

**MINUTES
OF THE
REGULAR MEETING
OF
LAKEWOOD CITY COUNCIL
HELD REMOTELY
DUE TO THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY
APRIL 6, 2020
7:30 P.M.**

Regular Meeting of the Lakewood City Council called to order at 7:30 PM by President O'Malley.

Present: Thomas R. Bullock III, John Litten, Tess Neff, Daniel O'Malley, Tristan Rader, Jason Shachner

Also Present: Mayor George, Law Director Corrigan, Acting Planning and Development Director Milius, Assistant Finance Director Schuster, Finance Director Rancatore, Human Resources Manager Dillinger, Fire Chief Dunphy, Public Works Director Ducu, Human Services Director Gelsomino, and members of the public.

Reading and disposal of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held March 16, 2020 and the Emergency Meeting of Council held March 19, 2020.

Motion by President O'Malley, seconded by Mr. Litten, to approve without the necessity of a reading. All members voted in favor. Motion passed.

******OLD BUSINESS******

1. Health & Human Services Committee Report regarding meeting held March 16, 2020. (to be provided)

Vice President Litten read the following report into the record:

The Health & Human Services Committee met on the nineteenth of March and all members of the committee were present, along with a majority of Councilmembers and the Mayor's administration. We approved meeting minutes from May 19, 2019. We also heard from Terry Allan of the County Board of Health via phone to update us on the COVID-19 crisis. Due to information moving so quickly since then, I will keep my summary brief. At the time we were talking about 50 cases in Cuyahoga county, which seems like eons ago. Director Allen stated that this is as fluid of a situation that he's ever seen and explained the reasoning behind

many of Governor DeWine's decisions, including closing schools restaurants, and public places. These actions were taken to avoid people congregating, etc. They were undertaken to "flatten the curve." Councilmember Kepple asked if MetroHealth was offering mental health services and if there was an uptick in need for those services, and Mr. Allen indicated that there was a higher need. A MetroHealth helpline is free and available to all. Director Gelsomino noted that her department is transitioning from congregant meals to delivery ones. What was a telling conversation for me was regarding the amount of cases in Lakewood. Director Allen rightfully pointed out that we need to guard against the stigmatization of individuals and also talked about the individuals right to privacy in this matter.

After Mr. Allen exited the meeting, Mayor George gave an overview of what her administration is doing to address the crisis. They have situation reports daily and that helps keep us all up to date. Chief Dunphy gave an overview of the Fire Department's process to address the crisis and indicated that they were following guidelines put out by the CDC, WHO, and state level agencies on the matter. As far as categorizing people, Chief Dunphy indicated that the department is following the CDC public health flow chart for determining how to categorize things. At the time, there was no one in the city that had been diagnosed with the virus. Mayor George pointed out that there may be a future need to call an emergency council meeting in the future to pass legislation to give her and Council leeway during the crisis in regard to funding of staff positions. That meeting happened a couple days later on that following Thursday, to give an indication of how quickly things have been moving.

Vice President Litten made a motion, seconded by President O'Malley to receive and file the oral report.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeas: Bullock, Kepple, Litten, Neff, O'Malley, Rader, Shachner

Nays: none

On the motion: Motion passed. The oral report was received and filed.

******NEW BUSINESS******

2. Communication from President O'Malley regarding appointments to the Citizens Advisory Committee. (pg. 1)

President O'Malley made a motion, seconded by Vice President Litten to receive and file the communication.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeas: Bullock, Kepple, Litten, Neff, O'Malley, Rader, Shachner

Nays: none

On the motion: Motion passed. The communication was received and filed.

3. Communication from Councilmember Kepple regarding appointment to the Citizens Advisory Committee. (pg. 2)

Councilmember Kepple made a motion, seconded by President O'Malley to receive and file the communication.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeas: Bullock, Kepple, Litten, Neff, O'Malley, Rader, Shachner

Nays: none

On the motion: Motion passed. The communication was received and filed.

4. Communication from Councilman Litten regarding Health & Human Services Committee meetings to discuss COVID-19 pandemic. (pg. 3)

Vice President Litten made a motion, seconded by President O'Malley to receive and file the communication.

Discussion: President O'Malley surmised that the administration would be amenable to keeping Council informed. Vice President Litten stated that a monthly update would be appropriate. Councilmember Rader expressed his support and sought clarification on whether committee meetings could be held via the internet, just as Council meetings can be. Director Corrigan confirmed that all Council meetings, committee meetings, and boards and commissions meetings can be held remotely via the internet.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeas: Bullock, Kepple, Litten, Neff, O'Malley, Rader, Shachner

Nays: none

On the motion: Motion passed. The communication was received and filed.

5. Communication from Mayor George and Councilman Bullock regarding evaluating additional economic assistance to relieve the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. (pg. 4)

President O'Malley made a motion, seconded by Vice President Litten to refer the communication to the Finance Committee.

Public Comment: Ian Andrews of Lakewood Alive spoke about partnerships established with local banking institutions to assist small businesses during the crisis. 60 businesses have taken advantage of a low-interest rate \$2500 loan through First Federal Lakewood. The city has also set up a rent relief program for small businesses to use. He noted that the federal government has done a poor job of communicating with the banks in regard to the payroll

protection program that is being implemented on a national scale. Patty Ryan of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce expressed that the extension of the stay at home order until May 1st has made for a difficult situation for small business owners. She applauded the mayor and the Planning & Development department for the implementation of the rent relief program. She noted that the funds were used up very quickly and many small business owners were inquiring as to whether there would be additional rounds of funding. Landlords are also concerned of the domino effects of the order.

Discussion: Councilmember Bullock complimented the work that the Planning & Development Department has done, along with the Mr. Andrews and Ms. Ryan. He expressed hope to accomplish targeted action in the coming months, as the whole data picture of the current crisis is not available yet. He noted cities' budgets will be affected too as a result of the decreased business tax revenue. Mayor George recognized members of the Planning & Development Department for their work and noted that the rent relief program has become a state and national model. She expressed hope that a second round of rent relief funding would be coming forward and noted the establishment of a business community taskforce during the crisis.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeas: Bullock, Kepple, Litten, Neff, O'Malley, Rader, Shachner

Nays: none

On the motion: Motion passed. The communication was received and referred to the Finance Committee.

6. Communication from Mayor George regarding appointment of Human Resources Director. (pg. 5)

President O'Malley made a motion, seconded by Vice President Litten to receive and file the communication.

Members of Council welcomed Ms. Dillinger to the city. She expressed her thanks and excitement to be a part of the administration.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeas: Bullock, Kepple, Litten, Neff, O'Malley, Rader, Shachner

Nays: none

On the motion: Motion passed. The communication was received and filed.

7. **RESOLUTION 2020-24** – A RESOLUTION to take effect immediately provided it receives the affirmative vote of at least two thirds of the members of Council or otherwise to take effect and be in force after the earliest period allowed by law, approving the

appointment of Claudia Dillinger to the position of Director of Human Resources upon her taking the oath of office. (pg. 6)

President O'Malley made a motion, seconded by Vice President Litten to refer Resolution 2020-24 to Committee of the Whole.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeas: Bullock, Kepple, Litten, Neff, O'Malley, Rader, Shachner

Nays: none

On the motion: Motion passed. Resolution 2020-24 was referred to Committee of the Whole.

8. Communication from Mayor George regarding appointment of Finance Director. (pg. 8)

President O'Malley made a motion, seconded by Vice President Litten to receive and file the communication.

Members of Council welcomed Mr. Rancatore to the city. He expressed his joy in being back in the community, as he is a graduate of St. Edward High School.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeas: Bullock, Kepple, Litten, Neff, O'Malley, Rader, Shachner

Nays: none

On the motion: Motion passed. The communication was received and filed.

9. **RESOLUTION 2020-25** – A RESOLUTION to take effect immediately provided it receives the affirmative vote of at least two thirds of the members of Council, or otherwise to take effect and be in force after the earliest period allowed by law, approving the appointment of Peter Rancatore to the position of Director of Finance upon his taking the oath of office. (pg. 9)

President O'Malley made a motion, seconded by Vice President Litten to refer Resolution 2020-25 to Committee of the Whole.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeas: Bullock, Kepple, Litten, Neff, O'Malley, Rader, Shachner

Nays: none

On the motion: Motion passed. Resolution 2020-25 was referred to Committee of the Whole.

******LIQUOR PERMITS******

10. Liquor permit notice regarding 16900 Detroit LLC; Lakewood Truck Park. (pg. 11)

Councilmember Neff stated she has no objection and indicated that she communicated with Officer McNeeley on the matter, who assured her that everything is in order regarding the permit. Councilmember Bullock stated his support for the business, but did not require seeing the report. He inquired as to whether the reports were only going to the ward councilperson and the leadership. Director Corrigan stated he would be happy to forward the report to all members of Council.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeas: Bullock, Kepple, Litten, Neff, O'Malley, Rader, Shachner

Nays: none

On the motion: Motion passed. The permit was approved.

******ANNOUNCEMENTS******

President O'Malley noted that Ian Andrews of Lakewood Alive wanted to add to his remarks compliments to the Mayor's and Councilwoman Kepple's leadership on the Small Business Taskforce. Councilwoman Kepple is representing Council on that taskforce.

Mayor George stated that her administration is working everyday focused on the pandemic. Heads of each city department initially met daily and have now cut down to 3 times a week. She indicated that the city is prepared. She is meeting with the Chiefs and Law Director daily to address County and State updates and will continue to do so. She added that the public should follow the website and social media for updates. She concluded stating that she is committed to keeping employees and residents safe.

Vice President Litten thanked the IT Department and Council staff for making the meeting happen remotely.

Councilmember Kepple thanked the IT Team for pulling the meeting together.

Ian Andrews of Lakewood Alive noted that his team is moving forward and doing housing outreach by checking in and trouble shooting/problem solving. He is still speaking with residents about bed bugs. Lakewood Alive staff replaced a set of stairs for one resident. The paint program is off and running. He noted that Bunts Rd. to Ethel Ave. on Detroit will be designated as a historic district. The organization will hold a mid-May virtual meeting and a communication to Council should be expected. Warren Rd. and Madison gateway improvement is moving forward. The Knowing Your Home series was completed virtually last week. He indicated that he is not sure what to do about the Summer Meltdown and Front Porch concert series. The Summer Meltdown impacts the bottom line and so it will be a

significant hit to not hold it. However the organization will not hold it if it is not healthy for the community.

Council President O'Malley stated that Council and the administration are working hard to ensure that small business can survive and noted how people are hurting during this crisis. There are a high volume of meals being delivered. He thanked everyone who is stepping up during this time of unprecedented difficulty.

Councilwoman Neff stated how she has been so impressed with how well the City has come together and how the City is still providing services.

Councilmember Shachner thanked Council staff for keeping the body informed. He noted that the City is working everyday and has been responsive. He highlighted how the Human Services Department is going above and beyond to help residents, as well as volunteers, the Planning staff, and the city's police.

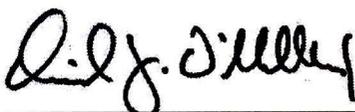
Council President O'Malley thanked the members of the Public Works, Fire, and Police Departments for their work during this difficult period.

Council President O'Malley adjourned the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Approved: 4/20/20


CLERK


PRESIDENT