

City of Deer Park City Council Municipal Building Meeting June 3rd, 2024

Mayor Donnellon opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation. Mayor Donnellon asked for a moment of silence for the veterans of D Day.

Mayor Donnellon read the roll. Tom Camp, Kathy Downs, Mark Feldhaus, Neil Kelly, Natasha Kohorst, Chris Westmark all present. Mayor Donnellon made a motion to approve Tyra Meredith as Clerk of Council Pro tem for today. Ms. Westmark seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Downs made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 20th 2024, Council Meeting. Mr. Feldhaus seconded the motion. All voted yes except Mr. Kelly abstained. Motion carried.

Presentation

Hamilton County Commissioner Denise Driehaus came to discuss the partnerships that exist between all the jurisdictions how impressive it is to see so many people at the council meeting. Each and every community is different and you should be proud of yours. Commissioner Driehaus handed out the menu of what partnerships are available from the county. Economic development has expanded a lot since the last time I was here in 2017. We have smaller event grants that are now available. Discussion ensued, she offered to answer any questions. Commissioner Driehaus then discussed the upcoming announcement from the SORTA board of which Mr. Kelly is a member; that Sorta is launching free rides for Veterans. To ensure that Veterans are aware of the program the buses will be wrapped with that information. The County is also going to do a renovation of the Springdale 911 call center to better support their employees and residents. FEMA will be moving into the same building. The Cincinnati Convention center renovation is beginning soon. The convention center will be closed July thru January 2026. 18 months for renovation, but this will allow the county to bring in significant conventions to our area. Discussion on the Bengals lease and how the stadium is being renovated and the Bengals are paying 50% of the cost. Commissioner then celebrated how well Deer Park has done with applying for grants. We received \$172,000 for demolition, residential recycling funds, and \$300,000 for the Chamberlin Park Music Pavilion. Discussion ensued on other grant opportunities. She thanked council for being allowed to speak tonight and would answer any questions. She then discussed some changes with the jails to help with overcrowding. The county will create a dormitory style setting for treatment for people with mental health or addiction issues. Comments were made by council members about the new changes at the 911 call center and how it is appreciated. Discussion ensued on property taxes which the county commissioners have no control over, as well as tax levies.

Public Comment

Meg Angstadt: 3805 St Johns Terrace. She discussed the upcoming vote on the Welcoming Committee and how she is for that. She was told originally not to buy a house in Deer Park because it was not a welcoming city and it wouldn't be safe for her family. She has had some great and not so great experiences living in Deer Park, and thinks the committee would help it be a better city to raise a family in and help the city become more diverse.

Bethany Angstadt: 3805 St Johns Terrace. I want to thank the council for allowing public comments, and letting people learn and observe about local government. She would like to see Deer Park launch into the next chapter of developments, to revitalize an aging population. She would like to see council approve the Welcoming Committee.

Celia Page: 4116 St Johns Terrace. She hopes to live in a community where neighbors and children can feel welcomed, and asks council to approve the Welcoming committee.

Chris Weaver: 4406 Redmont, just moved into Deer Park, and excited to be here, and I would like to echo what Mr. Camp said about the upgrade to the dispatch center. I want our community to be safe and extend my support to the Welcoming Committee.

Sarah Lucas: 3954 Hemphill would like to thank council for your service to the community. We are excited to find a place to start a family. I am here today to ask for council's help on behalf of several residents for the city to opt out of fireworks permissions as set forth in RC3743. I was not aware that Deer Park had not opted out of the fireworks ordinance when moving here, and as a person suffering from PTSD was not prepared for the impact of the fireworks. She is fine with the city organized fireworks but not the private citizens fireworks. The concerns were shared by other veterans as well as dog owners. Continued discussion ensued on the police not being able to enforce the guidelines in the fireworks code. She extensively discussed the ordinance and what it allows and disallows and asked council to opt out of the ordinance like many neighboring cities have done. Lots of discussion ensued, Ms. Westmark asked questions, and discussed the issue as well. It was suggested for the issue to be put on next meeting agenda, and also how it can be a fire code violation.

Maria Salser: 4129 Lansdowne Ave, Here to support the Welcoming Committee. I have been on the steering committee for the last year along with Kathy. I appreciate Ms. Westmark coming and speaking at the meeting. I have lived in Deer Park for 20 years and would like to grow in my relationships with other residents. Thank you to Dr. Jetter and for the Police Department for their hard work. It is all about the community and the support for the Welcoming Committee.

Standing Committee Reports

Legislative and Finance Committee Chair Chris Westmark.

May 2024 Jedz report, the city received our distribution of 10% and the 1% administration. Ms. Westmark made a motion to accept the report. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion, all in favor? Aye, motion carried.

May 2024 Income tax report, we are up over \$128,000 in collections. Ms. Westmark made a motion to accept the income report, Ms. Downs seconded the motion, all in favor? Aye motion carried.

Safety Committee Chair Tom Camp

Mr. Camp stated that at the June 17th meeting he will present the fire district and police report. The tentative August 12th meeting at 7:30 PM with the Wentworth residents is a go with the Fire district. Council please mark that date on your calendar. Mr. Camp was congratulated for the Memorial Day Parade and all his hard work.

Public Works Committee Chair Kathy Downs

The Plainfield Rd. boring project is now complete. The installation of the water main along with the tie in at Webster will be completed tomorrow. They are working on a tie in for Blue Ash rd. as well. Paving is still being completed on Plainfield road.

Park Board Committee Chair Mark Feldhaus

Party in the Park had to stop at 8 pm due to the rain. Next Party in the Park is June 22nd. Festival is first weekend in August, they always need volunteers.

Diversity & Inclusion Steering Committee Chair Neil Kelly

Mr. Kelly requested the power point be pulled up, some small changes were made minimally like taking out the thank you page. Discussion ensued, Ms. Kohorst stated she has lived in the city for 20 years and has never felt unsafe, I have never felt unwelcome and it upsets me that some of you here today feel that way. I ran for office and was voted in because I felt that our community needed more things, more activities that involve our younger community. I did attend the Diversity and Inclusion meetings and I foremost do not believe that this is great for our community. I believe in the economic development and want to see things like farmer's market, block parties, food trucks and it takes time for that to happen, I think the Diversity and Inclusion is important but it should be separate from council. Ms. Westmark discussed the volunteers who have been doing things on the park, many diverse volunteers and everyone seems accepting of them. I feel that volunteering at all the different events can grow the community and there doesn't seem to be any issues. The park board desperately needs volunteers and why people don't volunteer for those events, as well everybody loves everybody differences don't matter. Mr. Camp stated he has grown up here and we have a very good school system, working with the fire department, giving back to the community, we have a good mix of people. We have the park board and some of the other groups and I don't think the Welcoming Commission needs to be a city committee. We all want to work and live together.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the Welcoming Commission, seconded by Ms. Downs.

Voice vote taken: Mr. Camp- no, Ms. Downs-yes, Mr. Feldhaus- no, Mr. Kelly- yes, Ms. Kohorst-no, Ms. Westmark- no, Mayor Donnellon- no.

Mayor Donnellon stated that Mr. Kelly can tweak the Commission and that it took Mayor Donnellon three years to get the Friends of Chamberlin Park passed. He stated he appreciated everyone's hard work.

Mr. Kelly thanked everyone who supported the Commission and worked for a year on this subject. Thank you for trying to bring new ideas and more diverse, equitable and inclusive ideas forward.

Correspondence & Miscellaneous: none

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Jetter wanted to give council an update on the fireworks law as he understands it. We have a code provision on fireworks, Chapter 1519. Chapter 1519 essentially reflects the state law which has certain days; January 1st, Chinese New Year, May 5th, the last Monday in May and the Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding that day. Juneteenth, June 19th, July 3rd, 4th and 5th. The first Friday, Saturday and Sunday before and after July 4th. 1st Monday in September and the Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding that day, and December 31st. All of these days are permitted right now under code as they are under the state code. You can also restrict the dates and times that a person may charge, or you can ban them altogether, that is up to this council's authority to do so. Also, under our current code, you cannot negligently discharge, ignite or explode fireworks while in possession or under the influence of an intoxicant. What is also unlawful per our current code is that you cannot negligently discharge, ignite or explode fireworks on the property of another person

without that person's permission. Also people under 18 are not allowed to be using fireworks. Dr. Jetter also echoed what Chief Battin said about evidence and how we would need evidence to go to court to prosecute those who do not follow the code. The police cannot go barging on people's property without probable cause which would cause liability issues for the city. Discussion continued, by Mr. Pacheco, Loveland and Milford do the same as Deer Park. It is accurate that Fairfield and Batavia have outlawed them altogether. Dr. Jetter is also correct about the fire code which is a lot more detailed, and some administrative code as well.

Mr. Pacheco was asked if it can be changed, it can be, consider maybe only in the front yard as an example. The fireworks cannot cause damage to your property. Discussion continued with a suggestion would it not be easier for police if we banned them in Deer Park? Council will discuss this further in two weeks at the next meeting. Council would also have to decide if they would want the changes to be passed as emergency so it would take effect immediately.

Mr. Camp asked if the fire lanes on Colton and Monterey and Quartermaine area can be put on the next agenda.

Special Announcements & Reports from Other City Official.

Solicitor – none

City Manager

Dr. Jetter informed council we did receive the Hamilton County recycling Grant award for \$5000.

We are also working with a lawyer and I have a meeting with Harry Blanding and Elizabeth Bloom about housing in Deer Park, and how we can secure additional funding through some of the programs the county offers for economic development. We are also in discussion with Ryan Homes about Wentworth, as they tore up the curbs, the city will not replace them, we went down and marked the area up, it looks the cost will be \$50-60,000 dollars to repair. He discussed the firework issue again and said we all need to work together, most of the charges are misdemeanors, and some people don't have common sense and will do what they want to do. If there is somebody that is just being stupid call the police, or the fire department. We are also working with JEDZ on collection of non-payment of income tax from the hotel being built. I have a meeting on Wednesday for pre-construction of the Music Pavilion, All the plans have been approved, and we are ready to issue the building permit. I also failed to mention to Ms. Downs that there is a storm sewer problem around Matson. We are going to dig it all out and put a clamp in and repair the sewers.

Dr. Jetter will be on vacation and can be contacted in an emergency.

Mayor

We have appropriations coming up in a few weeks, Council if you have any questions please direct them to Sheena Johnson.

Schedule:

June 4th 2024 Jed/JEDZ meeting at Sycamore Township starts at 3:45 pm

June 17th, 2024 Council Meeting 7PM

July 1st 2024 Council Meeting 7PM

July 15th 2024 Community Improvement Corporation meeting at 12:30 PM

July 15th 2024 Budget Meeting 6:30 PM followed by Council Meeting at 7PM

Events:

Council meet n greet on June 10th @ 7 PM @ the Deer Park Public library

June 18th 2024 Block Watch Meeting 7:00 PM at the Community Center; Office Ken Cober will be the guest speaker

June 22nd 2024 Music in the Park 7:00 PM

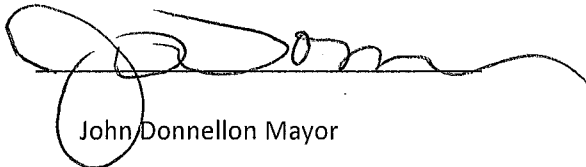
Yoga in the Park every Saturday at 10:00 am thru the summer

July 16th 2024 Block Watch Meeting 7:00 PM at the Community Center

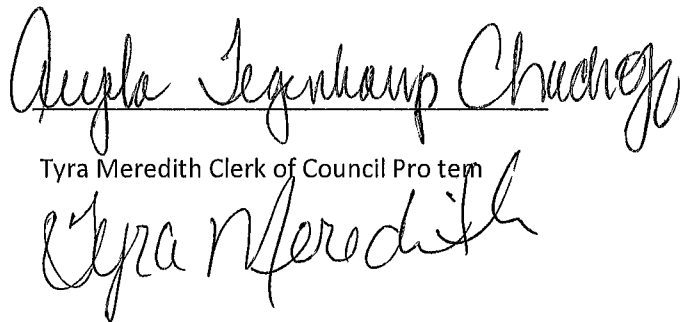
September 28, 2024 Strategic Planning Session 8:30-noon at the Community Center

Mr. Camp made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Downs seconded the motion; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 PM



John Donnellon Mayor



Tyra Meredith Clerk of Council Pro tem