



City of Kent
Wednesday, November 17, 2021
City Council Committee Meetings
320 S. Depeyster Street, Kent, OH 44240

MINUTES

6:30 P.M. Special Council Committee Meetings

1. Call to Order

At 06:30 PM, Mayor Jerry T. Fiala called the City Council Committee Meetings to order.

2. Committee of the Whole

2.1. Proposed Ward Changes from 2020 Census (Bridget Susel)

Mayor Fiala opened the Committee of the Whole meeting at 6:30 pm . He called the first speaker to the microphone.

Ms.Bridget Susel, Community Development Director, came before City Council to present the proposed changes to the City's Ward boundaries that resulted from the latest Census Count. She began her presentation by explaining that Wards are to be balanced within 10% of each other and the changes that resulted from the latest Census data will eventually require a change in the Ward boundaries. When her and her staff pulled down the data from the Census website (which is the new method of obtaining this information), they noticed changes in every Ward that didn't make logical sense. She and her staff have been diligently working and comparing data and maps to make sense of these shifts in population. Ms. Susel added she has reached out to the Secretary of State's Office as well as the Census to discuss and try to decipher these discrepancies. She is asking them to review their numbers and re-verify the information. Wards will not be drawn until this is done and she explained that she will be coming back to Council in February or March to report the findings.

Mr. Turner asked if there are other factors in the defining of wards and Ms. Susel replied the only factor is population, and they need to be contiguous. Other demographics or political affiliation are not considered, it is strictly population.

Mr Sidoti asked what the lead time is for the next election. Ms. Susel replied we

are done with redistricting that happens at the state and federal level.

Ms. Rosenberg asked if residents ever have an opportunity to weigh in on whether their ward changes. Ms. Susel said it is a formula in the Ohio Revised Code. If residents were concerned, they could contact Community Development, but at this point there is nothing that can be done until numbers are verified. Ms. Rosenberg asked if it leads to confusion when voting and Ms. Susel said she has never heard of any from the past.

Mr. Kuhar asked when this would be official. Ms. Susel said it will be official at the beginning of 2022.

Mr. Turner said the reason he brought up contiguousness was due to an election in the 90's where Ward 3 was split and voters were confused about their representation. Ms. Susel clarified that boundaries are defined by Block Group blocks and not physical boundaries. The contiguousness is due to block groups and not natural features.

Mayor Fiala commended Ms. Susel on the work done and verified she will be coming back before Council in February or March.

3. Finance Committee

Chair DeLeone opened the Finance Committee meeting at 6:50 p.m. He called the first speaker to the microphone.

3.1. 2021 Review and Proposed 2022-26 Capital Plan Update (Jim Bowling, Rhonda Hall)

Mr. Jim Bowling said that before going over the Capital Plan, he will be giving a short review of what happened this year. He referenced his PowerPoint during his presentation (Attachment #1).

He began by stating that this year started unusually due to the COVID pandemic. That delayed projects in 2020 which were then bid on in 2021. Prices bid out when prices were low and projects were prioritized by outside funding. We had to use money by the deadlines we were given and we progressed those as quickly as they could. The Fire Station #2 Improvements were reviewed, which have been on the books for three years. He reviewed the scope of the project, construction costs, start dates and completion dates. He reviewed the Bike and Hike, Brady's Leap Segment, which is near completion. The handrail is currently delayed being delivered and the entrance signs will be installed this week. Mr. Bowling then reviewed the Miller, Harvey and Steel Storm and Water improvements to help with chronic flooding in the area. He went into the next few projects that are of high importance to residents regarding streets and sidewalks. N. Water Street improvements were finished in October and tree planting is to be done this week. This project was done mainly to reduce vehicle speeds and it has done what they hoped for, specifically in regards to people driving 25 mph or less. Prior to this project, only 13% were driving at this speed and after the project was completed, that percentage tripled.

Mr. Kuhar asked about the crosswalk sign and the fact that it's knocked down every day. Mr. Bowling said most of the time it is due to buses. They approached St. Pat's School for help and it has not operationalized as planned. Mr. Kuhar asked if the signs could be moved to the side of the road. Mr. Bowling said these types of signs are required to be in the center of the road.

Mr. Bowling continued with his presentation, reviewing the Walnut Street Reconstruction, Phase 1. The annual Street and Sidewalk program was reviewed next, highlighting Harris Street where a mile's worth of sidewalks were fixed and gaps were filled in, improving the neighborhood.

Milling and resurfacing was done on Alley #2, Cherry, Frances, Overlook and Woodhill Drive with pavement repairs on many others. Concrete pavement and sidewalk replacement was reviewed next, and are projected to be completed by August 2022. Over \$3 million of infrastructure changes were made.

The next couple of projects have been forced on us by age with work needing to be done on the Water Reclamation Facility and Pump Stations. The emergency rehabilitation of primary clarifier #2 is needed to repair a damaged clarifier and is due to be completed by August 2021.

Ms. Shaffer Bish asked if this clarifier is flood proof. Mr. Bowling said this is not in the flood zone and they already considered a 100-year flood.

Mr. Bowling continued his presentation by reviewing the Southwest Pump Station replacement which has been on the capital plan for fourteen years. It will eliminate the Yacavona Pump Station, replace the Middlebury Pump Station and put in new sanitary sewer. The project started in October, which caused Middlebury to close because the sewer was fifteen feet deep. The project would have started three months ago but was delayed due to delays in getting the pumps.

Mr. Kuhar asked why they didn't put the sewer lines in when originally done. Mr. Bowling said it was done in 1950 and he assumes it was due to the depth or that they were built at different time periods when the streets were built.

Mr. Bowling reviewed the Water Reclamation Facility's upcoming needs for the next 5-10 years. We are in a much better position this year than we thought we were going to be in. The five measures that were approved by Council and put in place last year helped get the sewer work completed. A lot has helped with costs, including a DEFA Loan, State ARPA funds, and OPWC funding for the SW Pump Station, Final Clarifiers, and Heat Digesters. We received half of the needed funding of \$14.4 million. The next big need is the heat digesters, which have been postponed for five years because of the \$4.9 million price tag, but could be funded in 2023.

Ms. Shaffer Bish asked if these projects are state of the art, energy efficient and environmentally conscious. Mr. Bowling said the whole purpose of the water

reclamation facility is the protection of the environment, preventing pollution of the river. We do not get violated. The clarifiers and digesters are repairs and not replacements. The work that is done is taking out the old and putting in the new mechanical equipment that does the same thing. Ms. Shaffer Bish asked if we were recapturing methane and Mr. Bowling replied that is what the heat digester does which is the flame that is eternally burning. Ms. Melanie Baker added the methane is recaptured for use in the heating process of the digesters. If there is excess, you will see a flame. She said no methane goes out into the environment.

A question was raised by a member of the audience and Mr. DeLeone said he would go to the audience at the end of the Committee meeting for questions and comments from the public.

Mr. Turner asked how ARPA was formulated that created this pot of money. Mr. Bowling did not have an answer and Ms. Susel said the ARPA was limited to strictly water and sewer projects. Mr. Bowling said the good news is that we are in a better position than we thought we were going to be last year. Hopefully, if things go well next year, we will have another 30% of our needs funded. Then we can go back to "normal" capital plan improvements.

Mr. Bowling then reviewed a few miscellaneous items which included a West Main Street side path, the Chimney Swift Tower and Hammock Park.

Mr. Bowling concluded his presentation by reviewing the key initiatives for 2022, which include continued work on streets and sidewalks, the new Administration Building, resurfacing of State Route 43 North and Middlebury Road (when the sewer project is complete). They will continue the work on the pump station, start the work on the clarifiers and continue with the East Main Street Design.

Ms. Rhonda Hall referred City Council to their Capital Plan books that were distributed. The five year capital plan discussion is at the very beginning of the booklet. She said the biggest discussion is in the last four pages with an analysis of funds. She highlighted the net cost to the City and how money is allocated to different funds. The water fund is up because of projects that were deferred due to the COVID pandemic. She reviewed various funds and said they are looking at them and if there isn't the funding, they will have to delay projects. The 9% increase that Council passed a few years back helped maintain the balance. The Sewer Fund doesn't start with a prior balance because it was put into the ARPA funds (the American Rescue Plan Act). Projects have not been budgeted yet, but will see them in the 2022 budget book that will be presented in December. The 3% increase in the sewer fund has helped but probably will not be enough and they will maintain and watch. She stated there is not a lot going on concerning the Stormwater fund with the fund balance increasing in 2022 due to a dip in 2021.

Ms. Hall continued with her presentation by stating the next fund to review is the Capital Fund, which the largest fund and shows what money is available. Expenditures in 2021 were a bit higher than 2020 due to Council allowing the

Budget and Finance to allocate a portion of staff salaries to the Capital Fund which allowed for water and sewer projects to be completed. All of the projects of the City that keep us working and maintaining equipment are included in the Capital Plan, but we can only budget for what there is money to do. Outside funding from the U.S. Treasury is allowing us to be able to complete projects currently needed.

Ms. Shaffer Bish asked if the Capital Plan helped position us to attract infrastructure funds. Ms. Hall agreed, stating it is due to being prepared and organized. Mr. Ruller said the Capital Plan allows for strategic planning. He said he has worked for three different city governments and believes this is the most sophisticated Capital Plan he has seen. It is a reflection of the fact that we are not a wealthy community that does an amazing amount of work and that a plan really helps with management and strategic planning. Mr. Bowling added that this is why they see so many changes each year and are tracking where infrastructure funding will fit.

Ms. Wallach asked who originally implemented the Capital Plan. Mayor Fiala said he believes it was when John Layman was the Finance Director in 1983.

Ms. Rhonda Hall concluded her presentation by stating this process has been a collaborative effort by all of the departments and thanked Jim Bowling for all of the work he has done.

Mr. Turner asked if we didn't have the COVID pandemic and not received extra funding, what would have happened? Ms. Hall said we probably would have to raise rates and go into debt. Mr. Ruller reminded Council about the conversation that they couldn't rate their way out of the gap last year. It would have taken creative mechanisms to relieve the sewer fund. If there is a silver lining, it has been the injection of cash and us being ready and opportunistic enough to take advantage of it.

Mr. DeLeone asked the audience member if she got her question answered and the audience member replied that she did.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CAPITAL PLAN AS PRESENTED was made by Mr. Sidoti, **SECONDED** by Ms. Rosenberg and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 9-0.

4. Adjourn

The Special Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Amy Wilkens

Amy Wilkens
Clerk of Council

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City of Kent
Wednesday, November 17, 2021
Regular City Council Meeting
320 S. Depeyster Street, Kent, OH 44240

MINUTES

At 07:30 PM, Mayor Jerry T. Fiala called the Regular City Council Meeting to order. Roll call was taken.

Present: Mr. Michael DeLeone; Mr. Garret Ferrara; Mr. John Kuhar; Ms. Gwen Rosenberg; Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish; Mr. Robin Turner ; Ms. Tracy Wallach; Mr. Roger Sidoti

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. Rhonda Hall, Budget and Finance Director; Mr. Gary Bishop, IT Manager; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Mr. Bill Myers, Fire Chief; Ms. Suzanne Stemnock, Human Resources Manager; Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council

Absent: Mr. Jack Amrhein

MOTION TO EXCUSE MR. AMRHEIN MADE by Mr. Kuhar SECONDED by Ms. Shaffer Bish and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

Opening Remarks and Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Rosenberg wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and asked those present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Before getting started, Mayor Fiala referenced Ms. Wallach asking in a previous meeting about a sign that hung in the old council chambers, outlining the agenda of a council meeting. He said after doing a little research, Gary Bishop found it and it has been placed on the door. He thanked Ms. Wallach for bringing this to his attention.

2. Request Council's approval to schedule a Special Regular Council meeting to be held on December 1st (prior to the Committee meetings) to consider the updates to the General Compensation Plan and Position Allocation.
3. Request Committee of the Whole time for Council to interview candidates for vacant positions on City Boards and Commission
4. Requested Community Development Committee time to provide Council with an update on the progress of the greenhouse gas inventory under the direction of the Sustainability Commission.
5. Request Finance Committee time to request Council's authorization to renew the City's contract with the County Public Defender's Office for 2022.
6. Request Finance Committee time for Council to consider the proposed 2022 Operating Budget.
7. Request Finance Committee time for Council's consideration of a 2021 Budget Appropriations Amendment.

MOTION TO APPROVE the City Manager's Report made by Garret Ferrara,
SECONDED by Gwen Rosenberg and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

Mayor Fiala asked if Mr. Ruller had additional items. Mr. Ruller said that Mr. Turner called him regarding the Intergenerational Village and they had an hour's discussion. Mr. Ruller talked to Kent State afterwards and feels as if there are opportunities to explore and that there is no adversarial relationship. He added more will follow and he will continue having conversations with Kent State Administration. This is the first time that he could remember where the University invited any city staff to collaborate on a project. Mr. Ruller and Ms. Susel were invited to and attended a meeting in which a lot of time was spent talking about the quality of life in the neighborhood, traffic issues, environmental issues, etc. He said he found KSU to be very interested in engagement with the City. He is optimistic they will work with everyone and for Council to know they will continue working together on this. Mayor Fiala suggested copying down the items of concern listed on the white board in the room and Mr. Ruller said they would do so.

Committee of the Whole

Committee Meeting Minutes

MOTION TO APPROVE Committee Meeting Minutes of November 3, 2021 made by Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-1 with Ms. Wallach abstaining.

Action(s) Recommended

1. Authorize City Administration to proceed with the next steps concerning the bid on the New City Hall project.

MOTION TO Authorize Action(s) Recommended made by Michael DeLeone,
SECONDED by Robin Turner and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

Voting on Board and Commission Appointments

MOTION TO APPOINT DENNIS SAXE TO THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
BOARD made by Ms. Shaffer Bish SECONDED by Mr. Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice
vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO APPOINT KEVIN KOOGLER TO THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
BOARD made by Mr. DeLeone, SECONDED by Ms. Wallach and FAILED by a voice
vote of 2-6-0 with Mr. DeLeone and Ms. Wallach voting "Yes"

MOTION TO APPOINT VALERIE LANDIS TO THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
BOARD made by Mr. Kuhar, SECONDED by Mr. Turner and FAILED by a voice vote of
1-7-0, with Mr. Kuhar voting "Yes".

MOTION TO APPOINT ROBERT RUMMEL TO THE BOARD OF BUILDING
APPEALS made by SECONDED by and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

MOTION TO APPOINT STEVEN PROTZMAN TO THE BOARD OF ZONING
APPEALS made by SECONDED by and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

MOTION TO MOVE NAMES INTO LEGISLATION made by Mr. Turner SECONDED by
Mr. Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

**Draft No. 2021-116 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING DENNIS SAXE TO THE
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW 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. Kuahr and SECONDED
by Mr. Sidoti. On roll call, voting "Yes": Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms.
Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach. The Motion CARRIED
by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT No. 2021-116 made by Mr. Kuhar and SECONDED by Mr.
Ferrara. On roll call, voting "Yes" Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg,
Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call
vote of 8-0.

RESOLUTION 2021-116 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

**Draft No. 2021-117 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ROBERT RUMMEL TO THE
BOARD OF BUILDING APPEALS 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. Turner and SECONDED by Mr. Ferrara. On roll call, voting "Yes": Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT No. 2021-117 made by Mr. Kuhar and SECONDED by Mr. Ferrara. On roll call, voting "Yes", Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

RESOLUTION 2021-117 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Draft No. 2021-118 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING STEVEN PROTZMAN TO THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS 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 Ms. Shaffer Bish. On roll call, voting "Yes": Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT No. 2021-118 made by Ms. Shaffer Bish and SECONDED by Mr. Sidoti. On roll call, voting "Yes" Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

RESOLUTION 2021-118 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Community Development

Committee Meeting Minutes

MOTION TO APPROVE Committee Meeting Minutes from November 3, 2021 made by Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-1 with Ms. Wallach abstaining.

Actions Recommended:

1. Postpone decision on appeal from Collegiate Passion Brands (dba Kent Sportwear) until guidelines are developed for the Architecture Review Board.
2. Authorize the City to serve as administrative agent for the local historical grant application for the Liquid Crystal Institute.
3. Authorize the renewal of the Main Street Kent Contract for 2022-2024.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE POSTPONING THE ARB APPEAL DECISION made by Mr. Kuhar, SECONDED by Mr. Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 6-2-0 with Ms. Wallach and Mr. Kuhar voting "No".

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE HISTORIC GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS made by Mr. Kuhar, SECONDED by Mr. Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAIN STREET KENT CONTRACT Mr. Kuhar, SECONDED by Mr. Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0

DRAFT NO. 2021- 119 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO, AS A STATE DESIGNATED CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CLG), TO ADMINISTER A GRANT BEING SUBMITTED FROM TODD PACKER AND ASSOCIATES, LLC, TO THE OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT PROGRAM FOR FY 2022, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Authorized) was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT NO. 2021- 119 made by Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT NO. 2021- 119 MADE by John Kuhar, SECONDED by Garret Ferrara. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

ORDINANCE 2021-119 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

DRAFT NO. 2021- 120 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO RENEW THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN MAIN STREET KENT AND THE CITY OF KENT FOR ANOTHER THREE (3) YEARS TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION TO THE CITY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Authorized) was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT NO. 2021- 120 made by Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT NO. 2021- 120 MADE by Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

ORDINANCE 2021-120 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Streets, Sidewalks and Utilities

Committee Meeting Minutes

MOTION TO Approve Committee Meeting Minutes for November 3, 2021 made by Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Robin Turner and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-1.

Action(s) Recommended

1. Authorize grant funding request and acceptance for E. Main Street Project
2. Authorize grant funding request and acceptance for Hike and Bike Trail.

MOTION TO Approve Action(s) Recommended made by Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Garret Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

DRAFT NO. 2021-121 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF KENT TO SUBMIT A TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET ASIDE FUNDING APPLICATION (TASA) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$700,000 AND EXECUTE THE SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT WITH AMATS TO IMPROVE THE EAST MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, AND TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF AWARDED, WITH CORRESPONDING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Authorized) was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT NO. 2021-121 made by Robin Turner, SECONDED by Garret Ferrara. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT NO. 2021-121 MADE by Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Garret Ferrara. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

ORDINANCE 2021-121 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

DRAFT NO. 2021-122 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF KENT TO SUBMIT A TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET ASIDE FUNDING APPLICATION (TASA) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$483,100 AND EXECUTE THE SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT WITH AMATS TO DESIGN AND ACQUIRE RIGHT OF WAY FOR THE FINAL SEGMENT OF THE PORTAGE HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL, AND TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF AWARDED, WITH CORRESPONDING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Authorized) was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT NO. 2021-122 made by

Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Gwen Rosenberg. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT NO. 2021-122 MADE by John Kuhar, SECONDED by Garret Ferrara. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

ORDINANCE 2021-122 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Finance Committee

Committee Meeting Minutes

MOTION TO Approve Committee Meeting Minutes for November 3, 2021 made by Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Gwen Rosenberg and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-1.

Action(s) Recommended

1. Authorize the transfer of County tax proceeds.

MOTION TO Approve Action(s) Recommended made by Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Roger Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

DRAFT 2021- 123 A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO ADVANCE ANY PROPERTY TAXES THAT HAVE BEEN COLLECTED PRIOR TO THE NORMAL FEBRUARY SETTLEMENT DATE FROM THE PROCEEDS OF THE 2021 TAX YEAR COLLECTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 321.34 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE (Authorized) was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2021- 123 made by Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Heidi Shaffer Bish. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2021- 123 by Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

ORDINANCE 2021-123 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

New Business

Mayor Fiala called on council members for any new business.

Ms. Wallach said she liked the council agenda sign that was found and hung in council chambers, but she is looking for something that explains what happens during each meeting. Mayor Fiala said we will work on this between now and when we move into our new building.

Mr. Kuhar said animal control has been in his neighborhood due to a dog that was loose. The officer said they had come out seven times in the month of October equipped with a stick and a hoop to try to catch a large dog. He was told they did not have tranquilizer guns, nets or cages. Mr. Kuhar thought they were wasting their time and tax payer's dollars by being improperly equipped for their jobs.

MOTION TO MOVE TO COMMITTEE a discussion on how to better equip animal control with what they need to do their jobs **MADE** by Mr. Kuhar, **SECONDED** by Mr. Turner and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 5-3 with Mr. Ferrara, Ms. Rosenberg and Ms. Wallach voting "No".

Ms. Rosenberg asked if this was something the police department needed and requested and asked Chief Shearer. Chief Shearer approached the microphone and stated no requests have come through his department regarding this. They have catch poles and large cages on their trucks. He strongly opposes tranquilizer guns from a training standpoint and accuracy.

Mr. Kuhar said the animal control officer felt ill equipped to do their job. In Portage County, they were able to come out and capture animals that were loose and not waste time doing so.

Councilmembers' Comments

Mr. Sidoti thanked Mr. Turner for his involvement in the intergeneration meeting that was held on November 11th. He said most people on Council were not aware of the meeting and asked if anyone else was invited. He said he felt bad because he would have attended. Mayor Fiala said he found out about the meeting at the last minute but had another engagement and could not attend. Mr. Sidoti said he would be more than willing to act as someone to speak on behalf of community members regarding this issue.

Mr. Turner thanked the community members for taking the initiative in regards to the KSU Intergenerational Village project and making their concerns known. He

also thanked Mr. Ruller and Ms. Shaffer Bish for their participation in the matter. He said his conversation with the City Manager was very productive and he thinks everyone has been brought up to speed. He hopes for participation from residents and knows there are some things they cannot do as the authority lies outside of the City's boundaries but that we can be an advocate and represent the interests of the residents. He said there are a lot of positives in regards to having an intergenerational village, and there are things that could be done if we get participation early on. He said City Council understands that they represent its residents and does not want an adversarial relationship but instead to look for opportunities.

Ms. Shaffer Bish thanked Mr. Turner for his comments and added it is very difficult to get information out into the community, as there are very few methods to do so. The University did take contact information from participants in the meeting and she hopes we can continue to build a contact list. She feels citizen engagement is really important, especially the neighborhoods near the project but also across the city. There are people that are really interested in participating to help ensure it turns out to be a really great project with minimal negatives to the community. She said when we have engaged citizens we have better outcomes on projects.

Mr. Sidoti said we would like to see the Intergenerational Village integrated into the whole community so that it becomes part of its fabric. For that to happen, when there is potential conflict, there are opportunities like Mr. Turner mentioned that everyone would be happy. It is critical to build a better relationship with Kent State University.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Fiala announced there are multiple openings on Boards and Commissions and for councilmembers to do their duty in helping to fill those. The next filing date is November 24, 2021. He asked councilmembers to do their best to get the word out.

He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and said he knows we have been through a lot because of the virus and a few other things going on, but added there is always something to be thankful for.

Executive Session

MOTION TO Enter Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations made by Garret Ferrara. Roll call was taken.

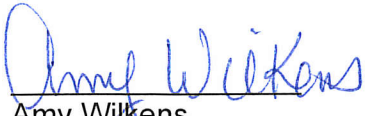
Present: Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach

Absent: Jack Amrhein

MOTION TO RETURN TO THE REGULAR MEETING made by Ms. Rosenberg, SECONDED by Mr. Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF KENT AND THE OHIO PATROLMEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION (OPBA), and THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (AFSCME), OHIO COUNCIL 8, LOCAL 379, AFL-CIO MADE by Mr. Ferrara, SECONDED by Mr. Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.


Amy Wilkens
Clerk of Council


Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor & President of Council

Any person who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or a modification of policies and procedures to participate in any City or City Council public meeting or event should contact the Clerk of Council at 330-676-7555 or councilclerk@kent-ohio.org. Any request for auxiliary aid or other accommodation should be made as soon as possible, but no later than forty-eight hours prior to the event.