

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
JULY 13, 2020  
MEETING HELD REMOTELY**

**Present:** Councilmembers, Bullock, Kepple, Litten, Neff, O’Malley, Rader, Shachner

**Also Present:** Mayor George, Shawn Leininger, Human Resources Director Dillinger, Deputy Clerk Lascu, Clerk Bach taking minutes

**Call to Order:** 7:05 p.m.

Approval of the minutes of the June 15, 2020 Committee of the Whole.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2020 Committee of the Whole.

A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

*Yeas:* Bullock, Kepple, Litten, Neff, O’Malley, Rader, Shachner

*Nays:* none

Motion passed. Minutes approved.

**RESOLUTION 2020-40** - 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 Shawn Leininger to the position of Director of Planning and Development upon his or her taking the oath of office.

At the invitation of President O’Malley, Mr. Leininger made an opening statement discussing his 19 years of experience in the field of Planning. He stated that he is a certified planner and a “city planner at his core.” He detailed his various positions as a planner and an executive within municipal government in Ohio and South Carolina. Most recently, Mr. Leininger worked as Executive Director of the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. He expressed that the job made him realize he was missing the experience of implementing plans and seeing projects through from beginning to end and was excited to see this position available.

President O’Malley engaged Mr. Leininger in a discussion regarding affordable housing and trends in Lakewood whereby affordable housing is becoming more difficult to find.

In response to a question by Councilmember Litten, Mr. Leininger stated that there is nothing in his past that would reflect poorly on the City and that takes an open, ethical and thoughtful approach to all decisions.

Councilmember Bullock expressed his views on the role of the Planning Department as an engine to help economic development succeed and asked that it continue to play that role, while aligning with the community vision.

In response to a question from Councilmember Kepple, Mr. Leininger described his management approach as collaborative and team based.

In response to a question by Councilmember Rader, Mr. Leininger discussed sustainability projects on which he has played a role and spoke about how he works to incorporate sustainability into planning.

In response to a question by Councilmember Shachner, Mr. Leininger spoke about what it means to preserve the character of the City. He explained that that involved preserving the built environment and the ways in which we interact with it socially and culturally.

In response to a question by Councilmember Shachner, Mr. Leininger discussed what factors he would weigh before offering incentives to developers. He stated that the use of public dollars requires the City to demonstrate what it will be getting in return for its investment. Any such investment must also be within the City's goals.

In response to a question by Councilmember Shachner, Mr. Leininger remarked about the push and pull of competing interests within any community. He stated that he would look to the Zoning Code for guidance in resolving such issues, sort through information on all sides and utilize strategies such as fencing and landscaping to offset perceived negative impacts of commercial property.

Mr. Leininger also answered questions regarding his views on parking and accessory dwelling units.

President O'Malley remarked that communication between the Planning Department and the public has been very strong and that he would like that to continue.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend Resolution 2020-40 for adoption. A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

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

*Nays:* none

Motion passed. Resolution 2020-40 recommended for adoption.

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**ORDINANCE 12-2020** - AN ORDINANCE to take effect immediately provided it received the vote of at least two-thirds of the members of Council, or otherwise to take effect at the earliest period allowed by law, extending the authority of the Mayor granted by Ordinance 8-2020, adopted March 16, 2020 to continue to pay benefits and provide paid leave during the COVID-19 crisis. Mayor – an extension of Ord 8-2020 adopted in march 2020.

Mayor George & Director Dillinger explained that Ordinance 12-2020 is identical to the ordinance adopted in March, which gives the administration flexibility in pay and benefits during the pandemic. Director Dillinger stated that because the pandemic is still with us and the situation has many unknowns that flexibility it still needed.

The Committee and the administration discussed updates to the Ohio Shared Work Program. The administration is allowing employees to continue their furloughs for as long as they are eligible with the State – which would be around the end of the year. Employees who continue beyond the end of July will not receive the supplemental CARES Act funds. They will only receive 20% of their pay provided by the State.

A motion was made by President O’Malley, seconded by Vice President Litten to recommend adoption of Ordinance 12-2020.

A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

*Yeas:* Bullock, Kepple, Litten, Neff, O’Malley, Rader, Shachner

*Nays:* none

Motion passed. Ordinance 12-2020 recommended for adoption.

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**RESOLUTION 2020-36** – 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, appointing \_\_\_\_\_ as the ex-officio non-voting member of the Tree Advisory & Education Board for a three year term beginning January 1, 220 and ending December 31, 2022.

President O’Malley stated that Councilman Rader is a natural fit for this role as he is the Chair of the Public Works Committee.

Councilmember Rader expressed that he would gladly assume the position unless another member of Council felt strongly about the role.

A motion was made by President O’Malley, seconded by Councilmember Bullock to insert the name Tristan Rader into the blank.

A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

*Yeas:* Bullock, Kepple, Litten, Neff, O’Malley, Rader, Shachner

*Nays:* none

Motion passed. Resolution 2020-36 amended.

*Discussion:* Councilmember Bullock thanked Council for the focus on this topic and remarked on the continuing work to be done regarding improving the City's tree canopy.

A motion was made by President O'Malley, seconded by Councilmember Bullock to recommend adoption of Resolution 2020-36 as amended.

A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

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

*Nays:* none

Motion passed. Resolution 2020-36 adopted as amended.

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**RESOLUTION 2020-41** - A RESOLUTION to take effect immediately provided it receives the vote of at least two thirds of the members of Council, or otherwise to take effect at the earliest period allowed by law, establishing the Anti-Racism Task Force to advise and work with the administration to ensure the value of anti-racism is foundational and unambiguously expressed in all city objectives, such as, safety, housing, education and culture, and community wellness.

Mayor George stated that in this moment where there are national calls for systemic change and she was compelled to create action steps and ask what else we can do as a community. The task force was proposed by a resident as one such action. Mayor George expressed that she and Council would likely benefit from listening to the advice of the task force. The goal is to ensure the value of anti-racism in all city objectives.

In response to a question from President O'Malley, Mayor George discussed how the work of the task force will be distinct from that of the Community Relations Advisory Commission.

President O'Malley emphasized that this legislation creates the task force and that Council will make its appointments via separate legislation. He noted that after the task force is established that the Council Office can put out a call for applicants.

Councilmembers remarked that LCRAC should be kept in the loop on this from the beginning and that harmony between the two groups should be maintained.

Councilmembers expressed a preference for Council to have five appointees instead of four. Mayor George was agreeable to this change.

A motion was made by President O'Malley, seconded by Vice President Litten to amend Resolution 2020-41 to change the number of Council appointees from four to five and to change the number of mayoral appointees from five to four.

A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

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

*Nays:* none

*Absent:* Bullock

Motion passed. Resolution 2020-41 amended.

A motion was made by President O'Malley, seconded by Councilmember Bullock to recommend adoption of Resolution 2020-41 as amended.

A roll call vote was conducted as follows:

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

*Nays:* none

*Absent:* Bullock

Motion passed. Resolution 2020-41 adopted as amended.

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Communication from the Civil Service Commission regarding recommendation for Council Members & Mayor Salaries.

President O'Malley stated that in the interest of time, this agenda item would be addressed at a future meeting.

Committee of the Whole adjourned at 8:18 p.m.