



City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

The City of Kent, Ohio
Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held virtually using the Zoom platform and livestreamed on the City of Kent YouTube Channel.

At 7:30 p.m., Mayor Jerry T. Fiala called the **Regular Meeting of Kent City Council** to order. Roll was taken.

PRESENT: Mr. Jack Amrhein; Mr. Michael DeLeone; Mr. Garret Ferrara; Mr. John Kuhar; Ms. Gwen Rosenberg; Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish; Mr. Roger Sidoti; Ms. Tracy Wallach

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor and President of Council; Mr. Dave Ruller, City Manager; Ms. Hope Jones, Law Director; Ms. Bridget Susel, Community Development Director; Ms. Melanie Baker, Service Director; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Ms. Joan Seidel, Health Commissioner; Ms. Rhonda Hall, Budget and Finance Director; Mr. Gary Bishop, IT Manager; Ms. Suzanne Stemnock, Human Resource Manager; Mr. John Tosko, Fire Chief; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council

ABSENT: Mr. Robin Turner

MOTION TO EXCUSE MR. TURNER FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING made by Mr. Sidoti
SECONDED by Ms. Wallach and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

Mayor Fiala called upon Councilmember Ferrara for opening remarks. Mr. Ferrara read the attached statement (**Attachment #1**).

Mr. Ferrara asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Regular Council Meeting Minutes:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF March 17, 2021 and the Public Hearing of March 17, 2021 made by Mr. Ferrara, SECONDED by Mr. DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-1 with Ms. Wallach abstaining.

Communication:

Public Comment: There were four (4) visitors signed in to speak to Council. Mayor Fiala read the following statement:

THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021

"While the law does not require Council to provide time for public comment, we have historically invited the public to make comments and we appreciate their input. This is the time where residents and others can comment on matters that concern them. However, we will not engage in debate, and as President of Council, I reserve the right to end any public communication that is disruptive, embarrassment, harassment or otherwise objectionable. We ask that you give your name and address and limit comments to three (3) minutes of discussion."

Mr. Doug Fuller who resides at 1431 River Edge Drive, Kent Ohio, was the first person signed in. He read the following statement to Council (**Attachment #2**).

Ms. Paula Treckel who resides at 1244 Woodhill Drive, Kent, Ohio, spoke to Council next and read the following statement to Council. (**Attachment #3**)

Mr. David Sommers who resides 1351 Greenwood Ave., Kent, Ohio, spoke to Council next and his comments are summarized in the following attachment. (**Attachment #4**)

Mr. Howard Boyle who resides at 1485 River Edge Drive, Kent, Ohio, addressed the importance of history in the City of Kent. He said the architecture in the City has described the fabric that makes up the city since the 1860's. He emphasized some of the detail work on the buildings and how lucky we were to have [Charles] Kistler live in the city. He referenced the gabled roof removal on a building downtown being replaced by a flat roof. He said a gabled roof that was not designed with the building is not the best option. He said it's not too late to change and the building has a tremendous interest by many people and would like to see it remain, as much as possible, as it was designed.

Written Communications were reported by Clerk Wilkens and placed on file in the Clerk's office as follows:

1. Letter from the Arbor Day Foundation congratulating Kent on earning recognition as a 2020 Tree City USA received March 8, 2021.
2. Email from Mr. Rick Hawksley regarding lawmakers seeking to limit authority over fossil fuel use received on March 17, 2021 and forwarded to all Council Members.
3. Letter from PARTA requesting to reappoint or replace a board member whose term is expiring on June 30, 2021 received on March 23, 2021.
4. Standing Rock Cemetery Board Meeting Minutes from March 11, 2021 received March 24, 2021.
5. New Liquor License request received March 24, 2021 for Kent Diner, LLC, 1225 W. Main Street. Chief Shearer had no objections.

MOTION TO RETURN WITH NO OBJECTIONS made by Mr. Kuhar SECONDED BY Mr. Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

6. Transfer Liquor License request received April 9, 2021 from Riley Hotel Group, LLC DBA Kent State Hotel and Conference Center to Olympia Hotel Management, LLC, DBA Kent State University and Conference Center located at 215 S. Depeyster Street received on April 9, 2021. Chief Shearer had no objections.

MOTION TO RETURN WITH NO OBJECTIONS made by Mr. Kuhar SECONDED by Mr. Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

7. Email from Lisa Taddei, External Affairs, Ohio Edison regarding a new scholarship program offered to diverse students of First Energy's Power Systems Institute received March 26, 2021 and forwarded to all Council Members.
8. Planning Commission Agenda and Staff Report for April 6, 2021 received on March 26, 2021.
9. Standing Rock Cemetery Agenda for April 8, 2021 received April 1, 2021.
10. Thank you card from Harrison and Chanjuan Wicks received and forwarded to Council on April 9, 2021 thanking Council for the card sent for the birth of their daughter, Charlotte.
11. Parks and Recreation Board Packet for April 15, 2021 received on April 9, 2021.
12. Health Board Agenda and Statistical Report for the April 13, 2021 meeting received on April 12, 2021.

Communications Received after Agenda Publication were reported by Clerk Wilkens and placed on file in the Clerk's office as follows:

1. Email received from Andria Blackwood regarding her resignation from the Fair Housing Board effective immediately received April 16, 2021.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION made by Mr. Sidoti SECONDED by Mr. Kuhar and CARRIED with a voice vote of 8-0.

2. Civil Service Commission Meeting Agenda for April 19, 2021 received on April 16, 2021.
3. Memorandum of Understanding from Kent Chamber of Commerce regarding the Kent Heritage Fireworks to be held on June 26, 2021 was received on April 19, 2021.
4. Email from Allyson Chicoski regarding her resignation from the Civil Service Commission received April 20, 2021.

MOTION TO ACCEPT RESIGNATION made by Mr. Kuhar SECONDED by Mr. Sidoti and CARRIED with a voice vote of 8-0.

5. Email from Allan Orashan regarding replacing the west side fire station roof, asking to keep the front façade as is, was received and forwarded to Council on 4/21/2021.

City Manager's Report was called for by Mayor Fiala.

1. Request for Council's authorization to accept multiple donations for the replacement and

upgrade of the container used for the Aluminum Cans for Burned Children project. (Draft #2021-040)

2. Request for Council's authorization to schedule the annual Joint City of Kent – Franklin Township Trustees meeting at the May 5th Committee meeting.
3. Request for time at the May 5th Committee Meeting to hold the second public hearing on the 2021 CDBG program.
4. Requested Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee time to present a request to authorize an area of the City sidewalk to be used for outdoor dining at the corner of Erie Street and Franklin Avenue.
5. Requested Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee time to present a request to authorize the placement of a new South End Neighborhood Monument sign on City right of way.
6. Requested Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee time to request Council's approval of proposed changes to the City's trash and recycling contracts related to the number of households served and billed to the City.
7. Requested Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee time to present a proposed moratorium on food trucks in downtown Kent.
8. Requested Finance Committee time to present an update from the EDA regarding federal interest and the City's Revolving Loan Fund.
9. Requested Community Development Committee time to request Council's authorization to extend the DORA for 2021-22.

MOTION TO APPROVE ITEMS #1-9 OF THE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT, made by Mr. Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. DeLeone, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

STANDING COMMITTEES/ LEGISLATION

1) COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES of April 7, 2021 made by Mr. Ferrara, SECONDED by Mr. Sidoti, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-1, with Ms. Wallach abstaining.

NO COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM TO APPROVE

MOTION TO APPOINT KELEIGH VERALDO-ZUCCHERO AND JENNIFER NICHOLS to the Fair Housing Board made by Mr. Kuhar SECONDED by Mr. Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

MOTION to insert names into legislation made by Mr. Kuhar SECONDED by Mr. Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

Draft No. 2021-033 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING KELEIGH VERALDO-ZUCCHERO AND JENNIFER NICHOLS TO THE FAIR HOUSING BOARD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS made by Mr. Kuhar, SECONDED by Mr. Sidoti. On roll call, voting "Yes": Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT NO. 2021-033 made by Mr. DeLeone and SECONDED by Mr. Sidoti. On roll call, voting "Yes" Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

RESOLUTION 2021-033 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

2) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MOTION TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES of April 7, 2021 made by Mr. Kuhar, SECONDED by Mr. Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-1, with Ms. Wallach abstaining.

NO COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM TO APPROVE

3) HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

NO MEETING MINUTES OR ACTION ITEMS TO APPROVE

4) LAND USE COMMITTEE

MOTION TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES of April 7, 2021 made by Mr. Ferrara, SECONDED by Mr. Kuhar and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE LAND USE COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS made by Mr. Ferrara, SECONDED by Mr. Kuhar and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Continue the discussion and provide updates to the Zoning Code prior to approval

5) STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE:

MOTION TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES of April 7, 2021 made by Mr. Sidoti SECONDED by Mr. Kuhar, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-1 with Ms. Wallach abstaining.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS made by Mr. Sidoti, SECONDED by Mr. Kuhar and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Authorized on street parking restriction on Middlebury Road
- 2) Authorize the extended street closure for outdoor seating on Franklin Avenue
- 3) Authorize the maintenance agreement with Main Street Kent to support the extended outdoor dining on Franklin Avenue

Draft No. 2021-034 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 353.02 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF KENT TITLED "PARKING REGULATION AUTHORIZATION" TO PROHIBIT ON-STREET PARKING ON MIDDLEBURY ROAD FROM THE CITY LIMITS TO AKRON BOULEVARD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS made by Mr. Kuhar, SECONDED by Mr. Ferrara. On roll call, voting "Yes": Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT NO. 2021-034 made by Mr. Ferrara and SECONDED by Ms. Rosenberg. On roll call, voting "Yes" Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

ORDINANCE 2021-034 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Draft No. 2021-035 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO CLOSE FRANKLIN AVENUE FROM ERIE STREET TO MAIN STREET TO ASSIST DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES IN DEALING WITH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS made by Ms. Rosenberg, SECONDED by Ms. Shaffer Bish. On roll call, voting "Yes": Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT NO. 2021-035 made by Ms. Rosenberg and SECONDED by Mr. Ferrara. On roll call, voting "Yes" Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

ORDINANCE 2021-035 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Draft No. 2021-036 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF KENT, OHIO (CITY) AND

MAIN STREET KENT (MSK) FOR NEEDED MAINTENANCE SERVICES TO KEEP THE “OUTDOOR SEATING AREA” SANITARY AND ORDERLY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala’s request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS made by Ms. Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Mr. Kuhar. On roll call, voting “Yes”: Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT NO. 2021-036 made by Ms. Shaffer Bish and SECONDED by Mr. Kuhar. On roll call, voting “Yes” Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

ORDINANCE 2021-036 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

6) FINANCE COMMITTEE:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF April 7, 2021 made by Mr. DeLeone, SECONDED by Mr. Ferrara, and CARRIED by a voice vote 7-0-1 with Ms. Wallach abstaining.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS made by Mr. DeLeone SECONDED by Mr. Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Reconvene the Salary Review Committee to consider the latest OPERS guidance
- 2) Authorize the extension of the City’s current first service contract rates with Franklin Township
- 3) Approve the 2021 budget appropriation amendments

Draft No. 2021-037 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF A NON-PARTISAN COMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE SALARIES OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL PURSUANT TO ARTICLE V OF THE CHARTER SECTION 5.04, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala’s request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS made by Mr. DeLeone, SECONDED by Mr. Ferrara. On roll call, voting “Yes”: Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT NO. 2021-037 made by Mr. Kuhar SECONDED by Mr. Ferrara. On roll call, voting "Yes": Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

ORDINANCE 2021-037 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Draft No. 2021-038 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2011-46 TO EXTEND THE FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, OHIO IN ORDER TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATING A NEW LONG-TERM AGREEMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS made by Mr. DeLeone and SECONDED by Ms. Rosenberg. On roll call, voting "Yes": Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT No. 2021-038 made by Mr. Kuhar and SECONDED by Ms. Rosenberg. On roll call, voting "Yes": Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

ORDINANCE 2021-038 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Draft No. 2021-039 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2020-129, THE CURRENT APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, PASSED DECEMBER 16, 2020; SO AS TO ADJUST APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS AND ADVANCES FROM THE VARIOUS FUNDS OF THE CITY OF KENT TO INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS made by Mr. Kuhar and SECONDED by Mr. Sidoti. On roll call, voting "Yes": Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT No. 2021-039 made by Mr. Kuhar and SECONDED by Mr. DeLeone. On roll call, voting "Yes": Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

RESOLUTION 2021-039 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Draft No. 2021-040 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A DONATION OF A CONTAINER THAT WILL BE USED TO COLLECT ALUMINUM CANS FOR THE AKRON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL BURN UNIT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS made by Mr. Kuhar and SECONDED by Mr. DeLeone. On roll call, voting "Yes": Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT No. 2021-040 made by Mr. Kuhar and SECONDED by Mr. DeLeone. On roll call, voting "Yes": Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

RESOLUTION 2021-040 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Unfinished Business: NONE

New Business:

MOTION to move to committee a discussion to review the flat roof on the West Side Fire Station made by Ms. Wallach SECONDED by Mr. Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 5-2-1 with Mr. Kuhar and Ms. Rosenberg voting "No" and Mr. Amrhein abstaining (due to being President of the Historical Society).

Ms. Wallach added that Kent has lost of wonderful buildings and we should strive to preserve the historical accuracy of as many buildings as possible.

Mr. Ferrara added he hated lengthening the process and is not second-guessing staff but the individuals who spoke brought up a good point that City Council has been good stewards and set high standards with old and new buildings. He in favor of readdressing this issue.

Mayor Fiala asked Mr. Ruller where the City is concerning logistics of the project.

Mr. Ferrara called point of order, a motion is on the floor.

Mayor Fiala said this pertains to the motion.

Mr. Ruller said it has been bid with a gabled roof and they came in under bid. Chief Tosko said the building is borderline uninhabitable. The historical significance is the issue here and half of the building has already been changed. The building does not have the typical significance, it is more the name of the architect on the building.

Ms. Shaffer Bish needed clarification on when this would be discussed and Mayor Fiala clarified the motion is to move this back to committee to discuss.

Ms. Rosenberg added she is concerned that postponing this is going to lead to further damage to the building. She appreciates the comments of the residents who came to speak but the roof line has already been changed. She is voting "No" because we need to proceed on this project.

Council Comments:

Mr. Sidoti asked about the liquor license for the old Longhitano's and what business was going in there.

Ms. Bridget Susel said the owner is trying to lease it full package. There is a viable candidate for the restaurant as a Mexican establishment.

Chief Shearer has seen a transfer of a liquor permit from the State on the liquor permit as well.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Fiala reported on the "Put Around Town" held in downtown Kent last weekend. Everyone was using social distancing and masks and a lot of people attended and enjoyed themselves.

He said today is Administrative Professional Day and thanked Clerk Wilkens for a job well done.

MOTION made by Mr. Amrhein to move into Executive Session, In accordance with ORC §121.22 Section G, Item (1): "To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official " **AND**; Section G, Item (2) "To consider the purchase of property for public purposes, the sale of property at competitive bidding, or the sale or other disposition of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit-for-use property in accordance with section 505.10 of the Revised Code, if premature disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person whose personal, private interest is adverse to the general public interest" **SECONDED** by Mr. DeLeone. On roll call voting "Yes": Mr. Amrhein; Mr. DeLeone; Mr. Ferrara; Mr. Kuhar; Ms. Rosenberg; Ms. Shaffer Bish; Mr. Sidoti; and Ms. Wallach.

MOTION to excuse Mr. Turner from the Executive Session made by Mr. Kuhar **SECONDED** by Mr. DeLeone and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 8-0.

Mr. Ferrara excused himself from the Executive Session to avoid a possible conflict of interest.

MOTION made by Mr. Sidoti to return to Committee Meeting (9:11 pm) **SECONDED** by Mr. Kuhar and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 7-0.

Motion to Authorize Insertion of Names into Legislation made by Mr. Kuhar **SECONDED** by Ms. Rosenberg and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 7-0.

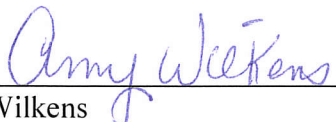
Draft No. 2021-041 AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF ANGELA MANLEY AS PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR FOR THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS made by Mr. Kuhar and SECONDED by Ms. Rosenberg. On roll call, voting "Yes", Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-0.

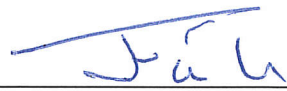
MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT No.2021-041 made by Mr. Kuhar and SECONDED by Ms. Rosenberg. On roll call, voting "Yes": Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-0.

ORDINANCE 2021-041 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.



Amy Wilkens
Clerk of Council



Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

Good evening, let me start tonight by welcoming and congratulating Randale Richmond as Kent State's newest Director of Athletics. The Town Gown relationship is an integral part of Kent and Kent State and I look forward to a renewed and mutually productive re-engagement of these two entities. We all wish Randale and Kent State the best.

Yesterday, we all were waiting nervously to see if justice would be served or if our cities would fall further into the abyss of racial divide.

Fortunately justice was served. I hope we as a Nation can look at this verdict as proof that our justice system works and that criminals will be punished.

I also hope that society as a whole sees Dennis Chauvin's actions as those of an individual and do not condemn the police forces around the country in general.

If anyone present feels that way I'd ask you to look at our own police force here in the City of Kent and the job that they do and how well they do it. Fortunately we do not have the accusations thrown at them that some police forces do. For that we all should be proud. But we should also remain vigilant in our leadership and make sure we keep the high standards and expectations. We have to make sure we provide them with the resources and training to maintain those high standards we expect --- and that they exhibit day in and day out in an extremely dangerous job.

Justice has been served and we should all be proud of that ----and we all need to continue to be vigilant and make sure that justice will always, always be served ---
---for everyone.

Attachment #1

Outline of presentation by Doug Fuller

Copy Outline of Presentation for Kent City Council in Wednesday April 21, 2021

- Hello my name is Doug Fuller I am a retired architect in Kent
- Several of us are here tonight to talk about historic preservation of the West Side Fire Station and the facts that our efforts have not worked out so far.
- **PART ONE - Historic Preservation**
- In the past council has always supported the preservation of Kent historical buildings.
 - (1.) The old jail when we moved is from the Walgreens site to Fred Fuller Park
 - (2.) The moving of the Wells Sherman House to North Water Street
 - (3.) Support for the L.N. Gross Building and the Old Franklin Hotel's Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places,
 - (4.) Most recently the sale of the old Post Office to John Flynn, where it was the city's wish that the exterior of the building would be preserved.
 - (5) and lastly your support of Main Street Kent which part of its missing in the preservation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings.
- So we do not understand why things would change regarding the historic West Side Fire Station
- So, we are here to talk about the roof modifications that have been proposed for the West Side Fire Station (station number #2)
 - We hope the outcome of this meeting will be that you would ask the administration to do whatever is necessary to correct the roof design from what is proposed (a high gable roof) and to maintain the historic roof line.
- As you know the city is bidding to put a large gabled roof on the building.
- This is both not needed and most likely more expensive than it needs to be.
- Replacing the roof with a new insulated "flat roof" will serve the building well and most likely be less expensive.
 - When it comes to preservation we would hope that the cost would not be the only thing considered.
- We hope that the general Kent community would become a Preservation Community, that is we would consider first how we can help save a historic building.
- **PART TWO - Efforts to work with Community Development**

- I would like to go through a timeline of how we came to be here using a series of emails and documents, in each case I have underlined the information in the documents in red that are pertinent to this conversation.
 - Meeting and conversation December 17, 2019 with Melanie Baker regarding the Fire Station roof design.
 - ARB minutes from February 4, 2020. (Page 1-4 of att.)
 - I asked by email on March 17, 2020 to Briget Susel for an update on what the city was anticipating to do after the ARB review. (can't find this email)
 - Email of March 18, 2020 - Bridget Susel to Doug Fuller (Page 5 of att.)
 - Email of March 18, 2020 - Doug Fuller to Bridget Susel (Page 5 of att.)
 - Email of May 21, 2020 - Doug Fuller to Bridget Susel (Page 6 of att.)
 - Email of June 1, 2020 - Bridget Susel to Doug Fuller (Page 6 of att.)
 - Email of April 1, 2021 - Doug Fuller to Briget Susel (Page 7 of att.)
 - Email of April 2, 2021 - Hope Jones (City Law Director) to Doug Fuller (Page 8 of att.)
 - After ARB meeting the city had much internal deliberation which was quite spirited.
 - **Reasons why the Community Development Office did not consider the ARB recommendations (from Law Director's email.)**
 - 1. The pitched roof is more optimal from an economic standpoint.
 - 2. The pitched roof is more optimal because of future maintenance.
 - 3. The pitched roof has more "fans" from an aesthetic perspective.
 - 4. The cost of the architectural drawings can't be ignored.
- Also, You may hear from people in Community Development that the building is not in the design review area therefore the city is not required to follow ARB's recommendation.
 - 1. However this building was in the boundaries of the design guideline district (Page 9 att.) until the CD dept. Decided to change the boundaries (Page 10 att.) with no explanation or involvement from the committee and professionals the city hired to develop the guidelines.
- Also again, (page 11 att.) shows the east elevation of the proposed change to the fire station along with a photo of how it looks today.

Many Thanks, Doug

CITY OF KENT
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
FEBRUARY 4, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Howard Boyle
 David Basista
 Dennis Saxe
 Bridget Tipton

SEE PAGES 3 & 4

STAFF PRESENT: Eric Fink, Assistant Law Director
 Bridget Susel, Director
 Heather Heckman, Development Planner
 Kim Brown, Administrative Assistant

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Boyle at 4:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Howard Boyle, Dennis Saxe, David Basista, and Bridget Tipton were present. Kevin Koogle was absent.

III. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

Mr. Fink instructed members of the audience wishing to be heard on any of the cases presented at this meeting to rise and raise their right hand. Mr. Fink administered the oath, "Do you swear or affirm that the testimony that you are about to give this evening is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God? Please say "I do". The participants responded, "I do".

IV. PROJECT REVIEW

A. ARB20-002 Montrose Mazda
 1127 West Main Street

The applicant is requesting a review of the proposed building addition.

Bruce Taylor, Arkenetics, presented the project as shown in the documents provided to the Board. Mr. Taylor also provided samples of the materials and colors; black, silver, and white metal and split face block. He stated that the existing areas will be painted to match.

Mr. Boyle questioned the furniture store to the west of the proposed project

John Mastrantoni stated that they have an option on the property but do not currently own it.

Mr. Taylor stated that they will be putting a landscape area out at the curb.

Mr. Saxe stated that he applauds that decision.

Mr. Taylor described where the new materials would fit into the project.

Mr. Basista asked if these are corporate colors.

L

Mr. Taylor responded affirmatively that they are.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

BOARD DISCUSSION:

Mr. Boyle stated that he feels that it is a very attractive building and fits with the neighborhood. Mr. Boyle added that the grass at the curb is an attractive piece.

Mr. Saxe stated that it's fine.

Mr. Basista stated that it is a great improvement and will look nice. He also likes the grassed area.

Ms. Tipton stated that she is fine with the project.

MOTION: *In case ARB20-002, Montrose Mazda, 1127 West Main St., Mr. Saxe moved to recommend to Planning Commission approval of the addition as presented.*

Ms. Tipton seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

**B. ARB20-003 City of Kent
North Water Street Improvements**

Courtesy review of the North Water Street Improvements.

Mr. Bowling and Mr. Giaquinto provided the Board with an overview of the upcoming changes to the North Water Street corridor from Main Street to Brady Street. The changes include narrowing the road by reconfiguring parking spaces, adding designated crosswalks with in-street signage, streetscapes, lighting, and curb extensions at the side streets. Mr. Bowling asked for the Board's comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Doug Fuller, 1431 River Edge, asked about the alley between the old mill and Each + Every.

Mr. Giaquinto stated that there will still be a dropped curb area.

Mr. Fuller asked when the project will be completed.

Mr. Bowling stated that they should have a contractor by June/July to begin work but will probably need to finish in 2021 due to weather.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

Mr. Boyle stated that he thinks it is an attractive plan and suggested changing to underground utilities if at all possible. Mr. Boyle stated that benefits of the project are evident and commended staff on the project.

The other Board members agreed with Mr. Boyle.

V. MEETING SUMMARIES

A. January 7, 2020

MOTION: *Mr. Basista moved to approve the January 7, 2020 Meeting Summary, as presented. Mr. Saxe seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.*

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

West Side Fire Station:

Fire Chief Tosko presented the plans for the renovations and addition to the West Side Fire Station. Chief stated that the changes were initiated as a result of a leaking roof, ice, and needed repairs. He explained that the northern portion of the structure already has a pitched roof that has served them well and they have decided to install a pitched roof over the remainder of the structure including the proposed addition. Chief Tosko stated that they feel that a pitched roof would also blend with the surrounding residential neighborhood.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Doug Fuller, retired architect, reviewed the history of the building and its architect, C.G. Kistler, and presented pictures of other buildings in Kent that were designed by C.G. Kistler to the Board. Mr. Fuller asked that the Fire Department consider installing a flat roof over the structure that would be properly installed and function well.

Dave Sommers, architect, stated that he is the architect that designed the pitched roof for the northern part of the structure and probably wouldn't have done so had he known the historical significance of the building's original architect. Mr. Sommers concurred with Mr. Fuller and stated that he feels there are other options to help alleviate some of the drainage problems.

Allan Orashan stated that he feels that the proposed new roof looks odd to him. Mr. Orashan stated that he would like to see another option such as a hip roof or better yet, a properly installed flat roof, as had been suggested by Mr. Fuller and Mr. Sommers.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

Mr. Basista stated that it never looks good to add a pitched roof onto an older building. He explained that while it is the best way to eliminate roof maintenance, a properly installed flat roof will give many years of good service and also maintain the integrity of the building. Mr. Basista stated that he was unaware of the historical background of the structure.

Mr. Saxe stated that he would also like to see the building retain a flat roof.

Ms. Tipton asked why the project was before the Board. Ms. Susel explained the project is not located in the Overlay District and is not subject to review by the Planning Commission so, legislatively, it is not required to be before the ARB, but it is being presented today in order to gather comments from the ARB in response to a request from a member of the Board and representatives from the public. The comments and recommendations on the project will be forwarded to the Service Director for consideration.

Mr. Boyle stated that they are defending the integrity of the building.

MOTION: *Mr. Boyle moved to recommend that the Service Director strongly consider reviewing the plans to preserve the architectural integrity of the original building with a flat roof.*

Mr. Saxe seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *Mr. Saxe moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Basista seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.*

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Susel, Bridget <suselb@kent-ohio.org>

Wed, Mar 18, 2020 at 5:19 PM

To: Douglas Fuller <dfuller161@gmail.com>

Cc: Paula Treckel <paula.treckel@gmail.com>, Jennifer Hunter <JHunter@dsarchitecture.com>, David Sommers <dsommers@dsarchitecture.com>, Howard Boyle <hboyle@htbnk.com>, Julie Kenworthy <julie_kenworthy@yahoo.com>, Allan Orashan <aorashan@aol.com>, Heather Malarcik <heather@mainstreetkent.org>, Melanie Baker <mbaker@kent-ohio.org>, Dave Ruller <rullerd@kent-ohio.org>, Hope Jones <jonesh@kent-ohio.org>

Good Afternoon,

I received your email yesterday as well as this one today. In case you are not aware, the City of Kent is operating under an "Executive Order of Emergency" that was issued yesterday by the City Manager in response to the COVID-19 health crisis. Staff is committing all of its time to developing protocols and implementing measures that will ensure the safety of the City's employees and the public, while still providing critical City services.

Per the ARB's request, the Service Director had planned to request 2-3 pricing estimates for a flat roof to compare those estimates to the bid price of the pitched roof the City had already secured. This comparison was to be discussed internally and potentially with Council, but with the current situation and the demands on all of the City Departments, especially the Fire Department, getting that pricing and scheduling any type of construction work at the West Side Fire Station is not a priority issue at present. Considering the rapidly changing aspects of managing the COVID-19 health crisis that is expected in the coming weeks and potentially even months, it will not be addressed any time in the near future.

Once the City is no longer operating under an Emergency Order and things settle back to some semblance of normal business the West Side Fire Station issue will be revisited.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Thanks.

Bridget

[Quoted text hidden]

> PLEASE NOTE: This message and any response to it may
> constitute a public record, and therefore may be available
> upon request in accordance with Ohio public records law.
> (ORC 149.43)

Douglas Fuller <dfuller161@gmail.com>

Wed, Mar 18, 2020 at 6:15 PM

To: "Susel, Bridget" <suselb@kent-ohio.org>

Cc: Paula Treckel <paula.treckel@gmail.com>, Jennifer Hunter <JHunter@dsarchitecture.com>, David Sommers <dsommers@dsarchitecture.com>, Howard Boyle <hboyle@htbnk.com>, Julie Kenworthy <julie_kenworthy@yahoo.com>, Allan Orashan <aorashan@aol.com>, Heather Malarcik <heather@mainstreetkent.org>, Melanie Baker <mbaker@kent-ohio.org>, Dave Ruller <rullerd@kent-ohio.org>, Hope Jones <jonesh@kent-ohio.org>

Bridget,

Thanks for the update..... I did not know about "Executive Order of Emergency" and I understand the added time commitment for city staff.

I also appreciate the update on the fire department roof. As things get back to "normal" we look forward to working with you on this important project.

Also, the folks on the committee are willing to work with you on any topics that include the preservation of important buildings, the establishment of reasonable boundaries of historic areas, review of design guidelines and other related codes.

Many thanks for you assistance.

Doug

[Quoted text hidden]



Douglas Fuller <dfuller161@gmail.com>

West Side Firestation - Plus

5 messages

Douglas Fuller <dfuller161@gmail.com>

Thu, May 21, 2020 at 12:28 PM

To: Bridget Susel <suselb@kent-ohio.org>

Hi Bridget,
I hope things are going well with you.
I am checking on a couple of questions:

1. Is there any news on the roof design of the West Side Fire station?
2. Also, regarding a Planning Commission Meeting late last year, there was discussion about the Design Guidelines and their application to downtown projects and discussion about the boundaries of the district. Can you tell me when that is likely to come before the Planning Commission again and what might actually be on the agenda when it does come back.

I understand there may delay in all of this but I thought I would check nonetheless.
Thanks
Doug

Susel, Bridget <suselb@kent-ohio.org>
To: Douglas Fuller <dfuller161@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 1, 2020 at 11:58 AM

Good Morning Doug,

Sorry for my delayed response. It has been extremely busy trying to get COVID-19 operating protocols in place for the various services that are offered here in the CD Department and I have been receiving an extremely high volume of emails on a daily basis covering a multitude of topics. In response to your questions:

1. As a result of the anticipated budget shortfall the City is anticipating from the reduction in income tax collections this budget year, the West Side Station project has been delayed.
2. The discussion of the boundaries will be part of the Zoning Code update process and I will let you know when that work session will be scheduled with ARB and the Planning Commission. The planning staff has just re-started the update process and it is not expected to occur for at least another 2-4 months.

Thanks and I will let you know on item #2 above once I have more information.

Bridget

6.

From: Douglas Fuller <dfuller161@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Apr 1, 2021 at 12:00 PM

Subject: West Side Fire Station

To: Bridget Susel <suselb@kent-ohio.org>

Cc: Paula Treckel <paula.treckel@gmail.com>, David Sommers <dsommers@dsarchitecture.com>, Allan Orashan <aorashan@aol.com>, Howard Boyle <hboyle@htbnk.com>, Heather Malarcik <heather@mainstreetkent.org>, Julie Kenworthy <julie_kenworthy@yahoo.com>, Dylan Ball <dylan.ball.721@gmail.com>, Douglas Fuller <dfuller161@gmail.com>, David Ruller <rullerd@kent-ohio.org>

Bridget,

It has come to my attention that the City is moving ahead with the additions and roof replacement of the West Side Fire Station (a Kent architect Charles Kistler design) as you had originally planned. About a year ago the ARB reviewed the building, at that time several people made comments about the building all of them hoping the city would reconsider the design on the new pitched roof and use the original design. The ARB members (I think unanimously) also supported the idea of using Kistler's original design and the minutes of the meeting indicate that the City was going to take that recommendation into consideration.

Additionally on March 18th 2020 (just as the pandemic was hitting the city) you sent an email to me and copied several others regarding what the City was going to do. I have included that email here:

Susel, Bridget <suselb@kent-ohio.org>

MARCH 18, 2020 EMAIL

Wed, M

to Jennifer, David, Howard, Julie, Allan, Heather, Melanie, Dave, Hope, me, Paula

Good Afternoon,

I received your email yesterday as well as this one today. In case you are not aware, the City of Kent is operating under an "Executive Order of Emergency" that was issued yesterday by the City Manager in response to the COVID-19 health crisis. Staff is committing all of its time to developing protocols and implementing measures that will ensure the safety of the City's employees and the public, while still providing critical City services.

Per the ARB's request, the Service Director had planned to request 2-3 pricing estimates for a flat roof to compare those estimates to the bid price of the pitched roof the City had already secured. This comparison was to be discussed internally and potentially with Council, but with the current situation and the demands on all of the City Departments, especially the Fire Department, getting that pricing and scheduling any type of construction work at the West Side Fire Station is not a priority issue at present. Considering the rapidly changing aspects of managing the COVID-19 health crisis that is expected in the coming weeks and potentially even months, it will not be addressed any time in the near future.

Once the City is no longer operating under an Emergency Order and things settle back to some semblance of normal business the West Side Fire Station issue will be revisited.

Since the original secured bids are not being used it is the perfect time to see what the cost comparison would be so, I hope you could follow up with me on the two specific things you said in the email regarding the roof design. (1) regarding the costs estimates for the original flat roof design and how much money could be saved (or not) by using the original design, and (2) If you discussed the proposal with Council.

Please let me know what the progress has been.

Many thanks for all the work you do.

Doug



Douglas Fuller <dfuller161@gmail.com>

West Side Fire Station

11 messages

Jones, Hope <jonesh@kent-ohio.org>

Fri, Apr 2, 2021 at 1:14 PM

To: dfuller161@gmail.com

Cc: Bridget Susel <suselb@kent-ohio.org>, Dave R <rullerd@kent-ohio.org>, John Tosko <toskoj@kent-ohio.org>, Melanie Baker <mbaker@kent-ohio.org>

Mr. Fuller,

I have been asked to respond to your question regarding the West Side Fire Station moving forward with a pitched roof rather than a flat roof. After hearing from the ARB and much internal deliberation which was quite spirited, it has been decided that the pitched roof is optimal from both an economic standpoint and future maintenance. The administration appreciates the recommendations of the ARB on this issue, but in the end, the pitched roof has more fans from an aesthetic perspective and the costs of redesigning the architectural drawings can't be ignored.

The City will be placing this project out for bid soon.

- > PLEASE NOTE: This message and any response to it may
- > constitute a public record, and therefore may be available
- > upon request in accordance with Ohio public records law.
- > (ORC 149.43)

6

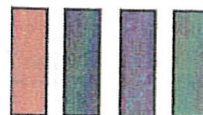
DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

The western boundary of the Kent Design Overlay District runs along the west side of South Mantua Street from Haymaker Parkway to East Crain Avenue jutting out to the west to include both sides of Main Street to Chestnut Street.

At East Crain Avenue, the boundary turns east and continues making a series of jogs which become the northern boundary of the overlay area. The northern boundary goes east on East Crain Street, south down the east side of North Water Street, east one half a block north of Columbus Street, south on Depeyster Street, east along Columbus Street, south on North Willow Street, east along the north side of East Main Street to the east side of North Lincoln Street, the eastern boundary of the overlay area.

Here the eastern boundary runs south across Main Street returning west to the South Lincoln Street where it turns south continuing to the south side of East Summit Road, the southern boundary of the Kent Design Overlay District.

The southern boundary in turn, runs west along the southern side of East Summit Street, turns north on Franklin Avenue, then west on Haymaker Parkway where it meets the western boundary at South Mantua Street, completing the loop.



- Kent Design Overlay District
- Kent Industrial District (National Register of Historic Places District)
- West Main Street District (National Register of Historic Places District)
- Ohio State Normal College at Kent (National Register of Historic Places District)

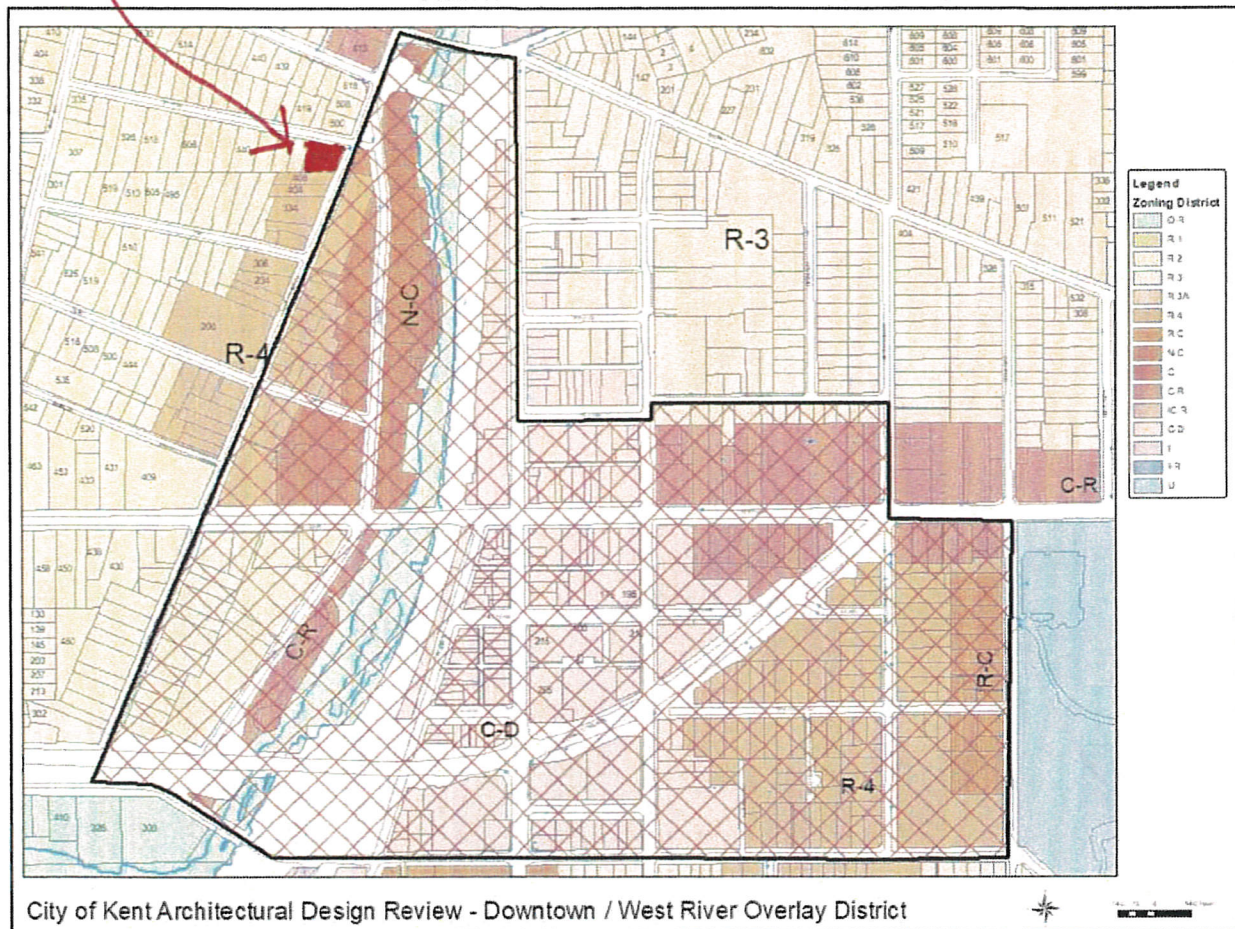


WEST SIDE FIRE STATION
ORIGINAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

WEST SIDE
FIRE STATION

MODIFIED DISTRICT BOUNDARIES
BY CITY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

Figure 12. West River Overlay District



(E) Amendments/Additional Districts.

- (1) Any overlay district may be amended upon the approval of Kent City Council;
- (2) Additional overlay districts may be created upon approval of Kent City Council, pursuant to the procedures in [Section 1112.01](#);
- (3) The following entities may propose an amendment to an existing overlay district or the creation of a new overlay district:
 - (a) The Architectural Review Board;
 - (b) Planning Commission; City staff; or
 - (c) Property owners within the geographic area of an existing or proposed overlay district providing that the property owners have obtained signatures supporting the proposal of no less than 51% of the properties in the overlay district.

10.



Architectural elevation drawing of the West Side Fire Station. The drawing shows a building with a gabled roof and a large sign that reads "WEST SIDE FIRE STATION". The roof features a new trussed roof section with a 6" aluminum fascia and a 6" 84" lower section. The existing brick veneer is shown on the main building. The drawing includes dimensions for the roof and building sections, and a note about the plastic numberHelvetica in the interval aluminum fascia.

EAST ELEVATION

SCALE: 140, 1000

My name is Paula Treckel.

I live at 1244 Woodhill Drive, Kent, OH.

I have been a resident of Kent for over 60 years.

I am a professionally trained historian, who recently retired after 35 years as Professor of American History from Allegheny College in Meadville, PA.

Since my retirement, I have become deeply involved in the preservation of Kent's neighborhoods and its historic structures.

What brings me here today? The future of Kent's West Side Fire Station.

Why? Because this building is an important structure in our City's history and deserves preservation. And you, as Council, have been leaders in your support of preservation in the City of Kent.

The West Side Fire Station was designed by famed Architect Charles Kistler. It is ONE of only TWO structures designed by Kistler, still owned by the City of Kent. The other Kistler structure that the City owns is what was once the City's only Fire Station, built in 1922. Buried beneath decades of horribly designed renovations and ugly additions, that structure now serves as Kent's City Hall.

Why is it important to preserve the historical integrity of this last, City-owned Kistler structure? A History lesson...

Charles Kistler was born in 1885 in Newton Falls, OH. A native son of Portage County, poverty demanded that he leave school before he entered high school. His life is truly a "boot strap" tale, the story of a "self-made man."

Kistler was drawn to the building trades. As a young man, he worked every job in construction. His knowledge of each phase of the construction process stood him in good stead as he eventually became an architect, learning his craft through apprenticeship.

When Kistler applied for his license from the Board of Examiners of Architects from the State of Ohio in 1932, he had been a practicing architect for nearly 20 years. He was one of the first licensed architects in the State of Ohio, the first registered Architect in the City of Kent, and, we believe, the first person without a high school diploma ever to receive his license in the State.

Moving to Kent in 1915, Kistler began a successful career as the City's most prolific architect. The list of his designs is long and still growing as we continue to document his work. From modest homes to country estates, from factory buildings

to courthouses, from schools to movie theatres, his range as an architect was wide and deep. And the "language" of styles that he used was rich, as well.

The gothic façade of the Kent Theatre, the Moroccan influence in the Ferrara Market, the Tudor revival style of the beloved Captain Brady's Café and the tragically destroyed Robin Hood Inn. You are all familiar with the original Kent High School, now Davey Elementary School, and the elegant L. N. Gross factory building which Council granted historic status to aid its preservation and reconstruction.

Charles Kistler's finger prints are on countless major buildings in Kent's historic center; his blue prints gave them life.

The West Side Fire Station, designed by Kistler in 1949 is a modest building, crafted to effortlessly fold into the neighborhood that it serves. Designed in the International Style, its "rational construction" includes the use of brick, concrete, steel, and cubist forms. A FLAT ROOF is a KEY design element of this mid century modern style. The structure has served our City well for nearly three quarters of a century, and...now it requires a new roof.

The City only requested bids be submitted for construction of a Gabled Roof for the West Side Fire Station. Why? Why not embrace Charles Kistler's original design and request bids for a Flat Roof for the structure?

Like Kistler's much-mourned Robin Hood Inn, the West Side Fire Station stands outside of the boundaries of Kent's "Historic Overlay District." These boundaries, for no apparent reason, diverge from those mapped by Chambers, Murphy & Burge Restoration Architects, commissioned to create them by the City of Kent. Consequently, this Kistler building is vulnerable to random alteration, even destruction, with no consideration of its historic value to the City of Kent.

Council, YOU now control the fate of the West Side Fire Station. In the past, you have taken a leadership role in preserving many of our City's historic structures.

We ask you now to preserve architect Charles Kistler's flat roof design for the West Side Fire Station.

Thank you.

My name is Dave Sommers. I am an architect. My office was in downtown Kent for 37 years. I would like to comment on the current West Side Fire station renovation. I am the last architect of record for the small 1990's addition to the north of the fire station prior to the current renovation. That addition has a sloped, shingled roof which was done at the request of the then city manager. Had I known then what I know now that the existing building is a wonderful example of Charles Kistler's work of that era, I would have protested more strenuously the instructions to add a sloped roof to that addition.

I believe that you as a City should hold yourselves to a higher responsibility than you hold the public. That building should remain with a flat roof to retain the integrity of the original design. Many of you have heard inhabitants of the city voice their sorrow and despair that the building on the corner of main and water has, since the 1960's, been clad in green glass, covering up a wealth of historic details. Maybe many of you have felt the same way. Why was it done? It was done because that was what was in vogue at the time and because it was the least expensive route. Putting it back today would be very expensive and unfortunately a portion of the historic details under the glass have been likely permanently destroyed.

The common perception is that all flat roofs leak. If a flat roof is installed correctly and maintained, it will outlast a sloped shingled roof. You have a good architect on board for this renovation. Ted Manfrass is very capable of specifying a quality flat roof membrane.

I respectfully request that you please consider retaining the flat roof of the West Side Fire Station.