

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

APRIL 24, 2023
Conference Room #119
5:30 P.M.

Present: Commissioners: Mayor Pro-Tem Robert Coughlin, Betsy Artz, Ron Draayer, Maurice Groce, Clarkston Morgan, Jessica Ann Tyson, and Mayor Stephen Kepley.

Staff present: Parks & Recreation Deputy Director Lorraine Beloncis, Deputy Finance Director Bhama Cairns, Executive Assistant Stephanie Fox, Deputy City Administrator Shay Gallagher, DPW Director Chad Griffin, City Clerk Dan Kasunic, Engineering & Inspections Director Jim Kirkwood, Police Chief Bryan Litwin, Fire Chief Brent Looman, Parks & Recreation Coordinator Spencer McKellar, Parks & Recreation Programmer Ann Przbysz, Parks & Recreation Director Val Romeo, Community Development Director Terry Schweitzer, Fire Department Administrative Assistant Nancy Shane, City Attorney Jeff Sluggett, and Sabo Representative Anna Kendall

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT:

A. RECREATION AND COMMUNITY EVENTS 2022 SUMMER-FALL REPORTS

Parks & Recreation Director Romeo introduced Parks & Recreation Programmer Ann Przbysz to explain how all the programs are evaluated and determine what programs should be provided to the residents. Deputy Director Beloncis reviewed the Community Events Report for the 2022 Summer and Fall Quarter, noting some of the highlights, such as the Food Truck Festivals. Parks & Recreation Director Romeo reviewed the Recreation Report for the 2022 Summer & Fall Quarter. She noted the rentals for the shelters and facilities continue to increase and has implemented peak hour rates.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

A. DISCUSSION ON KENTWOOD ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE.

Deputy City Administrator Gallagher and Community Development Director Schweitzer explained the need to eliminate the section in the Code of Ordinances referring to animal control. He stated that animal control was under the county health department but are now under the county Sheriff's Office and the desire for the Kent County Animal Control who are better equipped to continue the enforcement with the city shifting some of the ordinance to another section of the Code of Ordinances. No action is needed at this time; however the proposed changes will come before the committee for recommendation for approval by the City Commission.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT:

A. RECOMMEND RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR 2023-2029.

Several directors were present to answer any questions on the Schedule of Capital Improvements document. Mayor Kepley spoke on the I-96 bridge (Forest Hill Trail connection) proposed work and that is unscheduled and has been for years because of not having the funds needed. The committee inquired about sidewalks and safe-routes-to schools and how that fit into the planned work. Followed by a brief discussion on the aerial platform on the fire engine. Fire Chief Looman noted his request for replacement of the self-contained breathing apparatus bottles that expire in 2026 and is concerned replacement will be difficult and will be requesting them sooner.

Motion by Groce, seconded by Tyson, to recommend to the City Commission to adopt a resolution approving the Mayor-recommended Schedule of Capital Improvements 2023-2029 as a planning guide for the City's anticipated capital purchases for the next six years.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 P.M.

Dan Kasunic
City Clerk

Robert Coughlin
Mayor Pro-Tem