

**CITY OF LOVELAND
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: David Kennedy, City Manager
RE: Weekly Update
DATE: May 7, 2021

Administration

Last Saturday, I was the guest speaker for a picnic held at Nisbet Park organized by residents and supporters of the City of Norwood. The purpose of the event was to discuss the positive impacts the Little Miami Scenic Bike Trail has had on Loveland. The event organizers are proponents of the Wasson Way, 34-mile trail loop project, which is underway, and will traverse through the City of Norwood.

Tuesday, I met with Dean Backscheider and Char Cooper with the Green Beret Foundation. The purpose of the meeting was to review plans for their Steps-N-Salutes 5K scheduled to be held downtown on the morning of September 11. For more information on the event [Click Here](#)

Friday, Police Chief, Sean Rahe, and I met with Kevin Egan and Tom Powers with Ramsey's Trailside and Paxton's Grill. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how to address the heavy traffic congestion on West Loveland at the bike trail crossing during weekends. Kevin and Tom have offered to fund the placement of a "crossing guard" during the heavy traffic periods to help alleviate the constant back-ups. The city had secured a quote for a private company to handle this service in the past and will be checking on any changes to that proposal. Future updates on this topic will follow.

During the week, multiple site visits were made for the Loveland Heights Housing Rehabilitation Grant Program. A preliminary approval letter was issued for a new roof on Durango Drive, and formal approval for the replacement of the front and rear doors at a residence on Sioux Drive was issued.

This week, the installation of the new fire alarm system at City Hall was completed. The completion of the new system brings City Hall into full compliance with all applicable fire codes. Special thanks to Harold Gregory with LSFd for his guidance throughout this process.

I met with Marketing and Communications Coordinator Krista Rose, Assistant City Manager Tom Smith, Assistant to the City Manager Misty Brents, and Director of Finance Mark Medlar to discuss the marketing strategy and advertising policy for the Lovin' Life Loveland website.

Finance

On Tuesday, Director of Finance Mark Medlar and I participated in a rating call with Moody's in preparation for issuing various purpose bonds to refinance two outstanding debt items, and to secure funding for the new Public Works building. Representatives from Dinsmore & Shohl, Bradley Payne, and 5/3 Bank participated in the call as well. Initial feedback from Moody's was positive, and we look forward to receiving their full rating update report in the near future.

Building and Zoning

The Planning and Zoning Commission met on Tuesday to review a site plan application for the new Public Works Offices/Garage building and the initiation of a Special Planning District (SPD) at 102 Oak Street. The site plan for the Public Works facility was approved unanimously in a vote of 5-0. The SPD application was to determine whether or not the proposed application met the purpose and scope of an SPD. In a vote of 3-2, the Commission

determined that the SPD application did meet the requirements, scope, and purpose of an SPD. The commission also scheduled a public hearing for Tuesday June 1, 2021 at 7:00 pm to review the conceptual plan and garner public input. More information can be obtained at:

<http://lovelandoh.ig2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=1439&Inline=True>

Building and Zoning Clerk, Becky Noel, and Zoning and Economic Development Specialist, Eva Wisby continue to the process of developing the new permit software. The creation and development of the online applications is near completion. The next steps are the migration of the City's current data into the new system and GIS integration. Each of these steps is a major undertaking that will take a couple of months. Notwithstanding, the City remains on track with the project schedule and is slated for a target completion date of October 2021.

Public Works

Tuesday, City Engineer, Cindy Klopfenstein and I participated in a virtual meeting with representatives from Hamilton County Engineers office and AECOM, the design engineer for the West Loveland Bridge Sidewalk Replacement project. AECOM notified the city that their construction cost estimate for the project has increased above the funded amount by approximately \$110,000. At the time of the initial cost estimate in 2020, the ODOT Bridge Design Manual allowed a new barrier to be placed on an existing bridge by doweling in rebar for the new barrier a standard 6" into the existing deck. ODOT has subsequently removed the provision and now requires dowels to be designed in accordance with different standards. This required additional concrete to be added to the existing barriers through the entire project limits to achieve a strong and high enough wall. The decision was made to keep the sidewalk replacement, wall revisions and decorative railing in the project scope. The County removed minor structural repairs and steel repainting from the project scope as it is not necessary at this time and would be more cost effective to bid similar work at multiple bridges. The City's replacement of the three streetlights with a decorative type will become an add-alternate in the bid documents, to be awarded if funding allows. If not awarded, the street light replacements will be budgeted for a separate contract in 2022.

Thursday, the city received notification that the weight limit for the East Loveland Bridge will be reduced from 25 tons to 20 tons. Fire Chief, Otto Huber, is taking the necessary steps to stage the proper vehicles at Station 63 to assure that this action does not impact fire protection to residents located east of the bridge. Also, City Engineer, Cindy Klopfenstein is working with the Clermont County Engineers Office on a joint grant funding application for the replacement of the bridge. We remain hopeful this project will be funded, and construction will commence in 2022.

This week, a new front page quick link titled "Construction Projects" was added to the City's website.



The purpose of the link is to allow residents and business owners for easily accessible, up-to-date, project status for the many ongoing infrastructure projects. Although the internal content is still being completed, we are hopeful this will be a go-to link for any information regarding project schedules, upcoming road closures, a project's scope, and its boundaries.

The installation of drilled piers on Broadway Street were completed this week. Additional storm sewer and guardrail are still to be installed prior to restoration.

Surveying was conducted this week at the Public Works complex in preparation of the new office/garage building site design.

Police

On Sunday, Lieutenant Scott Humphrey, Officer Dakota Parks, and Officer Angela Smallwood were holding an outer perimeter for Hamilton Township Officers when the Hamilton Township Officers were involved in an officer-involved shooting. Loveland officers did not discharge their weapons but assisted in securing the scene and relieved them on perimeter control for several hours. Chief Rahe responded to check on our Loveland team and assist at the scene. The shooting remains under investigation by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI.)

Loveland officers attended mass protest and demonstration training hosted by the Warren County Sheriff's Office this week. Policy and training on mass protests and demonstrations is a new requirement by the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board. The Loveland Police Department has been state-certified by the Collaborative since 2016.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

I will be out of the office on Friday, May 14. In my absence, Assistant City Manager, Tom Smith will serve as Acting-City Manager.

City Council Members will take turns manning a City booth during the Food Truck Rally this Saturday at Shopper's Haven. Council Members will have the opportunity to take questions from the community, share information about City projects, Loveland U, Smart City, and upcoming City events.

The Arts Commission will meet on Monday, May 10, at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

City Council will meet on Tuesday, May 11, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

The Law and Ordinance Committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, May 12, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

The Tree and Environment Committee will meet on Thursday, May 13, at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.