

CITY OF KETTERING
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
REGIONAL DISPATCH INFORMATION
January 17, 2007

The Council of the City of Kettering, Ohio met in a special session on Wednesday, January 17, 2007 in the Auditorium/Common Area of the Kettering Fairmont High School, 3301 Shroyer Road. Mayor Patterson called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Council Members Present included Mayor Patterson, Mr. Duke, Mr. Wanamaker, Mr. Wasky, Mrs. Lehner, Mr. Spolrich and Mr. Thompson.

Staff Members Present: City Manager, Mark Schwieterman, Assistant City Manager, Al Fullenkamp, Police Chief, Jim O'Dell, Fire Chief Robert Zickler, Community Information Manager, Amy Berlean, Law Director, Dave Eubank, and Economic Development Manager, Gregg Gorsuch as well as other Department Directors or their representatives.

Mayor Patterson opened the meeting and introduced the Community Information Manager, Amy Berlean.

Ms. Berlean announced the format of the meeting to be moderator/presenter. There will be four presenters, City Manager Mark Schwieterman, Police Chief Jim O'Dell, Fire Chief Bob Zickler and Montgomery County Sheriff David Vore. After the presentations there will be a break out session during which City and County officials will be located at tables where individuals can get information as well as ask specific dispatch related questions. Ms. Berlean also mentioned there is information available on the City web site at www.ketteringoh.org. She informed the audience if anyone present doesn't have access to the web they should let a City employee who is present tonight know and they will make sure they get a hard copy of the available information.

Ms. Berlean introduced the Kettering City Manager Mark Schwieterman.

Mr. Schwieterman gave an overview of what a regional dispatch center is and how it would operate. He noted the next decision point is January 31, 2007. City Council must send a letter to Montgomery County stating the Council's decision. The only decision that has to be made by January 31, 2007 is whether or not the City of Kettering would like to move forward and further investigate the regional dispatching issue. Mr. Schwieterman noted Montgomery County has given Kettering the opportunity to help develop the dispatch center, we would have input on such things as where the center would be located and how it would be operated. Mr. Schwieterman then reviewed the proposed timeline for the opening of the dispatch center:

January 31, 2007: Kettering letter stating we will/will not continue to investigate the issue.

February 2007: Policy Committee (Governance Board) will meet and begin making decisions about the center.

June 30, 2007: Kettering must decide whether to move forward and join the regional dispatch center or not.

January of 2008: Montgomery County hopes to have the regional dispatch center open.

Mr. Schwieterman stated the City would only consider joining the regional dispatch center if their technology was as good or better than what currently exists in Kettering. In addition customer service must meet or exceed Kettering standards.

Mr. Schwieterman then mentioned a 10-year financial model would be available at the Finance Department table after the presentations are completed. He asked the audience to keep in mind this is not a financial decision this is a customer service decision.

At this point Ms. Berlean introduced the Chief of Police Jim O'Dell.

Chief O'Dell stated he is in favor of "Regionalism". However, he said he was not in favor of the concept that has been put before him, because it is just that a "concept". He cannot endorse it as a finalized plan, there are still too many questions. He does support in principal a regional dispatch center, at this time he does not support a specific plan because one does not exist. He noted that after 6 months of putting a specific plan together and ironing out all of the details he may be able to endorse such a plan.

Next Ms. Berlean introduced Fire Chief Bob Zickler.

Chief Zickler stated he has been in the Fire business for 38 years, he has operated a communication center for 15 of those 38 years. He is in agreement with Chief O'Dell on this issue. He feels regional public safety communication systems are a good idea and they are the wave of the future. He noted Kettering is already in the County's Communication System by virtue of our 800 MHz radio system for Police and Fire. He said essentially the Police and Fire Departments are renting space on the County's system. Chief Zickler also stated he would rather have ownership in the system than just merely be a renter. He said we (Kettering) are already in the County's Communication System, so we need to raise the bar, we need to work at making the system better we need to have some control over the communication system. He feels Kettering has an obligation to bring the rest of Montgomery County up to Kettering's level of service.

Finally Ms. Berlean introduced Sheriff Vore.

Sheriff Vore said he was asked by the Mayors and Managers group to investigate and participate in a Regional Dispatch Center, the Mayor and Managers also established a timeline to determine who wants to join. He is responsible for running the current and any future version of the Regional Dispatch Center. However, he feels any community that joins the center should have an equal vote in how the center is operated. The existing center currently dispatches for approximately 30% of the County. Sheriff Vore said through this process he has certainly learned how proud Kettering residents are of their community and he is very impressed with their dedication. Sheriff Vore then gave a PowerPoint presentation of how the existing County Communication System operates. He also described all of the upgrades the County is currently making to their existing system. He said he would not ask nor would he expect Kettering to take a step back in technology when and if they join the regional center, with the upgrade being installed the County's system will be as good or better than Kettering's existing system. Sheriff Vore noted the County has made a great commitment to make the regional system work, he wants Kettering at the table when the new system is designed to make sure it is done well. Sheriff Vore said he must mention that the current County dispatchers are some of the best around, he then proceeded to offer some examples of situations the County dispatchers handled well. Sheriff Vore ended his presentation by asking the Kettering leaders to give a good, long objective look at this issue.

Mayor Patterson closed the public portion of the meeting at 8:06 p.m. and every one present was invited to the tables staffed by City and County employees to get further information on specific topics.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

ATTEST:

DONALD E. PATTERSON
MAYOR

CONNIE S. GAW
Clerk of Council