

9TH REGULAR SESSION:

Kenton City Council met in their 9th regular session on May 10, 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 Cindy Murray. Absent: John McEntee.

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

MINUTES:

Althaus: Are there any additions or corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting? Hearing none, they'll stand approved as submitted.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TIME TO SPEAK:

Althaus: We have no one on the agenda, however there will be time at the end of the meeting under comments if anyone wants to address the Administration or Council.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS/UPDATES:

Chief Bruce Donnelly: We wanted to introduce Brent Warren, our new hire from Jenera. Did you want to say anything?

Althaus: Yes, please tell us a little about yourself.

Brent Warren: I grew up in Hancock County and my dad was in firefighting for 30 years. I've been a volunteer firefighter for 6 years and an EMT for Hanco EMS prior to starting here, as well as working on a dairy farm. I just want to thank you guys for giving me the opportunity and I look forward to working for Kenton.

Mayor Webb: Thank you.

Althaus: Welcome. Chief, thanks for having him come up.

Chief Donnelly: I guess the only thing else is a reminder for next week...the 17th we start flowing hydrants in the SE section, so we'll put notices on Facebook and probably get with the radio to put something on there just to let people know. Typically, that section takes us maybe about 3 days, just depending on how many calls we get during that same time and the weather. So hopefully we'll be done by Wednesday but if not, we'll plan on doing it Thursday & Friday also. I just kind of want to give people a head's up in that section of town to maybe if they can hold off on doing laundry if they see us around because we usually stir up some rust in the water lines.

Murray: Southeast?

Chief Donnelly: Yes, so basically from Franklin Street south and Main Street east.

Althaus: Basically the 1st Ward.

Chief Donnelly: Yes. I know we'll be doing some flows for OHM also to help them with planning for Phase II. Other than that, that's all I've got. If there are any questions, I've got another meeting I need to get to so....

Beazley: See you next time.

Althaus: Thanks Bruce. Guys if you need to slip out you can also. Well Tate can't. Ha. Chief Musser anything you want to talk about?

Chief Dennis Musser: Real quick, we're giving a test in June (8th) and I think our filing deadline is the 25th. Is that right Brenda? Okay, we have a new hire, Leslie Crawford, who came to us from Bluffton Police Department, so we'll get her up here. She just rotated to 2nd shift on training, so we'll get her up here soon. We'll have Chuck Carey retiring at the end of this month, so we'll be looking to put 2 on hopefully with this next batch of applicants. That's about all I've got.

Beazley: Mr. President, while Chief is here...we did receive a communication...can we go to that real quick to ask a question?

Althaus: Sure, we can do that. The communication was the annual renewal of liquor licenses across the City & whether we want to object to any. Were you aware of any that you have concerns with?

Chief Musser: No.

Althaus: Thank you.

COMMUNICATIONS/PETITIONS:

Althaus: First I'm going to mention there is one & in new business we'll bring it up. Also, I had a communication from Ohio Health...that was a communication announcing that Ohio Health was again listed as one of the 100 best companies to work for in 2021. They appreciate all the help they get from their local stake holders & entities in helping them achieve that goal. The Kenton Tree Commission...you

see their minutes so that's the extent of communications that I'm aware of. Anyone else have communications? Petitions we have no new ones but we have one outstanding that we'll ask that committee to report on in new business because I think we'll have an action that comes out of that. Well we aren't going to do that tonight are we John?

Schwemer: No.

Althausler: Okay, Pegg if you want to go ahead & report on that now.

Special Projects, Wren: Well the 3 of us did look at the property and since Home Savings owns everything around it we agree to vacate that alley.

Schwemer: Brenda did note that there is a 4" waterline that goes through there, but it really has no bearing, in my opinion, on vacation of an alley because we always reserve it in the language of the ordinance that I draft. But even if I would forget, it is statutory that any utility easements that were installed before the alley was vacated will continue. So it's more just that we'll make sure the bank is aware of that so they can tell any potential purchaser. But again, that's really no different than just having an easement for that line through there, so again I don't think it should have any bearing on our vote here. The question on vacation of alley's is are we ever going to use it for an alley. If the answer is no, we really should lean towards vacating is my opinion.

Althausler: Does any Councilmember have any objections for the Law Director to go ahead & get the legislation ready? Okay, thank you Special Projects for addressing that so quickly & expeditiously.

MONTHLY/ANNUAL REPORTS:

Althausler: In your packets you have the Income Tax report, Auditor/Treasurer report, KPD report and the KFD report. Are there any questions on any of these reports?

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Safety, Davis: (NOTE: can't hear over static) We will get together to schedule a meeting for this week...do you want me to keep going with the rest of the committees now? Okay, Nuisance is going to meet on June 10th at 2PM to finish up going through the ordinances and combining them. Then the Cemetery has changed it's meeting to the 15th at 7PM. They're busy getting ready for Memorial Day and they've planted Magnolia Trees and have been using the mini excavator & laying concrete....

Finance, Beazley: Finance has not met, however we will hold a meeting prior to the next Council meeting on May 24th at 6PM.

Althausler: I think that covers the committees...did I forget anyone?

OLD BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 21-009, 3RD 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.

Althausler: This is the 3rd read. I don't know if anything additional has come up, but I don't think so. I've received no comment on this item, so what are the wishes of Council at this time?

Mayor Webb: I know DeWayne has appreciated it & its really helped on that back road as far as you don't have people coming back there at all hours of the night.

Althausler: Remember all you're doing is you're essentially taking it out of the codifieds and saying it's a purview of the Mayor and/or Safety Service Director.

Motion by Mrs. Davis & second by Mrs. Risner to approve Ordinance No. 21-009

Althausler: Is there any discussion? **(Roll call vote, 6 ayes; motion carried)** Is there any additional old business to be presented at this time?

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 21-011, 1ST READING, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2021 FOR THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Althausler: Councilman Beazley is going to describe this legislation.

Beazley: Thank you, Mr. President. This legislation is a result of some extra efforts made by our Administration & Staff in seeking out some grant dollars. All of these dollars have been given to us in the form of grants or donations and we're looking to move accordingly...The Tree Commission donation was from the Hardin County Community Foundation, as well as the \$1500 to the KPD for bullet proof vests, Park & Rec was given \$2000 under the maintenance of equipment line and \$2000 to the KFD for the King Vision Device & Portable Refrigeration for a 2nd ambulance unit so we don't have to keep switching things

back & forth between units. In addition, the Capital Budget from the State of Ohio is granting us \$20,000 for the repair of swimming pool concrete. There was a memorial donation to the quarry in honor of Dave Butler and finally the KFD received \$150 in payment for CPR training. We have received all of these funds, it's not causing us any harm to our budget, and we would like to move forward with these expeditiously so they can be spent for the purposes intended. In doing 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, 6 ayes; motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Risner and second by Mrs. Wren to approve Ordinance No. 21-011.

Althaus: Is there any discussion? **(Roll call vote, 6 ayes; motion carried)** I would like to say thanks for all of the hard work that everyone did to get those grants. Also at this time, I would entertain a motion to excuse John McEntee as he had some flooding issues from the rain we had.

Motion by Mr. Beazley & second by Mrs. Risner to excuse John McEntee.

Althaus: Is there any discussion? **(Roll call vote, 6 ayes; motion carried)** Is there any further new business to come before Council this evening?

COMMENTS:

Cindy Murray: I'd like to publicly welcome Brent too. Work has begun on the Water Transfer Channel...they've been sounding the concrete which is really technical (just kidding...they ping it with a hammer). They've had some issues, some small & some larger, so they're moving through those. The Phase II meeting on the 4th was our first community informational forum and I'd say we had about 20 people present. So we have 2 meetings scheduled for the downtown business owners on 5/13 & then on 5/20, and then another community wide one on Thursday, May 27th. Those start at 6PM or is it 7PM?

Mayor Webb: 6PM.

Murray: Thank you. 6PM. You'll see the street crew working on the downtown trying to temporarily patch some of the bad spots & we are getting the striping within the next couple of weeks...we're redoing the striping of the crosswalks, stop bars, and that's throughout the entire town. The last thing I have is I'm going to try to start hitting on some ordinances that we get questions about a lot and tonight happens to be chickens. We get a lot of questions on whether people are allowed to have chickens or not so I'm going to read you exactly what the ordinance says. This is ordinance 1250.02 & it says "gardening, the raising of vegetables or fruits and the keeping of domestic or farm animals exclusively for the use or personal enjoyment of the residents of the lot and not for commercial purposes is allowed provided that any heating plant or structures in which the farm animals are kept are located at least 100 ft. from every lot line". So as Brenda says, there are very few lots in the City of Kenton that can meet that 100 ft. requirement. Also, under ordinance 618.13 "no person shall keep or harbor any animal or fowl in the Municipality so as to create noxious or offensive odors or unsanitary conditions which are a menace to the health, comfort or safety of the public". (Note: nothing but static on recorder) So that's all I've got.

Beazley: Antwillia asked about whether support chickens are allowed. (Kidding)

Mayor Webb: I'd like to welcome FF Warren, you've joined a team of the best of the best firefighters I think. Of course, the police officers are the best of the best too. (Can't hear...static) Thank you to Council for passing the additional appropriations ordinance so we can get started on the concrete work at the pool. We have some very talented & gifted community members and one who I reached out to is Wayne Mendendhall, well I've always known him as "Beano", but he checked out our concrete deck and said the concrete was actually in great shape but it's unlevel because it's sinking so it's not ADA compliant. There are 2 areas around the pool that have really sunk & exposed the side of the pool that allowed water in & now we have maintenance on the side of the pool. So he really turned me onto these concrete levelers and we had 2 companies come out this past week & demonstrate. At first we were just talking the complete perimeter, but this same company does the caulking around the stainless steel too so when their bid came in we still had money left and hope to do the entire deck. We're looking around \$20,000, which is the money we're getting from Capital Budget from the State (can't hear over static). So they'll start this Sunday and everything will be done by the end of May when we open on Memorial Day. So once again, I'd give a big shoutout to Beano for steering us in the right direction. This week we opened up swim lessons & so far we've brought in \$2000 in tickets. Now onto parades...Senior Cruise was so successful last year & the kids were really excited about it with the COVID and everything, so we thought it should be a tradition. We're going to shorten the route a little this year because some of the vehicles got a little strung out last year, but we're all looking forward to it. It will be on May 21st at 7PM and there will be a map on our website of the route. Also, Cabaret is this weekend & it's important that we support our students. Lt. Governor Husted was here at the Wildcat Connectors Expo at KHS...he congratulated the

capstone projects, our internship and community partnership for our youth (can't hear). The Memorial Day parade is something the City is taking on this year (May 31st at 10AM). The Lion's Club and Kirk Cameron said they would help us do the lineup and step everybody off. The high school JROTC has agreed to be our color guard. We have aged Amvets who can't make that walk but they can ride, so the youngsters stepped up and the band is in. So it looks like we've had some good turnout on who is coming. I appreciate the community kind of getting us back to the good old days, a good parade...I think that's something we can't skip out on. On that note, that's all I have.

Althausser: I'd just remind everyone of a few dates. Dave announced Finance will meet in 2 weeks at 6PM prior to our meeting, and then that night we'll have a public hearing at 7PM on rezoning. So we'll have the hearing & go straight into Council. (can't hear...static) The first public meeting of the Phase II was a good start. The next meeting will be for the business owners on Thursday the 13th, then again on Thursday the 20th, and then the last meeting will be on the 27th and that will be for the public again. I hope there are quite a few of the folks that were in one or more of the other meetings come back to this last one. These meetings are held in Veteran's Hall at the Courthouse. I thought Sean Gillilan did a good job...he's pretty low key and he just puts it out there. I thought we had some good questions, but I'm sure there could be a lot more. Okay, if there is nothing further and no objections, this meeting is adjourned.

Joel Althausser
President of Council

Brenda Hanna
Clerk