



**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.

## **Approval of Minutes**

MOTION TO APPROVE the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of October 20, 2021 made by Mr. Turner, SECONDED by Mr. Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-1, with Ms. Wallach abstaining.

MOTION TO APPROVE the Special City Council Meeting Minutes from November 3, 2021 made by Mr. Ferrara, SECONDED by Mr. Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-1, with Ms. Wallach abstaining.

## **Communications**

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.”

### **Public Comment**

Clerk Wilkens called the first resident to speak before City Council, Mr. John Thomas.

Mr. Thomas approached the microphone and stated his name and address. He started by stating he is here tonight alongside other residents from the southeast neighborhoods, which comprises approximately fourteen streets, to discuss the concept of the intergenerational village that the University hosted a meeting on at the Recreation Center on October 27, 2021. This meeting was attended by approximately 25-30 individuals. His neighborhood also held a meeting and developed a list of concerns which was written on the whiteboard at the front of the room. He wanted to address the concept of the redevelopment of the general area where the Allerton married student apartments are located. He referenced the creation of a City-University Committee that was formed and represented by the City Manager, the Community Development Director and University Administration. He stated there is no engagement on the City side at this point from elected representatives and would like to see that as a community. He said we are neighbors of the university and they are part of the community. He thinks they have taken a wrong step by not including elected representatives, at least one council person. He said Mr. Turner has been very helpful in this discussion and that the University needs their input and representation on this committee. He said the City Council has a moral obligation to be involved and residents should be added to this committee as early as possible. From what he understands, the Board of Trustees will act

tentatively at their March meeting to award an intent to proceed, and that's not that far away. We need more engagement and inclusion. Engagement with the community is very important and asked that councilmembers get more engaged with this potential development. He says he thinks the university realizes the error in their omission of community members and wants to see logic and inclusion be put into decision making on this project. He thanked Council for the time he was given to speak before them.

Mr. Nichols was the next resident to speak, and he approached the microphone and stated his name and address. He agreed with Mr. Thomas that things were moving pretty quickly. His neighborhood was notified twenty-three hours before the meeting by a notice slipped under his door. He said it feels like a left hook and seems like a for-profit scheme for private developers. He thinks there is a better approach to building a complex for 1,000 people. The land should be sold and taken to the zoning committee and voted on. There are a lot of things that have not been considered. There is also a large apartment complex going in on S. Water and Rt. 261 which is causing concerns there as well. With two apartment complexes, there are concerns of sprawl and other concerns. It affects everyone in the community, and they have concerns about schools, and many other things other than just building codes. We need more discussion with the community and elected officials to make a decision that is right for the city of Kent.

Ms. Wendy Yuzik was the next resident to speak. She introduced herself to City Council and stated she had attended the meeting at Kent State Wellness Center for the Intergenerational Village. Most questions from concerned citizens were not answered, so she decided to pass out fliers and see which of her neighbors were interested. Thirty-two people attended the meeting she organized and her phone did not stop ringing. In the one-hour meeting on November 11, 2021, forty points came up and were documented, which included the environment, schools, and the surrounding forest. The community needs to be taken into consideration and is before City Council tonight to ask for representation from our elected officials. She said we are an intergenerational community and this affects the whole community. She would appreciate some of the items on the board addressed. She thanked council members for their time.

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

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

Standing Rock Cemetery October Meeting Minutes and Agenda for November 11, 2021 received on November 5, 2021.

Planning Commission Agenda and Staff Report for the November 16, 2021 meeting was received on November 9, 2021.

## City Manager's Report

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

1. Request Council's authorization to issue City employees an "Employee Appreciation" gift card (\$25) to be used only at participating Kent businesses (cost up to \$5,875).
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 KOOGLE 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 ASSCIATES, 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](mailto: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.