



City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 19, 2020
New City Hall Work Session
Public Hearing

City Hall Work Session:

At 7:00 p.m. Mayor Fiala introduced Melanie Baker to share the floor plans of the New City Hall building. (**Attachment #1**) Over the past two and a half months, she has met with all staff and managers for their input. Adjustments have been made to reduce spaces, the number of conference rooms and size in order to make sure it was the best that could be done.

Ms. Baker reviewed the site plan and parking spaces. There will be 55 parking spaces, which is exactly what is out there now. Reviewing staff that will be moving to the new building and any new positions and there will be plenty of room for visitors. In the future Day Street can be used in some capacity if expansion is needed.

First Floor: Able to walk into building from Haymaker and Water Street to a nice open lobby. Located on this floor is utilitarian space for storage, mechanical room and a staff kitchen. To the right will be Council Chambers. There will be an executive conference room to use for Executive Sessions and a small office for Council to use to meet with residents.

Security of the first floor has been brought up by some and will be managed with "mechanical" options such as cameras, motion detectors and an office on first floor (possibly for a nonprofit, a staff member, Main Street Kent, etc.). There are a lot of options for this office space. There is a community meeting space for groups from the community to utilize (boy scouts, girl scouts, open house for area schools, businesses and residents).

Storage is very important due to records retention for HR, Law and Finance. This space will hold what currently have and will be room for expansion. IT, mechanical and electrical all have space on this ground level.

Mr. Kuhar asked about the size of the generator building.

Nancy Nozik from Brandstetter Carroll, Inc. answered by saying it has not yet been determined if the generator will be used for light safety purposes only or big enough to power the Finance department. On the plans, it is a placeholder right now and as we know the actual usage, the size will be determined. Melanie Baker referred to the Police Department generator which is the entire length of the jail.

Second Floor: This level is open down to the first floor and you will enter off the parking lot in from the rear of the building. There will be sign at the entrance and near the entrance will be the Civil Service office and public restrooms. There will be a glass window where residents can pay their bills or meet with staff about their income tax. The entire wing is dedicated to the Finance Department with an open space with tax counter, billing counters, space for expansion, accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll clerk, and a conference room for meetings and auditor visits. The Finance Department chose an open floor plan so they will have to ability to talk to one another.

Mr. Kuhar asked if the section off the lobby will be a railing look over or a glass wall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF January 27, 2020 and Special Council Meeting of February 5, 2020 made by Mr. Sidoti, seconded by Mr. DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Audience Remarks: Mayor Fiala read the following statement: *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 when you come to the microphone that you speak into the microphone clearly, give your name and address and limit comments to three (3) minutes of discussion.*" He then asked the Clerk if anyone was signed in. There five (5) visitors who signed in with the Clerk.

Ms. Christin Klein of 471 Harvey Street, Kent Ohio was called to the microphone to speak for three minutes. She began by identifying herself as a resident of Ward 6 and is the current Chair of the Civil Service Commission. She thanked Council for the time to address the letter that was sent to them and asked for changes to Boards and Commissions be posted when changes are made that affects them. Ms. Klein referred to the timeline put together by Clerk Wilkens regarding the application and interview process for a vacancy on the Civil Service Commission during fall 2019. The Commission learned at their meeting held on December 16, 2019 that Mr. Higgins missed the appointment to interview. At their January 27, 2020 meeting they learned he had to reapply. They are questioning this and state it was a surprise that he would have to reapply. When she applied she had to come before council. The surprise is a second application. Her ask is if when rules are changed, would like the Commissions to be informed and passed along to the staff coordinator. The Commission has not had a third person since December and have had business to conduct, exams scheduled to be given and it is very nice to have three people as part of the Commission to make decisions. Some of this could have been avoided of not having a third person had we known about the change in rules. Would like to request appropriate and transparent communication regarding Council's rules that directly affect Commissions. Her letter requested not to wait until April to fill the position. She would like to have the interview sooner rather than waiting and if it would be possible to move the interviews up to March.

Mayor Fiala apologized as President of the Board for not getting the word out to the Boards and Commissions. The date cannot be changed as it has already been posted and we have a legal obligation to post things and can't change in mid-stream. Ms. Hope Jones confirmed this. Mayor Fiala asked about the Firefighter exam in March and when the next test will be in April. Once the next person is picked in April, they should be ready to assist. Mayor Fiala asked if Mr. Higgins has applied yet.

Clerk Wilkens confirmed Mr. Higgins has not reapplied and has had no contact with him about the 2nd application. The deadline is March 24th.

Mayor Fiala said there is another resident who has applied for this position and Mr. Higgins has not applied.

Ms. Klein asked how there is another application if the Tree City Bulletin hasn't been published.

Clerk Wilkens confirmed it is on the website. Mayor Fiala said the City does its best to get the word out. He gave Ms. Klein a packet of information (**Attachment #2**) that includes a letter and all correspondence with Mr. Higgins to keep track of what transpired.

Dr. Michael Fricke of 7395 Ohio Route 43 was called as the next audience member to speak to Council. A copy of his statement was submitted to Clerk Wilkens to be a part of the record. He read directly from this statement. (**Attachment #3**).

Lauren McKown of 1365 Sunset Way Blvd, Kent, Ohio read from her submitted statement regarding the proposed Sensible Marihuana Ordinance. (**Attachment #4**)

Adrienne DeVault of 1658 Loblolly Cit. Apt. 326 Kent, Ohio read from her submitted statement regarding the proposed Sensible Marihuana Ordinance. (**Attachment #5**)

Alexandra Akin of 535 N. Water Street Apt. 13, Kent Ohio approached the microphone to speak on the proposed Sensible Marihuana Ordinance. Over the past five years she has become increasingly concerned about the impact of mass incarceration on communities. In 2018 there were 264 arrests for marijuana related incidence of adults, 12 for juveniles for possession and paraphernalia and overall over 200 paraphernalia arrests last year. People may not be aware that minor convictions can ruin lives. For instance, if someone is in a diversion program and is pulled over with a small amount of marijuana, they could serve time. The Portage County jail is overcrowded with people sleeping on the floor and it pains her to see anyone inside a cage because of something that we know plenty of people in the community are doing. Some people may not be lucky enough to have parents who will pay for an attorney or do not have parental support. She stated she does not like marijuana, doesn't like smoking marijuana and doesn't need any of Council to like the idea of people in the Community smoking marijuana, but thinks many can agree it doesn't make sense to put someone in a cage over it and hopes Council will consider this.

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

1. Civil Service Commission Agenda for January 27, 2020 was received on January 23, 2020.
2. Planning Commission Agenda and Staff Report for February 4, 2020 was received on January 24, 2020. Planning Commission Agenda and Staff Report for February 18, 2020 was received on February 11, 2020.
3. Sustainability Commission Meeting Agenda for February 3, 2020 and Minutes from January 6, 2020 and notification of Kent Environmental Council meeting on February 17, 2020 were received on January 31, 2020.
4. Request from Ohio Dept. of Liquor Control was received on January 27, 2020 to transfer the liquor license from Mandalari's Lounge Inc., #1387944 DBA Dominick's Restaurant & Lounge & Patio to Polugas Pub LLC, DBA Dominick's Restaurant & Lounge & Patio. Chief Lee has no objections.

MOTION to return with no comment made by Mr. Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. Kuhar and CARRIED with a voice vote of 8-0.

5. Request from Ohio Dept. of Liquor Control was received on February 5, 2020 to transfer the liquor license from Kent Panini's LLC, DBA Kent Panini's to Kent Overstuffed, Inc., DBA Kent Panini's. Chief Lee has no objections.

MOTION to return with no comment made by Mr. Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

6. Letter from Civil Service Commission members regarding a concern about filling the vacancy on the Commission was received on February 6, 2020. A copy of this letter was forwarded to Council on

February 10, 2020.

7. Board of Health Minutes and Statistical report from January 14, 2020 and Agenda for February 13, 2020 and was received on February 11, 2020.

Communication received after agenda published:

8. Affidavit of Petitioner's Committee for the circulation of The Sensible Marihuana Ordinance was received on February 12, 2020.
9. Kent Parks and Recreation Board Packet for February 20, 2020 was received on February 17, 2020.

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

1. Authorize the submission of an application and appropriation of a \$2,000 NOPEC grant to support Main Street Kent events in 2020. (Draft #2020-15)
2. Authorize the use of the Kent Fire Department's new Polaris all-terrain vehicle on City streets as part of the Department's fire and rescue services (Draft #2020 -16)
3. Request of Committee of the Whole time to receive an update from the architect on the status of the new City Hall project.
4. Request of Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee time to obtain Council's authorization of a proposed City-Main Street Kent Burbick Way lighting project.
5. Request of Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee time to obtain Council's authorization of a proposed City-KSU East Main Street Improvement Project Agreement.
6. Request of Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee time to present a staff report on tree plantings in the City.
7. Request of Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee time for Council's consideration of a proposed Kent Craft Brew Fest special event and street closure.
8. Request of Community Development Committee time for Council to receive the 2019 Main Street Kent Annual Report.
9. Request of Community Development Committee time for Council to consider authorization of the proposed 2020 CDBG Action Plan.
10. Request of Finance Committee time to request Council's authorization to accept and appropriate a \$150,000 ODNR grant award.
11. Request of Finance Committee time for Council's authorization to submit a NOPEC NEC grant application for power upgrades planned for the City's water reclamation facility.
12. Request of Finance Committee time for Council's consideration of a request for housing rehab loan forgiveness.
13. Request of Finance Committee time for Council's authorization of the proposed 2020

Budget Appropriations Amendment.

MOTION TO APPROVE ITEMS #1-13 OF THE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT made by Mr. Amrhein, seconded by Mr. Kuhar, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

STANDING COMMITTEES/ LEGISLATION

1. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

MOTION TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES of February 5, 2020 made by Mr. Amrhein, seconded by Ms. Rosenberg, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Authorize and amend the Pending List

MOTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS made by Mr. DeLeone, seconded by Ms. Rosenberg, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

During discussion, Ms. Wallach asked the idling car item be put back on the pending list. Mayor Fiala asked for it to be brought up during Council Comments.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Meeting Minutes: NONE

Recommended Actions: NONE

3. STREETS, SIDEWALKS & UTILITIES COMMITTEE:

MOTION TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES of February 5, 2020 made by Mr. Sidoti, SECONDED by Mr. Ferrara, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Authorize the Easements for the N. Water Street improvement project
- 2) Authorize the proposed ODOT Project legislation for the repaving of SR59. (**Approved 2.5.20 during Special Council Meeting**)
- 3) Authorize the street closure and temporary crosswalk installation

MOTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS made by Mr. Sidoti, seconded by Mr. Ferrara, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

Draft No. 2020-09 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A DONATION TO THE CITY OF KENT OF A TEMPORARY EASEMENT (1-TV) FROM STEPHEN JOHN BALAZS, TRUSTEE OF THE BALAZS FAMILY TRUST, FOR THE NORTH WATER STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, 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. Ferrara seconded by Mr. Sidoti. On Roll call, voting "Yes": Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, and Ms. Wallach. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT NO. 2020-09 made by Mr. Kuhar and seconded by Mr. DeLeone. On Roll call, voting "Yes": Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, and Ms. Wallach. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

ORDINANCE 2020-09 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Draft No. 2020-10 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A DONATION TO THE CITY OF KENT OF A TEMPORARY EASEMENT (2-TV) FROM RICHARD T. WEISS, FOR THE NORTH WATER STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, 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. Ferrara seconded by Ms. Shaffer. On Roll call, voting "Yes": Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Amrhein, and Ms. Wallach. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT NO. 2020-10 made by Mr. Ferrara and seconded by Ms. Shaffer. On Roll call, voting "Yes": Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach and Mr. Amrhein. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

ORDINANCE 2020-10 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Draft No. 2020-11 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPROVE A NEW SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION FROM MAIN STREET KENT KNOWN AS "KENT RAINBOW WEEKEND" TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MARCH 6TH AND 7TH, 2020, AND THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF THE WEST SIDE CROSSWALK AT THE INTERSECTION OF MAIN AND WATER STREETS, 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. Ferrara seconded by Mr. DeLeone. On Roll call, voting "Yes": Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone and Ms. Wallach. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT NO. 2020-11 made by Mr. Ferrara and seconded by Ms. Shaffer. On Roll call, voting "Yes": Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone and Ms. Wallach. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

ORDINANCE 2020-11 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens

4. LAND USE COMMITTEE:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF February 5, 2020 and the Actions Recommended made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mr. DeLeone, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Table the discussion regarding the request to sell unused City street right of way.
- 2) Decline the requested zoning change to the VFW Property

Draft No. 2020-12 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE KENT PLANNING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION NOT TO AMEND THE TEXT OF CHAPTER 1155 "INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT (I)" TO ADD THE WORD "SERVING" AS A PERMITTED USE, 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. Ferrara seconded by Mr. Sidoti. On Roll call, voting "Yes": Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone and Mr. Ferrara. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT NO. 2020-12 made by Mr. Ferrara seconded by Mr. Sidoti. On Roll call, voting "Yes": Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone and Mr. Ferrara. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

ORDINANCE 2020-12 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF February 5, 2020 made by Mr. Amrhein, seconded by Ms. Rosenberg, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

Recommended Actions: None

6. FINANCE COMMITTEE:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF February 5, 2020 made by Mr. DeLeone and seconded by Mr. Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

Action Recommended:

- 1) Approve the proposed new budget fund for the administration of the City CHIP funds.
- 2) Approve the 2020 budget appropriation amendments.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE ACTIONS RECOMMENDED made by Mr. DeLeone, seconded by Mr. Ferrara and CARRIED with a voice vote of 8-0.

Draft No. 2020-13 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO ALLOW THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND BUDGET & FINANCE DEPARTMENT TO CREATE A NEW GENERAL LEDGER FUND THAT IS NECESSARY TO SEPARATE CITY CHIP FUNDS FROM OTHER CITY FUNDS PER THE GUIDANCE OF THE CHIP FUNDING AGENCY; 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. Ferrara. On Roll call, voting "Yes": Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara and Mr. Kuhar. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT No. 2020-13 made by Mr. Kuhar and seconded by Mr. Ferrara. On Roll call, voting "Yes": Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara and Mr. Kuhar. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-13 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Draft No. 2020-14 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2019-139, THE CURRENT APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, PASSED DECEMBER 18, 2019; 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, 2020; 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. Amrhein. On Roll call, voting "Yes": Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Kuhar, Mr. Ferrara, and Ms. Rosenberg. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT No. 2020-14 made by Mr. Kuhar and seconded by Mr. Ferrara. On Roll call, voting "Yes": Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Kuhar, Mr. Ferrara, and Ms. Rosenberg. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-14 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Draft No. 2020-15 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT THE NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) 2020 COMMUNITY EVENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000.00, 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. Ferrara and seconded by Mr. Amrhein. On Roll call, voting "Yes": Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, and Ms. Shaffer. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT No. 2020-15 made by Mr. Ferrara and seconded by Mr. Sidoti. On Roll Call voting "Yes": Mr. Sidoti, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, and Ms. Shaffer. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-15 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Draft No. 2020-16 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO ALLOW THE CITY OF KENT FIRE DEPARTMENT TO OPERATE THE NEWLY PURCHASED POLARIS RANGER UTILITY VEHICLE ON THE ROADWAYS WITHIN THE CITY OF KENT ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS, 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. Sidoti and seconded by Ms. Rosenberg. On Roll call, voting "Yes": Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer and Mr. Sidoti. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT No. 2020-16 made by Mr. DeLeone and seconded by Ms. Rosenberg. On Roll call, voting "Yes": Ms. Wallach Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer and Mr. Sidoti. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-16 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION MADE by Ms. Shaffer to move into Committee the discussion of Sensible Kent's proposal seconded by Ms. Wallach and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-1 with Mr. Kuhar voting against.

Ms. Shaffer was impressed by the presentation, coming to it from all angles, and would like to hear more about this topic, what other communities have passed and whether it would be a good proposal to bring to Kent as well.

Ms. Wallach states it is worthy of looking into and (they) made good points. She pondered why people are being sent to jail for minor offences and why "pot" is illegal when alcohol is a much harder drug. She stated one in four people are in the hospital due to alcohol, whether it is related to abuse, or accidents or physical ailments.

Ms. Rosenberg states this warrants further discussion. She is not completely convinced that this is the specific ordinance that best suits what the residents of the city of Kent want, but that they would like a conversation about it.

Mr. Kuhar stated if this is a matter of just having a joint in your car he would agree, some of the quantities in the petition seemed quite a bit more than just a joint. It looked like pretty big party quantities so he will vote "no".

Ms. Wallach brought to the discussion the question of having someone temporarily assigned to a Commission to help out when they are short.

Ms. Jones stated there is nothing in the Charter or Ordinances that speaks to temporary members of Commissions. Two people is a quorum. She hopes they would be diligent enough to make the couple of meetings that might happen before someone is appointed to replace them. Ms. Jones said she is happy they feel the need to show up to Civil Service exams, but they don't need to do that and they don't need to cancel any tests. If they would like someone there and one of them cannot show up, she would be happy to go and be at the meeting to watch. Some of the concerns brought up this evening are currently being looked at by staff and will have many suggestions coming forward so interviews don't have to wait for the Tree City Bulletin. This may not answer the questions brought forward tonight, but she will look into this. Ms. Jones clarified she cannot vote, but could go to the tests if one is unable to.

Mr. Sidoti said Ms. Rosenberg has brought this topic up to Committee as there are various different things that could be added to the list, one being how we can communicate to the Commissions effectively. We are ahead of the game and can avoid these type of things happening in the future.

Mr. Kuhar asked how long it is after a council meeting when the minutes are published and maybe as a combined effort the people on the Commission could read the minutes as they are published.

Mayor Fiala said they go on the website as soon as possible, the Tree City Bulletin comes out four times a year. Mr. Kuhar said he was referring to the minutes.

Clerk Wilkens stated minutes are published once they are approved and confirmed usually within a few weeks.

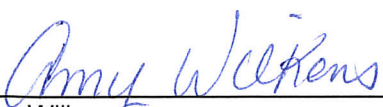
Mr. Sidoti said Council takes so much time trying to fill these positions and they are pseudo employees of Council. A simple memo could be sent out. Common courtesy would be to let Commission members know when an Ordinance is passed that directly affects them. It was just an honest oversight.

COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

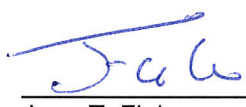
MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Fiala reminded everyone that the next CPA (Citizen Policy Academy) starts this week and if any member has not done so to check it out. Please keep talking up Issue 1 to your constituents and the fact it is a Census Year and everyone needs to be counted.

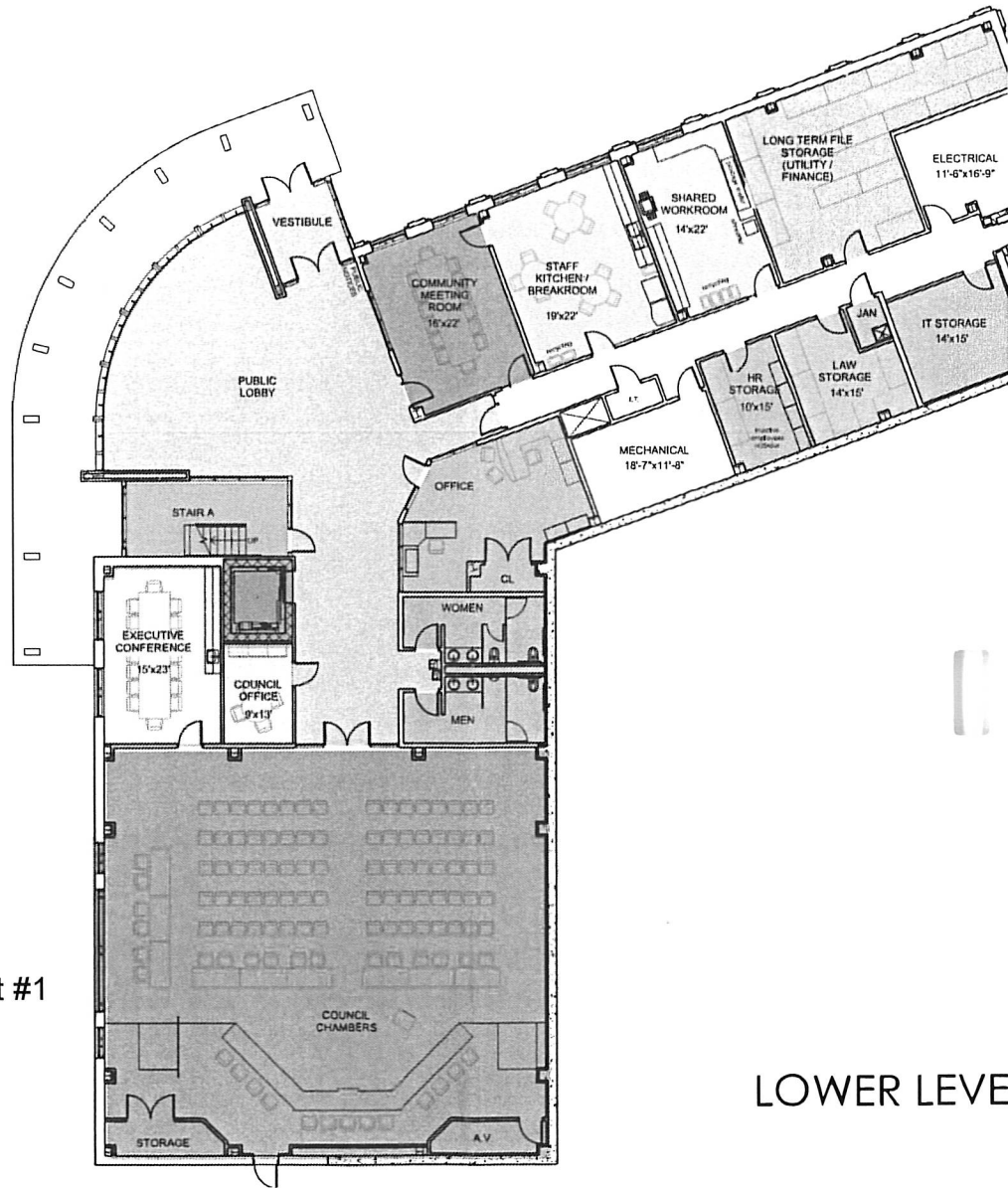
The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.



Amy Wilkens
Clerk of Council

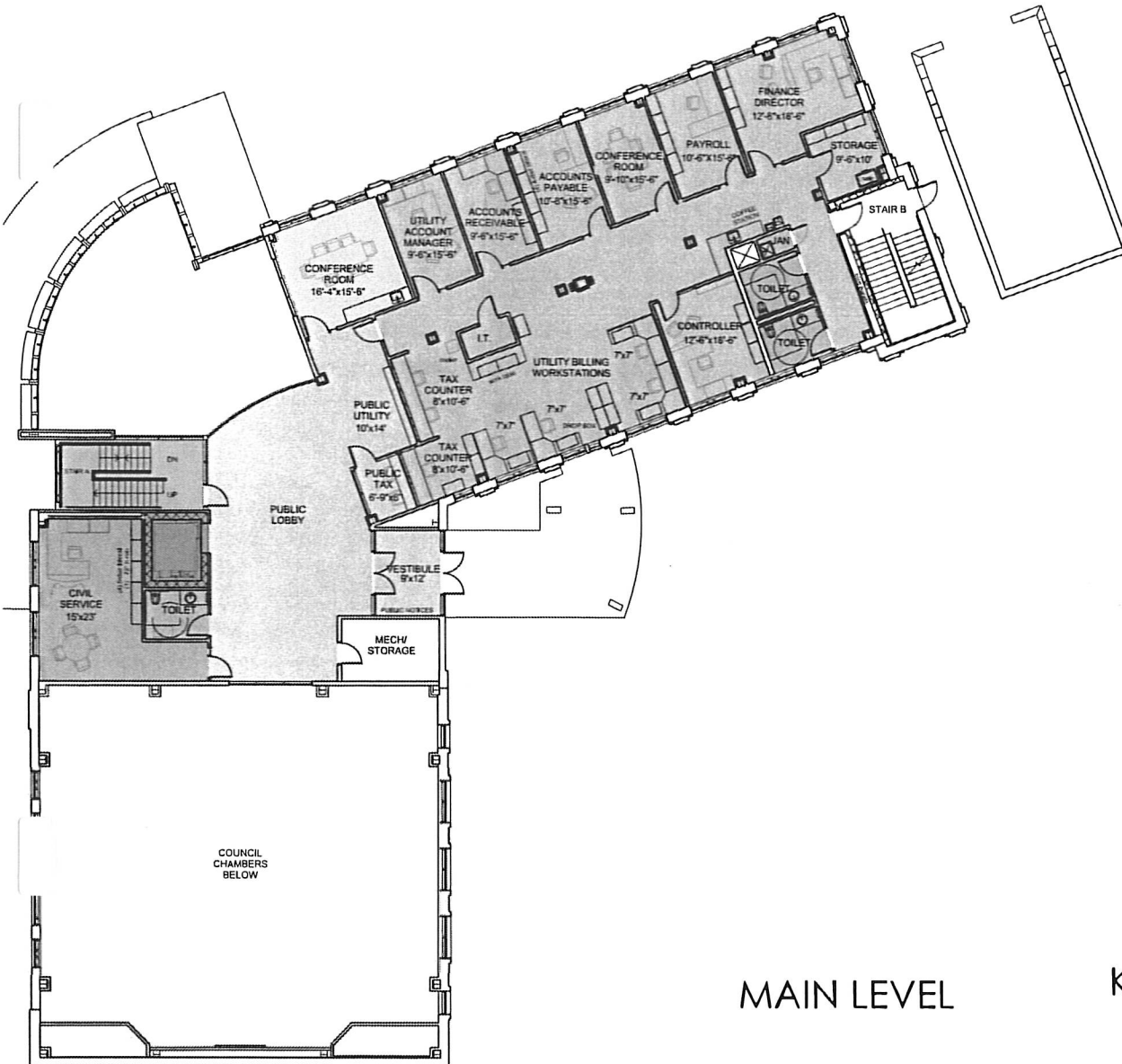


Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council



LOWER LEVE

02.19.20 Meeting Minutes Attachment #1



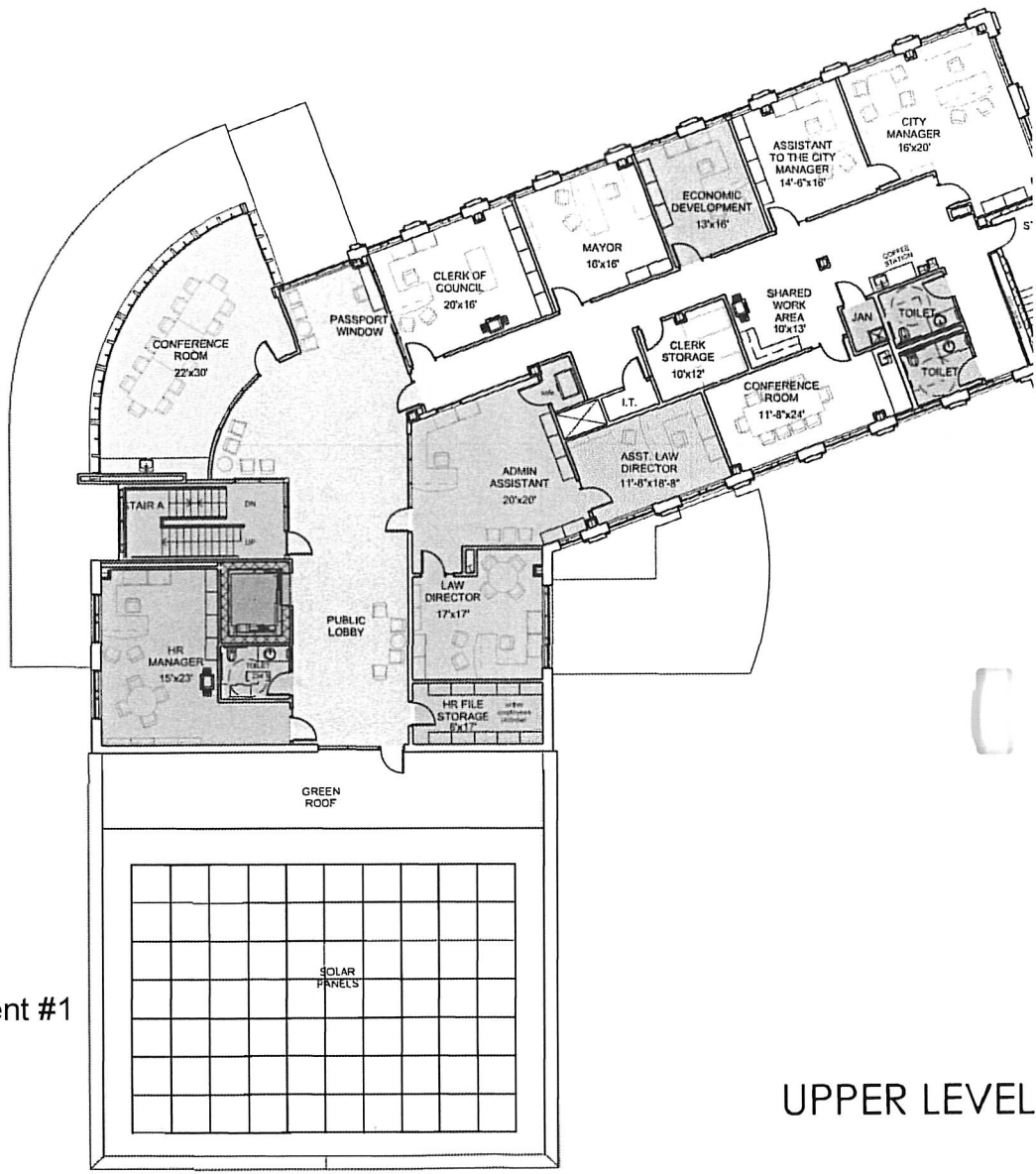
02-19-2020

MAIN LEVEL

Kent City Hall

319 S. Water Street
Kent, OH 44240

Design Development



UPPER LEVEL

02.19.20 Meeting Minutes Attachment #1



CITY OF KENT, OHIO

Office of City Council

February 17, 2020

Christine Klein & Allyson Chicoski
City of Kent Civil Service Commission
Kent, OH 44240

Dear Civil Service Commission Members,

Thank you for reaching out to City Council in regards to the vacant position on the Civil Service Commission. In response to your letter dated February 6, 2020, we have compiled a packet of information regarding the application and interview process for Mr. Lee Higgins. Enclosed you will find a timeline, email and letter chain regarding the last round of interviews for the Civil Service Commission.

Thank you for reaching out to Council regarding this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Mayor Jerry T. Fiala
President of Council

Timeline

Date	Action	Notes
September 25, 2019	Fall Ad for Boards and Commissions due to be placed in TCB	TCB went to printer October 18, 2019. Deadline to apply November 26, 2019
October 2, 2019	Council Passes changes to interview process	MOTION TO AUTHORIZE A VOICE VOTE FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSION CANDIDATES made by Mr. Sidoti, seconded by Mr. Kuhar. Ms. Wallach asked if we are changing the way candidates present themselves. Mayor Fiala clarified that candidates currently do not have to come to the meeting. MOTION TO AMEND THE ORIGINAL MOTION TO ADD LANGUAGE REQUIRING CANDIDATES TO BE PRESENT AT MEETING WITH COUNCIL made by Ms. Wallach, seconded by Mr. Ferrara. MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED by a voice vote of 6-3 with Mr. Ferrara, Ms. Shaffer and Mr. Turner against.
October 14, 2019	Letter mailed to Mr. Higgins notifying him of expiring term and application process	Attached.
November 26, 2019	Boards and Commissions Application Due Date	Dawn Bishop called Clerk to state she was contacted by Mr. Higgins, application dropped in Utility Bill drop box
November 27, 2019	Mr. Lee Higgins applied	Application received in Clerk's office on November 27, 2020
December 2, 2019	Email sent to applicants regarding interview on December 4, 2019	Attached/ 7 applicants emailed, 6 replied to confirm. Mr. Higgins did not
December 4, 2019	Boards and Commissions Interviews held	Mr. Higgins, no show/no contact
December 4, 2019	Council: position not filled and will advertise again in Spring Tree City Bulletin	
December 9, 2019	Dawn Bishop notified Clerk Mr. Higgins had car trouble	
December 11, 2019 (approximately)	Mayor Fiala spoke with Dawn Bishop and notified her Mr. Higgins would need to reapply in next round if interested.	
December 20, 2019	Letter sent to Mr. Higgins to reapply	Attached No response
January	Advertised on City website	
February 13, 2020	Advertised on Facebook	
March 6, 2020	Ad in Tree City Bulletin	



CITY OF KENT, OHIO

Office of City Council

October 14, 2019

Mr. Lee Higgins
1232 Woodhill Dr.
Kent, OH 44240

Dear Mr. Higgins,

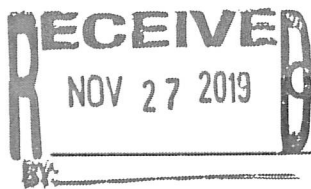
Your appointment to the Civil Service Commission will expire on December 31, 2019. If you are interested in reapplying, and you are re-appointed, your subsequent volunteer term will be for six (6) years commencing January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2025. Please fill out the enclosed application and return it to this office no later than November 26, 2019. Late applications will not be considered.

Interviews will be scheduled with the Kent City Council during Council Committee meeting on December 4, 2019. Once I receive your application, I will confirm the date and time of your interview. Official appointments to vacant positions will be made at the regular Council meeting on December 18, 2019.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Amy Wilkens, MA.Ed
Clerk of Council
councilclerk@kent-ohio.org



CITY OF KENT, OHIO

CITY COUNCIL

Deadline – November 26, 2019 at NOON.

We rely heavily upon citizen participation through Boards, Commissions and Committees to effectively assist City Council and the Administration staff in planning a better community.

We appreciate the time and effort citizens generously give to aid us in our efforts to provide excellent government service.

Below is an application form that would give us a little background information. Please fill this out if you think you could devote sufficient time to serve on one of our Boards. You may use additional pages, if necessary. If you have a resume, you may attach it to the application. Please return to: Clerk of Council at councilclerk@kent-ohio.org or mail to the address at the bottom of this application.

NAME: Lee M. Higgins PHONE: 330.678.9220 (HOME)
ADDRESS: 1232 Woodhill Drive 330.701.2245 (CELL) *
EMAIL: a.kentman@sbcglobal.net
EDUCATION: _____
OCCUPATION: HR Consultant
PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT: self

POLITICAL PARTY: _____
(OPTIONAL EXCEPT WHEN APPLYING FOR CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION AND INCOME TAX BOARD OF REVIEW WHERE INFORMATION IS REQUIRED BY LAW)

EXPERIENCE RELATED TO THIS APPOINTMENT: Approximately 14 years on the
Civil Service Commission

WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THIS APPOINTMENT? _____
My depth of experience is important as other commissioners and staff
are relatively new.

ANYTHING YOU CARE TO ADD, SUCH AS EXPERIENCE ASSOCIATED WITH THE CITY:

I WOULD LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR:

1st CHOICE: Civil Service 2nd CHOICE: _____

SIGNATURE: Lee M. Higgins DATE: Nov 26 2019

*** The City of Kent reserves the right to perform background checks.



Council, Clerk of <councilclerk@kent-ohio.org>

City of Kent Board Interviews

15 messages

Clerk of Council <councilclerk@kent-ohio.org>

Mon, Dec 2, 2019 at 2:03 PM

Cc: Amy Wilkens <councilclerk@kent-ohio.org>, Jerry Fiala <fialaj@kent-ohio.org>

Bcc: Matthew Carroll <MCarroll@margida-assoc.com>, "DORFF, PETER" <pdorff@kent.edu>, peterdorff@gmail.com, Wilder Hritz <hritz15@gmail.com>, jjenkins2297@gmail.com, Robert Szygenda <rszygenda@sbcglobal.net>, Pete Orlando <pjorlando@sbcglobal.net>, Lee Higgins <akentman@sbcglobal.net>, kswiler@gmail.com

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for your interest in serving on a Board or Commission for the City of Kent. Interviews will be held this Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 7 p.m at the Main Fire Station located at 320 S. Depeyster (Located Here)

Please be prepared to introduce yourself to City Council, providing a brief background to supplement what was submitted with your application and why you are interested in serving. Also be prepared for follow up questions from Council.

Please confirm your attendance this Wednesday. If you are no longer interested please let me know.

Good luck and see you Wednesday!

Amy Wilkens, MA.Ed
 Clerk of Council
 City of Kent, Ohio
 301 S. Depeyster Street
 Kent, OH 44240
 330.676.7555
 wilkensa@kent-ohio.org



Wilder Hritz <hritz15@gmail.com>

Mon, Dec 2, 2019 at 2:05 PM

To: Clerk of Council <councilclerk@kent-ohio.org>

Cc: Jerry Fiala <fialaj@kent-ohio.org>

I will be there, thank you!

Wilder Hritz

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[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)

Clerk of Council <councilclerk@kent-ohio.org>

Mon, Dec 2, 2019 at 2:10 PM

To: Wilder Hritz <hritz15@gmail.com>

Cc: Jerry Fiala <fialaj@kent-ohio.org>

Thank you!

Amy Wilkens, MA.Ed
 Clerk of Council
 City of Kent, Ohio
 301 S. Depeyster Street
 Kent, OH 44240
 330.676.7555
 wilkensa@kent-ohio.org



[Quoted text hidden]

peter dorff <peterdorff@gmail.com>

Mon, Dec 2, 2019 at 2:12 PM

To: Clerk of Council <councilclerk@kent-ohio.org>

Thank you.
I will be at the meeting on Wednesday, December 4 for the interview.
Pete

On Mon, Dec 2, 2019 at 2:04 PM Clerk of Council <councilclerk@kent-ohio.org> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

Pete Orlando <pjorlando@sbcglobal.net>
To: Clerk of Council <councilclerk@kent-ohio.org>

Mon, Dec 2, 2019 at 9:06 PM

Amy,
I plan to attend the Council interviews on December 4.

Pete Orlando 
Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 2, 2019, at 2:04 PM, Clerk of Council <councilclerk@kent-ohio.org> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

Matthew Carroll <MCarroll@margida-assoc.com>
To: Clerk of Council <councilclerk@kent-ohio.org>
Cc: Jerry Fiala <fialaj@kent-ohio.org>

Tue, Dec 3, 2019 at 8:04 AM

Hi Amy,

Yes. I will be in attendance on Wednesday evening.

Thanks!

Matthew Carroll



Margida & Associates, Inc.
Certified Public Accountants

3926 Clock Pointe Trail Suite 102

Stow, Ohio 44224

Phone 330-926-0023

Fax 330-926-0178

www.margida-assoc.com

MARGIDA & ASSOCIATES, INC. - CONFIDENTIAL INFORM

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[Quoted text hidden]

> PLEASE NOTE: This message and any response to it may

02.19.20 Meeting Minutes Attachment #2

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=eb48e49c6f&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-a%3Ar2758615316291682300&simpl=msg-a%3Ar756605405...> 2/5

[Quoted text hidden]

Clerk of Council <councilclerk@kent-ohio.org>
To: Matthew Carroll <MCarroll@margida-assoc.com>
Cc: Jerry Fiala <fialaj@kent-ohio.org>

Tue, Dec 3, 2019 at 8:10 AM

Great! See you then.

Amy Wilkens, MA.Ed
Clerk of Council
City of Kent, Ohio
301 S. Depeyster Street
Kent, OH 44240
330.676.7555
wilkensa@kent-ohio.org



[Quoted text hidden]

Clerk of Council <councilclerk@kent-ohio.org>
To: Pete Orlando <pjorlando@sbcglobal.net>

Tue, Dec 3, 2019 at 8:10 AM

Great! See you then.

Amy Wilkens, MA.Ed
Clerk of Council
City of Kent, Ohio
301 S. Depeyster Street
Kent, OH 44240
330.676.7555
wilkensa@kent-ohio.org



[Quoted text hidden]

Clerk of Council <councilclerk@kent-ohio.org>
To: Pete Orlando <pjorlando@sbcglobal.net>

Tue, Dec 3, 2019 at 8:10 AM

Great! See you then.

Amy Wilkens, MA.Ed
Clerk of Council
City of Kent, Ohio
301 S. Depeyster Street
Kent, OH 44240
330.676.7555
wilkensa@kent-ohio.org



On Mon, Dec 2, 2019 at 9:07 PM Pete Orlando <pjorlando@sbcglobal.net> wrote:
[Quoted text hidden]

Clerk of Council <councilclerk@kent-ohio.org>
To: peter dorff <peterdorff@gmail.com>

Tue, Dec 3, 2019 at 8:10 AM

Great! See you then.

Amy Wilkens, MA.Ed
Clerk of Council
City of Kent, Ohio
301 S. Depeyster Street
Kent, OH 44240
330.676.7555

02.19.20 Meeting Minutes Attachment #2

wilkensa@kent-ohio.org



[Quoted text hidden]

Robert Szygenda <rszygenda@sbcglobal.net>
To: Clerk of Council <councilclerk@kent-ohio.org>
Cc: Jerry Fiala <fialaj@kent-ohio.org>

Tue, Dec 3, 2019 at 9:13 PM

Good evening Amy,

I plan on attending the meeting and look forward to our discussion.

Rob Szygenda

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 2, 2019, at 2:04 PM, Clerk of Council <councilclerk@kent-ohio.org> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Clerk of Council <councilclerk@kent-ohio.org>
To: Robert Szygenda <rszygenda@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: Jerry Fiala <fialaj@kent-ohio.org>

Wed, Dec 4, 2019 at 9:59 AM

Great, thanks!

Amy Wilkens, MA.Ed
Clerk of Council
City of Kent, Ohio
301 S. Depeyster Street
Kent, OH 44240
330.676.7555
wilkensa@kent-ohio.org



[Quoted text hidden]

Clerk of Council <councilclerk@kent-ohio.org>
Cc: Amy Wilkens <councilclerk@kent-ohio.org>, Jerry Fiala <fialaj@kent-ohio.org>
Bcc: Matthew Carroll <MCarroll@margida-assoc.com>, peter dorff <peterdorff@gmail.com>, Pete Orlando <pjorlando@sbcglobal.net>, Robert Szygenda <rszygenda@sbcglobal.net>, kswiler@gmail.com, jjenkins2297@gmail.com, Wilder Hritz <hritz15@gmail.com>, "DORFF, PETER" <pdorff@kent.edu>

Thu, Dec 5, 2019 at 9:40 AM

Good Morning,

Thank you for attending the City Council Meeting last night and interviewing for one of our Boards and Commissions. Voting and appointment takes place at the Regular Council meeting on December 18, 2019. If you are appointed, you will receive a letter and certified copy of the Resolution appointing you via email and U.S. mail; and if not appointed you will receive a thank you for your interest letter. We keep all applications on file for one-year from the date of submission.

Please let me know if you have any other questions. Thanks again for your interest in serving the City of Kent.

Amy Wilkens, MA.Ed
Clerk of Council
City of Kent, Ohio
301 S. Depeyster Street
Kent, OH 44240
330.676.7555
wilkensa@kent-ohio.org



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02.19.20 Meeting Minutes Attachment #2

Robert Szygenda <rszygenda@sbcglobal.net>
To: Clerk of Council <councilclerk@kent-ohio.org>
Cc: Jerry Fiala <fialaj@kent-ohio.org>

Fri, Dec 6, 2019 at 11:15 PM

Good evening,

Thank you to you both and the entire council for providing the forum to allow all of us to express our thoughts. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Rob Szygenda

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 5, 2019, at 9:41 AM, Clerk of Council <councilclerk@kent-ohio.org> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

DORFF, PETER <pdorff@kent.edu>
To: Clerk of Council <councilclerk@kent-ohio.org>

Mon, Dec 9, 2019 at 12:23 PM

Thank you, Amy!

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]



CITY OF KENT, OHIO

CITY COUNCIL

December 20, 2019

Mr. Lee Higgins
1232 Woodhill Drive
Kent, OH 44240

Re: Application for the Civil Service Commission

Dear Mr. Higgins,

On December 4, 2019, City Council met with candidates to interview for our various Boards and Commissions. You had applied for the Civil Service Commission on November 27, 2019 but did not attend the interview. As per new standing rules passed on October 2, 2019, Council is requiring applicants to be interviewed in person to be considered for a spot. I have attached a copy of the minutes of the meeting where this motion was made and approved by Council. Because you were not present to be interviewed on December 4, 2019, you were not considered for this round of appointments.

Members of Council and the Administration would like to thank you for your application. This position will be advertised in the Spring Tree City Bulletin if you would like to be considered in the future.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely yours,

Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor & Council President

**THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
WEDNESDAY, October 2, 2019**

Mayor Fiala called the Committee of the Whole of Kent City Council to order at 6:55 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Jack Amrhein; Mr. Michael DeLeone; Mr. Garret Ferrara; Mr. John Kuhar; Ms. Gwen Rosenberg; Ms. Heidi Schaffer; Mr. Roger Sidoti; Mr. Robin Turner; 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, Public Service Director; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Mr. Harrison Wicks, Executive Assistant to the City Manager; Mr. Dave Coffee, Budget and Finance Director; Mr. Tom Wilke, Economic Development Director; Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council

There were two (2) items on the Agenda.

1. City Hall Project Update

Nancy Nozik from Brandstetter Carroll, Inc. presented updated plans for the City Hall project. Square footage and cost have been examined and some slight changes have been made. The schematic design was reviewed by floor (lower level, main level and upper level). Utility and tax counters will be divided by glass with transaction windows. Existing square footage of Finance and Utility Building was compared to proposed square footage, with increases to both to accommodate future use. Upper level offices of the Mayor, City Manager and Clerk of Council were reviewed, including storage rooms for items currently being housed in the Service Department. The Law Department is separated in its own suite and separated off from other offices. HR department located at the end of the suite to accommodate their work with Business and Finance. Exterior design shows the reductions in size but is consistent with what was in previous drawings. Square footage and anticipated costs reviewed; project estimated in a range based on square footage, between \$6,000,000- \$8,000,000. (**Attachment #2**)

Mr. Ferrara said he thought the Council Executive Conference room was going to be behind Council Chambers. Potential issues with the location of the conference room was discussed regarding ease of access and not having to go through the crowd. Ms. Nozik will review all options.

Ms. Rosenberg asked about a potential information desk to greet people as they come in to the lobby. Ms. Nozik said there is room for a reception desk in a central check-in spot in the lobby. Ms. Rosenberg said it is part informational, part security for people working in those offices. Nancy stated all offices are secured behind a security access door.

Mr. Kuhar said if Council Chambers were indeed rotated, an egress door would almost need to be in front of the building. Ms. Nozik agreed and said it may need to be placed there due to slope.

Mr. Ferrara said it would be nice to have the dais by the windows. Ms. Nozik states she will be able to show many different options.

Mr. Turner asked about the budget for the project and Mr. Ruller discussed the existing budget vs. funds available for down payment and financing options. The fire department debt will be coming off and can be used for this building.

Mr. Sidoti asked about the elevation of the council table. It will be six inches up.

Ms. Jones stated in some instances it did, but not a lot.

Ms. Wallach stated she would like it to be a requirement the candidate come to the Council Meeting for the interview.

Mr. Sidoti said in past years when there were multiple candidates the Executive Session was helpful in making the decision and important to the process.

Mayor Fiala summarized changes of current process; interviewing candidates, having Executive Session and publicly voting on the candidate.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE A VOICE VOTE FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSION CANDIDATES made by Mr. Sidoti, seconded by Mr. Kuhar.

Ms. Wallach asked if we are changing the way candidates present themselves.

Mayor Fiala clarified that candidates currently do not have to come to the meeting.

MOTION TO AMEND THE ORIGINAL MOTION TO ADD LANGUAGE REQUIRING CANDIDATES TO BE PRESENT AT MEETING WITH COUNCIL made by Ms. Wallach, seconded by Mr. Ferrara.

Mr. Sidoti said if a person is reapplying for same position they should not be made to come in again.

Mr. Amhrein said it should be mandatory for all to be present for the interview.

Mr. Kuhar said he agrees that every candidate should show up so Council and the public can hear them.

Ms. Schaffer said it may be difficult if candidates cannot make the meeting and asked if there would be an option for those who are not able to make it.

Mr. Amhrein asked how we can question the candidate if they are not here. If there are extenuating circumstances we could work on an alternate day.

There were no further comments from Council.

MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED by a voice vote of 6-3 with Mr. Ferrara, Ms. Shaffer and Mr. Turner against.

ORIGINAL MOTION AS AMENDED TO AUTHORIZE A VOICE VOTE FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSION CANDIDATES CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0.

Hearing no further business before this Committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Hello, I am Dr Michael Fricke a Franklin Township Resident residing at 7395 State Route 43.

I am the campaign manager for Sensible Kent and I am here to introduce the Affidavit of Petitioners Committee submitted to this council last week. The Sensible Marijuana Ordinance removes jail time and reduces fines and court costs to zero dollars for minor cannabis offenses. The Sensible Ordinance has now been adopted in all major Ohio cities with its passage in Cleveland on January 27. Over 3 million Ohio residents are now protected by Sensible Ordinances and Sensible voter initiatives have an 80% success rate once they reach the ballot across Ohio.

Sensible Ordinances at the local level are a response to the Ohio Statehouse ignoring the will of Ohio citizens. State Legislators and Gov DeWine have made it clear that they plan to maintain a stubborn prohibition against adult cannabis use and the Ohio Medical Marijuana Program implementation is the worst in the country. Many Ohioans would rather drive to Michigan or Pennsylvania to purchase their medicine despite the consequences if they are stopped on their return to Ohio. The fact that Ohio has admitted the medicinal value of cannabis proves the lie of 50 years of prohibition.

Here in Kent, the enforcement of marijuana prohibition by our police officers has become problematic. Last summer, Ohio Senate Bill 57 changed the definition of marijuana to exclude hemp. Hemp is essentially cannabis with less than 0.3% THC. Our human officers and K-9 units cannot tell the difference between marijuana and legal smokable hemp during a roadside stop. Confirmation of the THC level now requires a new test performed at the Richfield BCI state crime lab. For this reason, Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein has decided not to prosecute misdemeanor pot cases and to drop any pending cases. Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost responded to the passage of this bill by sending a letter to every prosecutor in the state recommending the suspension of marijuana testing and against the indictment of any cannabis-related items.

I will leave you with a quote from John Ehrlichman, who was an assistant to US President Nixon. Ehrlichman was speaking in 1992 about the war on drugs.

"You want to know what this was really all about? Nixon had two enemies: the antiwar left, and black people. We knew we couldn't make it illegal to be either against the war or black. But by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did."

Please consider carefully our proposed ordinance and I urge quick adoption. On May the 4th, does this council still want be fighting Nixon's war on cannabis?

Thank you for your time and I am available to answer any questions at the email:
sensiblekent@gmail.com

Hello, my name is Lauren McKown and I am a Kent resident residing at 1365 Sunset Way Blvd.

As mentioned by Dr. Mike Fricke, the Sensible Marihuana Ordinance removes jail time and reduces fines and court costs to zero dollars for minor cannabis offenses.

As the Lead Petitioner for Sensible Kent, I am here to discuss the biochemistry and medicinal benefit of cannabis from a scientific perspective. To give a little background, I am a recent business graduate from Kent State and I am returning this Fall for Neuroscience and Pre-Medicine due to my growing interest in entheogenic substances.

Cannabis, or Marijuana, is made up of over 100 different compounds known as cannabinoids, with THC and CBD as two of the most prominent. In our bodies we have a system of receptors that make up what is known as the "endocannabinoid system." This system essentially contains docking sites throughout the body and brain for cannabinoid-type substances. The endocannabinoid system can be thought of as your body's root-level operating system, a central processing unit that regulates and alters the functioning of many other important systems, keeping them in balance. We (humans) produce cannabis-like molecules called endocannabinoids from omega-6 fatty acids in our diet. Processes such as sleep, appetite, and cardiovascular regulation, to name a few, are controlled partly by the endocannabinoid system.

When it comes to cannabinoids in cannabis, research has shown that cannabis has profound health benefits. More specifically, the major cannabinoids such as THC and CBD have been used in the treatment of neuromuscular disorders, mental health diseases, chronic pain, sleep, and digestion. The only cannabinoid that creates a "high" effect is THC. In fact, CBD and THC have the exact same molecular structure except for the fact that the atoms are arranged differently in THC, creating the "high" effect. Additionally, the majority of hemp-derived CBD products are federally legal.

The fact that the endocannabinoid systems in our bodies are receptive to cannabinoid-like substances without the presence of any cannabis is quite interesting. It is also quite interesting how a plant with medicinal properties is still labeled a schedule 1 drug, which according to the DEA, claims to have no currently accepted medical use, despite the fact that it is medically legal and currently available for medicinal use in 33 states.

Thank you.

Hello, my name is Adrienne DeVault, a Kent voter residing at 1658 Loblolly Ct.

I will be graduating from Kent State in May and will be beginning my master's program the following week. I have always been passionate about helping others, and therefore have decided to become a Physician Assistant. I would be removed from the program if my background check brought up a drug charge for even a minor misdemeanor offense. Besides the potential for a large fine or even jail time, the harshest punishment for drug charges is often the secondary penalties. Please consider some scenarios. A youth is charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana, a first offense. In the first scenario, the youth is processed through the juvenile system and is placed on Juvenile Probation. The youth later turns 19 and the charge is expunged.

In the second scenario, the youth is processed in the adult system and receives deferred prosecution and community service. In this case, at age 19, they must report the offense on job and college applications or to enlist in the military. This is what is called a secondary penalty and they can ruin lives.

Although Ohio decriminalized marijuana use in 1975, an arrest can still be made for even the smallest amount of marijuana. Additionally, under Ohio law, an act that involves a "gift" of marijuana can result in a drug trafficking charge. Trafficking can be charged even if there is no exchange of money. Passing a joint has be charged as trafficking in some extreme cases.

For a college student, a drug conviction also impacts financial aid. Students can lose their federal aid because of a drug conviction that the State of Ohio merely considers as a minor misdemeanor akin to a traffic ticket. If a college student is convicted of possession of marijuana, they typically lose eligibility for federal aid for one year for the first offense, two years for the second offense, and indefinitely for the third. Additionally, the clock for the ineligible period starts from the date of conviction rather than the date of the offense.

Because of these impacts, drug charges can encourage additional offenses. A student who is only able to afford college due to federal loans may find selling marijuana a viable option to make up the difference if they lose their federal aid. Those whose career dreams are ruined due to a couple grams of pot may feel they have little else to lose. People with more serious charges are often barred from work and housing opportunities, leaving them with few options and perpetrating the cycle.

It's not only stereotypical criminals and bums that are using marijuana. According to a study done by the University of Michigan, 38% of full-time college students used marijuana at least once in the prior 12 months. The situation is similar to prohibition 100 years ago, except this substance is less addictive, less dangerous, and has a lower potential for abuse than alcohol by all reliable metrics.

Please consider the potential impact to the lives of Kent residents beyond the current statutes and penalties. I urge you to adopt the Sensible Ordinance of No Time and No Fine.

Thank you for your time.

