

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

KENTON CITY COUNCIL

Meeting

Lilienthal Southeastern, Inc., 1-800-837-1904, Re-Order 86865K

Held

November 13, 2023

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**21<sup>st</sup> REGULAR SESSION:**

Kenton City Council met in their 21<sup>st</sup> Regular Session on November 13, 2023, at 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers. Present: President Joel Althaus, Sue Fox Buroker, David Beazley, Ray Lawrence, Pegg Wren, Anda Tudor, Robin Jones, Law Director John Schwemer, Mayor Lynn Webb, Safety Service Director Cindy Murray. Absent: Antwillia Davis.

Prayer given by Mr. Althaus:

Heavenly Father, from who all power comes, we thank you for our civil liberties, our freedoms, our opportunities, and our privileges. We ask you to bless, assist, and enlighten these elected officials and employees with the City of Kenton. May they prove worthy of the confidence placed in them by their fellow citizens. May they be just and upright in their thinking, honest in all their actions, and ever be guided by a true conscience in the legislation they propose or vote upon. Forgive us all our mistakes and selfish tendencies, and help prepare us by our good deeds, for an eternal union with You. AMEN.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

**MINUTES:**

Althaus: Are there any additions or corrections to the minutes that you received, those minutes from the meeting three weeks ago? Okay, hearing none, they will stand approved as submitted.

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TIME TO SPEAK:**

None.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Althaus: A few things to call everyone's attention to. First was, you should've had an envelope at your station, I think or did I just?

Murray: Just two of you.

Althaus: Okay, a reminder of the ODOT meeting regarding the potential, or the feasibility study for the US 68/State Route 31, I'm going to call it, interchange. That meeting will be held...

Murray: It is in the packet.

Althaus: It is in the packet also, on Thursday November 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 at Vet's Hall in the courthouse. The version in your packet might have said Wednesday, but it is Thursday November 16<sup>th</sup>. Any questions on that? Okay, we also with regard to your attention to Hardin County Chamber and Business Alliance provided an update, the Economic Development Report that is in your pack and then we also have the Ohio Auditor of State. Are there any other communications that any of you have to discuss?

**PETITIONS:**

None.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:**

Althaus: Police, I don't see anyone here. Fire?

Captain Bob Wilson: Only thing I have, I wanted to introduce our newest Fire Fighter, Daniel Weikart. He's been on the job about a month and a half now.

Beazley: Welcome Daniel.

Althaus: Daniel, welcome.

Weikart: Thank you, thank you.

Althaus: You're free to give us a longer welcome if you want to. I don't know if you want to tell a little bit about yourself?

Weikart: Well, I'm originally from Ohio. About 2-2 ½ years ago I moved to West Mansfield Ohio, which is about twenty minutes south of Kenton. Me and my wife, we just got married earlier this year in May. We had our first baby girl September 12. I've been doing, I've been around Fire and EMS for a little over a year. I grew up around Fire and EMS. My Dad, he's been on it for going on thirty years I believe. He's full-time at the City of Bellefontaine. My twin brother, he's full-time at the City of Bellefontaine as well, and of course it spans through generations; through grandparents, great-grandparents. So, growing up around it, finally decided that I might as well pull the trigger on it, and follow in the footsteps myself.

Althaus: Are you getting any sleep? You say your baby was born in September?

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Weikart: I get as much as I can.

(Laughter)

Althaus: Well, welcome and thank you for coming tonight. Chief Musser, anything on the Police Department?

Musser: Real quick, we have, as some of you know we're on the National Testing Network. So, we've opened our test back up for the second time and we have a few candidates on it actually. So, it's looking good there. We interviewed one last week with the administration. So, we're going to try to move forward there to get back to full staff. We still have officers out on medical leave unfortunately. So, not a lot we can do about that at the moment, but otherwise it's not looking bad. I've tried to keep some of you in the loop with the cruisers. I don't know what to say about that. I don't know what's up with Ford, or any American auto manufacturer at the moment, but we'll get them eventually, I suppose. That's all I've got, thanks.

Althaus: Thank you Chief. Okay, going down the list under Administration; I will comment that Income Tax you do have a report in your folder on income tax through September. No one from Auditor. No one from Treasurer. Law Director John?

Schwemer: Nothing.

Althaus: Cindy?

Murray: Okay so, just a reminder about Thursday night, we are applying for the ODOT mitigation, congestion mitigation grant for the proposals that will be discussed on Thursday night. So, make sure you participate. I need to report that the city received a violation from the EPA on our Water Treatment, and it's nothing to be alarmed about. We owed them a response on September 30<sup>th</sup>, and I didn't get it to them until October 16<sup>th</sup>. So, until we get, this was dealing with the corrections to the issues at the water tower. So, until we get it, one of the things did not get resolved because it takes draining of the tower, and Dale was not in the position to drain the tower. So, we asked for an extension until June 30<sup>th</sup>. So, until we get that done, every three months I will have to be telling you about this violation because I took an extra fifteen days to let them know that we did not get that one completed, and we asked for an extension. So, nothing is wrong with the water. Do not panic. So, I just wanted to, that's part of our public notification. I'm going to do it here. There will be something on the water bills, and we will post it on the website and down at the Water Office. Other than that, the two pieces of legislation that are in the packets, no hurry. They can go to three reads. Until we get the notification from the principal forgiveness for the sewer portion of the project, we will not be proceeding with anything on the project, so just FYI.

Althaus: Thank you Cindy? Lynn?

Webb: I'll wait til the end, thanks.

**REPORTS & SCHEDULING OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND/OR SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

Althaus: Committees, Finance?

Beazley: There is a written report. We also had our final budget meeting tonight. All things look favorable for us to proceed. So, you'll have a written budget legislation in your hands for the next meeting. Should be able to go three reads before we need to enact.

Althaus: Great. Are there any other reports from any other the other standing committees?

Jones: We have Utilities this Wednesday at 3:30.

Althaus: I would say the same thing, any of the committees, if you know when your next meeting is, go ahead and say that now. If you don't, that's fine. So, I will be getting with some in the next few weeks, email out regarding thinking about committee assignments. It is very possible those committees that don't have a report, if you're not planning on meeting again, that may have been your last meeting. So, we will see what everybody wants to do and move forward and get ready for the next two years. Alright, reports of council members; I'll go ahead and start, BKP will have a meeting this coming Monday. I can report on that in two weeks. Anybody else?

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

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**ORDINANCES /RESOLUTIONS:**

**1<sup>ST</sup> READING**

**-RESOLUTION NO. 23-027, TITLE ONLY; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO TO ENTER INTO A FACILITY ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT WITH CSX TRANSPORTATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Althaus: Who wants to give a further overview?

Murray: This has to do with the Phase Two a project. We are going to be getting a new water line that comes underneath the river and underneath the railroad track. So, we have to enter this lovely agreement, and work with CSX.

Schwemer: Which is very similar to the agreement we did for Phase One because we got into the crossing with Phase One. So, this agreement is virtually identical with respect to how it applies to us and CSX.

Althaus: I don't see a designation so no urgency, at least this one. Alright, if there are no objections, we'll read that again in two weeks.

**-RESOLUTION NO. 23-028, TITLE ONLY; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH OHM ADVISORS FOR CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION, ENGINEERING, AND INSPECTION SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE DOWNTOWN INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2A – MAIN AND DETROIT STREET STORM, SANITARY, AND WATER IMPROVEMENTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Althaus: Same thing, I'm assuming we've got some time, a little bit of time. So, I'd encourage council members if you do have things that you think are unanswered in your mind, questions whether it's with OHM directly being the design engineers or just the project in general, please use this time to seek out the administration, ask those questions, and try to make certain you get answers that satisfy you.

Murray: And this is the copy of the agreement with them, so.

Beazley: Do we still have that liaison person we had before?

Murray: You have a different one this time.

Beazley: (laughing)

Murray: Oh, this one right here?

Beazley: Yeah.

(Laughter)

Althaus: Sean, anything you want to comment on?

Sean Root (OHM): It's just, I would say it's just been a couple years. We're coming to this next stage. You guys have seen completion of Phase One. You know, Phase Two is on the horizon, I think it's going to be something to see when it's all said and done. I mean I think you guys can look at stuff on pieces of paper, and sheets of drawing but when it's actually boots on the ground, infrastructure in, streetscapes put back, I mean, we're going to have a different looking downtown.

Althaus: Great, thank you Sean. So, if there re no objections, we will read that again in two weeks.

**2<sup>nd</sup> READING**

**-ORDINANCE NO. 23-028, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING KENTON CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 1044.02 RELATING TO THE GENERAL PROVISIONS OF SEWERS IN THE CITY OF KENTON.**

Althaus: This was read three weeks ago for the first time. We do have time, to my understanding. Any questions about that? Okay, we'll read again in two weeks for a third and final reading.

**-ORDINANCE NO. 23-029, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING KENTON CODIFIED ORDINANCE CHAPTER 836 RELATING TO CLOTHING DONATION CONTAINERS AND RECYCLE BINS IN THE CITY OF KENTON, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Althaus: Same thing, any questions, concerns here? If there are none, and there are no objections we'll read that for a third reading in two weeks.

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**-ORDINANCE NO. 23-030, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF NEW MATTER IN THE UPDATED AND REVISED CODIFIED ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLICATION OF SUCH NEW MATTER; AND TO REPEAL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION IN CONFLICT THEREWITH.**

Althaus: As was stated by John three weeks ago, that's really just the annual update that takes all the federal and state changes and makes certain that our codifieds match that, or don't contradict it. So, we'll read that again in two weeks for a third reading.

**-ORDINANCE NO. 23-031, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING KENTON CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTIONS 249.13 AND 249.18 RELATING TO PAY ASSIGNMENTS, CLASSIFICATIONS AND SCHEDULES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Althaus: This involved several different ranges, strength ordinance issues. Again, I would encourage, as I did with the budget, or not the budget, the OHM resolution, if you have questions, if there somethings in here that you are uncertain why it was put out in front of council, please seek out the administration to ask those questions. Are there objections to reading this again in two weeks? Okay, that will be a third and final reading in two weeks.

**3<sup>RD</sup> READING**

None.

**OTHER MATTERS:**

None.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

None.

**COMMENTS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA:**

None.

**COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATION:**

Althaus: Give Fire one lasty shot, anything? Chief? Sue?

Buroker: Just wish everybody a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Althaus: David?

Beazley: What she said.

Althaus: What she said. What he said she said.

Wren: What they said.

Althaus: What they said. Anda? Nothing. Robin?

Jones: Well, the parade is a week from tomorrow. So, that's the 21<sup>st</sup>. So, make sure you come and support the parade and I've had a lot of great volunteers that have helped reform the downtown with Window Wonderland. So, we have a lot of talented, very giving people in our community. So, thank you to them very much.

Althaus: John?

Schwemer: Nothing, thank you.

Althaus: Cindy? Mayor Webb?

Webb: First, congrats everybody on your election. It was some hard-fought battles there but y'all prevailed. No, congrats and again, thank you for everybody who voted, just that you would show up to vote. There was a lot on the ballot this time. So, again Robin just said the Christmas Parade is next Tuesday. The downtown is already starting to come alive. It's a huge transformation. Robin, Sue Bailey, Charlotte Hamm, Diana Beach; these ladies started back in what, first of October?

Jones: Mhm.

Webb: Working on this all the time so, we really appreciate it. It really puts something to our town and...

Schwemer: What time is that?

Jones: 6:30. The parade start at 6:30.

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Webb: Also, the Armory Gala is Saturday night. Again, major transformation, it's just a huge asset to our community and it really shows the buy in from our community, and it's a neat thing to have. Fork in the Road Thanksgiving meal, we're still looking for volunteers to deliver and help with them. They'll be serving at the Moose and we can pick up meals there, I think we went out to several of the senior living homes to get orders. I think we are up to, we have up to 200 meals we can give away. So, we want to make sure we can get those in the right hands. So, if anybody knows of anybody please let me know. Other than that, that's what I have.

Althausser: Okay, would like a motion to excuse Antwillia. She had mentioned that she would no be here, and again I reminded everyone. She just wanted to make certain that...

**Motion by Mr. Lawrence and second by Mrs. Wren to excuse the absence of Antwillia Davis.**

Althausser: Any discussion? I just wanted to remind everyone that she wanted us to remember that next, in two weeks, prior to our meeting, so that would be on November 27<sup>th</sup>, we will hold the joint meeting of the Grove Cemetery Association, which is Buck, Goshen, and Pleasant Townships, plus the City of Kenton, that will be at 6:30 here, 6:30 here. So, please try to remember that.

**(Roll call vote, 6 ayes, motion carried.)**

Althausser: Outside of that, just a reminder of the ODOT meeting this coming Thursday night at 5:30 in Vet's Hall in the Courthouse. If you can be there, wonderful, and I will be very interested to see what kind of turn out we have. Hopefully it's massive and we have to keep people organized in their speaking because it will be interesting to see what opinions are, if anyone even shows up. So with that, if there are no objections, we are adjourned for two weeks.

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Joel Althausser, President of Council

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Emma Nelson, Clerk