

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

KENTON CITY COUNCIL

Meeting

Lilienthal Southeastern, Inc., 1-800-837-1904, Re-Order 66665K

Held

December 27, 2023

20

24th REGULAR SESSION AND PUBLIC HEARING:

Kenton City Council met in their 24th Regular Session on December 27, 2023, at 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers. Present: Sue Fox Buroker, David Beazley, Antwillia Davis, Ray Lawrence, Anda Tudor, Robin Jones, Mayor Lynn Webb, Safety Service Director Cindy Murray. Absent: President, Joel Althausser, Pegg Wren, and Law Director John Schwemer.

Prayer given by Mr. Beazley:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for this time to come together one last time, representing the City of Kenton, in our current positions. We thank you for your wisdom and your guidance over the course of the year. We ask that you visit us again tonight. That we might make just, and wise decisions. Father, we ask that you be with us through the remainder of this year, to bless this city going in to 2024. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, AMEN.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Beazley: Alright we will begin as advertised now with the public hearing by Kenton City Council to review the recommendation of the Zoning Board on the petition brought to us by Mr. Baughman. The recommendation by the Zoning Board, by way of review is that the property located at 130 E. Letson Street be rezoned, and originally petition is from M1 to R1. The residence in question was grandfathered in as a residence prior to the M1 zoning. It being the desire of the Baughman family to build back the residence, the M1 zoning did not permit that, and they requested R1 zoning. The Zoning Commission, Planning Commission then, or Board of Appeals, excuse me, Board of Appeals does not come in to play yet, went on to amend the petition to move from R1, which only allowed one and two family residences to a B3 designation which would allow for business to be developed in the neighborhood, as currently sits with the properties on Main and on the corner of Letson, and South Main Street, and on down the street, while still allowing for the residence to be rebuilt as it exists today. So, that is the recommendation of the Zoning Board to Council tonight. Mr. Baughman, did you have any objections to that amendment?

Larry Baughman: No.

Beazley: Very well. Is there anything else you would care to say to council?

Baughman: It's been there for seventy years, and it's one of them things, caught fire, and I'd like to rebuild it.

Beazley: Thank you very much. Are there any other here to speak in favor of the petition?. If not, we will hear those who wish to speak against. Mr. Maxwell, please.

Russ Maxwell: I'm the owner of the property that surrounds Larry's lot at 911 South Main Street, and I do, I have two properties that are east of Larry's lot that is B3. So, in my letter to the council I did not have any opposition to B3 either. My main objection was to maintain business property since there's almost seventeen acres of property down there that is currently M1. That's even the houses north of Letson Street sit in an M1 zoning. So, there is a lot of manufacturing zoned property down there. My only concern is, and again, we do have the property up for sale, and we did have it surveyed, and I don't know if Larry has had a chance to see the survey stakes, but his property is quite close to the property lines. And as we all know that was all Baughman's property originally. He built the house, but then the parceled off those lots, and he's probably only a foot off of my property line, and questions about whether the sewer line is actually transitions through my property. So, that would be the only thing that I have an objection to is if he does rebuild will he have to meet the new off-sets for B3, to rebuild, because I'm assuming he'd have to build a whole new house, and being only a 66X125 lot, that does make some tight clearances for a residence. Other than that, I guess...

Beazley: But as I understood your opening statement there, you do not oppose B3. You did oppose R1.

Russ Maxwell: Absolutely, I mean R1 would be spot zoning and I would, we would have issues with that because then you're putting a house in the middle of manufacturing and that should not be allowed.

Beazley: But B3, the amendment by the zoning board is amenable to you?

Held

December 27, 2023

20

Russ Maxwell: Yeas, and the only reason is because I do have the two B3 lots to the east. You know, I wish I would've done those to M1 years ago, and then we probably would be having this discussion, but that's okay. You know, I have no problem with B3. It's just, we don't want the neighbors coming back to me and complaining about me building a drive, building a fence, starting a business in manufacturing when they live next to manufacturing. In fact, the residents on the North side of Letson, I talked to one of them and they were complaining because they don't want manufacturing there and it's like well, your house is in manufacturing, and they don't even know it.

Beazley: It currently exists that was, yes. Most folks don't, and that was the grandfathering and all that fun stuff. So, this appears to be a way to satisfy both parties?

Russ Maxwell: As long as we meet the offsets, that's my biggest concern, and I guess that's what I'm asking is if he would have to abide by the new offset rules?

Beazley: That, I have no clue on. That would have to be determined with the permits.

Murray: That would go in front of the zoning board of appeals.

Beazley: Yup.

Maxwell: Because otherwise, I'm going to put a fence on the property line and he won't be able to pen up the side doors.

(laughter)

Beazley: Understood. Alright, anyone else wish to speak on the matter before us in public hearing? Members of Council, any other questions for any of the parties? I would entertain a motion then from council as to approve or reject the findings of the zoning board.

Motion by Mrs. Davis and second by Mr. Lawrence to accept the recommendation made by the Planning Commission and rezone 130 E. Letson street from M1 to B3.

Beazley: Any further discussion?

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

Beazley: Thank you very much for your time. Those who do not want to stay, feel free to leave.

MINUTES:

Beazley: Alright, for the balance of council and those staying, in your packet you received minutes of our previous session. Are there any additions or corrections to the minutes as printed? Hearing none, they will stand approved as printed.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TIME TO SPEAK:

None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Beazley: Listed is the fact that we have received the Ohio Municipal League Cities and Villages 4th Quarter Publication and Emma says it's available for anyone who would like to check it out from her library. Any other communications?

PETITIONS:

None.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Beazley: Chief Musser, I saw you come in, do you have anything from the Police Department for us this evening?

Musser: We have a build date for our two cars, January 15th, that's it.

Beazley: Where does that actually, theoretically?

Musser: I don't know. Hopefully delivery in February, roughly.

Beazley: Great, and then we'd go through the striping and...

Musser: No, they'll do all that in house.

Beazley: Oh, that will all be done? They'll be delivered ready to go?

Musser: Mhm.

Beazley: Marvelous, good, that's good news.

Musser: It is! It only took like a year. Happy New Year!

Beazley: Thank you, Chief. Chief Donnelly?

Donnelly: I guess the primary thing I just wanted to say is knowing that there's several Elks member here tonight I just want to appreciate their assistance for their fundraising programs and also

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

KENTON CITY COUNCIL

Meeting

Lilienthal Southeastern, Inc., 1-800-837-1904, Re-Order 66665K

Held

December 27, 2023

20

securing a Elk National Foundation grant for us to help buy some SCBA bottles for purchase for new and so that will help us get some of these, our old low pressure bottles out of service that we can do and so I just appreciate them kind of sponsoring us, I guess, for these projects and so I just really appreciate all of their effort and everything and all that they do for the community and so...

Beazley: We do have some very fine Fraternal Organizations that take their citizenship very seriously. It's not just limited to the Elk but they were the benefactors in this case. Alright, Parks & Rec, Robin do you have anything to share with us from that standpoint?

Jones: No, I do not, thank you.

Beazley: Economic Development, Mayor, anything? Income Tax we've got a report the last time, nothing new there. Auditor, anything that you have at this point, either of you?

Hattery: Nothing from the Department, thank you.

Beazley: Treasurer is not here. Law Director is not here. Cindy, anything for us at this point?

Madame Mayor, are you reserving your time for the end?

Webb: Sure.

Beazley: That's entirely up to you. You can speak now, or at the end.

Webb: I'm good.

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

Beazley: Finance has not met, has nothing to report. Was there anything from MOP? Pegg is not here to report. Anyone else?

Buroker: We did not meet.

Beazley: Okay, Utilities, Robin?

Jones: We have a meeting January 10th, 3:30 here.

Beazley: 3:30, thank you. Streets, Alleys, and Sidewalks?

Lawrence: We have not met but Cindy, have we got a time or anything yet on replacement of that handicap sign?

Murray: No, I do not.

Lawrence: But your intentions are still to replace it?

Murray: As far as I know. I don't know if we even have one. I need to see if we even have one. We'll have to order one for him.

Davis: Nothing on Legislation.

Beazley: Thank you Antwill. Regional Planning did not meet in December. Park and Rec we've already reviewed. Grove Cemetery, anything from your last report?

Davis: They had their Christmas Party on Monday, the cemetery is down to their permanent staff right now, and they're just getting ready for the winter ahead.

Beazley: Thank you. Anything from Tree Commission, Sue?

Buroker: They did not meet.

Beazley: And, Joel's not here to report on BKP.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Beazley: Before we reach our reading of the ordinance, I would ask that we would discuss the absence of our Council President, and Council at Large, Pegg, and I would accept a recommendation or a motion from council.

Motion by Mr. Lawrence and second by Mrs. Buroker to excuse the absences. Roll call vote, 6 ayes, motion carried.

ORDINANCES /RESOLUTIONS:

1ST READING

- **ORDINANCE NO. 23-035, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING KENTON CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 249.13 RELATING TO PAY ASSIGNMENTS, CLASSIFICATIONS AND SCHEDULES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Beazley: As you note, all of these items do have an asterisk beside them, I would note that Emma has informed me that the second item, 036 does not require action tonight, but for the other that

Held

December 27, 2023

20

are asterisked we are asking that we would make a decision on them. Cindy, if you would, you want to explain to us why we are looking at this, again?

Murray: Well, I didn't know we were going to be looking at this again. So, I was going through it and I think the only thing that was added was the Project Manager.

Beazley: I believe that is the case, and we wanted to have that in place for the beginning of the new year. So, that is the addition on there, the Project Manager, that's the role that Burl is going to be transitioning into for us, and it now is addressed within our codifieds on pay range and scale. Are there any additional questions or discussions? What are Council's wishes as it pertains to the three-read rule?

Motion by Mrs. Davis and second by Ms. Jones that 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. Buroker and second by Mr. Lawrence to adopt Ordinance No. 23-035.

Beazley: Any Discussion?

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

- **ORDINANCE NO. 23-036, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE ZONING OF THE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 130 E. LETSON STREET IN THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO, FROM M-1 (LIGHT MANUFACTURING DISTRICT) TO B-3 (GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT).**

Beazley: We've already reviewed the details of this, and there is no need to move expeditiously. So, we'll move this on to a second reading.

- **ORDINANCE NO. 23-037, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND FOR TRANSFERRING FUNDS FOR THE YEAR 2023, FOR THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Beazley: You should have received at your seat tonight an updated version of what you received by email on Friday, and Pam is going to graciously let us know what's going on here.

Pam Romanko: I went through all 528 expense line items over the last couple of days and I've compared and estimated December and January. The bills for December that come in January, we put on to appropriations in 2023, and carry over where the purchase orders so that 23 is 23, and then that allows 24 to be 24. There are a couple of things, most of these are just thing that either slipped through the cracks as negative line items, but most of them are just those adjustments for December and January. The ordinance that was email on Friday does have the explanation for the ARPA to take that out because we didn't but that software. That first line item in the General Fund, Nuisance Abatement to Tree Commission, that was explained, they want to go do some stump removal and then it was a repair to the sewer system. I don't remember what broke, but it's \$60,000 of repairs.

Murray: It's the Morningside Drive.

Beazley: That's our sinkhole.

Murray: Yes.

Romanko: And the others is just transfers to make my books look pretty.

Beazley: Anywhere from \$25.00 on up, and is there everything below the negative appropriations is transfers within the funds themselves...

Romanko: Within the same department.

Beazley: Any questions from Council of Pam? Because this is a cleanup ordinance for the year it is appropriate that we should take action if Council so desires. Is there a motion to suspend the three-read rule?

Motion by Ms. Jones and second by Mrs. Buroker 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. Davis and second by Ms. Jones to adopt Ordinance No. 23-037. Roll call vote, 6 ayes, motion carried.

- **RESOLUTION NO 23-030, TITLE ONLY; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PLEASANT TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT AND BUCK TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Beazley: Okay, this will require some conversations. All of you should have received a copy of have knowledge of the existing contacts with the townships. We are receiving a total through the end of this year of \$66,000.00, split evenly between Buck and Pleasant Township as their contributions to the Kenton Fire Department for the fire protection provided. Earlier this year, in

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

KENTON CITY COUNCIL

Meeting

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

Held

December 27, 2023

20

June we began the process of having discussions because the current three year contract expires this year, and we needed to renew for 2024. The contract chance proposal was placed in front of the townships in June for them to peruse and look over, and go through, and raise their concerns. We had asked for an increase of 22.5% from \$33,000.00 per township to a total of \$40,000.00 per township because of our increased costs not related to EMS because they're already paying in otherwise, but these were firefighter costs, labor costs, benefit costs, things of that nature which has escalated for us over the years and we have not sought a rate increase from the townships in the contract for nineteen years. Having said that, the townships did work with us on the purchase of some equipment jointly during that course of time that off-set those increases that we asked for, but we've reached a point where we had asked for that information. In the process of negotiations one of the townships became concerned because the City is pursuing some annexation into those townships. Which, if we annex property from them would reduce their tax revenue. So, the proposed contract then went from just simply a rate increase to a proposal that should any annexation occur, there would be a negotiated process whereby any increase that we have made to the contract could be reduced, pro rata, based on revenue loss, as certified by the County Auditor, to them. That's essentially where we're at. Now, what we're dealing with here are two different forms of revenue. The townships receive property tax only. So, if we annex property the proposed change by the townships would be that the year that the taxes actually collected. As we know, it's assessed so it's collected a year in the rear, is when any adjustments would be made. If the City does successfully annex property, the City would gain income tax from day one of annexation for any properties that have a business income, okay. So, hypothetically speaking, January 2nd we would annex property, we would begin collecting dollars immediately. The townships would pay the full amount because their revenue that comes in in 25 is based on 23 so they would pay the full \$40,000.00. Any reduction negotiated through the contract would not take effect until the subsequent following tax year. Does that make sense to you, so far? Okay, in addition to the business income tax that the City would gain and the additional contractual revenue the City would then also begin receiving City income tax from any employees of businesses annexed that are not currently residents and tax paying citizens of Kenton. So, if they lived in the county but work inside the City their wages are still taxable. Okay, there has been conversation that the administration has indicated well, we'd just assumed stay with the old, and not have to give anything up, but I think that's, in my opinion, and this is Dave, chair of Finance, speaking: We receive dollars day one on any new contract. Both townships have tentatively accepted the proposed new contract at the \$40,000.00 rate pending our agreement on this particular clause. Has everyone seen the clause? Ray, you're looking at me like I have a third head. Okay, you're understanding what we're saying?

Lawrence: I am, yes.

Beazley: We would forego then, any increase in revenue from the townships, and not have any opportunity for them to buy back either. The clause kicks in based on a certified reduction of revenue. In order for us to give back the \$7,000.00 we are gaining, the township would have to have a reduction in their revenue of 22.5%. That's the amount of increase that we put in there. That's the \$33,000.00 to \$40,000.00. They would have to lose 22.5% of their tax revenue in order for us to be brought back down to that \$33,000.00 level. Are there questions? Mayor, is there anything that you would like to say at this point about the contract because what I'm going to put in front of you is the opportunity for us to decide which contract we want to ratify, and send to the townships for their approval.

Jones: So, I have a question.

Beazley: Sure.

Jones: So, it's taken them, we've dealt with the situation. They haven't really given us a substantial cost of living or cost of insurance or equipment or anything for nineteen years.

Beazley: Correct.

Jones: They have bought how many dollars worth of equipment?

Beazley: I think their investments was in the \$150,000.00. I want to say the apparatus we bought jointly was \$450,000.00.

Jones: And so, each township paid \$100,000.00 of that cost?

Beazley: \$150,000.00.

Jones: So, how many years ago was that?

Beazley: 2019

Held

December 27, 2023

20

Jones: So, it's like we've provided a service, everything goes up, and I understand that we need to be fair but we're trying to create some additional income to come in to our City. If we annexed them in but we can't keep that because we have to negotiate with this contract.

Beazley: I don't know that that's a fair statement Robin because we do gain, immediately, income tax, which the townships don't have to give. They're not collecting income tax. So, we gain income tax by annexation.

Jones: But we don't know how much income tax yet.

Beazley: We don't, but it's all cherry on top because we also gain that property tax for those properties that we're giving back to them. We gain it into the City because the City is getting that property tax now because it resides inside the City Limits. So, that's a wash.

Jones: I understand that.

Davis: Dave, let me simplify this. So, we're raising this by 22.5%. Realistically if we annex what we want it is all M1. It is all industrial, yes, with employees. At most, they're going to lose, realistically they're going to lose about 11% with 10% of their property values, that's a rough. So, we would lose then off of the contract, to make math easy, approximately \$3,500.00 a year.

Beazley: Correct.

Davis: One of those businesses, any one of those businesses, will pay that in income tax day one.

Beazley: For their, just them, not including their employees.

Davis: Right. So, we would be fighting and making bad neighbors with townships over \$3,500.00? People who work in town, people who function as Kenton as their home base, I mean we share the same zip code, but this would be over \$3,500.00, roughly. I mean...

Beazley: Based on the best math we know and your obvious grasp of the real estate piece of that.

Davis: Three air tanks.

Webb: So, if I could be clear, just to clear up the annexation part. We're actively seeking approximately four lots right there at Fairground Road, North, into town. One is a vacant lot, the car wash, Quest Bank, the mortgage part of Quest, and McCullough Trucking, that's it, not Rockwell, not Durez. I think we talked to Mike Bacon today who, he has concerns about it but what they would, for a property, what they would, what the township would lose would be \$24.50 for one property, \$182.00 for Quest, \$72.00 for another property and \$75.00, we're looking at maybe \$500.00, \$750.00.

Davis: So, it would be reducing ours from \$7,000.00 to essentially \$6,000.00? So we would gain...

Webb: It's not, I just want to be clear that I didn't want anybody to think I'm trying to annex...

Beazley: It's a percentage of the total. So, it's even less than that.

Davis: Right. So, I mean, that's, I'm just doing rough numbers so...

Beazley: We're talking nickels.

Davis: Right, we're talking...so, at that point and we would gain the income tax essentially from Quest would be more than that.

Webb: We had pursued this for probably seven months in. So, my suggestion, or my thing is maybe we should do a yearly contract, and then we're on top of it, but that's just my suggestion. So, if we do annex in, I see the whole point of it. I definitely want to be good neighbors with the township.

Beazley: The annual contract becomes just one more piece of business that has to be conducted. We don't do annual contracts with our employees, for obvious reasons.

Webb: Correct.

Beazley: It's the same type of thinking that nobody wants to have to negotiate a contract every year.

Davis: But realistically if you did a three-year contract now, you're talking it would be a year before any of this would effect anyone. You would have the \$7,000.00. We'd be at \$40,000.00, and then you'd have an adjustment period of essentially 24 months, and in that time you could approach a yearly contract if you continue to want to annex out that..

Beazley: Beyond that.

Davis: Situation um...

Beazley: Any other discussion on this?

Davis: No.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

KENTON CITY COUNCIL

Meeting

Lilienthal Southeastern, Inc., 1-800-837-1904, Re-Order 66665K

Held

December 27, 2023

20

Beazley: Okay, first thing that we will want to approve then as Council we want to offer the existing contract, \$33,000.00 with no buy back option? Or do we want to go with the discussion and the number that I've spend the time working with the Townships and their individual meetings at \$40,000.00 with John's, and John Schwemer is the one who put the language in there from the equity standpoint with the option of that being, if the income reduction becomes...

Motion by Mrs. Davis and second by Mrs. Buroker to accept the contract with the raise to \$40,000 with the adjustment period applied if/when annexation occurs.

Beazley: Any further discussion? (Roll call vote, 5 ayes 1 nay, motion carried.)

Motion by Mrs. Davis and 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, 5 ayes 1 nay, motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Lawrence and second by Mrs. Tudor to adopt Ordinance No. 23-030. Roll call vote, 5 ayes 1 nay, motion carried.

- **RESOLUTION NO. 23-031, TITLE ONLY; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CHOICE ONE ENGINEERING FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE COLUMBUS STREET SIDEWALK PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Beazley: This sounds like Cindy's bailiwick.

Murray: Yes it is, and I did not bring it with me. So, this is for the professional services, the engineering, for the sidewalk that's part of the safety grant. There's so many different ODOT projects. So, this is ODOT pays 90% of this bill and we pay 10% so our share, and I don't have it right here with me is like \$18,000. ODOT picks up the rest of it, but this is for the design and engineering for the sidewalks that go from Broadway to Walmart, out on East Columbus Street.

Beazley: Thank you Cindy. Any questions?

Davis: We need this passed tonight?

Murray: Yes.

Beazley: That's what I'm seeing, yes.

Motion by Mrs. Buroker and 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 Mr. Lawrence and second by Mrs. Tudor to adopt Ordinance No. 23-031. Roll call vote, 6 ayes, motion carried.

- **RESOLUTION NO. 23-032, TITLE ONLY; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OR SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO AN OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF KENTON FOR THE BRIGHTENING OHIO COMMUNITIES BLOCK GRANT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Murray: Okay, me again, so this is a grant that I've already applied for. It's for \$500,000.00 to help us upgrade our street lighting in the downtown area. But I need a resolution that you guys approve of me applying for this grant and if we get the grant, accepting the grant money.

Beazley: Okay, and this is a timing sensitive issue?

Murray: Yes.

Motion by Mrs. Davis and 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. Buroker and second by Mrs. Tudor to adopt Ordinance No. 23-032. Roll call vote, 6 ayes, motion carried.

Held

December 27, 2023

20

- **RESOLUTION NO. 23-033, TITLE ONLY; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OR SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO AN OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF FORESTRY AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF KENTON FOR THE OHIO'S URBAN FORESTRY GRANT PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Murray: Okay, same thing, different group. This is to help pay for the silva cells and the trees that will be going in the downtown. I need to have your permission to enter into, apply for, and then if we end up getting it, accept the money from ODNR for the trees and silva cell money.

Beazley: Do we have an amount that we expect, just for giggles?

Murray: I think their max is \$50,000.00.

Webb: The total bill is...

Murray: Yes, the total bill is a lot.

Beazley: Significantly more.

Murray: Yes, so we'll take anything we can get.

Beazley: Understood. Alright, questions on the resolution?

Buroker: Does this require suspension?

Beazley: Yes, because this is also timing wise.

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

Motion by Mr. Lawrence and second by Ms. Jones to adopt Ordinance No. 23-033. Roll call vote, 6 ayes, motion carried.

- **RESOLUTION NO. 23-034, TITLE ONLY; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE NECESSARY PAPERWORK TO HAVE THE CITY OF KENTON JOIN THE WESTERN OHIO RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION.**

Beazley: Please share what's going on.

Webb: Oh, this is from Luke Underwood, sorry. It's just a, I guess it's just I don't know he sent it to me and said he needed it back, and he put me as a committee member.

Jones: So, we need to suspend the rules to have this passed tonight?

Davis: This would just include us into the Lima-Allen County Regional planning commission, correct?

Webb: Correct.

Davis: So, we would just become a partner with their organization?

Webb: Yes.

Davis: Okay, and we need to suspend that then and get moving on that.

Motion by Mrs. Davis and second by Mrs. Buroker 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. Buroker and second by Ms. Jones to adopt Ordinance No. 23-034. Roll call vote, 6 ayes, motion carried.

2nd READING

None.

3rd READING

- **ORDINANCE NO. 23-033, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATION FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF KENTON, STATE OF OHIO, DURING JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Beazley: There is no need to suspend any rules. Are there any items for discussion before we would take action? Hearing none, I would entertain a motion pertaining to Ordinance Number 23-033.

Motion by Mr. Lawrence and second by Mrs. Tudor to adopt Ordinance No. 23-033. Roll call vote, 6 ayes, motion carried.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

KENTON CITY COUNCIL

Meeting

Lilienthal Southeastern, Inc., 1-800-837-1904, Re-Order 66665K

Held

December 27, 2023

20

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

John Aisel: I'd like to say that I appreciated the council and the administration, and everybody involved with moving forward with the budget so that our insurances and stuff could stay what we needed it to be because I'm pretty sure all of us were a bit nervous. The main thing I want to say was I appreciate the whole council, the administration, my boss Burl, for everything that you guys have done and for the ones that are leaving, you guys worked good together, I think, to get our city the equipment that we needed to make our job easier and faster. People don't see it but at two in the morning when our new vac truck that we have, we were in and out in two hours, three hours, when we was working six, seven hours and coming back in. So, I know a lot of people don't see that but we do and we all appreciate everything that you guys have all done for us. So, I'm glad that there was a council that for 99% worked really good together, and there wasn't too much bickering. So, thank you.

Beazley: Thank you, John. Are there any other of our staff that would like to speak? Pam?

Romanko: I don't know if this is the time not that I guess being as Brian's last meeting.

Beazley: I will get him next so you can butter him up as much as you want.

Romanko: This is Brian's last meeting I just want to, you know, thank him. It's been a challenging, ever since I started here and covid started six-months later, and I got covid, and you know the rest has been a crazy three-and-a-half, four years. So, I appreciate him and his support and trying to keep me relatively sane. I appreciate you guys and your patience with me as I try to get through you know, the end of 21 with covid brain, and I just had covid again. So, I'm not sure I'm, I can blame covid brain a little bit. (laughter) But anyways I just really have appreciated him and all of you during all of this time too.

Beazley: Thank you, Pam. Chief or Chief, any additional words for us tonight?

Musser: Just say, you're welcome, Pam.

(laughter)

Beazley: Alright, future council members, any comments? Thank you, gentleman, for being here tonight.

COMMENTS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA:

None.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATION:

Buroker: I would just like to say thank you for the service of those that are leaving, Antwillia and Ray. I'm the new kind of person on the block here so I haven't worked with them near as long as the rest of you, but I really appreciated their expertise on so many different subjects and I've been trying to learn, even learning the language, I finally got one out correctly tonight. It's not that easy when you first get on here. So, but I appreciate them, and they will be missed, I'm sure but I'm glad to have the two people on board. I know one of them pretty well, for a long time. So, it's going to be great.

Beazley: Okay, Antwillia?

Davis: I would like to thank everyone. It has been eight years. It has been a privilege. It has been an honor, and I loved what I did for the city. I remember getting my petition signed for the first time and going to Dave Beazley's parents, and Briar was two. That is how long this has been, and Dave's Dad letting Briar go into the house so I could change her because it was February and cold and she was two and still in a diaper, and from then it's been a whirlwind. We've got a lot accomplished and we've worked really well together as a council, and I appreciate every one of you, and both administrations that I was under, and all of the friends I've made through this process. Now it's your turn to cry, Ray. (laughter)

Lawrence: Alright, I want to thank you guys for the opportunity to serve this, people who voted for me, people that didn't. John, you're here almost all the time, I commend and appreciate your gall for what you get up here and do. I think you lead a good example of the type of people we need to have for our City, I commend that. A guy coming from management who worked with a lot of employees, we need more people like you. I appreciate that. Lynn, you came to Pizza Hut and sat with me because nobody come knocked on my door when they was looking for a vote, but you did. You challenged me for this seat. I stepped up to that challenge. I came in here with a goal to get a streetlight. I got my streetlight. Appreciate all you guys that helped me get that, and a lot of people in the 4th ward appreciate that streetlight. I'm going to challenge you, not to just do something for your city but for the

Held

December 27, 2023

20

place you live in. Your ward is important. The people in your ward is important. Find a vision for your ward, then your city. Leave it better than you found it. Don't get too comfortable up here. I'm not here this year because changes in my life. I wish you the best of luck. I'll be behind you to support you. If you've got any questions give me a call, I'm an easy guy to find. Dave, I learned a ton from you. I come from industrial management where I worked with financing all the time, this is a whole different world. We move at heartbeat speed in the industrial world. We don't got time to think. We make decisions and go with it. This took me a whole different turn. I learned a wealth from you. I appreciate that. I am set on new people running for council because we need fresh young minds, but we need minds like yours to teach minds like mine. So, you still have a place here but for the people in this City, you need to get involved. You want to complain about it, champion your ideas, make a difference. I appreciate you guys. I learned a wealth. Cindy, you are like full speed ahead for this City. I appreciate all that you do here. You're always looking for a new way to make something different, make something better. I appreciate that. I learned a lot from you. Some things we didn't agree on, some things we did. We made a difference. I think we left it better than we found it. I appreciate all you guys, and I will run again. Thank you.

Beazley: Either from the law or back to council...

(laughter)

Lawrence: One or the other.

Beazley: Thank you, Ray.

Jones: Chief Musser's got two new cruisers. They'll let him break them in on you.

(laughter)

Tudor: Well, I'm a newbie here so I'm learning from everybody, and I have a lot to learn. So, I'll keep on working on it.

Jones: Thanks, Antwill and Ray. It's been a lot of fun and that's how you learn and grow and encourage people to jump on board. Thanks, John, for coming almost, you know, at least once a month if not twice a month, and letting us know what's going on with your coworkers and at the city because they really, they keep this City moving forward and they don't have a lot of people down there. They all just jump in and get a plan, and we don't always see what you do, but we need to appreciate those guys and pray that they stay safe, and keep moving forward because like Ray said, we've got a lot of good things going on in this town. So, we need to just be thankful and grateful to everybody that's part of it.

Beazley: Emma, do you have anything to add to our conversation? Mr. Hattery?

Hattery: Not a lot to say, just want to thank the citizens of Kenton for voting for me several times, giving me the opportunity to serve.

Beazley: How many years?

Hattery: Fourteen, sir. Six years as council then eight as Auditor. I've seen three different administrations, just to throw it in there. So, I've seen a lot, learned a lot. Some things I will miss. Some things I will definitely not miss. Where I've seen a lot of positive changes recently, and I'm looking forward to a lot of positive changes to come, and I know they will come. We've got a good administration, a good council coming in. So, I look forward to the changes and the positivity in the city. That's it, thank you. Thank you to all who serve, all who get petitions, and everything.

Beazley: Could you do me a favor?

Hattery: Yes.

Beazley: Would you introduce your wife?

Hattery: Of course, that's my lovely wife in the corner, Jennifer. She's been supporting me this whole time.

Beazley: And I don't think we necessarily say thank you to our spouses enough for them allowing us to be away and do the things we do and take away from the family. So, it's important that we recognize that. Cindy?

Murray: Nothing more, I'm going to let the Mayor speak.

Webb: First off, Brian, you're the counterpart and appreciate you, again, we've learned so much from you, and we leaned on you, and we questioned, but you were steady Eddie, and you are not all over the place, and kind of bring me back down to the spot when I get a little excited. You know, we always see is sometimes we look at the City Building and you know, it would always be a okay, this side of the hallways, but we mesh together very well. So, a lot of good things have happened. Antwill, Ray,

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

KENTON CITY COUNCIL

Meeting

Lilienthal Southeastern, Inc., 1-800-837-1904, Re-Order 66685K

Held

December 27, 2023

20

outstanding. I mean, you can't, I couldn't thank you enough, just you know, to have the heart to serve, and to be able to do that you've got to love your town, and we all love our town here. So, I hope we can continue to build off of that you guys have already laid in the ground. So, we appreciate you and your fight, and your vigor. I think tonight was a perfect, I wish more people were here. You know, most, a lot of times we have 7-0 votes, but we had a good discussion. You know, not always do we agree on which was to go but the process works, and I respect that. So, that's good stuff, and that's how good things happen. So, I appreciate the investment, the time to understand it, to look into it, and you know, you vote how you're supposed to vote from here and what you know. So, that's what's really going to continue to make us be the town that we're going to have. So, on that note, this is January 22nd, put it on your calendars, you'll all be invited. It will be the official groundbreaking for this whole big project. Ohio EPA will be here. Ohio Department of Development will be here.

Beazley: That date again?

Webb: January 22nd, I do believe it's at 10 o'clock. We will send out reminders, but I just want to get it on your calendar because it's a pretty big event. So, I would like as many people, whether, even though it's in the next year, if you were a part of it, you're a part of it to make that happen. Please plan to attend and we'd like to see your face in there. So, that's all I have. Happy New Year! It went fast.

Beazley: Okay, because Joel's not here, I get to speak last. I think Mayor, you captured something there in your last statement that's very important. We have some people who are moving out of their elected roles of responsibility, but we never forsake their experience, and their knowledge and I know the people that we have that will not be returning are also the type of people who will graciously answer your questions, listen to your ideals, give you feedback honestly, ask good probing questions, to make us all better. So, plan on us utilizing you as resources. Don't change your phone number. Alright, Brian, appreciate all you've done and the transition that you made. That was a significant change, and it's appreciated. Your time with us has been beneficial for the City of Kenton. We appreciate you very much. Raymond hasn't been all that long, but it's been a good time that we've been together. I appreciate your passion. I firmly believe you'll be back in one of the seats, somewhere, sometime, and you'll be welcome.

Lawrence: Appreciate that.

Beazley: You on the other hand...

(Laughter)

Davis: Tim is using his pen to write so watch what you say.

Beazley: I understand that, and I have check with the rules and regulations and surely hope that my President of Council has the gumption to appoint you back to the grove Cemetery Board even though you're not a member of Council, he can do that, and I hope he does, and I hope if he does, you accept it because you've been good for them, you've been good for us, and as much as I hate to say it, it's been a pleasure. With that, I wish everyone a Happy New Year, and we are adjourned.

David Beazley, President Pro-Tempore of Council

Emma Nelson, Clerk