



MINUTES

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
VILLAGE GREEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING
TUESDAY
June 16, 2020
6:30 PM**

The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. Those present included: Councilmembers Heather Karr, Melissa Riggins, Daniel Swartwout (Chairman), Frank Bertone, City Manager Andrew White; Chief of Police Stephen Hrytzik; Development Director Dave Betz; Communications Director Megan Canavan; City Clerk Karen J. Mitchell; and other interested parties. Citizen Representatives Heather Gonzalez and Ryan Herchenroether were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of May 19, 2020 were approved as written.

NEW ITEMS:

- "Good Neighbor" Policies/Procedures for DORA and Downtown
- COVID-19 DORA Event June 27 & June 28 Update
- DORA Review and Potential Modified Use Update

Councilman Swartwout asked that the three DORA-related items be grouped together for discussion purposes. Mr. White updated the Committee on the status of the first DORA event, which will be City sponsored, on June 27th and 28th. He recommended that the City secure the cost of the cups and signage at a total cost of approximately \$4,000-5,000. Reimbursement from the CIC will be about \$1,500. He also suggested consideration of more of these events being City-sponsored events. Mr. Betz mentioned that the Ordinance does not need to be changed unless we wanted to limit DORA events to only City-sponsored events. Ms. Canavan updated the Committee about the recently held stakeholder meeting where most of the establishments within the DORA boundaries confirmed they wanted to participate. This first DORA event's footprint will take up nearly the entire boundary area. There will be a second stakeholder call tomorrow to answer any final questions. She has also begun to market the event and will schedule a debrief meeting following the event. The Olentangy News will be running an article on this event. Chief went over the police operational plan for the event.

Councilman Swartwout expressed concerns about the northwest quadrant of the downtown area which has a residential neighborhood mixed in with some businesses. He has heard some resident complaints about patrons not respecting the residential communities nearby (i.e. speeding, loitering, etc.) Chief mentioned there are no sidewalks and that adds to the problem. He will assign a few more officers to the area. Mr. Betz suggested opening up a dialogue to talk about changing to one-way streets and installing sidewalks. Mayor Bertone suggested possible installation of signs around the area to be geared toward patrons similar to those in areas like the Short North or German Village where there are many neighborhood bars and restaurants.

ACTION PLAN: A post-DORA debrief will be put on the next agenda in July.

PENDING ITEMS:

- Discussion of Goals for Operations
- Review of City Organizational Needs
- Review of Personnel Manual

With respect to the three remaining items listed under Pending Items, Mr. White told the Committee some of his initial thoughts regarding the City's organizational needs. Some of the things he identified regarding reorganization was a work/salary imbalance that he seeks to reconcile. Council needs to objectify strategic measures in a strategy session and some of these issues will likely make its way back to Operations Committee. From a timing standpoint, some short-term goals could be aligned with the 2021 budget development. Mr. White suggests a payroll analysis for the allocation of funds for specific positions to be recalibrated. There are still many steps to get through.

Mayor Bertone would like to schedule a strategic planning meeting for Council on June 25, 2020 and will discuss with Council later tonight.

OTHER ITEMS:

Councilman Swartwout acknowledged that this was Dave's last meeting, thanked Dave for his service to the community and wished him well.

Mr. White updated the progress on Seldom Seen Park, which is still under construction. Mr. White talked about a small snag that happened this week with a safety issue in the playground area. There is a punch list yet to be completed. Mr. White had the perimeter area around the playground secured. He has requested to sit down with the contractor this week to have a conversation about finishing the remaining punch list.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.