

**CITY OF LOVELAND
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: David Kennedy, City Manager
RE: Weekly Update
DATE: January 8, 2021

Administration

Mike Meldon, Chairman of the Tree and Environment Committee notified the city that thanks to their efforts, the city has been recognized as a Tree City. In their letter of notification from Ohio Regional Urban Forester, Wendi Van Buren, she stated “Thank you to each of you who cared for your community’s trees and made trees a priority in 2020.” The Tree and Environment Committee continues to work on important new initiatives to improve and maintain the city trees and other vegetations.



This week included the addition of two new city staff members. Joy Deardorff started her employment with the city this week filling the position of part-time Human Resources Manager. Joy comes to the city having spent many years in a similar position with the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office. We welcome Joy to the city, and thank former Human Resources Manager, Julie Robinson for assisting Joy throughout her first few days with the city.

Also, this week, Krista Rose started her employment with the city in the newly created position Marketing and Communications Coordinator. Krista earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism from Ohio University’s E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, which has been recognized by The Associated Press and U.S. News & World Report for excellence in instruction and research in the fields of journalism and mass communications. Krista comes to the city with over 10 years of experience in marketing and communications and a fresh perspective to promote the city.

The AV equipment in council chambers is nearing installation completion. An initial test of the equipment, including mics, cameras, and streaming features were tested in Tuesday’s Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. A total of three cameras were installed providing for a variety of views including one on the east wall that can center on guest speakers and presentations. The Epiphan encoder has the capability to show digital presentations, guest speakers, and council deliberations with the use of all three cameras at once improving streaming viewership.

Streams to the [City’s webpage](#), [Facebook page](#), and [YouTube Channel](#) were distributed using a one source touch panel (iPad) making the encoding transitions much easier and more reliable with

greater video resolution; and giving the residents/general public increased availability to view the meetings through a variety of digital platforms in an effort to accommodate an assortment of audiences, including playback capabilities. The live stream to the City’s webpage was successful without any interruption from the existing service provider. Each stream can be viewed by clicking on the respective link.



AV Hardware



Council Chambers Cameras



Council Chambers Mics

Sixteen wireless microphones for council chambers have been installed. Two “Lavalier” wireless lapel mics are scheduled for install on Monday. The mics are top-of-the-line, with built in speakers, that drown out any outside noise amplifying the speakers voice for greater audio recognition during lives streams and in-person communications.

The Planning Commission met Tuesday to hold a public hearing for a zoning map amendment on behalf of applicant CB Butterworth, LLC. The application for zoning map amendment is one of the two-part SPD process. The commission determined that the application for zoning map amendment was consistent with the City’s adopted plans, goals, and policies; and in accordance with Section 1115.6 (A)(1) and (2); and subsection (b). In a vote of 4-0 (with one member recusing himself), the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the requested zoning map amendment, and that the City Council schedule a public hearing. A request for the public hearing will take place on January 12th.

The Planning and Zoning Commission also reviewed a proposed zoning text amendment to Chapter 1169.12: Plants List. The request for a zoning text amendment comes by way of the Tree and Environment Committee. In their research in becoming a Tree City USA, they discovered that the city does not have a mechanism to prohibit specific invasive species that are harmful to the ecosystem. From their various committee meetings, they discussed that adding a list of prohibited plants and trees would complement and add strength to the existing code as opposed to maintaining a list of generally accepted plants and trees as it currently reads.

As a result, the Tree and Environment Committee felt a better approach would be to devise a prohibited plants and trees list. The list is compiled mostly from the experience of committee member Doug Gilbert who has both Wildlife Resources and Wildlife Science degrees from West

Virginia University and Hocking College. Mr. Gilbert is also employed with Environmental Solutions & Innovations, Inc. Mr. Gilbert specializes in developing conservation plans that address potential impacts to species through mitigation measures. The Planning and Zoning Commission elected to table the proposed zoning text amendment for further clarification requesting additional information pertaining to the trees to be restricted, including adding the Kudzu, Bamboo, and Canadian Thistle trees to the list.

The Historic Preservation and Planning Commission met on Wednesday to finalize the Historic Preservation Design Guidelines and plan for an upcoming public hearing for all property owners within the recommended historic district boundaries. The commission scheduled Wednesday, February 17, 2021 as the date for the public hearing. Having had the opportunity to work with the commission throughout this process, I can say their dedication to preparing sensible guidelines, which will guide the appearance of future construction within the recommended boundaries, has been commendable. To review the final draft of the Historic Preservation and Planning District Design Guidelines [Click Here](#). To review the recommended Historic District Boundaries [Click Here](#)

Building and Zoning

The five-lot development on Cedar Drive is near completion with one unit awaiting final inspection. Tiger Express Laundry received its Certificate of Occupancy. Paramount Mortgage, formerly Cincy Shirts, also received their Certificate of Occupancy. At the close of 2020, the Building and Zoning Division issued 66 commercial permits, 169 residential permits, and 109 zoning permits with a total valuation of approx. \$6,695,726. The revenue collected from those permits totaled approx. \$83,257.91; impact fees generated totaled approx. \$60,406.

Police

A shooting occurred in McArthur Park Apartments on Monday. The investigation revealed the shooting was accidentally self-inflicted. Several media companies responded and called for information. On Tuesday, Officer Johnson stopped to assist a stranded motorist on Loveland Madeira Road. Officer Johnson quickly found out the vehicle was stolen and the driver fled into the nearby woods. Officer Bibelhausen and K9 Mack tracked and located the suspect near Kroger.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

The Beautification Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, January 11, at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

The Law and Ordinance Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, January 11, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

City Council will meet on Tuesday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

The Veterans Environment Committee will meet on Thursday, January 14, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall

The Tree and Environment Committee will meet on Thursday, January 14, at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.