

BROOKVILLE CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
July 5, 2022

The Public Meeting of the Brookville City Council was called to order by Mayor Letner at 7:00 p.m. on July 5, 2022. The meeting was held in the City Council Chambers and virtually using the Cisco Webex application. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members Crane, Fowler, Requarth, Schreier and Wilder; Manager Keaton, Law Director Stephan, Finance Director Brandt, Fire Chief Fletcher, Police Chief Jerome and Clerk Duncan were present. Member Zimmerlin was absent.

Motion by Fowler, second by Schreier to accept the Agenda as presented. All yeas, motion carried.

Mayor Letner announced this Public Meeting is being held to consider the retirement and rehiring of Sonja Keaton as City Manager for the City of Brookville.

Clerk Duncan announced the Public Meeting tonight is to consider the issue of Sonja M. Keaton being re-employed by the City of Brookville as City Manager effective August 1, 2022, upon her retirement as City Manager, effective July 31, 2022. Per Ohio Revised Code Section 145.381 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 145-1-79, public notice was provided in the June 1, 2022 edition of the Brookville Star that a public meeting would be held on July 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, which meets the requirements of providing notice at least 60 days before the re-employment is to begin. A public notice was also placed on the City of Brookville's website.

Clerk Duncan stated for those unfamiliar with the Public Employees Retirement System, or OPERS, public employees who have worked the required number of years in government are eligible to retire and begin immediately receiving their pension. According to the rules and requirements of OPERS, it is acceptable and very common for eligible public employees to retire and then be rehired by their same organization. In fact, this occurs regularly in various public-sector agencies, including the military, schools and others.

Clerk Duncan advised in addition to OPERS, there is also a police and fire program called DROP, which stands for the Deferred Retirement Option Plan. Under this plan, a police officer or fire fighter that is eligible for retirement can continue to work and enter the DROP program for a period of three to eight years. The concept of both the OPERS re-employment program and the DROP program is to retain qualified, well-trained professionals working for their current communities.

There was no public comment.

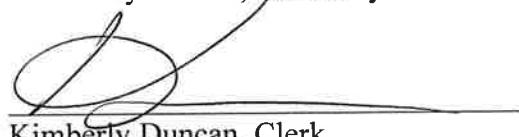
Member Requarth commented Sonja Keaton has done a good job as City Manager.

Member Fowler stated he is glad we are able to keep City Manager Keaton.

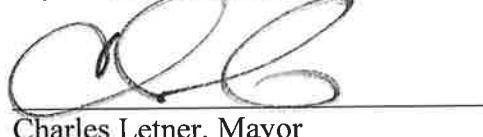
Manager Keaton commented she intends to work a few more years. This is the first normal year since she has taken over as City Manager. The first year we were hit by the tornado and the second year was the COVID pandemic.

Mayor Letner commented we have a lot of exciting things coming up and he cannot think of a better staff than City Manager Keaton, Law Director Stephan and the rest of our staff to lead us through it.

Motion by Fowler, second by Wilder to adjourn. All yeas, motion carried.



Kimberly Duncan, Clerk



Charles Letner, Mayor