

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

January 8, 2024  
Conference Room #119  
5:30 P.M.

Present: Commissioners: Betsy Artz, Maurice Groce, David Moore II, Clarkston Morgan, Jessica Ann Tyson and Mayor Stephen Kepley.

Staff present: City Attorney Blake Conklin, Executive Assistant Stephanie Fox, Deputy City Administrator Shay Gallagher, Finance Director Keyla Garcia, City Clerk Dan Kasunic, Police Chief Bryan Litwin, Fire Chief Brent Looman, Fire Department Administrative Assistant Nancy Shane, Human Resources Director Heather Visco, and Sabo Representative Anna Kendall.

Mayor Kepley opened the meeting then requested a motion to go into Closed Session.

Motion by Tyson, seconded by Artz, to enter into Closed Session for negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of collective bargaining agreements as permitted under Section 8(c) of PA 267 Open Meetings Act of 1976.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: All. Nays: None. Absent: Coughlin.

Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 P.M.  
The meeting was reconvened at 5:48 P.M.

**MAYOR'S OFFICE:**

**A. POLICE AND FIRE MILLAGE DISCUSSION.**

Finance Director Garcia handed out different scenarios of versions of 3(b) option. Including projection of estimated property tax on a \$300,000 home that would be increased. The Committee began the discussion with Mayor Kepley providing explanations of different percents. Additional comments by City Treasurer Sheldon, City Attorney Conklin and Finance Director Garcia. Additional discussion on what may happen if the millage question does not pass.

Motion by Artz, seconded by Groce, to recommend to the City Commission to adopt a resolution to approve and submit the question of whether to amend Section 8.1, Chapter 8, of the City of Kentwood Charter with an additional millage of 1.95 mills.

Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Commissioner Morgan inquired on if there will be a discussion on the purchasing policy to include diversity, along with comments of having the bidding process equal and on a fair playing field.

Mayor Kepley explained some of his thoughts and stated it will be placed on the Committee of the Whole agenda in February to provide time for staff to provide information toward the discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 P.M.

Dan Kasunic  
City Clerk

Stephen C.N. Kepley  
Mayor