Webb, & Safety Service Director Patti Risner. Absent: John McEntee.

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

### **MINUTES:**

Althaus: Does anyone have any corrections or additions to the minutes as they were presented? Then they'll be approved as submitted.

### **CITIZENS REQUESTING TIME TO SPEAK:**

Althaus: This evening we have Judge Grimslid & the person that actually does all the work down there, Emily Kissling. Oh, is Emily not here?

Judge Greg Grimslid: No, Emily is not here.

Althaus: I don't know how you're going to get along then. Ha, I actually saw that she wasn't here. Judge, come on up. He's going to give his annual report & I actually look forward to this every year. Seriously, you always give us a really good report. So everyone please listen up & if you have questions he will answer them.

Judge Grimslid: Well Joel, I do have a correction to the agenda. My name is spelled slid not Isid. Ha. I've been called worse.

Althaus: Oh, we butchered that...

Clerk: I'm sorry that was me...

Judge Grimslid: As you can see on my cover sheet, they took a selfie of me sitting on the bench. Ha I just noticed that when I came up here today so thanks Emily. Ha. Last year was a very trying year in the court just as it has been everywhere. We've had to make changes inside the court as you may have noticed if you've been down there. We're plexi-glassed in, I'm the only one who's not but I'm far enough away from everyone. But everyone else is and we still require temperature checks, we still require masks of everyone who comes in and we have masks to provide them if they don't have masks with them. The staff has done quite well...we've done wonders, I think, due to the situation it's been a little hard to be service oriented when you have to do all of that other stuff as well. We've had very little COVID problems as far as with the staff itself. Jason at one point had to be quarantined for that and then we had one clerk that had to be quarantined for a period of time, but other than that we've been blessed & haven't had any real problems. Most of us are vaccinated now who are going to get vaccinated so that's a positive. We lost Karin Bash to retirement this past year. Karin did put a lot of years of service in & we wish her well on her retirement. Emily Kissling was promoted to the Clerk as Jennifer retired from fulltime position. She's still working part-time due to some family situations, so that's worked out well & gives someone to Emily to bounce ideas off of as well. We have a couple of new Clerks...Alex Glauner, Amanda Norris & Desirae Crabtree. A couple of them started before last year so with the COVID situation they've been in here for 1 ½ years. We are getting a new vehicle for our Baliff/Probation Officer...it's not just for the Bailiff's position but for the Probation Officer as she does drive prisoners back & forth on a regular basis to the jail in Marion. We had to upgrade & we want to thank the City for helping with part of that with COVID funds I believe is where they took it from and we took it from our Special Projects Fund. Actually it's going to be delivered this month...there's only 5 days left so it should be here pretty soon I would hope. We are fully up & running with our website ([hardincourts.com](http://hardincourts.com)) & if you look at it you can see our schedule on a daily basis & you can look at some case information on there as well. We do not have an email address & there is a specific reason we don't have an email address. I'd have to hire someone fulltime if we had an email address to respond to people inquiring that way. You can say well that can't be that many, but the majority of our traffic tickets are for people & truckers who live all over the United States & Canada as well. So that's how they would be contacting us & if we didn't respond than we'd be liable for time frames that their tickets weren't answered, or their questions weren't answered. So we do not have one however if you would ever have a question we have someone man the phone at all times. We close for ½ hour from 12-12:30 for lunch & other than that we're open the regular hours. Our numbers were down a little bit last year, but the last 3 months they've gone way up. Tickets are being written again by all law enforcement...I checked my case load for tomorrow & I think we've got 30-40 arraignments tomorrow morning so that's generally been the situation. There has been a rise in domestic violence cases over the last 1 ½ year unfortunately county-wide. Our traffic cases have gone down because police have not been enforcing traffic laws as diligently as they had in the past due to the situation with the

health problem. All of our other cases are about the same...collections, we're still getting money from our collection agency & it doesn't cost us a dime & that's money we'd probably be out & never see otherwise so it's worth having them collect. We get paid first before they get any of their fees. You look at the disbursements & they're pretty consistent, they're down a little bit but it's all across the board so it's not like one agency or another lost all of the money it's been kind of spread out. We're about \$150,000 less than the year before but like I said that's all due to COVID because our case numbers went down as well. The facility has been fine...I know the City made some improvements to the bldg. & we did change phone systems when you changed as well, so we're tied into the same phone system the City has. We do have a new City Prosecutor at this point in time, which I know you all are aware of because it was run through John's office, so Andrew Tudor is now the Prosecutor for the Municipal Court. It's been almost a month & we just had our first real weekend where he had to call me to come in & sign papers this past weekend so we're working through that. Jason & I basically started within a week of each other...back when he first came here was when I was first elected, well appointed by the Governor for the first 3 months and then I had to run for election. As I said earlier, this is my last term. I have 5 years left on it so when I'm 69 I'm not going to run again. So there will be a new Judge the next time, but that's still 4 ½ - 5 years down the road so we'll worry about that in a few years. I do appreciate all of the support we've had. I did mention to John that I have seen an increase in noxious odors ordinances being followed. I haven't had one in forever & I've probably had 6-7 people in front of the Court just recently so there has been a move by law enforcement to go after those ordinances that you have in regard to clean up situations. I did mention to John, it's a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree misdemeanor and that's 60 days in jail. With what I've seen so far there's no one getting any jail time for those problems, but they are now getting fines & they've been cited. They generally have "x" amount of time to comply so that's part of their probation. So law enforcement is bringing those people before Court. You got rid of the dispatchers & we've gotten those items cleared up with the Court. I think when it was all said & done...originally the left hand really didn't understand what the right hand needed...I mean I come in on the weekends & whenever I needed a key so I could get in to meet these officers because I meet officers from all over the County to come in & sign papers. I had the ability to get into Court but not to get into the outside doors that are now being locked since we don't have a dispatcher on duty. But that has been taken care of and that situation has been handled. Are there any questions from Council at this time? See you next year.

Althaus: Thank you very much. If anyone else in attendance would like to address City Council and the Administration, you will have time to do that toward the end of the meeting under the comment section where I'll ask for public participation.

#### **DEPARTMENTAL NEWS/UPDATES:**

Althaus: Brian, do you have anything you'd like to talk about?

Auditor Brian Hattery: I do not, but Pam does.

Chief Dep. Aud. Pam Romanko: I sent out an email & updated the Finance Committee & I thought I would update you all as to what I've been up to. We opened a money market account at the Liberty Bank, it's a ICS account where they shoot monies into other banks but that's working well. I review it on Mondays & see what extra funds we have that would be able to earn interest & not just sit there. We approved the purchase of a Sani Vac for the water & sewer to be split between them & I've sent out letters to the local institutions to finance that so I'll get started on that. I think the delivery on that is supposed to be not until October so we'll get things in order so we can pay for that. Also approved in the 2021 budget was a new dump truck for the street dept. That will be about \$150,000 & I've been in contact with USDA with the same grant loan deal that we got last year. At this point we have a potential of 75% grant, instead of like 54% or something like that last year, so that's part of the legislation tonight. It's a good deal to be able to do that for equipment that we need. Brian mentioned in March that we're looking at new software. We've looked at payroll & finance so far and we're looking at upgrading into the 21<sup>st</sup> century...we'll have an employee portal where employees can go in & get their check stubs & they can look at their record of paid time off, their pay history, etc. There will be electronic timesheets that they'll turn in & get approved by their dept. heads, electronic requisitions for purchase orders coming from dept. heads, & some HR software is in the works that will interact with all of our payroll. This week we have a demo on budget software & fixed assets. I'm not sure what that's going to entail or what the needs will be if we need that. We're also going to be looking at new income tax software that will allow citizens to file online. The system will require a new central network so everybody in all the different buildings can get to & be able to do the requisitions & talk to the Auditor's Office. So I'm hoping, and I think it will because of the distance that it encourages, but it will qualify as a valid expense from the American Relief Fund. They don't really have the guidelines yet for that of course...the American Relief Plan as you've

heard before, the City is set to receive \$1.6 million & half of that we'll get probably in May and the other half next year. We're also looking at a couple of police cruisers with that money & Dennis has been getting quotes on that. That's my update, any questions?

Althausen: Pam, we really appreciate that. That helps keep all of Council....

Beazley: The understanding was you have a webinar that will give a little more detail on ARP next week?

Romanko: Yes. The OML & Office of Budget Management both have webinars this week. I suspect I'll be doing a lot of that the next few months.

Althausen: Anything from you Chief Donnelly? No, okay. Lt. anything from you?

Lt. Rob Lutes: Just to let City Council know that the City has towed several vehicles off of properties and any that are worth any value, if they're unclaimed, we've been putting them on gov.deals. I know we just had a 5<sup>th</sup> wheel camper that sold on gov.deals and that money will be going back to the KPD. We've found that with all of the nuisance orders we've been issuing, there's only about 5% of the people where we actually have to go out & do something. The rest have actually been taken care of with the warnings when our officers go back to check on them. So I do appreciate that. That's what it's all about.

Althausen: People want to do the right thing. Taylor, anything you want to talk about now or wait until comments? No, okay.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS/PETITIONS:**

Althausen: As far as communications I don't have anything to present. We do have a petition in regards to an alley vacation. We're going to do this a little differently...Safety/Nuisances has been carrying a pretty big load, so I'm going to call this a special project. We have 3 copies that will go to David, Pegg, & Robin. I think I got the 3 that aren't on Safety, right?

Davis: Robin is on Nuisance with us.

Althausen: Well she's on Nuisance but not Safety.

Davis: Right.

Althausen: I'm still going to do that so take a look at that. Is there anything whether it's John or the Administration want to talk about on that? You guys might not even have seen much of it yet. It's at 345 W. Espy Street...

Schwemer: What's important to note on that is it was a platted alley, but it dead ends so the property owner owns everything around it. There is nowhere this alley can even go because it is landlocked by private land. So it's one of those that really doesn't make a lot of sense. So obviously the people on the committee go take a look at it, I'm not trying to circumvent the process, but I'm just explaining there is really no way this can be opened without us acquiring additional right-of-way and then where would this go.

Beazley: There are no utilities affected?

Schwemer: We'd have to check.

Murray: I'll have to look at it.

Althausen: Right, a lot of times Burl or someone will take a look at it.

Schwemer: Keep in mind, when we do vacate alleys we always reserve the rights for existing utilities & that is by statute also. So even though it's in my ordinance that I draw up, it's by law under the ORC when we vacate those they're explicitly reserved by statute.

Althausen: Unless you all 3 want to meet, I don't see a need to...you can go separately & in 2 weeks tell us what you all think. I think that will work great. All right with you John? Okay.

#### **MONTHLY/ANNUAL REPORTS:**

Althausen: Cindy, do you want to talk about the effluent report? Plus, if you want to, you could go right ahead & talk about the update from OHM.

Murray: Mike's monthly report basically just shows that we had 1 bypass in the month of March that was reported to the EPA. Then the SSES Study, that's just an update. We've spent a lot of time cleaning out manholes that have had debris in them. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> page you can see there are 6 main manholes that feed into the WWTP that we're focusing on. The flow meters have been set and you can tell the meters have been set because we haven't had rain since we set them...we'll probably have a drought this summer. So you can see the 6 manholes that we're focusing on. We're hoping to be able to pinpoint where most of the flow is coming from & then we'll be able to go from there to figure out what we need to do about it. Any questions on that?

Althausen: Cindy, a quick comment on Mike's report...he has on there the design flow is 2.4 million gallons per day. Go ahead & explain that.

Murray: Yes, that is what the WWTP was designed to handle. You can see that we're above that, we were above that every day except for one. So that's what the SSES study is supposed to help us determine where all this water is coming from because we don't make that much water, so it's got to be coming in through the river, storm drains tied into it...so that's what the SSES study is to help us determine where all of this water is coming from that we're processing. So hopefully you'll see that number go down once we figure out where it's coming from.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

None from Finance, MOP, Special Projects

Nuisance, Safety, Cemetery, Davis: So if the Nuisance Committee plus the Mayor & Cindy could stay after for 5 minutes so we can plan out a schedule that would be great. Safety, I also need to talk to both of you for about 5 minutes after. And Cemetery is good to go.

Regional Planning, Beazley: I don't want to steal the Mayor's thunder...there will be something she'll discuss tonight that refers to one of the ongoing projects that may actually begin to see the light of day.

Althaus: BKP met last Monday night. We did have Commissioner Rush there as a visitor which was very nice. He talked for a little bit. It was a very quick meeting & there are a couple of things they're working on as far as they got the lifts installed. I do have the minutes from March if anyone would like to see those. Usually I don't get the minutes until 3-4 days before the next meeting so I don't have April's yet. Any other committee reports I might have missed?

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 21-009, 2<sup>ND</sup> READING, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING KENTON CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 1064.02(G) REGARDING ACCESS THROUGH THE GATE OF FRANCE LAKE – SAULISBERRY PARK IN THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO.**

Althaus: I think there was some discussion on this 2 weeks ago explaining the need behind it and when it was originally brought up 5 weeks ago. Anything new in the meantime? Then, if I hear no objections, we'll read that for a 3<sup>rd</sup> & final time in 2 weeks. Is there any other old business this evening?

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 21-003, 1<sup>ST</sup> READING, TITLE ONLY; A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL REVENUE FUND FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 DISTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Althaus: Pam is standing up at the podium so...

Romanko: This is for the funds we'll be receiving next month. In one of the conferences that I attended & the paperwork they sent we need a new & separate fund not the same Corona Virus Fund. We can't use the same fund so this is the special revenue fund for the American Rescue Plan monies that will be coming in. Like I said, we're going to be getting it next month, so I'd like to entertain waiving the 3 read rule.

Beazley: Mr. President, so we can appropriately log these dollars in when they come in, I would move...

**Motion by Mr. Beazley & second by Mrs. Risner 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 Mr. Beazley & second by Mr. Lawrence to approve Resolution No. 21-003.**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 21-004, 1<sup>ST</sup> READING, TITLE ONLY; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR OF CITY OF KENTON, OHIO TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A COMMUNITIES FACILITIES DIRECT LOAN & GRANT WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Althaus: Pam do you want to explain the idea behind this?

Romanko: This is the same thing we did last year in order to be able to apply for those USDA funds. I have to have this in place to be eligible to apply. I'll be applying sometime in June so we could have it for another read but actually it will be just like the other USDA grant that we had last year. It will be up to 75% & up to \$100,000.00 for the grant part of it. So it will be a really good idea I believe to file an application for these grant funds.

Althaus: Do you want to remind everyone what it's going for?

Romanko: We can waive the 3 read rule so I can get on with the application so that I'm able to apply by June.

Davis: But it's for the dump truck?

Beazley: Which was already a budgeted item so we're looking to seek grant dollars to reduce the effect on our funds.

Romanko: Correct.

**Motion by Mr. Beazley & second by Mrs. Risner 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: I think what you're comparing it to, wasn't that what we bought the trucks with before?

Romanko: Yes...some fire equipment, a couple of pickup trucks & a leaf master.

**Motion by Mr. Lawrence & second by Mrs. Wren to approve Resolution No. 21-004.**

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

Schwemer: Now starts the paperwork. Ha.

Romanko: Right, it's a nightmare but it's worth it.

Schwemer: They are document intensive.

Romanko: I spent 3 days last week getting the annual paperwork around that I have to file every year with them, so I've already got some of that legwork done because of that. It's ongoing....

**ORDINANCE NO. 21-010, 1<sup>ST</sup> READING, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2021 FOR THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Althausen: I think Pam is going to take the lead in explaining this one...

Romanko: I sent the explanation on the back of this ordinance in your packets so that way it's in writing & you guys can see it. The 1<sup>st</sup> item is fire radio...when we paid the invoice for the MARCS radio last year, we inadvertently closed that PO and the programming was included in that, but we don't have the money to pay for the programming. So at the end of 2020 fire radio had \$3500 unspent funds & I'd just like to put that into 2021. Fire maintenance of equipment, the Fire Chief has spent all of his \$10,000 budget on repairing equipment such as repairs to ambulance doors, the fire truck, tornado siren, EMS equipment maintenance, batteries were unplanned but necessary, and he only has \$230 left unencumbered in that fund. That also pays for like copiers & other equipment too. Then the stormwater refunds & stormwater incidentals...because we just created that fund & we have the ability to collect for stormwater we need to be able to refund money if there is an error or incidentals. So I ask that you put \$500 in each one of those line items just so that I have it there so if there is a refund or error in billing or whatever we can take care of that. Then the fire loss fund, I'm asking for \$22,000. The original budget was \$10,000 & we've received 2 checks this year from insurance companies for fire loss totaling \$22,338 so I'd just like to have those appropriations in there so the next check that comes in I can disperse those funds. Any questions?

Beazley: Does everyone understand what that fund does?

Romanko: For the public do you want to explain it?

Beazley: Insurance companies have to pay a portion of the proceeds of claim to the City until such criteria are met & then the City releases the funds back out to complete the settlement of the claim. But we hold them until said property is cleaned up.

Romanko: It's inspected by the Safety Service Director & the funds are then...

Schwemer: It's a way to make sure a property owner is incentivized to raze the property and take care of the nuisance created by the fire. There is a State statute that empowers us to have an ordinance, so we really piggyback off the State statute and we've had that in place for a long time, long before I've been here. It just happens most of the time the houses that do burn in the City are uninsured...it seems like most of the time they burn we're not getting money because there is no insurance.

Beazley: We've already collected this \$22,000 & now we need to appropriate it so it can go back out to the property owners once the cleanup is done.

Romanko: So because the Fire Dept. needs their maintenance of equipment and these items are not really debatable I guess is a good word, I'm just asking you to waive the 3 read rule on this one too.

Althausen: We do need to try to plan ahead on these things as much as we can.

Romanko: Yes, that's true.

Althausen: I'll leave it up to Council obviously.

Beazley: A portion of this falls on Finance & our failure to meet before the last meeting, Mr. President, so I will take the onus of that blame.

**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, 6 ayes; motion carried.**

**Motion by Mrs. Wren & second by Mrs. Risner to approve Ordinance No. 21-010.**

Althaus: Is there any discussion? **(Roll call vote, 6 ayes; motion carried)** John McEntee could not be with us this evening, so I'd entertain a motion to excuse him.

**Motion by Mr. Beazley & second by Mr. Lawrence to excuse John McEntee.**

Althaus: Any discussion? **(Roll call vote, 6 ayes; motion carried)** Is there any further new business to be considered?

**COMMENTS:**

Murray: I'm not sure if anybody or everybody is aware, but we've had in the last week 3 pedestrians hit down around the square and the last one was transported to Lima. So we're getting pricing to redo the striping around the square so hopefully that will help bring attention to the crosswalks and that people are in the crosswalks. We also are aware that our roads are deteriorating, especially at the corner of Franklin & Columbus (Detroit) so we're going to be working on that. We're going to be talking with ODOT & then we're going to try to do some patching to try to get it back up...we were trying to hold off until Phase II, but it's not going to last. As far as the rate increase, it will be on the bills that are received the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. We need to figure out how we want to communicate that & get that out there but I wanted to get it announced that it will be on the first bill in June for the rate increase. On June 8<sup>th</sup> we have a Civil Service Police Entrance Exam scheduled. We got a call from the USGS & gave them permission to put a gauge on the NW corner of the Leighton St. bridge. It's by one of the launch pads for the frisbee golf...it will help monitor the river & will be able to predict downstream for floods or any changes in the river flow and things like that. So we did give them permission to do that. Project updates...the transfer channel is scheduled to start on Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, so that is a week from today so that's good news. We talked about the SSES & for Phase II we're starting the town hall meetings & I do have the schedule here. The first one will be held on Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> in the Veteran's Hall at the Courthouse for the downtown business owners (Note: general public), then there will be another one for downtown business owners on May 13<sup>th</sup>, then May 20<sup>th</sup> will be a forum open to the general public (Note: 2<sup>nd</sup> half of business owners), and May 27<sup>th</sup> will be another one for the general public. All of them are at 6PM in the Veteran's Hall and they're going to discuss the information regarding sewer, storm sewer, water design, preliminary streetscape concepts, funding sources & the project schedule so I just wanted to get that out there. The City is joining 8-1-1...prior to this whenever you call 8-1-1 you'd only get Dominion & AEP and then you'd have to call the City on your own. So we decided to go ahead and join 8-1-1, it's a minimal charge, and then that way when they call in 8-1-1 will then forward that request to the City for people to come out and mark their lines. The last thing I have is it's grass mowing season, so just please remember not to blow grass clippings into the street because they enter the storm sewer & it gets clogged up & then we have a mess. So just try to keep your clippings in your yard. Any questions?

Althaus: Will you put those dates for the public meetings on the Outlook calendar/City calendar?

Taylor: I'll put it on our website & on Facebook too.

Althaus: Well, yeah, I figured you would do that. Thank you.

Murray: We'll probably put them all on there but two are for the downtown business owners.

Althaus: Well, the Outlook calendar is the internal one so that way Council will know if they can make it to the meetings.

Rec Director, Taylor Klinger: I just have a few updates. Swim lessons - we are offering them this year. It will be Mon.-Thurs., lessons signup starts on May 7<sup>th</sup> so they'll actually be able to sign up until the day before the lessons start unless you are in the pre-k class which is 3-5 with a cutoff of 8 kids. Everyone else you can have 20 kids or whatever you want. Again, that will be the whole summer long. They'll go 8 days & then have 2 days & then a new session will start. So hopefully...we've had good feedback in the past about wanting to start this so we'll see how this goes. Early bird passes end on May 30<sup>th</sup> so in the next few days, and then they'll go up to the normal rates starting May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mayor Webb: You said ends May 30<sup>th</sup> but you mean April 30<sup>th</sup>?

Klinger: Yes, ends on April 30<sup>th</sup> & the pool opens on May 31<sup>st</sup>. I'm getting a little confused on my days. Ha. So Memorial Day is going to be the actual opening day which is a Monday and that will be our normal business hours from 1-7PM. I think pretty soon after that the swim team starts.

Davis: Right.

Klinger: So swim team is in the morning & swim lessons, & then the pool will be open until 7PM. From 7-10PM we'll have parties every night available. Does anybody have any questions?

Lawrence: At the quarry I understand they're doing discounts for Veterans for fishing?

Taylor: Um hmm.

Lawrence: Thanks for doing that. Do you know off the top of your head how many people have taken advantage of that so far?

Taylor: Yes, I looked it up before the meeting...only 20.

Lawrence: I appreciate you guys doing it though.

Taylor: We do it for fishing & boating...the 20 is combined for both of them. I think we've sold about 160 of each. Thank you.

Chief Bruce Donnelly: Just a couple of things we've got going on right now. The first group of MARCS radios we ordered are being installed in the trucks right now. The guy was actually still working on doing an install when I stopped down there before the meeting here. Hopefully we'll be getting them all done on the trucks here shortly. We have set the date for flowing the hydrants in the SE section for the week of May 17<sup>th</sup>. That will be for the entire SE section of the town where we'll be doing the flows. That's all I've got right now.

State Representative Jon Cross: In the State budget we put \$3 million in the Ohio House budget for MARCS. We hope the Senate will put \$3 million in too. What that does, the MARCS System is about \$27-\$30 million overall project & the \$6 million helps keep the radio costs to \$10.00. So what we're trying to do is help you all keep your local government funding by offsetting their cost to keep it at \$10.00. Every year, not by design but the Governor zeros out the MARCS and we have to go back & put that money in. I think last year's budget, well 2 years ago it was \$4 million & now we're trying to do \$6 million just to keep the cost low. That was something in the budget that has a direct impact for you all. I think engine & defense is done by the Commissioners I don't think you deal with engine & defense costs locally so that was the one that stuck out in my mind.

Risner: I just want to make a comment about the mowing. I'd like to see also our businesses...I know there are several businesses here that are mowing their grass clippings into the roads. That's not good either & I thought you know it's one thing that we ask our citizens to do it but we need to ask our businesses to do this too. I wanted to make that a public record to ask people to do that. It's also not good for motorcycles. I had a friend in a bad wreck because of grass so we need to be aware of what we're doing. That's one of the things I wanted to say and also little kids are out & it's getting warm. So watch out for your neighbors & help each other & take care of each other. That's all I have.

Schwemer: I don't know if Pam is still around...but just keep in mind with us having the funds coming in for the American Rescue Plan this is going to put us well over the federal limit, which is going to trigger what's called a single audit. To my knowledge I don't think we've had to deal with that since I've been in office, but there will be some additional expense next year & some red tape & Pam is well aware of that & I'm sure she'll be ready for it. But just keep in mind it's an added expense with lots of red tape and lots of headaches. But that is inevitable unless we don't want the money.

Auditor Hattery: We haven't had a single audit, but we were close this last year. This is something the County Auditor deals with every year. I think it's for federal funding over \$800,000.

Mayor Webb: To talk about what Dave was speaking of, McKittrick Hospital, which we've seen for many, many, many years unfortunately continues to deteriorate to where it's become an eyesore & unsafe place. It's not fair to the neighbors to have to go out & sit on their front porches and look at that. It doesn't do us well with people driving down Detroit Street from another town to see it. So, we are grateful to say the bid opening is tomorrow for the tear down and Mark (Doll) thinks it will be down by late July.

Beazley: Or early August.

Mayor: Yes, late July or early August for tear down. This was well before me, I want to make that very clear, it's been wheels in motion for a very long time. That is a true example of government red tape that takes forever. So that's good news. Ok, spring cleanup...twelve 30yd. dumpsters that our guys unloaded from cars, trailers, trucks, vans. I appreciate it. I went out several times & I love the ingenuity of our citizens. If they had a way to get it in their vehicle, it didn't have to be in a truck, our guys were pulling out things. There were several mini vans full of stuff and I was like oh my gosh. It just kept coming, it was wonderful. So I appreciate that people took advantage of that. We were very blessed from NCOSWD as they cut us a \$10,000 check that went towards helping to pay for that cleanup. I know Burl through SV&E and Republic have said their dumpsters are very hard to find right now because they're in high demand. So hats off to Lt. Lutes & the entire KPD taking on this project. And it's resonating...the thing of it is, I know in this community we want to do good things. We have the right ideas & we see the light

at the end of the tunnel and it's happening. It's everybody working together & having an understanding...sometimes we have little blips in the road, but at the end of the day it's happening. So I commend the police force efforts, not only taking on what they take on on a regular basis but taking this on. They're very efficient and a huge shoutout to Chief & Lt. Lutes for doing a fantastic job with the cleanup. I think as the word gets out it makes it even better. Last Friday I was at a breakfast at the Elks and the State had Jon there & Senator McCauley there, the State Treasurer's Office, Auditor's Office from the State, and Sheriff Everhart spoke. But I want to share that sometimes we get a little bad rap but then you hear these leaders from the State speak of how well Hardin County is rolling out in collaboration & communication with each other. We may not agree with everything, how one does something or doesn't, but it's at the Statehouse they're hearing look how well Kenton's Police Dept. works with the Sheriff's Dept. & Task Force. This central dispatch roll out, like Sheriff Everhart said it has been so smooth. To hear all of these State representatives and from the offices speak about how you guys are kicking it and I just want to commend everybody that works that. I came back from there & I was so pumped up I was high fiving everybody. I was pumped & it's like that proud mama moment you know. It's knowing that's who we are and it's resonating. So to piggyback off of that, several weeks ago the Governor calls me. He's hearing it and it goes with what Cindy said because he knows we have an ODOT problem & he wanted to know what did we need from ODOT. I want to clarify that it is so much not ODOT because they have been so helpful...anytime we call ODOT they're talking with us, but I need them to think outside of the box because we have, and we all know it that sit in this room, a tremendous truck traffic problem, 5 state routes and the amount of revenue that we have in our community we're challenged. I told him this is something we cannot handle. We have got to get a handle on it. The base is gone on all of Detroit Street. This GPS turning here, like Cindy said we have a safety issue but unfortunately the safety study only studies deaths. I fully understand that. We know of crossroads where people are getting wiped out all the time and that should take priority, but down here there are so many near misses. John knows it. He crosses that street all the time. We have so many near misses downtown and it's only because so many of these people know you better have your head on a swivel. Thank goodness the police don't write us up for jay-walking cause it's about safer to walk across the middle of the street than on a corner. I was grateful for the Governor & within hours ODOT's people from our district reached out so our meeting is tomorrow at noon. So 3 of them are coming & that's what we want to talk about...we want to talk about safety, routing these trucks, and you know how can you help us. Do I appreciate the Governor reaching out to us? I'm thankful we're in his scope & we're not just some forgotten county that no one cares about. You know, we're a bunch of fighters so I'm real excited about it & I hope we make some progress. I know we're going to make progress...I know that one way or another. So I invite everybody to...we really have to think outside the box on what are the possibilities. I think anything is on the table right now, anything. But if we're going to do this project of putting new waterlines in, new storm in, we have got to get this right this time. We can't look back in 10 years and say well could've, would've, should've. We have to do it right. But you know what? Jon knows, the Governor knows that I need their help. I need their help! We have a lot of state routes running through here. So, I'm excited about where that's going. She's probably going to get upset with me, but Jacqueline is here. Everybody knows & it's been in the paper that she's resigned from the Chamber, but I just want to publicly say thank you. You brought so much to our community, your vision...I think not one person in this room has been to the Christmas Parade and not say it's magical. Your window decorations, second to none! Your love for community, your Eats on the Streets vision...your love of community saying how can I hustle for you Mayor, how can I hustle? I appreciate you, I value you. Darn it! But we're going to keep rolling aren't we sister? We're going to get it right somewhere down the line. Then the final thing I want to make very clear, it was brought up last meeting about a raise. I want to be real clear on the record, so Tim if your pen is ready, I've never asked for a raise nor would I ever take a raise. I know John made it very clear it would be for the different term so it wouldn't be in this term, but as long as I sit here I'd never take a raise. I knew exactly what I was making coming into this, I didn't do it to make money or to take a raise. There is so much more that we could be doing here & there are a lot of other people who work 24/7 it seems like 7 days a week. So I just want to go on the record that it will never happen while I'm here. Now Council, that's their own fight but not from this seat. With that, I love this town. Let's go!

Althausen: Thank you, Mayor. I'm going to follow up with that comment than just to clarify the Mayor's comments a little further. No one asked for a raise. Look at the minutes, read the minutes, that isn't what was said at all. No, the Law Director did not call for raises for the Mayor & Council, so I just want to clarify that. All our Law Director did was what is responsible & say hey you guys might want to take a look at this because I can't remember when it was looked at last. I came on Council in 2009 & it's never

been looked at while I was here. David & Pegg were here prior to that, do you recall it ever being discussed?

Beazley: It was approached in a situation like this but in a conversation with the Law Director I believe it was in 1996, so it's been 25 years since there has been an increase to any of the elected salaries.

Althausen: The point is, this is not a Lynn Webb issue that was brought up. This is not a Joel Althausen or any of the 7 Councilmember's issue that was brought up. This was at some point you probably ought to review those salaries. All I'd ask those people that saw the need to jump on social media & just get really upset about it, any responsible business evaluates their salaries from time to time. That's all that was said. So in the future before we get too riled up, let's bring it in...it's unfortunate the Mayor even had to respond that way because that's not even what happened. Those need to be evaluated from time to time and you need to compare to your peers and you may do nothing from that. But to sit there and not even look at it all of a sudden you realize you can't get people in places, whether it's elected or outside of the elected, hired into positions because you don't have the ability to pay them what would even entice them. Another topic I wanted to mention, two things and it was very good timing tonight...the report that talks about the effluent & I asked Cindy to talk about our WWTP is designed for 2.4 million gallons/day. We are above that in the month of March, which was not necessarily a heavy rain month in the month of March every day. There were 3 pedestrians hit downtown in the past month. I think all 3 of them occurred in or close to crosswalks so it was when vehicles were turning. Where I'm going with this is the whole issue of Phase II. And then the last part I will say is the report from OHM that Cindy highlighted where the SSES project & the monitoring that's going on. Folks, Phase II isn't carved in stone what's going to happen by any means. What's carved in stone is we recognize that we have an issue with our wastewater, we're getting too much water & trying to shove too much water through our plant, we have an issue with pedestrians getting hurt downtown & have had for a while, we have an issue with our downtown streets, curbs, sidewalks crumbling & falling apart, and we have an issue with water from time to time keeping our depressurization. So the thought in Phase II was we have to get the ball rolling somewhere to start. Folks, if you don't start a project, you never get funded for one, you absolutely never get funded in the climate we're in now. So that project may evolve sure, it might even take a little bit different geographic focus or what we do in that geographic 9 block area might change, but I can tell you this, if we hadn't started...Jacqualine was number one on starting that project or we'd have never gotten anywhere. Yes, it may end up being a little bit different, but you will never ever get the funding you need from outside the community if you don't start with some plan. The first thing they want to know every single time is what is your plan? So please bear with us as we try to figure that out and we try to get flow meters in place and hope for some rain. We only need a handful of good rains and we're going to learn a lot. Unfortunately, we couldn't get them in place last spring quite in time. The last thing I would say is anyone who ever has a question or wants to understand how legislation flows through Council, for example the term emergency language, which does not mean it's a true emergency it simply means if we pass it with the required vote the Mayor can sign it & once the Mayor signs it, it will immediately go into law or into effect. If anyone has any questions about that come to Council. There is this notion out there that we do everything in an emergency situation because they read that term either in the paper or hear it on the radio. It doesn't mean what you think folks, it simply means we've gone through the reads or maybe suspended the rules but once you've done all of that Council has passed it & the Mayor has signed it, typically we will include emergency language so that it goes right into effect. Otherwise, it just waits 30 days. No one can change it unless Council brings it up again & rescinds it, but it's just we wait 30 days. So obviously if we suspend the rules we don't want to wait 30 days & if we read 3 reads & the public had 6 weeks to comment on it, typically we'll include emergency language there too to get it in effect. So I will end my little rant there, but I would encourage anyone to ask the Mayor, Council, anyone up here if they ever have questions. Just reach out & ask us, it's not difficult. Were there any other comments for the good of the order? Our next meeting is here on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Webb: I have one more thing...I just want to remind everybody there were donations for Dave Butler, he was the volunteer who helped DeWayne at the quarry & passed away there, so they did plant 3 trees by the Veterans Circle the other day. They look phenomenal so go out & check them out. That was his big dream to put more color there so that's where his wife planted them & she wanted that to be known so she took some pictures...it looks wonderful & we appreciate that.

Althausen: Alright, if there are no objections we're adjourned.

