



City of Loveland

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: David Kennedy, City Manager
RE: Weekly Update
DATE: April 1, 2022

Administration

Today was Police Chief, Sean Rahe's last day of service to the City of Loveland. Sean has served the Loveland Police Department for over 23 years. Starting as a Patrolman in 1998, Sean was promoted to Sergeant, then Captain, until 2016, when I had the privilege to hire him as Police Chief.

I know that I speak for the entire community when we thank Sean for his hard work, dedication to the community, and for his never-ending professionalism. Under Chief Rahe's watch, the police department grew not just in terms of new officers, but also in technology upgrades, the establishment of three School Resource Officers (SRO), needed policy modifications, and much more. Chief Rahe was always available to meet with staff to discuss projects and how they may impact traffic and general public safety. Most recently, I greatly appreciated his time in coordinating the downtown parking meter study which was conducted last summer. This project included significant effort and coordination, upon which he gladly took the lead. Thanks to his efforts the city was able to learn from the results of the study and take appropriate action.

We wish Sean good luck in the future and know that he will enjoy having more time with his wonderful family, and that he will be able to look back proudly at what he accomplished.



Monday evening, the Civil Service Commission met to approve the Police Officer hiring process. The officer selected from the process will replace Officer, Sean Parks, who will be leaving Loveland PD and joining the Hamilton Township Police Department.

This week, the city was notified that it's grant application submitted to the Cincinnati Business Committee (CBC) to replace the Tot-Lots in the Loveland Heights and install free Wi-Fi was recommended for \$75,000 in funding through State of Ohio Biennial Capital Program. Based on this recommendation from the CBC, the Ohio General Assembly will determine whether to include the project in the capital budget.

Wednesday, Mayor Bailey, Assistant City Manager, Cory Wright, and I met with Tammy Campbell, Director of ODOT District 8. Included in the meeting were representatives from Congressman Wenstrup's office along with other ODOT staff. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss potential regional based strategies to mitigate and reduce the congestion issues within the downtown business district. Topics included addressing the need for additional cross-river connectivity and potential regional network improvements to reduce traffic downtown congestion "through commuter" traffic attributable to surrounding development in both Clermont County and Warren County. ODOT staff provided background information about the planning and engineering studies that would be required to advance such an initiative. Additionally, ODOT Staff provided information about the length of the project development timeline associated with potential new crossings or other strategic, regional transportation network improvements of this character. ODOT Staff provided helpful suggestions regarding funding opportunities and emphasized the need to form regional partnerships that may help advance such an initiative.

In an effort to help reduce the continual speeding issues along Wall Street, the city submitted for funding to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Safety Program, to purchase two radar speed signs which would be permanently installed along the roadway. The solar powered signs can be easily programmed with different messages and alerts and have been proven to be effective in speed reductions.



Friday, the city, and the Loveland Farmers Market executed the lease agreement for the 2022 Farmers Market at the Linda Cox Trailside Parking Area. The market will run each Tuesday, from May 3 to October 25.

The city's 2022 Summer Concert Series was finalized and will feature:

The Harmonics – May 22

Jessie Lyn & TNT Band Express – June 12

Vinyl Countdown – June 26

String Theory – July 31

My Brother's Keeper – August 28

Tom the Torpedoes – The Music of Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers – September 18

Concerts will be held in Nisbet Park from 6-8 p.m.

Special Events Applications were approved for the Loveland Middle and Intermediate School's Parent Teacher Student Association's Run Like a Tiger 5K on Saturday, May 7, 2022; the Little Miami River Chamber Alliance's Health and Wellness Expo on July 30, 2022; and the Steps n' Salutes Green Beret 5K that will be held on September 11, 2022.

Building and Zoning

Work continues at the Wicked Pickle. The project looks very nice, and the improvements further complement the aesthetics along Railroad Avenue. At Hops and Berry, iPad installation for the ordering system began while wiring and insulation work progressed. Garage doors were hung, and drywall will follow. Signage permits were applied for through Building and Zoning, with review to occur pending receipt of a couple of additional plan details.

Here are some additional highlights from the Building and Zoning Department activities this past week:

- A seventh home permit was fully issued for a new house in Chimney Ridge.
- Project revisions are anticipated for the alteration project at 1303 Mattec Drive.
- The owner of Quilter Studio has hired a new contractor and the framing inspection was approved.
- The Building Official met with the owner and architect of 111 N. Third Street and plan revision items are anticipated to address concerns related to the change of use/occupancy for the intended event center use.

The silt fencing complaint at Blossom Hill was fully resolved through the efforts of staff.

Staff continues efforts to complete the Accela software implementation. Work continues to implement online permitting functionality, including the inclusion of fully integrated online fee payment functionality.

Public Works

This week, Public Works installed a gravel walkway at Kiwanis Park from the parking area to the entrance of the new dog park.



Also, this week, footers were poured for the new Public Works Building by the contractor, DER Development. This a good sign of progress on the project, which we hope will be fully completed and occupied by this fall.



This week, a new AED was installed at Phillips Park. Special thanks to LSFD, Deputy Chief Mike Books for his coordination of this project.



Upcoming Meetings

The Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on Tuesday, April 5, at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

The Loveland Music Boosters will present the Taste of Loveland on Saturday, April 9, from 2 to 5 p.m. in downtown Loveland. [Click here](#) for more details.