



City of Kent
Wednesday, January 19, 2022
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: Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara (7:35 p.m.), John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach

Also Present: Mr. Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor and President of Council; Mr. Dave Ruller, City Manager; Ms. Bridget Susel, Community Development Director; Ms. Melanie Baker, Service Director; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Ms. Joan Seidel, Health Commissioner; Ms. Rhonda Hall, Budget and Finance Director; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Mr. Bill Myers, Fire Chief; Ms. Suzanne Stemnock, HR Manager; Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council

MOTION TO EXCUSE Mr. Ferrara MADE by John Kuhar, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0. Mr. Ferrara arrived at 7:35, shortly after roll call was taken.

Opening Remarks and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Sidoti opened his remarks by noting this is the first meeting of 2022 and said that after the fourteen to sixteen inches of snow, he thought the city's crew did a "heck of a job". He said it's not an easy job and it isn't perfect, but he thought they did a great job. He then commended the Health Department for the yeomen's work and, being understaffed, he is not sure everyone is aware of all that the Health Department does. He applauded KSU for setting aside the Intergenerational Village. He thinks they operate with integrity and hopes they will reintroduce it at some point in the future, with a lot of citizen input. He is excited about the new city hall and thinks everyone in the community should be pleased about this. He loves the fact the Police Station, Fire Station and City Hall will all be on the same campus and that this sets our city apart from a lot of cities the size of Kent. Lastly, he added that he hopes a lot of young citizens remember senior citizens in their neighborhoods and ask them to check in on them, especially when it snows and gets cold. A lot of them are trapped in their homes and a simple phone call goes a long way. He then asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION TO Approve December 15, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes made by Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Gwen Rosenberg and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Communications

Public Comment:

Mayor Fiala asked Clerk Wilkens if there were any members of the public signed in to speak to Council. Clerk Wilkens replied there were no visitors who signed in this evening.

Written Communication:

All Written Communication was read into the meeting minutes by Clerk Wilkens.

1. Civil Service Commission Meeting Agenda for December 20, 2021 was received on December 16, 2021.
2. Email from Christine Richter regarding parking on N. Water Street was received and forwarded to Council on December 28, 2021.
3. Email from Heather Phile notifying the Council about the Architecture Review Board meeting for January 4, 2022 being canceled received and forward to Council on January 3, 2022.
4. Email from Barb Hipsman Springer supporting Kathleen Endres for the Committee on Design and Preservation was received and forwarded to Council on January 3, 2022.
5. Email from Doug Fuller regarding his qualifications for the Committee on Design and Preservation was received and forwarded to Council on January 3, 2022.
6. Planning Commission Agenda and Staff Report for the meeting being held on January 18, 2022 was received on January 5, 2022.
7. Health Board Meeting Minutes from November 2021 and the Agenda for the meeting on January 11, 2022 was received on January 6, 2022.

City Manager's Report:

1. Request Council's authorization to submit a Brownfields Remediation Grant to the Ohio Department of Development to continue site assessment and remediation work in the vicinity of the former Triangle Cleaners property on Gougler Ave. (Draft 2022-002)
2. Request Council's authorization to submit a NOPEC Event Funding Application, and allocation, if approved, for \$2,000 to be used to support the Chamber of Commerce Heritage Festival in 2022 (Draft 2022-007)
3. Request Council's authorization to accept a \$2,000 donation to Kent Parks & Recreation from the Henry V. and Frances W. Christenson Foundation (Draft 2022-008)
4. Request Council's authorization to accept a \$25 donation to Kent Parks and Recreation to support Kent's youth programs (Draft 2022-009)

5. Request Committee of the Whole time to discuss the NAACP request to form a new Race and Inclusion Committee.
6. Request Committee of the Whole time to discuss updating the City of Kent flag.
7. Request Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee time to update Council on the public input received for the East Main Street Transportation Improvement Project.
8. Request Community Development Committee time to present the City's annual Economic Development report for 2021.

MOTION TO Approve City Manager's Report MADE BY Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Standing Committees and Legislation

Committee of the Whole Chair Mayor Fiala:

MOTION TO Approve the Committee Meeting Minutes from January 5, made by Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Roger Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-1 with Gwen Rosenberg abstaining.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ACTIONS RECOMMENDED MADE BY Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Roger Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Action(s) Recommended:

Authorize the removal of the following items from City Council's Pending List

1. Four Way Stop Signs Downtown; Study of Pedestrian Safety
2. Permit for Partial Parcel Usage without Purchase
3. Senior Housing
4. Sidewalk Upkeep Discussion
5. Feral Cat Discussion
6. Council Employee Performance Review Process Revision

Voting for Boards and Commissions

MOTION TO APPOINT Kathleen Endres to the Committee on Design and Preservation made by Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by John Kuhar and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO APPOINT Allan Orashan to the Committee on Design and Preservation made by Tracy Wallach, SECONDED by Heidi Shaffer Bish and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO APPOINT Marc Weisman to the Committee on Design and Preservation made by John Kuhar SECONDED by Tracy Wallach and

CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-2-0 with Roger Sidoti and Robin Turner voting 'No'.

Authorization to Insert Names into Legislation

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE INSERTION OF NAMES INTO LEGISLATION made by Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Garret Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Mr. Turner asked if we reached the threshold of filling all three vacancies if we were done with motions to vote on. Mayor Fiala and Clerk Wilkens confirmed that was correct.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said there were a lot of qualified applicants that made it difficult to choose.

DRAFT NO. 2022-001 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING KATHLEEN ENDRES, ALLAN ORASHAN AND MARK WEISMAN TO THE COMMITTEE ON DESIGN AND PRESERVATION 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 NO. 2022-001 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. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT NO. 2022-001 MADE by John Kuhar, SECONDED by Heidi Shaffer Bish. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Robin Turner, Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

Resolution 2022-001 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Community Development- Chair Kuhar/Vice-Chair Rosenberg
No Committee Meeting Minutes to approve.

No Recommended Actions to approve.

Draft No. 2022-002 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF KENT TO SUBMIT A GRANT FUNDING APPLICATION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT (ODOD) FOR BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION PROJECTS AND TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF AWARDED, AND EXECUTE THE SUBSEQUENT GRANT AGREEMENT 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 No. 2022-002

MADE by Garret Ferrara, 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. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft No. 2022-002 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. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

Ordinance 2022-002 PAas stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Health & Safety Committee Chair Amrhein/ Vice-Chair Sidoti:

MOTION TO APPROVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FROM JANUARY

5, 2022 made by Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-1, with Gwen Rosenberg abstaining.

MOTION TO Approve Action(s) Recommended made by Jack Amrhein,

SECONDED by Garret Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-1, with Mr. Kuhar absaining.

Action(s) Recommended:

1. Authorize forwarding the marijuana initiative petition to the County Board of Election for the November election.
2. Authorize the proposed updates to the City's Food Truck Regulations.

Draft No. 2022- 003 AN ORDINANCE SUBMITTING A PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT TO THE ELECTORATE AT THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE 8th DAY OF NOVEMBBER, 2022, AS SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE XI, SECTION 11.05 OF THE KENT CITY CHARTER, 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 No. 2022-

003 MADE by Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Heidi Shaffer Bish. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft No. 2022- 003 MADE by Garret Ferrara,

SECONDED by Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Garret Ferrara, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner,

Tracy Wallach. Voting "No": Mr. DeLeone and Abstaining Mr. Kuhar.

Mr. DeLeone asked if there was a reason we are doing this in November and not sooner. Ms. Wallach replied that is when the general election occurs. There were a few inaudible comments from members of the Council.

Ordinance 2022-003 has passed as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Draft No. 2022- 004 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7, TITLED "BUSINESS REGULATION CODE" TO ENACT A NEW SECTION 744 TITLED "MOBILE FOOD UNIT REGULATIONS" AND TO AMEND THE TITLE OF THE CHAPTER, 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 No. 2022-004 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. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft No. 2022- 004 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. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

Mayor Fiala suggested Mr. DeLeone read the previous meeting minutes that would explain why the first ordinance is going out in November.

Ordinance 2022-004 has PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Streets, Sidewalks and Utilities Chair Sidoti/ Vice-Chair Wallach

MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES from January 5, 2022 MADE by Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-1 with Gwen Rosenberg abstaining.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS MADE by Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Heidi Shaffer Bish and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-2 with John Kuhar and Gwen Rosenberg abstaining.

Action(s) Recommended:

1. Approve N. Water Street TES Parking Recommendation.

Draft 2022- 005 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 353.02 AND 353.03 OF "PART THREE - TRAFFIC CODE" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF KENT TO CHANGE THE LOCATION OF THE AREA DESIGNATED FOR THE OVERNIGHT PARKING PROGRAM, 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 2022- 005 made by Heidi Shaffer Bish, 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. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft 2022- 005 MADE by Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0-1 with Mr. Kuhar abstaining.

Ordinance 2022-005 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Finance Committee (Chair DeLeone/ Vice-Chair Wallach):

MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES for January 5, 2022 MADE by Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Garret Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-1, with Gwen Rosenberg abstaining.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS MADE by Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Jack Amrhein and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-1 with Gwen Rosenberg abstaining.

Action(s) Recommended

1. Approve the revised Franklin Township Fire Service Contract.

Draft No. 2022-006 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO A NEW FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, 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 No. 2022- 006 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. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft No. 2022-006 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. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0.

Ordinance 2022-006 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Draft No. 2022- 007 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT THE

NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) 2022 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 OF Draft No. 2022-

007 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. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft No. 2022- 007 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. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

ORDINANCE 2022-007 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Draft No. 2022-008 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000.00 TO THE CITY OF KENT PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT FROM THE HENRY V. AND FRANCES W. CHRISTENSON FOUNDATION FOR KENT PARKS AND RECREATION BEAUTIFICATION, 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 No. 2022-

008 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. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft No. 2022-008 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. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0.

ORDINANCE 2022-008 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Draft No. 2022-009 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25.00 TO THE CITY OF KENT PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR THE VARIOUS PROGRAMMING OFFERED TO THE YOUTH POPULATION, 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 No. 2022-

009 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. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft No. 2022-009 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. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0.

ORDINANCE 2022-009 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Ms. Rosenberg thanked all of the donors to the Kent Parks and Rec and said it means a lot, is very important and is appreciated. She thanked the donors.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Sidoti wanted to go back to the topic of boards and commissions and said, concerning the vacancies remaining, that with the COVID pandemic, he has a hunch people may be reluctant to apply. He doesn't want anyone to feel discouraged about filling these vacancies. He added that Mr. Fuller has stood before Council multiple times and suggested extending an invitation to apply to the Planning Commission. Mr. Sidoti said he was at the Planning Commission last night, and they were down to three people.

New Business

Mr. Kuhar said that we work so hard to keep the sidewalks clear of snow, but the snow we received this past week really put bad conditions on the sidewalks. He noticed on East Main Street that almost every business had a six-foot pile of snow on the sidewalk. He is not sure what we could do to help and if the machine we have could even handle it. He said something needs to be done to get the sidewalks clean.

Ms. Shaffer Bish spoke next by stating she was driving to work in the Township part of East Main Street and six people were walking in the street because there was no other place to walk. **MOTION TO SEND TO ADMINISTRATION A DISCUSSION WITH FRANKLIN TWP REGARDING SIDEWALK SAFETY ISSUES FOR PEDESTRIANS DURING MAJOR SNOW EVENTS** MADE by Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Ms. Wallach and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-2-0 with Mr. Ferrara and Mr Sidoti voting "No".

Ms. Shaffer Bish added that these major snow events are pretty rare and, as Mr. Kuhar stated, we still have problems in the City with compliance. She was thinking that in situations like this, we might want to close a lane and mark it for pedestrians only. She said there is nowhere for people to walk. She wants to see a discussion about the area becoming more pedestrian friendly and how we deal with the sidewalks during major snow events. She said this is an urgent matter to be dealt with now.

Ms. Wallach added that we have been dealing with snow on sidewalks for years and it is still a problem. She would like to discuss it more.

Mr. Turner said the City has a requirement that businesses can't block access to the sidewalk and this still appears to be happening. With people walking in the street, it's not going to be long before someone is seriously injured or killed. Every time this happens, we reduce our odds. He said we really have to start looking at doing something to

reduce this risk.

Mr. DeLeone said the snow we had this past weekend was probably the worst snow he has ever plowed. He said you can't criticize efforts two days after the event. He thinks talking with the Township is a good idea, but we are just like everyone else. The Township is understaffed, we have people off and it is a bad time of the year. The snow will melt and he knows everyone has been working hard. He asked everyone to give them a little time, as it had only been two days since the big snow fell.

Mr. Kuhar said that Drug Mart is in Kent and Acme is in Franklin Twp. and that is not contiguous. You just need to run a plow truck and push it into the streets and then salt it.

Mr. Turner said he wanted to point out that this isn't a criticism of the City or the Township, but instead an acknowledgement that we have a problem and that we should be discussing it before something happens. We all understand this was an unusual event and could happen and maybe we should have some contingencies available to deal with it. He added we still have a problem in that we are not enforcing the requirement for businesses blocking the sidewalk. He said he was pleased when he talked to Service Director, Melanie Baker, who jumped right on it.

Mayor Fiala asked for clarification if Ms. Shaffer Bish was referring to an issue with the Township, or with the City, as both are being discussed.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said she thinks it is an issue for both but there may be different discussions. She said it is not necessary for the administration to bring it back to Council to discuss, unless they have some ideas that we would need to enact. She is asking the City to discuss this with the Township over mutual issues of providing safety to the public in a walkable community.

Mr. Ferrara said we are simply "spinning our wheels" talking about this. We would be better served in putting effort into convincing people to take PARTA, because the roads are clear and everyone that lives in Kent subsidizes PARTA. We are better off asking people to take the bus during these times. This always becomes a lengthy discussion and you are not going to beat mother nature because we do not have the manpower, resources or the money to address this. He said he is going to vote against the motion because the reality is it is time-consuming for staff and after 22 years we have not made much headway on the issue. He added that clearing a lane in the street is the worst idea in the world because 99% of the drivers will not get the message the lane is closed for pedestrians. It would be like Death Race 2000 where people would be mowed down in the streets.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said she needed to contest the PARTA comment, asking how people would get to the bus stop. You walk to a bus stop, so you need pedestrian access.

Ms. Wallach called point of order and said we are supposed to be discussing whether to put this into committee. The Mayor called the vote.

Mayor Fiala asked about the next item of new business.

Ms. Wallach said they are going to have a discussion in the near future about race and inclusivity and feels Council should be better educated on implicit bias, inclusion and race. Ms. Wallach has been in contact with someone who comes highly recommended. Her name is Sunny Matthews, who is willing to give the Council (no public) an hour workshop on these topics. Ms. Wallach thought it could be done either the hour before the Committee Meetings in February or we could have it in February and push the other meeting off until March. She has a partner and would go over the topics outlined in the document distributed to Council (**Attachment #1**). She said the cost is \$1000, which could be covered by funds in the budget. She added, she would like to make **MOTION THAT COUNCIL HAS A WORKSHOP TO EDUCATE US ON THESE TOPICS**, SECONDED by Mr. Turner.

Ms. Wallach had no further comment after her motion. Mr. Turner commented he agreed with Ms. Wallach and thinks it is a good idea that Council be knowledgeable. This will be a tricky situation and for us to be more knowledgeable going into it would be a good thing.

Mr. Sidoti said he would like to have a committee meeting first because there might be things we know already and then have the workshop. It seems like we are putting the cart before the horse. He'd much rather have an open discussion and see where everyone is and listen to what the administration brings us and the community first and then understand what we need to know more about. He doesn't think there is anything wrong with the suggestion other than timing.

Ms. Wallach said she doesn't think we are putting the cart before the horse and, from our perspective, we can't really understand a lot of issues that others understand. She thinks this will help Council. Mr. Sidoti asked if she was speaking about Council or herself. Ms. Wallach said she was speaking as a white person. She said "we don't know what we don't know".

Mayor Fiala said you are speaking as a person.

Ms. Wallach said she is speaking as a person.

Mayor Fiala said that he needed clarification.

Mr. Turner said she has a relevant view and is in agreement with Tracy. Mr. Turner thinks getting information at the beginning may make us a little more knowledgeable about what questions may be asked. That may prevent an adversarial position between Council and some of the people who are in the audience. It is perhaps the more appropriate way of going about it. He said if we were more knowledgeable on the subject in regards to questions to ask and what questions are directed to us, it would be helpful for us to know that going in.

Mr. Kuhar says he is going to vote against the motion and does think the issue needs to be addressed, but that there is a better way to do this. He suggested having speakers coming in from different groups such as the NAACP, or private groups and giving a talk to Council and getting a full arena of ideas and not spending \$1000 for somebody to come in for a one-hour program. He said we would get a lot more information, spread it

out and get a lot more questions together.

Ms. Rosenberg said she is unfamiliar with this organization or group and does not believe she has enough information to spend \$1,000 on it. If we are going to pursue some sort of training, we would need more information on qualifications, experience and if this is a group that has spoken in front of government organizations before. She said she does not have enough information to vote for this right now.

The motion FAILED with a vote of 5-4 with Mr. Amrhein, Mr. Turner, Ms. Shaffer Bish and Ms. Wallach voting "Yes" and Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Mr. DeLeone, Ms. Rosenberg and Mr. Sidoti voting "No".

Mayor Fiala added there is a misconception that we are going to appoint a committee. He said we *might* appoint a committee, but it isn't going to happen at the first meeting in February. He added, we are going to discuss what we have, what we've done and how it is going to interact with the people who have been outside looking in and all of a sudden they want to make a difference. He wanted to make that clear.

Mayor Fiala asked for further new business.

Ms. Rosenberg said that on the topic of diversity and inclusivity, she has been doing research into diversity grants. She has seen other cities that have incorporated diversity grants into their grant awarding process. These grants create diversity and fund educational, cultural and community projects that celebrate diversity and promote inclusion. She would like to explore this a bit more. She made a **MOTION TO REQUEST A STAFF REPORT ON ALTERING THE CELEBRATE KENT AWARDS TO INCLUDE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY AS A FOCUS**. She would like to hear back on ways to utilize these grants to promote inclusivity and diversity and perhaps receive some interested parties at a grass roots level in the community and fund it and award it in some way. She added that some of the best ideas come from community members, so if we could highlight diversity and inclusivity as something we want to support as a city through grants and funding, hopefully we can attract more people to create and further positive motion in the direction. The motion was **SECONDED** by Mr. Ferrara.

Mr. Ferrara said he thinks Ms. Rosenberg is right and that we've talked in the past about this being a grass roots attempt - a bottom up effort vs. top down. This really personifies this by saying if you want to do it, there is money to do it. The most effective programs are those that come from the residents.

Mr. Kuhar asked for the motion to be read again.

Ms. Rosenberg read "MOTION TO REQUEST STAFF TO REPORT ON ALTERING THE CELEBRATE KENT AWARDS TO INCLUDE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY AS A FOCUS".

Mr. Sidoti said, we are presupposing we are going to have a committee in the first place. He added if we do have this committee, maybe the committee should be studying and making recommendations for us to consider. He thinks the award idea is wonderful, but wouldn't it have been nice if it came from the community, rather than from us doing it. He

would support the motion but said it is an example of not knowing if we are even going to have a committee and what its goals will be. If we are going to appoint people, they would be the ones who would be giving us direction. To attempt to do these types of things sends the message that we are going in without an open mind.

Mr. Turner said he is remembering information distributed by Clerk Wilkens recently about the Heart and Soul, One Kent project. It seems to fall in line with what Gwen is talking about. The motion that was voted down was simply to educate Council. This is another approach. He hadn't heard a lot about Heart and Soul until just recently, but this may be a mechanism already in place dealing with race in the community and issues of inclusion. He said that perhaps we should start by looking at what exists and how we might be able to use that. He said we may need to "slow our roll".

Ms. Rosenberg said to clarify, we currently give grant money, so this motion is to give grant monies that the City currently awards, requesting staff look into a way to focus some grant money to include projects that promote diversity and inclusivity. She is not trying to make any statement or reaching beyond what this motion is, which is just to see if we could craft some grant money in such a way that it be awarded to projects that celebrate diversity and inclusivity.

Mr. Turner asked Ms. Rosenberg not to take this as a criticism as to what she is trying to advance, but that the only issue is perhaps structure. These groups already exist and are doing something and perhaps it's just another way of getting feedback and then, by doing that, perhaps apply it a little more effectively. He likes the thought and said it's a positive thing.

Ms. Shaffer Bish added she is going to vote for the motion because she thinks it is a way of showing our values and showing another way of saying this is important to us and we are looking for innovative ideas and activities and want to encourage them in this particular direction.

The motion **CARRIED** with a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Mayor Fiala reminded everyone of the motion originally made to proactively explore racism and diversity in the City of Kent. We've had an initiative going with Heart and Soul and it is a movement in the city and does have a value. He added that we have to learn to use this mechanism to integrate everything together.

Councilmembers' Comments

Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish said she was disappointed in Kent State University's decision on the Intergenerational Village. She said there are not many areas in the city to expand housing, especially with the support of a major institution. She had high hopes with the participation of the residents in the area that we could come up with a really great program and hopes it is just being set aside for the University to focus on other key projects first and that it is brought back to the table. She thinks it can be a transformational project.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Fiala asked FireChief Meyers to talk to Council about an accident on Stow Street at the railroad crossing.

Mr. Myers thanked the Mayor for the opportunity. The gentleman we are speaking of tonight is firefighter Pat Paisley. He was in town and came across a vehicle that was disabled on the railroad tracks on Stow Street. Apparently, the driver was disoriented and didn't understand the circumstances they were under. Pat Paisley calmly got the driver out of her vehicle just in time before the train came by and stuck the car. Both were perfectly fine and there were no injuries. He really has to give credit to Sergeant Ennemoser for bringing it to Chief Myers' attention. These are always great things to hear about and he said that Pat is very conscientious about what he does for the department, he's a very caring person and goes out of his way for people. He added he was very proud of him and thanked Mayor Fiala for the opportunity to spotlight one of our firefighters.

Mr. Kuhar asked if this was a different car from the one he saw in the paper.

Chief Myers and Police Chief Shearer confirmed there was only one that occurred, so that was probably the one in the paper.

Mayor Fiala thanked Chief Myers.

Mayor Fiala then continued with his comments by stating the following:

1. Thanks to our 1st responders and the service department for their endless commitment to the community doing what they had to do to get the city up and running after the snow storm.
2. He had the opportunity to present a proclamation to a Kent resident, Harry George, a 103-year-old veteran who served in the United States Marine Corps. He spent four years in the South Pacific. Mayor Fiala thanked Clerk Wilkens for working with his family to put this proclamation together.
3. Carol Lockhart passed away. She was a City employee in the day. She served as the council clerk, service dept. secretary, and later became the Administrative assistant to the city manager.
4. Mary Ann Pizzuti passed away this past Sunday. She worked in the Budget and Finance department. Both of these past employees were a pleasure to work with, they were very service-orientated to the public.

Executive Session

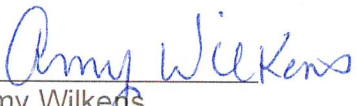
MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION MADE BY Jack Amrhein,
SECONDED by John Kuhar and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

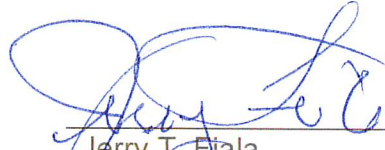
City Council returned to the Regular Meeting with further actions to take.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE THREE FOP CONTRACTS made by Garret Ferrara,
SECONDED by Roger Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE BWC SETTLEMENT made by Garret Ferrara,
SECONDED by John Kuhar and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

There was no further business and the Mayor adjourned the meeting 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.

Attachment #1

Inclusion and Equity Consultation Proposal

1/17/2022

Prepared By:

Kenya Sunny Matthews of Dimensions Of Isms

Overview

An ongoing relationship to support the Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Goals

1. Raise awareness about issues of racism, diversity, and inclusion.
2. Provide training and assistance to members.

Dimensions of Isms Services Outline

Implicit Bias Training

- The goal is to provide language for issues common in our society. Participants will have a chance to learn about situations relevant to the work you all do. The normal rate for such an address is \$1500-\$2000 but a reduced rate for \$1000 is being proposed. It should be held in February 2022.
- Sunny and Debbie will provide a presentation with a 20 to 30 minute presentation about implicit bias. They will answer questions afterwards. This will be a storytelling dialogue with images used to help participants gain an understanding of implicit bias.

Conclusion

We will tailor our plan to fit your needs and capabilities. This will make our work more meaningful and impactful. Based on the information provided, I know we could do great work!

I hope that we are able to negotiate a relationship and work together this year! If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out.