



City of Kent
Wednesday, December 15, 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.

Present: Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, 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; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Ms. Joan Seidel, Health Commissioner; Ms. Rhonda Hall, Budget and Finance Director (Remote); Mr. Bill Myers, Fire Chief; Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council

Opening Remarks and Pledge of Allegiance- Mr. DeLeone

Mr. DeLeone wished everyone a happy holiday and asked them to be safe. He then asked that all stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION TO Approve Minutes from Nov. 17, 2021 & Dec. 1, 2021 made by Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Gwen Rosenberg and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Communications

Public Comment:

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 you to give your name and address and limit comments to three (3) minutes.”

Clerk Wilkens called the first speaker to the podium, Ms. Diane Smith.

Ms. Smith, a reporter for the Record Courier, notified councilmembers the previous reporter, Kaitlyn McGarvey has left the Record Courier for a new job. Ms. Smith wanted to clear up any confusion due the offices on Main Street becoming a church. She emphasized the reporters are working out of their homes and are not being moved to Akron, but may be moving to a smaller office in Ravenna. She added that Katelyn will be replaced. Ms. Smith commented that Katelyn loved her job but she was not paid a living wage and if this continues, this position will become a revolving door and a training ground. They are passionate about local news and saving these jobs.

Clerk Wilkens introduced Dr. Geraldine Hayes Nelson as the next public comment.

Dr. Hayes Nelson introduced herself to council and referenced her comments previously emailed to them (**attachment #1**) providing a background of why she is before them today. She is standing up as a proud member of the city and a retired Kent State University Administrator. She says it is time for the community to move the needle so that all voices are heard. There is a need for a commission on inclusion to provide active voices to face systemic racism. Her involvement in various roles in the community was to give children an opportunity to see someone that looks like them in leadership roles. She is asking for there to be some consideration by council to listen and to grow and educate and plant roots so everyone can grow and feel welcome.

Clerk Wilkens called the next resident to the podium, Ms. Jennifer Case. Ms. Case introduced herself to council and read from a prepared statement (**attachment #2**).

Clerk Wilkens introduced the next speaker, Ms. Renee Ruchotzke.

Ms. Ruchotzke began her comments by affirming her support of the anti-racism commission. She works for a national religious institution that had good intentions of being good anti-racist, white people but discovered we were an awful place for black and brown people to work in their institution. The governing board established a commission to look at their organization through the same lens as the NAACP. Five years in and it's been transformational. She is on a hiring team that created a level playing field and hiring a candidate who is a queer, indigenous person twenty years younger than her. She is learning so much from this person and it has made her better at her job. Good intentions are not enough for her institution, but they needed to be intentional, and a commission is what made it happen. She hopes council considers it as well.

Clerk Wilkens called Ms. Nancy Warlop to speak next.

Ms. Warlop introduced herself to council as a representative for the Kent Interfaith Alliance for Inter-Racial Reconciliation and Justice. She is in support of establishing a commission on racial justice. Over the past year and a half, we have all been witness to

displays of racial hatred and to not talk about it is to condone it. She referenced council's adoption of Resolution 2020-60 in July of 2020, affirming that black lives matter and that the City of Kent is committed to condemning racism. She said the resolution has lovely words with good intent, but without action, they just remain words on paper. In October 2020, the Kent Inter Faith Alliance addressed a letter to City Council saying racism exists in Kent and policies and practices need examined. She encouraged council to create a commission to nurture the roots of the city. She said to actualize the resolution, a commission needs to be created to address the needs in Kent to make it a more welcoming place.

Clerk Wilkens called Mr. Lee Brooker to speak next.

Mr. Lee Brooker stated he encourages Dr. Nelson's initiative and appreciates the Council's work. He asked for city council to discuss and create a commission tonight.

Clerk Wilkens called Mr. John Thomas to speak next.

Mr. Thomas introduced himself to city council and said he was before council to speak about the intergeneration village. He is asking council and the City of Kent to try to establish a partnership including Kent State University to establish a land conservatorship which would include the land of the proposed intergenerational village. He asks them to begin discussions with the university because the council is the only body that can be appealed to in a public forum to begin to give ideas to. He said everytime he thinks about what might occur, he is reminded of the song by Joni Mitchell that states "...hey farmer, farmer, put up a parking lot". It still rings true today, fifty years later.

Clerk Wilkens called Eric Nichols to the microphone.

Mr. Nichols said printouts were distributed (prior to the meeting) that showed the results of a survey sent to all of his neighbors after the previous council meeting. He said the results show that overwhelmingly everyone is very concerned about the issues around the environment and the project of the intergenerational village and is currently working to form a community group to improve communication.

Clerk Wilkens introduced Ms. Wendy Yuzik to speak next.

Ms. Yuzik introduced herself to city council and spoke from a prepared statement (**attachment #3**).

Clerk Wilkens introduced Mr. Brian Kollat to the microphone.

Mr. Kollat introduced himself to city council as a resident who lives on North Water Street. He has lived there ten years and lately parking has become an issue. Up until recently, there was a small lot on Portage Street that residents were able to park with a permit. There are now six to eight spaces on North Water they use. He is asking for city council to consider allowing people to park in these spots during the day without the two-hour restriction. Many have been ticketed.

Clerk Wilkens called Nathan Borukhovsky to speak next.

Mr. Borukhovsky lives in the same building as the previous speaker and has received several tickets that have been dismissed by the police department. The issue is that none of the residents have typical 9 to 5 jobs and their vehicles are parked outside of the building during the day. It is a major inconvenience to set an alarm to move your vehicle every two hours. They all frequent the local businesses and state those parking spaces do not affect those businesses during the day and they would have no issues with them being able to park there. He says he loves living where he does and just wants to be able to park where he lives without these restrictions. They are requesting their current permits to allow overnight parking and cover the two-hour parking ordinance during the day.

There were no further speakers for public comment.

Written Communication (All placed on file in the Clerk of Council's office):

1. Standing Rock November Meeting Minutes and December Meeting Agenda were received on December 1, 2021.
2. Email received on December 7, 2021 from Mr. Dennis Saxe, thanking City Council for his appointment to the Architectural Review Board and endorsing the reappointment of Kevin Koogler to the board. This email was forwarded to Council members on December 8, 2021.

Communication Received after the Agenda was Published:

1. Parks and Recreation November Board Packet was received on December 10, 2021.
2. Letter from Dr. Geraldine Nelson regarding the possibility of the City exploring a standing commission to address systemic racism was received and forwarded to Council on December 15, 2021.
3. Email from Eric Nichols, President of Eric Does Data, LLC, regarding survey results collected on the KSU Intergenerational Village project received and forwarded to Council on December 15, 2021.
4. Email from the following residents in support of creating a commission to examine racism in Kent was received on December 15, 2021 and all forwarded to City Council: Kathy Kerns, Iris Meltzer, Lee Brooker, Rick Hawksley, Pam Quellhorst, and Barbara Hanniford
5. Liquor License Transfer request was received on December 15, 2021 for Pit Stop Pub LLC DBA Pit Stop Pub at 164 Cherry St., Kent. Chief Shearer had no objections.

MOTION TO RETURN THE LIQUOR LICENSE WITH NO OBJECTIONS made by Mr. Kuhar, SECONDED by Mr. DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

City Manager's Report

1. Request for Committee of the Whole time for Council to interview applicants for vacant Board and Commission positions.
2. Request for Committee of the Whole time to allow Council to organize and appoint the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Council Committees.
3. The City Manager has requested the Committee of the Whole time to provide Council with an update of the Pending List.
4. Request for Health and Safety Committee time for Council to accept the petition from Sensible Kent and authorize the County Board of Elections to place the marijuana initiative on the next ballot in May 2022.
5. Request for Health and Safety Committee time for Council to consider updates to the City's food truck regulations.
6. Request for Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee time to provide a summary of the public meetings on the design and safety features of the East Main Street Improvement Project and outline the next steps in the project.
7. Request for Finance Committee time to present recommendations to update the City's parks and recreation fee Ordinance.
8. Request for Finance Committee time to present an update to the City's fire services contract with the Franklin Township.

MOTION TO APPROVE the City Manager's Report made by Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Garret Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Standing Committees & Legislation

Committee of the Whole

Committee Meeting Minute Approval

MOTION TO Approve Committee Meeting Minutes for November 17, 2021 & December 1, 2021 made by Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Roger Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Action(s) Recommended: NONE

Voting on Board and Commission Appointments

MOTION TO SUSPEND VOTING TO APPOINT THE FINAL MEMBER OF THE ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD UNTIL CHANGES TO THE BOARD ARE FINALIZED made by Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Robin Turner and CARRIED by a

voice vote of 8-1-0 with Ms. Wallach voting "No".

MOTION TO APPOINT ANDREW SCHOLL TO THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MADE by Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Jack Amrhein and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Insertion of Names into Legislation

MOTION TO Authorize Insertion of Names into Legislation made by Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Heidi Shaffer Bish and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

DRAFT 2021-126 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING _____ to the Architectural Review Board was not read nor voted on due to a previous motion made by Mr. Sidoti.

DRAFT 2021-127 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ANDREW SCHOLL TO THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2021-127 made by Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by John Kuhar. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2021-127 MADE by Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by John Kuhar. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

Resolution 2021-127 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

DRAFT 2021-128 A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE CITY OF KENT MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF DAVID SMEILES TO THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA HOUSING COUNCIL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2021-128 made by John Kuhar, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2021-128 MADE by John Kuhar, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

Resolution 2021-128 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

DRAFT 2021-129 AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING THE CITY OF KENT MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF ANNETTE PETRANIC TO THE FRANKLIN-KENT JEDD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2021-129 made by John Kuhar, SECONDED by Gwen Rosenberg. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2021-129 MADE by John Kuhar, SECONDED by Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

Ordinance 2021-129 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Community Development

Chair Kuhar opened the Community Development Committee meeting.

Committee Meeting Minute Approval

MOTION TO Approve Committee Meeting Minutes and Actions Recommended for December 1, 2021, made by Robin Turner, SECONDED by John Kuhar and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Action Recommended:

1. Accept the Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report as presented

Streets, Sidewalks and Utilities

Chair Sidoti called the Streets, Sidewalks and Utilities Committee to order.

Committee Meeting Minute Approval

MOTION TO APPROVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES AND ACTIONS RECOMMENDED for December 1, 2021 made by Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Action(s) Recommended:

1. Authorize the application and allocation of State ARPA funds in the amount of \$1,391,300 for use in the repair and replacement of equipment at the City's water reclamation facility.

DRAFT 2021- 130 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF KENT TO SUBMIT A PHASE I BUILDS GRANT REQUEST TO FUND THE WRF FINAL CLARIFIER REHABILITATION PROJECT – PHASE I, TOTALING \$1,391,300, TO EXECUTE THE SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO AND TO ACCEPT THE GRANT WITH CORRESPONDING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2021- 130 made by John Kuhar, SECONDED by Garret Ferrara. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2021- 130 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CI MADE by John Kuhar, SECONDED by Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

Ordinance 2021-130 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Finance Committee

Chair DeLeone opened the Finance Committee meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Committee Meeting Minutes Approval

MOTION TO Approve Committee Meeting Minutes and Recommended Actions for November 17, 2021 & December 1, 2021 made by Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Garret Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Action(s) Recommended:

1. Authorize the renewal of the Portage County Public Defender's contract for 2022.
2. Authorize the proposed 2022 City Operating budget, including the 3% water and 3% sewer rate increases.
3. Approve the 2021 budget appropriations amendments.
4. Authorize the final year end reconciliation.
5. Approve of the "then and now" purchases in 2021.
6. Authorize the surplus City property sale at auction or trade in.

DRAFT 2021-131 AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING DEPOSITORIES 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 OF DRAFT 2021-131 made by Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Garret Ferrara. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2021-131 MADE by Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

Ordinance 2021-131 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

DRAFT 2021-132 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF KENT, WITH THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, PORTAGE COUNTY, FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL COUNSEL TO INDIGENT PERSONS CHARGED WITH POTENTIAL PENALTY OF INCARCERATION FOR OFFENSES COMMITTED IN VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCES OF SAID CITY FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022 was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2021-132 made by Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2021-132 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY M MADE by Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Garret Ferrara. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

Ordinance 2021-132 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

DRAFT 2021-133 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING 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, 2022, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2021-133 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE VARI made by Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2021-133 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE VARI MADE by Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

Ordinance 2021-133 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

DRAFT 2021-134 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 913.05 OF THE KENT CODIFIED ORDINANCES, INCREASING THE WATER RATES OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO BY THREE PERCENT (3%) BEGINNING WITH THE FIRST BILLING CYCLE IN JANUARY, 2022, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2021-134 made by Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2021-134 A MADE by Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

Ordinance 2021-134 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

DRAFT 2021-135 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 915.72 OF THE KENT CODIFIED ORDINANCES, INCREASING THE SEWER RATES OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO BY THREE PERCENT (3%) BEGINNING WITH THE FIRST BILLING CYCLE IN JANUARY, 2022, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2021-135 Amade by Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2021-135 MADE by Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

Ordinance 2021-135 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

DRAFT 2021-136 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR, UPON THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, TO PAY CERTAIN PURCHASE ORDERS MADE THAT EXCEED \$3000.00; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2021-136 made by John Kuhar, SECONDED by Garret Ferrara. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2021-136 MADE by John Kuhar, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara,

John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

Ordinance 2021-136 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

DRAFT 2021-137 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY NOT NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES BY A LIVE AUCTIONEER PURSUANT TO SECTION 721.15 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF 2021-137 made by John Kuhar, SECONDED by Garret Ferrara. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

MOTION TO ADOPT 2021-137 SURPLUS PROPERTY SALE AT AUCTION MADE by John Kuhar, SECONDED by Garret Ferrara. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

Ordinance 2021-137 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

DRAFT 2021-138 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2020-126 THE POSITION ALLOCATION AND GENERAL COMPENSATION PLAN, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2021-138 made by Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2021-138 MADE by Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

Ordinance 2021-138 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

DRAFT 2021-139 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 OF DRAFT 2021-139 made by John Kuhar, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2021-139 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO MADE by Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

Ordinance 2021-139 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

DRAFT 2021-140 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO ENTER INTO A NEW CONTRACT WITH PORTAGE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT FOR THE COLLECTION OF RECYCLABLES IN THE CITY OF KENT, WITHOUT COMPETITIVE BIDDING; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2021-140 made by Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Garret Ferrara. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2021-140 MADE by Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach. Mr. Kuhar voted "NO".

Mr. Kuhar stated he was voting against it due to already receiving complaints from residents. He does not think it is a benefit to the community.

Ordinance 2021-140 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Unfinished Business

Ms. Shaffer Bish said there is unfinished business from a past meeting and made a motion to move to committee a discussion of creating an anti-racism commission. Ms. Shaffer Bish says that she understands there are decisions to be made about it and it just cannot be created without discussing these things first. The number of people on the commission, the process of selection, their charge all need to be discussed. She definitely supports this commission but feels there is a lot to be discussed.

Mr. DeLeone agreed with Ms. Shaffer Bish that this is unfinished business.

Ms. Wallach asked to amend this motion to put it into committee in January or February SECONDED by Mr. Turner and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0.

Mr. Turner likes the idea of calling it an inclusion committee. It is a much better vision to give to the community what we are trying to accomplish and doing so in a much more positive fashion. It will be helpful in helping us identify what we are trying to do, and there are issues, but it is a much more positive way of going about it.

Mr. Sidoti says he agrees with most everything that was said tonight and says Dr. Nelson's letter was outstanding until we got to the vision. He doesn't believe there is a vision, and that's part of the reason we would put it into committee, to have a discussion on its vision. The recommendations listed in her letter are pretty top heavy and when we get into committee we can discuss these things. The ideal of inclusivity and what that actually is needs to be discussed, not just in hiring practices, but interaction with one another is critical and needs to be part of the conversation. He believes this is a great opportunity. He knows it will be difficult and, hopefully, will allow people to be honest and forthright and really communicate effectively.

Mr. Kuhar commented he has lived in Kent his whole life and has lived through some of the rough, racial times. In the country where other places were having problems, we didn't have those. He thought we were doing okay and the last thing we needed was another commission. He started listening to people and not everybody treats people the way he does. He said we have an abundance of good things but there maybe things that need addressed.

Mayor Fiala returned to the original motion made by Ms. Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Mr. DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0.

Ms. Wallach said a really good friend of hers is African American and notices a difference in how they are treated when they go out. She never saw it from her friend's point of view but rather from her own white privilege. Every time she leaves the house, her friends has to worry about what other people think of her and if she is in a store being accused of stealing. She said this really needs to be discussed.

Mr. Sidoti read a great book "Caste" that he highly recommends . He said it forces you to look at yourself first and it's about inclusivity.

Mr. Turner pointed out that the inclusivity aspect he gives great credit to Dr. Hayes Nelson of moving in that direction. He wants everyone to understand there will be bumps in the road. We have to be willing to identify the areas that need to be addressed. There will be issues we disagree on, but it is an opportunity. Tough questions need to be answered but this is a strong enough community to tackle these challenges. He is looking forward to it and thanked the citizens of Kent for pushing this forward.

Mayor Fiala said Ms. Wallach originally brought this to council and he and Mr. Ruller had been talking about it for some time. There are many things we are already working on and he thinks it will be good to sit down and identify where we are on these issues. He said that due to the Organization of Council being discussed in January, this item would be taken up at the February Committee Meeting.

There were no other items of unfinished business.

New Business

MOTION TO SEND TO COMMITTEE A DISCUSSION REGARDING PARKING ON PORTAGE STREET made by Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Jack Amrhein.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said she thinks it is wise to put this issue into a committee discussion to hear how residents are impacted by this.

Mr. Sidoti added it would be nice to hear how many spots are available, how many are taken. We need to have the data to make an intelligent decision.

Mr. Ferrara said it may not be worthy of Council committee time and that the administration can handle the issue. He does not believe this should come before Council. He does not feel it is the Council's job to count parking spaces.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said there does not have to be a long discussion. It should be a report from staff as well as residents input to see what their recommendation is to move forward on this.

Mr. Ferrara said it's an issue between the landlord and the tenant. If that is the root of the problem, we'd be hearing this all the time. We can't have a committee meeting every time an issue comes up. There is an internal Traffic Committee.

Mr. DeLeone asked if there still was a Parking Action Committee. David Ruller replied there is an internal TE&S Committee which includes the Police Chief, Bridget Susel and David Ruller and various Department Heads who evaluate parking requests as they come in, and then they make a recommendation to council.

Ms. Rosenberg asked if we could ask for a recommendation from the TE&S Committee. Mayor Fiala said it would be faster to go through the Administration.

Ms. Shaffer Bish asked when Council would hear the recommendation and if it is something that is done publicly. She wanted it to be discussed in Committee so it would be public.

Ms. Bridget Susel said if it goes to TE&S for a recommendation they can present the recommendation to Council, which would be a change to the Parking Ordinance.

Ms. Wallach stated she would like to amend the motion by recommending referring this to TE&S and for them to come back and present it to committee. Mr. DeLeone seconded the motion. Mr. Kuhar said if this is the amendment, that there should be a timeline put on it.

Mayor Fiala asked to return to a vote on the main motion. Mr. Ferrara said the amendment is counter to the main motion, so we would need to vote the main motion down.

Ms. Hope Jones said the way the amendment went that Mr. Ferrara is correct. Council should vote on Ms. Shaffer Bish's amendment first and then allow Ms. Wallach to make a separate motion.

Ms. Wallach withdrew her amendment to the Motion.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said she was happy to withdraw her original motion because it will be discussed and that was the whole point of her motion.

MOTION TO SEND TO TE&S COMMITTEE FOR A RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL made by Tracy Wallach, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-1, with Mr. Kuhar abstaining.

Swearing in of Elected Officials

Mayor Fiala congratulated the three At-Large councilmembers for winning their election. Ms. Hope Jones swore in Mr. Michael DeLeone, Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, and Mr. Sidoti for another four-year term on City Council.

Mr. Sidoti encouraged members of the public to run for City Council, as all three At-Large members ran unopposed.

Next, Mayor Jerry T. Fiala was sworn in by Law Director, Ms. Hope Jones as Mayor and President of Council for the city of Kent for another four-year term.

Mayor Fiala stated this was his fourth term as Mayor and encouraged the residents of Kent to run for public office.

Councilmembers' Comments

Ms. Shaffer Bish wanted to speak on the issue of housing in Kent. We've had numerous discussions with KSU on housing over several years. She was excited about the intergenerational village when it came up and said it's important to listen to the concerns of the neighbors and that we think better together. The idea of land conservatorship is a new way of looking at it and an example of innovative thinking. She added that it is really important to expand housing choices in the city and it is hard for some to find housing in the area. She added she is going to continue to look for an expansion of affordable housing and that it is something we need to understand as a community. We had a housing study done and it found there is a lack in Kent. There are multiple sides to the issue and she really hopes we can embrace the idea that Kent has become a community people want to live in.

Mr. Turner said there was another issue which goes beyond housing in Kent. How we build relationships with Kent State University makes us what we are. We are going to have to do a better job with the town to gown communication and not be too cynical about the university. He referenced Harry Truman who

said "...imagine if we got rid of cynicism what a world this would be." He said communication is huge and we have an opportunity to do something. We have to have a partnership and work with the university. We have to get beyond negativism and those things that can bind us up and stop us from moving forward. He hopes we can begin doing so in the new year. Inclusion, working with the university.

Ms. Rosenberg said our health care workers are maxed out, our hospitals are full and we are working toward a million people dying of Covid. We have vaccines available and a booster that is incredibly effective. The new variant coming through is highly contagious and added science is there to protect our lives. She would like to see everyone have a healthy and happy new year and part of that is getting a booster shot. She thanked health care workers for doing an incredibly difficult job.

Mr. Ferrara said we have one of the top ten gems, the leader of Kent Roosevelt Bands and Orchestra, Mr. Roebke. He encouraged those who could attend a lunch performance on Friday. The Christmas Pops Orchestra will be performing. He wished everybody a happy holiday.

Mr. Sidoti said he hired Dr. Roebke. He piggybacked on Mr. Turner's comments in regards to the Intergenerational Village meeting held on Monday night. As representatives of the community, we try to put ourselves in the shoes of the community, but in all the years of interacting with KSU, he left the meeting feeling they were being as transparent as possible. It gets frustrating and he can't imagine the negative issues that come from people who have worked there. He feels at this point, KSU may have had communication missteps but they weren't intentional. The master plan was put out four years ago and the intergenerational village was a part of that. There was a lot to take in and may have been missed with all of the changes. He said KSU did a good job of acknowledging their missteps in communication. More conversations are needed and there have been questions about the impact on the neighborhood affected. He said having difficult conversations in a caring way is what we need to do. He wished everyone a happy and safe holiday.

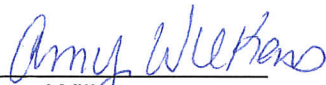
Mr. Kuhar asked Council in the coming years to keep our eyes and ears open, not only to out-of-town money that comes in to build the big buildings, but to keep our eyes and ears open to all of the people of Kent, from the meekest to the wealthiest and that's how you integrate a community. He wished everyone a happy holiday and to please be safe, that the virus is still here.

Mayor's Report

The staff and Council have been working very hard to complete the City Hall project. Mr. Ruller provided a written statement to Mayor Fiala that said we have signed the contract for the City Hall today. Mayor Fiala continued his report by adding that we are in the season of believing. He asked everyone to respect how everyone celebrates in their own way. It may be Christmas or Hanukah or, however they celebrate, but to respect how people celebrate. He gave Clerk

Wilkins a card and a gift from the Council and she thanked them all. Mayor Fiala wished everyone a happy holiday.

Adjourn



Amy Wilkins
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.