

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

061

Minutes of

KENTON CITY COUNCIL

Meeting

Lifenthal Southeastern, Inc., 1-800-837-1904, Re-Order 68665K

Held

July 24, 2023

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14th REGULAR SESSION:

Kenton City Council met in their 14th Regular Session on July 24, 2023, at 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers. Present: President Joel Althaus, Sue Fox Buroker, David Beazley, Antwillia Davis, Ray Lawrence, Pegg Wren, Anda Tudor, Robin Jones, Law Director John Schwemer, Mayor Lynn Webb, Safety Service Director Cindy Murray.

Prayer given by Mr. Althaus:

Wise and loving one, thank You on behalf of all who are gathered here today. Thank You for Your many and abundant blessings. Thank you for life itself, for sustenance, and for friendship. Thank You for the ability to be involved in useful work and for the honor of bearing appropriate responsibilities. Thanks as well, for the freedom to embrace You, or the freedom to reject You. Thank You for loving us even so, from You boundless and gracious nature. Bless our agenda to be fruitful and for the common good. Grant that our mayor and council have ears to listen to the people they serve and wisdom to act for justice. We ask this in Your Holy Name. AMEN.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

MINUTES:

Althaus: Welcome everyone. We'll start out with regular meeting approval of the minutes. Are there any additions or corrections to those minutes as they were printed and provided to you? I guess they weren't printed as they were provided to you. Hearing none, they'll stand approved as submitted.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TIME TO SPEAK:

None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Althaus: You all have the Ohio Passenger Rail News at your station, and I also passed around the postcard announcing the United Way Kick-Off, August 4th 7:30-9 at Mid-Ohio Energy. That's in the morning and breakfast will be served. I do believe they ask to RSVP. Take a look at that, I'm not certain, David. Maybe they don't.

Beazley: If it is, it's torn off.

Althaus: Okay, so keep that in mind. Any other communications?

PETITIONS:

Althaus: I don't believe we have any right now. I think maybe committee reports there may be, wait you guys meet this week don't you? No.

Davis: We met last week.

Althaus: So, I believe you'll probably talk about the one petition in committee? The stop sign?

Davis: Yeah.

Althaus: Okay. So, nothing right now.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Althaus: Police Chief Musser?

Musser: So I just wanted to make council aware, a couple of things; have gone live with our National Testing Network job posing. So, we are trying to get a couple of people on here quickly, from the previous round of hiring, and then see where the National Testing Network takes us in the future. So, that was a long and arduous process but we, you know, working with the union and our attorney's and everything else we seem to finally get that done. So, if you know anybody that's looking for a job, you can get on-line there, and look at the job posting, along with the dozens and dozens of other Ohio Police Departments that are hiring. So, secondly, as I had mentioned last council meeting we were looking at trying to plan ahead for a vehicle in 2024. It seems as though, short version, Ford is going to a hybrid type of engine in 2024. It's going to be more costly, and I don't know how proven that engine is, in the fleet market. They were able to acquire some 2023s out of West Virginia. Although, they only come in one color, which is black. So, that is something else to look at but just as a heads up I will probably be emailing finance here in the next day or two. The quote on that for a 2023, if we could make that happen this year and forego it next year, I think that would probably be prudent. I don't know what the cost for the 2024 is right now but an estimate with the build is over \$60,000 for one car. So, it is what it is. I just wanted to give council a heads up on that. Any questions? Thank you.

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Beazley: Chief, yes I would, how solid will your 2023 number be when you send it to us?
 Musser: It'll be concrete.
 Beazley: It'll be perfect, thank you. That's all I needed.
 Althaus: Okay, Chief Donnelly, don't see him tonight. So, we'll move on, Jacqueline's not here. Income Tax you do have a report. Also, we should mention Chief Musser's monthly report for June is in your packet. Income Tax, the month revenue report.
 Beazley: May I ask a question, Mr. President?
 Althaus: Sure.
 Beazley: Is there a reason we're trailing 6 weeks behind? This is a May report, and we're late July. This is not Auditor's office. This is income tax.
 Webb: June is not balanced. So, to bring that into Income Tax, I can't, we can't balance.
 Beazley: Okay, thank you. Gives me my answer.
 Althaus: Any other questions? Good catch, David.
 Beazley: Thank you.
 Althaus: That was a good thing to add. Auditor, Brian, anything you want to talk about tonight? Nothing from the Treasurer. John, anything you want to talk about tonight? Safety Service Director, Cindy Murray?
 Murray: I've got a lot. I'll take everybody else. So, the parking lot over behind Middlefield Bank will be paved starting Thursday it will be shut down. It'll be ground around the edges and then the paving will be on Friday, weather permitting. They'll be no parking in there during that time. The paving of the streets is scheduled to begin August 1st, and that is S. Barron Street between E. Franklin and Decatur Streets, N. High Street between E. Eliza and E. Franklin, N. Ida between W. Pattison and Kohler Street, King Street between High Street and the Dead End, and Memorial Avenue between E. Columbus and E. Franklin. The Columbus Street paving, they are getting ready to start the concrete work. Which is the ADA compliant ramp. That will be the first two weeks in August and then he lets it cure. So, right about the end of the month the paving will be occurring and that will be during the night starting at 7pm and they will work at night. Scott Avenue, the waterline project, they're hoping to start in the middle of August pending supply chain issues. And the last things I have is the bridge. We've been working with the county engineer. We're hoping that they can get it, they can fix it for us. There'll be some work up on the deck and some work underneath. We're just waiting for ODOT's approval. ODOT had some questions for Luke. Waiting for Luke to get those answers back to them and for their approval of that process and I overestimated at approximately \$10,000 for us to get that fixed. This is a, I don't want to say short-term fix, but it is a short-term fix. We will have to look in the 5-10 years out what we're going to do for a more permanent repair. That's all I have.
 Althaus: And we'll follow up on the bridge with Ordinance 23-018. Thank you, Cindy. Mayor Webb?
 Webb: Sure so, I know Cindy talked about paving and that stuff so working with Mark Doll, we've worked on several grants to take down several houses that he is, through several grant programs. This month we will be taking down the old ESPY Barber Shop, that house because if you look at it the whole, it's kind of slid off it's foundation. The house in front of the Water Treatment Plant and the garage. So, we'll open that space up. There was a house trailer across from Wharton Park that was behind, within trees, and then we're looking at a property on Kohler Street that sits right in front of our water tower which would be very beneficial to us for access. The one on Kohler Street, we might have to use some of our nuisance money in our line item to help fill in that gap due to asbestos testing came in and that has those asbestos shingles, you know, all around it and then the garage in front of the water treatment plant is asbestos. So, that kind of kicks up for that disposal. So, we might have to take a little bit of it, and we're sitting well in the nuisance line. So, that shouldn't be a problem. Also, another grant on demolition will be done hopefully in August, will be the Comstock Elevator and the green burnout on Columbus Street across from Brim's parking lot. That's scheduled to go down, all on grant money. So, the property owners have been wonderful to work with and it's a good piece. Also, just want to touch base, we've had really good workings down at the Chamber & Business Alliance on Economic Development. Holly and I have worked on several projects. Several in the city and trying to get our sites up and certified for JobsOhio. JobsOhio has been in probably twice and we're staying in touch with those guys. Again, to market what we have and get them up on the site map. I can't say enough about

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JobsOhio and Holly has been wonderful and she's also looking at two other grants, a revolving loan fund, and a downtown vibrancy, and how we can come together. Jacqueline will be working with her on those two things, and I appreciate their efforts. Coming to the table and helping us really with the project now where we have some more money coming in how else we can work for the topside of downtown and economic development side. Just because it makes us even more so attractive when people see. The big push on economic development now is water capacity, how much water do you guys, can you make? That's the number one question. What do you sit on, where's your source, and how much water can you make? That is a big, that is their number one question, and we sit very well on that. We just have to get our sites certified and up to speed, and I know we're really looking at several that we're getting done with that. So, I'm really pleased with what that is, where that's going. Also, today we had, I hosted Wapak's Mayor Elect, who will be running the city in January and he stopped by and he's bringing a lot of neat things to Wapak. You know, we have talked about even through St. Marys and Van Wert, you know, how do we do a WBL summit, to get, how do we share knowledge? You know, we really pull a lot from St. Marys on how they do things and they've mentored us quite well and how they do things. So, again, sharing is caring. So, pretty excited about where that's all going. That's all I have.

Althaus: Alright, thank you Lynn.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND/OR SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Althaus: Finance, there's a written report of two weeks ago, anything you want to add?

Questions?

Beazley: No, sir.

Althaus: Alright, MOP?

Wren: MOP did not meet. They cancelled. We'll reschedule.

Althaus: Public Utilities?

Jones: We had a meeting on July 12th and just talked about the paving for Columbus Street, when that would start, like Cindy just discussed, and Scott Avenue, which she just discussed, and the transition of the Water Payment Department here and that's going very well, and the hiring of Robbin Hogan as a part-time employee to handle that and we review with Angelica the policy changes for shut off, water shut-offs and turn ons, and she said that's going very well. She hasn't had really anybody, you know, have a lot of concerns with that and that was it. So the next meeting for utility is August 16th, but it could change right, with the school and stuff? Remember we talked about that?

Murray: Yeah, I...

Jones: I don't know.

Murray: We've got it scheduled August 16th.

Jones: It's scheduled for August 16th, at 3:30.

Althaus: Alright, thank you Robin. Any questions? How about Streets?

Lawrence: Yeah, we met, discussed stop signs, looked at the stop signs going up in front of Root there at the donut place and then also there was a petition for Kohler Street, for Leighton, and one other one there...

Davis: Decatur.

Lawrence: Decatur.

Althaus: Another stop sign, was it?

Lawrence: Yeah, the one stop sign is on Kohler. Someone requested that.

Althaus: Did you, as a committee, make a recommendation?

Lawrence: We did for the ones at the donut shop, but not up at Kohler. And then they've ordered the digital speed signs and they're looking at placing them when they come in.

Althaus: At the donut shop, what was your recommendation?

Murray: We're putting it in.

Davis: We're putting that in there.

Althaus: Okay, any questions for Ray, or that committee? Alright, Legislation?

Davis: Legislation was short. We just went over some definitions; looking at the definition of a foundation, some other permit questions, definitions for obtaining permits and kind of where we're going to go with that. But we were very early in the start so it's going to be a few more meetings before we get anything definite.

Althaus: Alright, any questions for any of the committees? Anything about Regional Planning?

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Beazley: No, sir. Did not meet in July.

Althaus: Robin, anything with Parks & Rec? Probably haven't met since...

Jones: I don't know we've been back since we've had the swim meet.

Althaus: Right, right.

Jones: So, that was really amazing and that was, I don't know if we've talked about that? Have we?

Althaus: Yeah.

Jones: Other than that, I don't think, the pool looks good. I mean, I drive out there every week or so and it looks good and...

Althaus: Winding down though.

Jones: Yeah, it is. Nice weather this week.

Althaus: What is the last official regular day?

Davis: The 12th.

Althaus: The 12th. Great, Grove Cemetery Board? Antwill, anything?

Davis: We have not met since our last meeting.

Althaus: Tree Commission, I haven't heard much. I know Sue, you couldn't attend.

Murray: Do you want me to report?

Althaus: Yeah, sure. Emma, Emma was there.

Murray: So we told them that they had to work within the confines of what they were budgeted and they were okay with that. They were picking out which trees they were going to do and coming up with a game plan.

Althaus: Hopefully after 5 or 6 years of that we've got most of these.

Beazley: We would have thinned the herd some.

Althaus: Thinned the herd, yes. Thank you, Cindy. BKP met last Monday, and it was actually a 12-minute meeting. So, by the time we read minutes and looked over financials, runs are down. Which, Chief Donnelly has been, same thing, he's been reporting the same thing. So, really off. I don't know if everyone's just being careful or what's going on but that's a good thing, I guess. Depends on how you, your perspective.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

1ST READING

- **ORDINANCE NO 23-017, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2023, FOR THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Althaus: So, I don't know. I mean, everyone has the explanation, and that covers both. This is one that there is, it can be read three reads. At least at this point in time. So, any questions about the two items on there? Fire New Equipment and Storm IT support? Okay well, if you do just get with Chief Donnelly on the ambulance, or Cindy or Lynn. Alright, if there are no objections, we'll just read that again in two weeks.

- **ORDINANCE NO 23-018, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2023, FOR THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Althaus: Cindy, you want to talk anymore about that? I mean, it isn't all the bridge or anything.

Murray: No, yeah so...

Althaus: There's a lot of things there. I don't know, David or Brian? Want to give a summary?

Hattery: I can take it. Under the insurance lines we did not get our actual billing until mid-year. So, some of the line items were underestimated so we're making the adjustments there to pay the insurance on those. Street projects, is Cindy's best estimate on what the bridge will cost us. Hopefully it will not exceed. That amount does not seem like it will at this point. And then under the ARPA funding there are some things that we're able to do before those funds expire and those are explained to you

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including some of the paving projects that will be going on. So, there is some need for urgency to move forward on this particular piece of legislation and it is so noted by the asterisk.

Motion by Mrs. Davis and second by Mrs. Fox-Buroker 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 and second by Mr. Lawrence to adopt Ordinance 23-018.

Althaus: any discussion? (Roll call vote, 7 ayes, motion carried.)

- **ORDINANCE NO 23-019, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR ROCK SALT FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, AND TO CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST AND/OR BEST BIDDER.**

Beazley: I love that this comes out in July.

Davis: Every year.

Beazley: It just makes me remember we're going to have snow.

Althaus: Way to put a damper on summer.

Webb: I think we put it out in July last year.

Althaus: Yeah.

Webb: One time we were out. One time the plows were out last year.

Althaus: Oh, yes that's true. Well, there's no hurry of this according to what I've been told. So, if there are no objections, we'll read that again in a couple weeks.

2nd READING

- **ORDINANCE NO 23-016, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING KENTON CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 1060.06 RELATING TO SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Althaus: And nothing has changed on that. It can go two more weeks is that I'm told. So, if there are no objections, read that again a third time in two weeks.

3rd READING

- **ORDINANCE NO 23-013, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE VACATING THE ALLEY LYING BETWEEN INLOT NUMBER 43, 44, AND 45 OF ASHER LETSON'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO.**

Althaus: Any questions on that?

Lawrence: Okay, it's been read 3 times. Anyone want to move?

Motion by Mr. Beazley and second by Mr. Lawrence to adopt Ordinance No. 23-013.

Althaus: Any discussion? (Roll call vote, 7 ayes, motion carried)

SCHEDULING OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

None.

OTHER MATTERS:

None.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None.

COMMENTS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA:

None.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATION:

Althaus: Start with Sue?

Buroker: I have nothing.

Althaus: Antwillia, Ray, Pegg?

Wren: I just want to say I will not be at the next meeting. I will be out of the country.

Althaus: Anda? Robin? Chief anything? Brian, Cindy? John? Mayor?

Webb: Just real quick, congrats to Courthouse District and Chamber on Eats. Again, it's always good to have community out and about and again always want to plug Farmer's Market, Market on Main. We have some really committed vendors. So, come out. Again, things happen and if it's not attended, they go away. But it was attended well. We have some good food trucks with great breakfast there from now on so come out, check, and we'll have a new parking lot, and the parking lot probably would only pave about 1/3 of a street if anybody's wondering.

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Althausen: 1/3 of a short street.

Webb: Yeah.

Althausen: And we only own 2/3s of it.

Webb: Yeah, yes.

Althausen: Okay, anything else for the good of the order? Alright, we're adjourned.

Joel Althausen, President of Council

Emma Nelson, Clerk