

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

KENTON CITY COUNCIL

Meeting

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

Held

January 22, 2024

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2nd REGULAR SESSION:

Kenton City Council met in their 2nd Regular Session on January 22, 2024, at 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers. Present: President, Joel Althausser, Sue Fox Buroker, David Beazley, Steve Walter, Chad Miller, Pegg Wren, Anda Tudor, Robin Jones, Law Director John Schwemer, Safety Service Director Cindy Murray. Absent Mayor Lynn Webb.

Prayer given by Mr. Althausser:

Thank you Lord, for the gift of all those present to carry out the business of our City. We ask You bless our meeting this evening. Fill us with the wisdom to deliver timely and suitable ideas that will help raise Kenton to the next level, and beyond. In Your most holy name we pray, AMEN.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

MINUTES:

Althausser: Are there any additions or corrections to the minutes as they were provided to you? Hearing none, they'll stand approved as submitted.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TIME TO SPEAK:

None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Althausser: You saw in your packet for all those elected officials, well I guess and appointed, some appointments, your Ohio Ethics Commission filing reminder. If you have not done so already, you have plenty of time, don't get me wrong, but that deadline is Wednesday, May 15th. It is a fairly simple procedure. If you have any questions talk to myself, David Beazley has been around a long time. So, he's done it a few times, and then really everyone has done it except Chad, you, and Steve might not have done it yet. So, if you have any questions talk to any one of us. Once you've done it once, it's pretty simple. Any other communication that we need to go over?

PETITIONS:

None.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

Althausser: We will begin with Police Chief Musser.

Musser: Nothing tonight, thank you.

Althausser: Fire Chief Donnelly?

Donnelly: Nothing tonight.

Althausser: There are reports, I believe, if I recall from, yes there's a Police and Fire report. The Fire, a couple of them, Police would be your monthly, well that's actually the December report right, and then you've got two Fire Reports so if you have any questions on those? David?

Beazley: Chief Donnelly, on the Fire Safety Inspector Class, this would be for our businesses, and Public Places around town so that everyone has, our guys have to be certified in order to...thank you. Appreciate it.

Althausser: Oh wow, good question.

Althausser: Okay, let's see we probably have nothing from Parks & Rec. Probably nothing from Economic Development. Income Tax, you do have a, I believe there was, no there was not an income tax report, but you do have from the Treasurer's Office, and the Auditor's Office, the last couple of reports, the last...

Beazley: October, November.

Althausser: October, November report. The report from the Auditor and the Treasurer to the Mayor regarding all fund balances, and I assume Pam is hard at work on the other things.

Alexander: She's trying to finish out December and get all of the 23 POs reissued and switched over to 2024.

Althausser: Okay, any questions for Darrell? Law Director, anything, John?

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Schwemer: No.

Althaus: Okay Cindy, your show. You do have a report, the Waste Water Treatment Plant Discharge, and the Effluent Flow.

Murray: The only thing I want to talk about is, we had our pre-con meeting last Tuesday with the contractor for the downtown project. They will be starting at the end of February, first of March. They will be starting on Main Street, down here at Ohio, and working their way North. The street will be closed while they're working on it because they're going to start with the sewer portion which is the deepest portion. So, we'll try to do our best with communicating as to what is going on, to keep everybody informed. The other thing I want to talk about is plowing. Just to remind everybody that we focus, our first main priority is to do the Main Streets, the State Routes, up around the schools, Bales Road, and also then we get into the residential areas and the alleys will be last. We only salt on the main roads. We do not salt side streets. Mainly just because there's so many cars parked on side streets and we have sixty-three miles of road that we maintain here in town. So, that's a lot of salting if we ended up salting all that. So, just wanted to remind everybody of that. That's it.

Althaus: Alright, thanks Cindy. Any questions for Cindy? So, no Mayor's report tonight.

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

Althaus: I did pass around, before the meeting started, the committee listings. A couple changes there, getting Chad and Steve into the swing of things, same general design. All seven of you have basically three responsibilities, one way or another, whether it's an individual appointment, like Sue represents the Council with the Shade Tree Commission, or a committee appointment now. I did try to keep Steve and Chad, you away from having to chair a committee right off the bat. I would remind the committees if at the end of this calendar year, the committee wants to reorganize within, that's fine. I don't, if someone else wants to be chair, that's fine. It's no problem doing that. We've never gotten really too caught up on chair. Finance, there's a lot of responsibility there with the chair person but outside of that, we just really need somebody to kind of take change a little bit and be that liaison with that committee and the administration. So, if you have any questions, and please review that list. Make certain up at the top because that's got your contact information. We may make a change to Steve's. I thought they had changed his email to what it should be but it appears they have not, and having a conversation so at some point we will all decide, it's mostly up to Steve, whether we correct that or whether we leave it be. So, if we do change that I will send this out, but I'll give it a few days. If I don't get any corrections we'll go ahead and email that out as well so everybody has it. Any committee reports that we need to discuss or committee dates?

Beazley: Yes sir, I would like to make the new members of Finance aware that we will have a meeting on February 26th, which will be immediately proceeding our next, our second meeting of February. I would just like to get together and find out where we are. That gives an opportunity for year end balances to be done, carry over to be confirmed, that sort of thing. We'll know a little better where we might be at that point. So, Darrell, if you'd pass that along to Pam that would be most appreciated, and the other member of committee that would be 6pm, here in Chambers.

Althaus: And I guess I would just defer the other four committees, as you work with the administration, mostly Cindy on meeting times, we'll try to start getting those out. Cindy is pretty good at usually sending invites. So, and if you have any questions please feel free to contact myself or Cindy, Lynn, or if you're new to a committee, your existing committee members, or if your new chair person, or whatever questions you might have, try to get then answered. I will go on to BKP, I have no report. We did have a meeting last week, pretty short meeting, not a lot going on there. Is there any other report?

Jones: We did have a Park & Rec Board meeting and the fees for the pool will remain the same. The fees at the quarry will remain the same. Elizabeth Howe and her daughter Kinley Howe will come back as pool managers, head lifeguard. Kinley has, I think, in talking with Lynn this week, has all the lifeguards lined up that were at the pool last year to come back this year. Kinley is also looking into getting her certification so she can be a teaching lifeguard, like Tate was, through the Fire Department. So, she's looking to see if she can get that done at the Y in Lima so then we can maybe help Arlington, Mt Blanchard to train their guards, and get a little bit of income back from that. Donna Martin will come back to the pool as the Concession Stand Manager. So, she'll be in charge of that and Don and Deb Purcell will still manage the quarry and the fees out there will be also the same too. So, it was a good meeting.

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Althaus: Okay, thank you Robin.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ORDINANCES /RESOLUTIONS:**1ST READING**

- **ORDINANCE NO. 24-001, TITLE ONLY; AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2024, FOR THE CITY OF KENTON, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Althaus: You see that there is an explanation of that ordinance. I don't know, does anyone need any further clarification other than what is in this explanation, because we do have a need for that to be considered tonight if Council so desires.

Beazley: Cindy, we have contracted now? And se we just need to pay the contractor, in this case, and this is on a month-to-month basis?

Murray: Yes.

Beazley: At this point, so that's where we're moving forward. That takes care of our certification issues, and we are in compliance with the EPA?

Murray: Yes.

Beazley: So that needs to be taken care of, plus the severance.

Motion by Mr. Beazley, and second by Mrs. Wren that 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 Ms. Jones and second by Mrs. Buroker to adopt Ordinance No. 24-001.

Althaus: Any discussion?

(Roll call vote, 7 ayes, motion carried.)

2ND READING

None.

3RD READING

- **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).**

Althaus: This was the public hearing you had at the last meeting in December. It was then read in December and read again the first meeting in January. We're now at the third reading so either we move forward, or it will just fade away. So, any questions, first of all?

Motion by Mr. Beazley and second by Ms. Jones to adopt Ordinance No. 23-036.

Althaus: Any discussion?

(Roll call vote, 7 ayes, motion carried.)

Althaus: I would just, especially for new folks, but everyone, sometimes I know I do, Emma and I both get really rolling through these, just, if you want to ask something and you want to discuss something just stop us. Stop me, and we'll do that. If we call for discussion, or if we jump to the vote really quick after discussion, and just jump in there real quick, and say hey whoa, I have questions, and we'll stop right away. I know we do tend to get moving forward and I apologize for that. So, we'll try to make certain we give you guys a chance to ask questions. No other ordinances or resolutions. Other matters anyone wants to bring up tonight? Did any Council Members happen to be able to participate in some of the events today? Sue did, Pegg, Robin, anything you want to share? Don't feel you have to but...

Jones: I thought it was a great opportunity. The genealogy, Carol Steegman kind Lydi Mihalik came and presented the components of what goes into the infrastructure and the funding, and the money and she really put herself out there, personally, if we had any questions, you know, to contact them. There's many people that can help us with that, and then when we walked around the square, and I think everybody that was walking in my group, behind me were just, we walked to Twirl first, and then we walked around the square to 101 Smokehouse, and they loved Twirl, like as an anchor for the City, and Sam Nichols talk about people fly in from, and I don't know if people know this, people fly in from New York, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, to shop at Twirl. So, they, she also, Laura also has her own line of dresses that somebody designs for her, named after her daughter called Luca Ray. So, that's pretty exciting to think that J's Fashion has grown into Twirl that has grown into having their own designer gowns. So, and another thing that...

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Althausen: Can you really trace Twirl back to J's?

Jones: Yeah, that's where she bought, Laura Wingfield bought J's Fashion from...

Wren: She started there.

Althausen: Okay.

Jones: And another interesting piece that I was talking to the people that, I didn't get their names, but we were talking about the Armory, and so they thought that was a neat piece of history too because from kind of being at the Armory to decorate and things like that, they're booking the Armory into 2025 for wedding events. They're almost booked clear through 2024. So, that's pretty exciting to know that all the people come to town to rent the Armory for events like that.

Althausen: I actually think those two new wedding venues in Ada and Forest helped the Armory.

Jones: Yeah.

Althausen: Because they're pricey. They're great, don't get me wrong.

Jones: Yeah, they're beautiful.

Althausen: They're great addition to this general area but they also are...

Wren: they are very pricey.

Althausen: I was worried it would hurt them.

Jones: I don't think it has. When we were doing the Armory Gala, one night two couples came in for appointments and we were decorating but they stopped to watch, and the one young lady was from Columbus, and she's a morning broadcaster, news person on W104.9 The River, the Christian radio station, and she said it was just funny how she was on social media and found the Armory, and I think they booked their date. She's like, I want to fall in love with where I'm getting married, and not the price tag that goes with it. So, she's like you know if you stay inclusive to Columbus, you're spending \$15,000-\$20,000 on a venue and then you have to do all of your catering, floral, all that through that venue. So, it was pretty neat to watch them present to them. Their spiel on the Armory, they give history, and it was pretty really interesting. We have a lot to be thankful for, and to build on, I think. That was just my experience today, but Pegg was there, Anda was there, Sure was there.

Wren: And I will just say that it was...

Jones: Chad was there. Sorry Chad.

Miller: No, you're fine.

Wren: To see so many politicians invested in Kenton, Ohio because I've never seen that in my tenure here, at all. We were kind of ignored. So, I thank the administration and whoever was involved in getting this together. It's awesome, and I'm really excited finally to see something happening. So, I can't wait to see the finished product. I think I'll dance in the street. Don't hold me to that.
(laughter)

Althausen: I'm glad so many of you could go today. So, a lot more on that to come.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None.

COMMENTS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA:

None.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATION:

Althausen: Each of the chiefs, any last, Bruce? No. Sue?

Buroker: I don't have anything tonight.

Althausen: Pegg? Anda? Robin?

Jones: I thought it was a great day for Kenton today, and they were all so positive, and encouraging, and all the things that can happen within our county, you know if we feed off this. So, I think we have a lot to look forward to.

Althausen: John? Cindy? Alright then, a pretty quick one this evening. I'm certain there will be information coming out about committee meetings before long, as needed. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me and with that, if there are no objections, we will meet again on February 12th at 7pm. Until then, we're adjourned.

Joel Althausen, President of Council

Emma Nelson, Clerk