

**CITY OF LOVELAND
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: David Kennedy, City Manager
RE: Weekly Update
DATE: April 30, 2021

Administration

The Comprehensive Master Development Plan Steering Committee met Monday. In their meeting they reviewed several proposals to the Loveland-Madeira Corridor. Planning Consultant, Liz Fields with McBride, Dale, Clarion conducted a study and analysis of the property known as the Chestnut Street property. Three options were presented that included a flex/office industrial use, industrial use, and an office park use. Ms. Fields also presented several options that would upgrade the Loveland-Madeira Road streetscape with the addition of trees, tree lawns, sidewalks, and a possible bike path. These proposals will be presented as part of the Future Land Use section of the Comprehensive Master Development Plan. The next Comprehensive Master Development Plan Steering Committee is scheduled for July 7th. At that meeting it is anticipated that a schedule and venue for several public engagement events will be discussed. Additional information can be found at:

<http://lovelandoh.igmm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=1437&Inline=True>.

Thursday, Human Resource Manager, Joy Deardorff attended a virtual meeting with other members of the Center For Local Government Benefits Pool. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the annual renewal for the city's health benefits which will occur this summer. Joy reports that no major changes are anticipated, except for a small cost savings in vision insurance, with other benefit costs will remaining the same.

Thursday evening, the Recreation Board met to review options for the Nisbet Park Mini-Plan as presented by KZF Design. The board provided excellent comments and suggested modifications to the plan, ultimately voting on a recommended option to City Council. With an upcoming deadline for submission for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), NatureWorks grant program, the board also recommended a component of the plan for the city to seek funding. The two options will be presented to City Council at their next meeting.

Friday, new signage was installed to help direct parking to the temporary parking area off of First Street.



Finance

On Thursday, Director of Finance Mark Medlar and I met with representatives from Dinsmore & Shohl, Bradley Payne, and 5/3 Bank to prepare for next week's bond rating call with Moody's. The City is seeking a various

purpose bond to refinance two outstanding debt items and to secure funding for the new Public Works building. The City is refunding (or refinancing) the two items in order to obtain more favorable rates that will save significant dollars over the course of the debt. In order to do this, the City's bond rating must be reviewed by Moody's which will determine how much interest the City will have to pay over the life of the debt. The City currently has an outstanding rating of Aa2 thanks to its strong financial outlook.

Building and Zoning

The Board of Zoning Appeals met Wednesday to review three variance requests. The first case presented for review, was a variance request for the construction of an above ground pool. The applicant requested a variance of approximately eight feet from the side yard lot line requirement of fifteen feet. The board unanimously approved the variance.

The second case presented to the board, was an application for a variance for the construction of a single-family home proposed to be located at 245 South Second Street. The requested variances included: lot area, lot width, and setbacks. The board approved the variance request.

The third case was a request for variances to the front yard setbacks and density requirements for a residential development within the Loveland Heights on Highland Avenue. The applicant proposes to construct two, nine-unit, single-family, attached townhome buildings on the property previously owned by the city. The applicants request for variance to the setback requirement would provide for additional off-street parking. The variance to the density requirement would provide for nine units instead of seven units, and would also preserve a stream, wooded areas, and some existing greenspace. The board approved the variance in a vote of 3-0. The development brings with it, additional options for affordable housing to those seeking to reside in the city, which is particularly important given the current state of the housing market in the Cincinnati area. For more information regarding this Board of Zoning Appeals meeting please visit:

<http://lovelandoh.ig2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=1438&Inline=True>

Public Works

Progress on the Broadway Stabilization project continued this week, with the majority of the drilled concrete piers complete. Special thanks go out to the contractor, JTM Smith Construction, for their excellent handling of traffic and reducing disruptions to the residents in the vicinity of the project.



On Tuesday, Staff held a preconstruction meeting for the Miami Drive Culvert Replacement project with JTM Smith and Choice One Engineering. Due to the lead time on the concrete box culvert and other on-going projects

(such as the Broadway Street Stabilization project), the contractor does not anticipate starting the replacement until mid-July. However, they anticipate some clearing and grubbing, and stockpiling some of the additional soil that will be needed at the site before then.

On Thursday, three representatives from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (a project manager, a geotechnical engineer, and a hydrologist) met with Cindy Klopfenstein. They reviewed utility records and made a field visit to areas of Riverside Drive/ East Kemper Road which face premature pavement deterioration due to bank erosion issues. Within the next 2 weeks, they anticipate presenting the City with their field report, which they recommend using to gain Congressional support and apply for USACE's Continuing Authorities Program for funding. See <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/public-services/continuing-authorities-program/> for information on the program. In the meantime, they recommend that the City apply for Planning Assistance to States (PAS) funds to begin feasibility planning, including geotechnical borings and evaluation, surveying, etc., which would allow the City to have cost savings &/or additional scope performed in the preliminary planning phase needed prior to preparation of construction drawings. A Letter of Intent, requesting PAS funds was submitted to USACE on Thursday as well.

Police

The Loveland community dropped off over 145 pounds of unwanted prescriptions at the DEA Drug Takeback on Saturday. On Tuesday and Thursday, Lieutenant Scott Humphrey and Lieutenant Mike Szpak coordinated the LPD firearms qualifications in Clermont County this week.

Chief Rahe was notified the Loveland Police Department was selected by the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police Community Relations and Engagement Committee as the featured agency for *Sharing Ohio's Best* for May 2021. *Sharing Ohio's Best* is a media initiative to share the best community policing ideas throughout Ohio law enforcement. LPD was selected for its partnership with the Ohio Crime Prevention Association for bringing crime prevention and the house of worship security training to Loveland. LPD will also receive a small grant to help fund future training.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

1. Planning and Zoning Commission, Tuesday, May 4, 2021, 7:00 PM, City Hall
2. Public Relations and Communications Committee Meeting, Thursday, May 6, 2021, 7:00 PM, City Hall