



City of Kent
Wednesday, August 3, 2022
City Council Committee Meetings
320 S. Depeyster Street, Kent, OH 44240

MINUTES

6:55 P.M. BOARD OF CONTROL

Only one member of the Board of Control was present, so the meeting was not held due to not having a quorum.

7:00 P.M. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

At 07:00 PM, Mayor Jerry T. Fiala called the City Council Committee Meetings to order.

Present: Mr. Jack Amrhein, 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; Ms. Melanie Baker, Service Director; Ms. Suzanne Stemnock, Human Resource Manager; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Ms. Joan Seidel, Health Commissioner; Mr. John Seidel, Civic Service Coordinator; Ms. Rhonda Hall, Budget and Finance Director; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Mr. Bill Myers, Fire Chief; Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council

Absent: Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara

Committee of the Whole (Chair Fiala/ Vice-Chair Amrhein)

Proposed Draft of the New Civic Engagement Coordinator Position

Mr. Ruller referenced the draft included in the packet for the new Civic Engagement Coordinator Position. He said he is not before the Council to ask for approval this evening, but to have a discussion on what is in the works. Similar positions in other cities were reviewed to compare duties. He said new positions are generally included in the new budget in January every year, unless they wish to fast track the position due to its importance. He asked Council for their questions.

Mr. Kuhar asked if this new person would need to be trained coming into the position. Mr. Ruller said they would certainly need to be trained in regards to the city administration. Mr. Ruller said this person will need to take ownership of their position.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said she hoped the job offers benefits. Mr. Ruller said this hasn't been discussed, but generally part-time workers are not. Mr. Ruller verified with Ms. Suzanne Stemnock, Human Resource Manager.

Ms. Shaffer Bish asked about the necessary education and asked to change it to "preferred" education that would encompass other skill sets they are looking for. She suggested thinking about what the priorities of the person and they would be working on in the first 90 days. She applauded Mr. Ruller for the comprehensive job description.

Mr. Turner agreed with Ms. Shaffer Bish and said we have to make it doable and establish metrics we have in place without overwhelming the person hired. He said this person will need to be a self-starter and proactive to build a network in the community. He added that what we are doing is a tremendous asset to our city and the position will grow in time.

Mr. Sidoti said there are 18 essential functions and feels that when everything is a priority, then there are none. It tends to happen frequently. He suggested looking at the description and identifying 5 primary functions and then secondary duties.

Mr. Kuhar asked if this would be an in-house or a home position. Mr. Ruller said it would be an in the office job with some flexibility needed due to the nature of the position.

Christy Anderson of South Blvd in Kent approached the microphone and thanked Council and Mr. Ruller for putting this together. She offered suggestions stating she hopes the city allows for public input into the creation of the position.

Ms. Renee Ruchotzke of Highland Ave said she has gratitude for the position and suggested they not require a bachelor's degree and thinks the most important skill is interpersonal, deep listening, counseling background or community organizing. It would open up the possibilities.

Mr. Ruller thanked everyone for the feedback and said the points were spot on and has made note of everything said tonight. He hopes the person coming in will contribute to their duties after they've been in the position for a while.

Kent State University, Town Gown Update

Dr. Dana Lawless Andrick addressed the Council and provided updates for the upcoming school year at Kent State University. **(Attachment #1)** She also highlighted important dates for the KSU Fall 2022 semester and two awards received, the Award for Excellence in Integrating International Education and the 2022-2023 Best Hometown by Ohio Magazine, which was an award shared with the city. **(Attachment #2)**

Ms. Shaffer Bish mentioned the U-Hauls in her neighborhood and students moving back to Kent for school. She asked if there were plans for returning students who live in a residential neighborhood. Dr. Lawless Andrick said they canvassed door to door with Todd Kamenish to be proactive with distributing information to students living in neighborhoods. Ms. Shaffer Bish suggested visiting edge neighborhoods and Ms. Andrick said they are open to doing.

Ms. Gwen Rosenberg asked if 4200 students was a return to pre-pandemic numbers. Dr. Lawless Andrick said the numbers of students this year are comparable to 2019, but is very similar to 2021. She said commuter and transfer numbers are down a little but they are anticipating a large student population.

Mr. Turner said the aspect of edge neighborhoods is where we run into elevated situations.

He suggested integrating meetings held in edge neighborhoods and those in student housing neighborhoods so they have interaction. This will help create a greater sense of community. Councilmembers would love to be engaged because they represent those people also.

Dr. Lawless Andrick said this is a great time to think about what this could be. She will circle back with Todd Kamenish and circle back with council to share ideas.

Mr. Kuhar asked if campus activities were going to be masked. Dr. Lawless Andrick said they follow the State of Ohio and when the County turns "red", masks are required indoors. Mr. Kuhar asked if incoming students were aware of this, and she said they were.

Mayor Fiala asked if brochures could be given to Council to pass out in their neighborhoods. Dr. Lawless Andrick said they could get information and said hopefully by August 20th they would get the fliers.

New City Hall Construction Project Update

Ms. Melanie Baker gave an update on the status of the new city hall building being constructed. The first slide of her presentation showed the new sign the architects and contractor created to hang outside the work area. **(Attachment #3)**

She referred Council to a drawing of the progress so far **(Attachment #4)**. With the availability of concrete, they are allowed one pour per week. The elevator pit and stairwell will be up next week, and she is hoping two crews will be able to work on it. She has reviewed the carpet, tiles, laminates, doors, cabinets, etc. Late that afternoon, she received floor plans for the remaining staff to pick out furniture.

Ms. Shaffer Bish asked about the glazing, Ms. Baker said this is due to supply of the product.

Changes in Lateral Transfers for Civil Service

Mr. Ruller said Chief Shearer spearheaded this effort to improve the idea of getting more candidates. Mr. John Seidel, Civil Service Coordinator for the City of Kent, discussed changes that were made regarding lateral transfers. This enables the city to have a lateral transfer list and is not police specific. Departments are able to use this as it fits their needs. Lateral transfers would save the city money, as testing costs \$700 per test. Some local municipalities use this, as seen in Stow and Hudson, and said Twinsburg is looking at this.

Mr. Sidoti asked what the advantages are. John said it's more efficient and attracts quality candidates. Chief Shearer added that a major advantage is during the hiring process. It gives the City a little bit more control over the process and provides the leading way in recruiting candidates. This is one more tool to get qualified candidates.

Ms. Shaffer Bish asked if this would help attract minority candidates. The chief said he hoped it would and a comment Ms. Shaffer Bish said last year spurred him to look into it.

Mr. Sidoti said this isn't restricted to just police. The chief said it is an option for other departments and is not something they have to do.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE CHANGES IN LATERAL TRANSFERS FOR CIVIL SERVICE
MADE BY Mr. Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Ms. Gwen Rosenberg and CARRIED by a

voice vote of 7-0-0.

Community Development Committee (Chair Kuhar/Vice-Chair Rosenberg)

New TREX Request for "Board & Bevy"

Ms. Bridget Susel presented a new TREX Liquor License request to City Council for the Board and Bevy. Haley and Cody Bennet purchased the former Sparkle Market property to convert it into a business and are requesting a TREX for a liquor license. They meet all requirements to do so.

Haley and Cody Bennet of Wolcott Ave., owners of Board and Bevy, introduced their new business, which is a board game lounge with drinks and snacks. Their goal is to work with local businesses to bring food in, as there will not be a kitchen but will use a convection oven. They are asking for a liquor license. There will also be mocktails and an old-style soda fountain. There will be a cover fee, which is \$5 for the entire evening. They are hoping to work closely with the community.

Ms. Shaffer Bish asked about the license. They confirmed it was D5, which is all types of alcohol. She asked about the house. They said the house would be an annex of the business for inventory and office space. Shaffer Bish asked about parking. Haley said there would be a parking lot behind it.

Ms. Wallach said she is really happy to see this building being rehabbed and used. She asked if gluten free options would be offered and Ms. Bennet said they would.

Mr. Amrhein asked about the hours of the operation. She said they would be open to the public Thursday through Sunday, Noon- 11pm, and early in the week they plan on doing more things with the university,

MOTION TO APPROVE NEW TREX REQUEST FOR "BOARD & BEVY" MADE BY Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Ms. Tracy Wallach and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

Health and Public Safety Committee (Chair Amrhein/ Vice-Chair Sidoti)

Proposed Renewal of the Health Department Lease at PARTA

Ms. Joan Seidel and Ms. Hope Jones discussed the renewal of the Health Department's lease in the PARTA Building. She said they have finalized a lease and are asking for approval.

Mr. Sidoti asked if the space had met or exceeded their expectations. Ms. Joan Seidel said it has met and in many ways exceeded their expectations.

Ms. Wallach asked if it was for both floors. Ms. Seidel said Ms. Hope Jones worked hard to get both on the same cycle.

Mr. Ruller said PARTA likes to have the Health Dept as a tenant and that the rent has increased, but we can afford it.

Mr. Turner asked if the square footage would be conducive to growth and Ms. Seidel said there is room for growth.

Mr. Kuhar asked what percentage of the building is owned by the City. Jim Bowling said PARTA owns the whole building.

Mr. Wallach asked if a sign would be put on the first floor. Ms. Seidel said she would make that a priority.

Ms. Shaffer Bish says she is happy they are now in a place and looks forward to working with innovative programming.

Mr. Sidoti said now they have found a home, signage is critical and he thinks it is a source of pride for the community.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE PROPOSED RENEWAL OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT LEASE MADE BY Mr. Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

School Resource Officer Contract Renewal

Chief Shearer asked for the Council's approval for a School Resource Officer for the 2022-2023 school year.

Mr. Kuhar asked if we originally had state or federal assistance. Chief Shearer said we currently do not have any supplemental funding.

Mr. Turner said it would seem that this would be something that would be advanced due to the current climate. Chief Shearer said, unfortunately, they have seen the opposite happening.

MOTION TO APPROVE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER CONTRACT RENEWAL MADE BY Mr. John Kuhar, SECONDED by Ms. Gwen Rosenberg and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

Fireworks Law

Mr. Ruller introduced Chief Myers to speak on the topic of the new fireworks law and the public's reaction to it this past July 4th.

Mr. Myers reviewed the new rules, which were completed on June 22, 2022, which was a couple of weeks before the fourth of July. They chose to wait and see how things would go. He reviewed the rules that were included in the council packet. He said he worked with Ms. Hope Jones on legislation and that the sale of fireworks in the city is not permitted.

Ms. Rosenberg said she is torn on this issue because she thought there would be a lot more fireworks. She said state legislation looks pretty ample. She asked if there was an uptick in injuries or if it was mostly noise. From July 1- July 10, dispatchers received 10 calls per evening in regards to fireworks. Chief Shearer said those calls included questions about fireworks and if they are allowed. He said it's important to note they have responded twice and summoned someone who shot off fireworks in a park.

Ms. Wallach asked about how it compared to last year. Chief Shearer said it was similar to last year.

Mr. Kuhar asked about being specific about times in our ordinance.

Mr. Turner asked if the changes will reduce the out-of-line usage of fireworks and if we have the resources to deal with this. He asked if this would detract from the ability to respond to other calls. He said it doesn't take away and may be a drain on resources, but it is not something that is a significant problem, as we have been in this situation before with enforcing state law. He asked if he thought there would be an increase that would be taxing. Chief Shearer said he does not.

Mr. Kuhar asked about the upcoming fireworks holidays, and members mentioned all of the holidays fireworks are now permitted.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said people are tolerant of fireworks happening in a certain time frame and that she gets a lot of comments from residents. This affects people's pets. Enforcement is an issue and she does not understand why we would make this more lenient. She said it sounded like bombs were going off in her neighborhood. She says going back to the old way would be truly better than opening it up.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE OPTING OUT OF THE NEW FIREWORKS LAW MADE BY Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, **SECONDED** by Ms. Tracy Wallach and **FAILED** by a voice vote of 2-4-0. Mr. Amrhein did not vote.

Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee (Chair Sidoti/ Vice-Chair Wallach)

Fairchild Tower Repair - Waiver of Competitive Bidding Request

Mr. Bowling said they are requesting Council approval to waive the competitive bidding for two aspects of the repair to the tower. He said the first is retroactive for the emergency repairs to the foundation of the tower and the other is to replace the damaged piping. They have been told it will take sixty to seventy weeks to get an iron pipe and the company they are using has access to it sooner.

Ms. Hope Jones added that state law does allow for waiving of the competitive bidding requirement for these reasons so the project can begin.

Mr. Kuhar asked why we were looking at a contract in August when it broke down in April, and how much longer would the competitive bidding take. Mr. Bowling said they have been working on the repairs since the day it happened. They have been working on the best approach to repair the tower and a specialized contractor needed to come in due to asbestos. He added that every time things come up, it takes time to get someone in. He said the competitive bidding process would take, at a minimum, three to six months longer. It could be much longer if the person who gets the work cannot get the pipe or equipment.

MOTION TO APPROVE FAIRCHILD TOWER REPAIR - WAIVER OF COMPETITIVE BIDS MADE BY Mr. John Kuhar, **SECONDED** by Ms. Gwen Rosenberg and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

Kent Skates - Road closure of Erie Street

Mr. Ruller started by saying that when approval was given last year, they only gave approval for the street closure for that one year. He suggested making this a permanent event so approval is not needed every year.

Ms. Wallach asked about the cost and use of energy in running the ice rink.

Ms. Baker does not have the energy figures at the top of her head and would have to look them up. The energy bill for the last year was \$6300.

Ms. Shaffer Bish says she is concerned about energy use but likes the city having outdoor activities.

Ms. Rosenberg was impressed by the number of families who used the rink and thanked Ms. Melanie Baker for all of the work that went into this.

Mr. Amrhein congratulated Ms. Melanie Baker on her hard work.

Mr. Turner said it brings people to our downtown and has become a destination for people outside of the community.

Ms. Baker thanked KSU and PARTA for working with the City of Kent, which helped make the ice rink a success.

MOTION TO APPROVE KENT SKATES - ROAD CLOSURE OF ERIE STREET MADE BY Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, **SECONDED** by Ms. Gwen Rosenberg and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 6-1-0. Ms. Wallach voted 'No'.

Finance Committee (Chair DeLeone/Vice-Chair Wallach)

Community University Education Purchasing Regional Council of Governments Agreement

Ms. Melanie Baker introduced the topic and The City of Kent has been a part of the CUE (Community University Education) Cooperative Program administered by the University of Akron for over 15 years. This cooperative has allowed the City to participate in various contract bidding, such as salt and vehicles. The purpose of the CUE is to obtain quality merchandise, materials and services for its members at a lower cost through pooled purchasing and competitive bidding. In the past 4 to 6 years, this program has lagged behind and suffered a bit due to the amount of work it took to gather information, provide specifications and to do the bidding. The University of Akron has run the program for many years and, unfortunately, staff who helped facilitate service were unable to keep up with the demands and during Covid this became even more strained. The City of Kent, along with several other communities, took the lead to assist in setting up a more formal agreement, with requirements for membership and expectations of process, meetings, and decision making for purchasing.

There were no questions from Council or from the audience.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COMMUNITY UNIVERSITY EDUCATION PURCHASING REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS MADE BY Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, **SECONDED** by Mr. Roger Sidoti and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

Retention Bonus Grant

Chief Shearer is before Council for approval of a retention bonus grant. They are approved to pay officers a 10% bonus for all officers and all dispatchers.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE RETENTION BONUS GRANT MADE BY Mr. John Kuhar, **SECONDED** by Mr. Jack Amrhein and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

Body Armor Grant

Chief Shearer said this is the final payment of the grant and he is requesting permission to accept the grant.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE BODY ARMOR GRANT MADE BY Mr. Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Ms. Gwen Rosenberg and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

Certification of Liens to the County for Outstanding Payments

Ms. Rhonda Hall said according to the Kent Codified Ordinances, we certify on an annual basis any bills that are due to the City to Portage County to be added to the property owners' tax bill. She referenced the three memos presented to council. one for certifying unpaid concrete bills, one for delinquent non-utilities and the last is for delinquent utility bills. She asked City Council to approve the emergency.

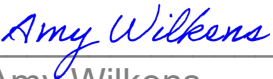
MOTION TO APPROVE CERTIFICATION OF LIENS TO THE COUNTY FOR OUTSTANDING PAYMENTS MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Ms. Rosenberg and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

Budget Appropriation

Ms. Rhonda Hall referenced her memo submitted to the City Manager requesting a budget appropriation and respectfully asked for the Council's approval.

MOTION TO APPROVE BUDGET APPROPRIATION MADE BY Mr. John Kuhar, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

Seeing no further business, the Council Committee Meetings adjourned at 8:52 P.M.



Amy Wilkens
Clerk of Council

Notes for Council Kent State Update, August 3, 2022:

- It's August – whew! And, we are gearing up to welcome new and returning students to campus in a few weeks.
 - Kent State is experiencing similar challenges as other higher education institutions in Ohio and nationally. While our entering class of first-year students is strong and nearing pre-pandemic levels (approx. 4200), we do expect a smaller number of new transfer and graduate students. This coincides with historical patterns related to economic conditions. When employment/wages/opportunity exists, fewer students look to upskill and/or go back to school. This is a consistent pattern over time. Overall, our fall enrollment at Kent Campus is expected to be down approx 2% from last year. We are working toward stabilizing and ideally beginning to see some positive growth in the next few years.
 - We have several dates coming up and an exciting event during KSU Kickoff that start last year, Kent Connections. This is planned for Tuesday, August 23, 4pm to 7pm and we hope you will all stop by. We have over 50 community agencies, businesses, etc. planning to attend along with food trucks, DJ and more. This is the official welcome for our students to the City! We will also hold the Kent State's Farmer's Market held in partnership with Haymaker on that same date, same location.
 - We also shared several dates for the Fall – see handout, our Town & Gown website and the list serv.
- Kent Fire Department to conduct fire training on our two Lincoln Street properties and we are excited to partner on Sustainability efforts.
- Kent State's Culinary Services continues to prioritize pathways for local businesses to be involved with dining. This has included the launch of Downtown Dining Dollars as part of one of our meal plans; a RFP for the restaurant space in the basement of the student center; and, continuing some of the efforts from last year including Food Truck events and guest chef/restaurant gigs.
- Kent Skates planning is well underway, we look forward to building new partnerships – potentially involving Kent Parks & Rec and building on the success from last year. More to come!
- The "Tree City" can boast a new honor. The city of Kent, Ohio, has been selected by Ohio Magazine as a 2022-2023 Best Hometown. The Best Hometown honor recognizes Kent as a great place to live, work and visit. The magazine's editors chose Kent for its vibrant downtown, strong campus-community connection and focus on supporting residents and students alike.

- Kent State University is the sole university in the U.S. to receive the prestigious 2022 Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization from [NAFSA: Association of International Educators](#). The honor recognizes Kent State for overall excellence in integrating international education throughout all facets of the university and its campuses. Named after the late Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois, the NAFSA Simon Awards recognize outstanding innovation and accomplishment in campus internationalization, defined by NAFSA as “a conscious effort to integrate and infuse international, intercultural and global dimensions into the ethos and outcomes of their students’ education.”
- Kent State will adopt a new academic calendar in Fall 2023, we will share those details with Council and others. Highlights include:
 - Fall classes will begin the second-to-last Monday in August
 - Winter Break continues to be four weeks
 - Summer Term will be reduced by one-week

Kent State Upcoming events – Fall 2022:

Early move-in & orientation programs:

- Kupita Transiciones – August 18 – 21 (<https://www.kent.edu/smc/kt-schedule>)
- International Student Orientation – August 19 (<https://www.kent.edu/iss>)
- Graduate Student Orientation – August 18 – 19
(<https://www.kent.edu/graduatecollege/fall-2022-graduate-student-orientation-scheduled-august-18-19>)

Summer Graduation – August 20 (<https://www.kent.edu/commencement>)

All student move-in & welcome activities:

- Move-in information (<https://www.kent.edu/housing/move-information>)
- KSU Kickoff, August 22 – 24 (<https://www.kent.edu/kickoff>)
 - Kent Connects, August 23 – if you want to participate, please contact Jenn Bishop at jgehrin1@kent.edu (for those that did not sign-up yet)
 - Blastoff, August 24 – this is an annual tradition and **will end with Fireworks**

Key Fall academic dates (<https://www.kent.edu/academic-calendar>):

- Fall semester begins, August 25
- Fall break: Oct. 13 – 16
- Fall classes end: Dec. 11
- Fall commencement: Dec. 15 - 16

Parent & Family Appreciation Week, September 12 – 17
(<https://www.kent.edu/parents/parent-family-appreciation-week>)

Homecoming Week, Sept 26 – Oct. 1 (<https://www.kent.edu/homecoming>)

- Downtown Rally, Friday, September 30
- More details to follow

Bowman Breakfast, October 11

- Annual Town & Gown event, more details to follow

Kent Skates opens, November 19 (<https://www.kent.edu/kentskates>)

There are a host of other events – you can always visit <https://www.kent.edu/calendars> to see the variety of amazing things coming up! We also have a full schedule of Athletic events – visit <https://kentstatesports.com/> for more details.

KENT STATE WINS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN INTEGRATING INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION THROUGHOUT UNIVERSITY

Kent State University is the sole university in the U.S. to receive the prestigious 2022 Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization from NAFSA: Association of International Educators (<https://www.nafsa.org/>). The honor recognizes Kent State for overall excellence in integrating international education throughout all facets of the university and its campuses.

Named after the late Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois, the NAFSA Simon Awards recognize outstanding innovation and accomplishment in campus internationalization, defined by NAFSA as “a conscious effort to integrate and infuse international, intercultural and global dimensions into the ethos and outcomes of their students’ education.”

“The Senator Paul Simon Award is our nation’s top prize for excellence in global education,” Kent State President Todd Diacon said. “It is a richly deserved award that highlights our excellent education-abroad programs and our ongoing success in enrolling and graduating international students.”

Kent State’s global reach has been expansive, with educational centers in Florence, Italy, and Curitiba, Brazil, along with boasting more than 200 education-abroad programs. Along with globe-spanning international partnerships, it has outreach centers in China and India.

Kent State’s long history of international collaboration includes being among the first to exchange students with the Soviet Union during the Cold War and hosting Iranian students prior to Iran’s revolution in 1978-1979. Hosting international students and scholars has always been a priority for Kent State as demonstrated by its continued standing among the top 100 destinations for international students, according to Open Doors (<https://opendoorsdata.org/>), a comprehensive information resource on international students and scholars studying or teaching at higher education institutions in the United States, and U.S. students studying abroad for academic credit at their home colleges or universities.

“The Senator Paul Simon Award recognizes the internationalization efforts of our university and showcases how important it is for the development of students to have international experiences,” said Melody Tankersley, Ph.D., Kent State’s senior vice president and provost. “The award also recognizes the diversity of our university and brings global recognition to Kent State.

“I would like to thank Vice President for Global Education Marcello Fantoni for his visionary leadership to help us get to where we are – to the point where we could win this impressive award,” Tankersley continued.

Kent State's commitment to internationalization is embedded in its mission and strategic plan and is entrenched in the university's identity through competitive research, comprehensive education-abroad programs, international curriculum and robust international student and scholar programs.

"At Kent State University, we are committed to granting access to students from all around the world and to make the whole world available for our students," said Marcello Fantoni, Ph.D., Kent State's vice president for global education. "We want to graduate students ready for the global world as active participants in a democratic society."

Kent State's student body includes 1,370 international students from nearly 100 countries. In 2019-2020, Kent State sent nearly 1,500 students abroad. Since resuming its international programming in July 2021, Kent State has returned to its full operations abroad and is already projected to surpass its previous record-setting enrollment in education-abroad programs by fall 2022.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the annual awards program. Serving more than 10,000 members and international educators worldwide, NAFSA is the largest nonprofit association dedicated to international education and exchange. Kent State will be featured in NAFSA's report, "[Internationalizing the Campus: Profiles of Success at Colleges and Universities](\"http://www.nafsa.org/itc\") ([http://www.nafsa.org/itc](\"http://www.nafsa.org/itc\"))," that will be published this fall. The university also will be honored during the virtual and in-person programming as part of NAFSA's 2022 Annual Conference and Expo this spring. To learn more about NAFSA's Senator Paul Simon Awards, visit [www.nafsa.org/SimonAward](\"http://www.nafsa.org/SimonAward\") ([https://www.nafsa.org/about/about-nafsa/senator-paul-simon-award-campus-internationalization](\"https://www.nafsa.org/about/about-nafsa/senator-paul-simon-award-campus-internationalization\")).

For more information about Kent State's Office of Global Education, visit [www.kent.edu/globaleducation](\"http://www.kent.edu/globaleducation\") ([/globaleducation](\"http://www.kent.edu/globaleducation\")).

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WRITTEN BY: EMILY VINCENT



THE CITY OF

Kent, Ohio



Kent Named a 2022-2023 Best Hometown by Ohio Magazine

The “Tree City” can boast a new honor. The city of Kent, Ohio, has been selected by Ohio Magazine as a 2022-2023 Best Hometown. The Best Hometown honor recognizes Kent as a great place to live, work and visit. The magazine’s editors chose Kent for its vibrant downtown, strong campus-community connection and focus on supporting residents and students alike.

Kent is a college town and more – a thriving community of families, students, locally owned businesses, and industries. Home to Kent State University and situated along the banks of the scenic Cuyahoga River, Kent boasts a revitalized, vibrant downtown offering a unique mix of restaurants, specialty shops, live entertainment, downtown living, festivals, art galleries and more.



“The city shares this honor with [Kent State](#), the [Kent Area Chamber of Commerce](#), [Main Street Kent](#) and our other partners who make Kent the special place that it is,” said Dave Ruller, Kent city manager. “We all work together through a shared purpose to bring new opportunities for educational and business growth and a true sense of community.”

To determine this year’s honorees, Ohio Magazine solicited nominations in the spring and conducted visits across the state over the summer. The editors evaluated finalists in six categories — Community Spirit, Education, Entertainment, Health and Safety, Business Environment, and Culture and Heritage — to help make their selections.

“We enjoyed our visit to Kent and are excited to share your story with our readers and online visitors,” said Jim Vickers, editor of Ohio Magazine, upon notifying the city of its selection as a Best Hometown. “Communities like yours are what make our state a special place to live.”

According to the 2020 Census, the resident population of Kent is more than 28,000, with the Kent State student body adding another 25,600. The community is home to an internationally diverse population, an aspect that is strongly valued by residents. The population has remained steady during the past decade, and Kent has an unusually high level of education per capita, nearly twice the national average.

“We have always known that Kent is a remarkable place to call home, but it’s great when a panel of experts reach the same conclusion and name Kent one of the best hometowns in the entire state,” shared Jerry Fiala, mayor of Kent. “After learning more about Kent, we hope readers of Ohio Magazine will be inspired to come visit and experience Kent for themselves.”

Kent will be featured in Ohio Magazine’s annual Best Hometowns issue, which will be published Nov. 1. The city will also be featured in the magazine’s July/August 2023 issue and online at ohiomagazine.com.



THE CITY OF
Kent, Ohio

DESIGN TEAM



**BRANDSTETTER
CARROLL INC**
ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS PLANNERS



tecinc.
engineering & design

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

THOMARIOS[®]

Kent City Hall



so that the building and slope can be seen from the street



LEADERSHIP CHAIRMAN: CARRIE ANN DAVIS

Council Presentation

8/3/2022



-  Walls formed and poured
-  Walls formed ready to pour
-  Walls to be formed
-  Elevator and Stairwell ready to come out of the ground
Mason on site next week.

Carpet, tiles, laminates, doors, cabinets, paint, acoustical tiles have all been reviewed and finalized as per review 1 year ago by staff and Council. Will work with staff to locate furniture paint colors, carpet etc.

1 LEVEL 1 DIMENSION FLOOR PLAN



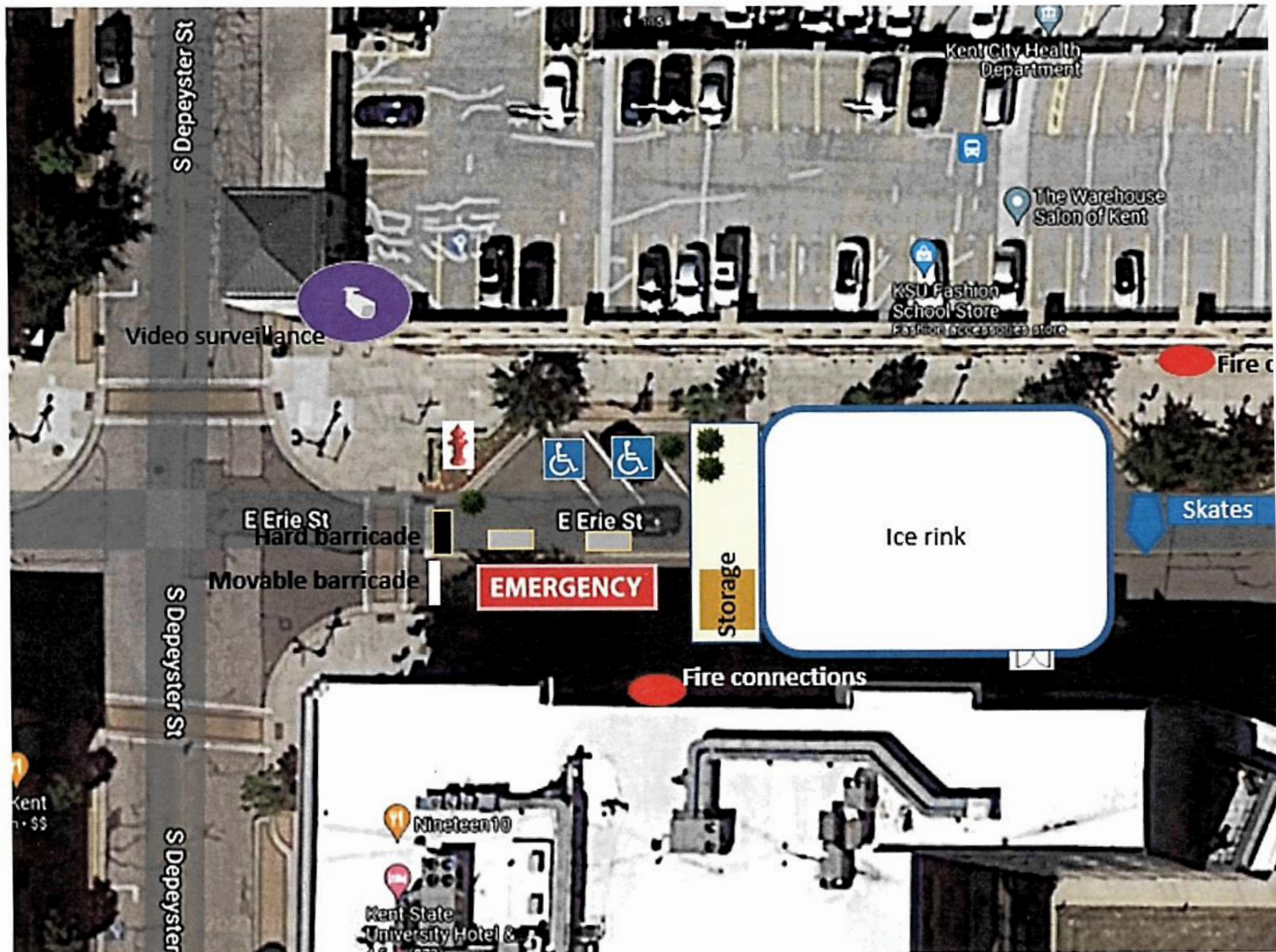
Kent City Hall	
PROJECT NO.	18023
LEVEL 1 DIMENSION FLOOR PLAN	
A-111	

319 S. Weller Street
Kent, Ohio 44240

REVISIONS: NUMBER DATE DESCRIPTION

ISSUE DATE:

Erie Street - Ice Skating



Current Layout of Ice Rink and support items.

Erie is completely barricaded off. There are 2 mobile barricades at either end to allow deliveries to the hotel and access to the rink. These barricades should be opened for drop-off and pick-up. The hotel is responsible to move the barricades for their deliveries and patrons. These barricades should be opened for drop-off and pick-up.



There is only two temporary handicapped space available (at Erie and Depeyster.) The space is tight for access.

EMERGENCY

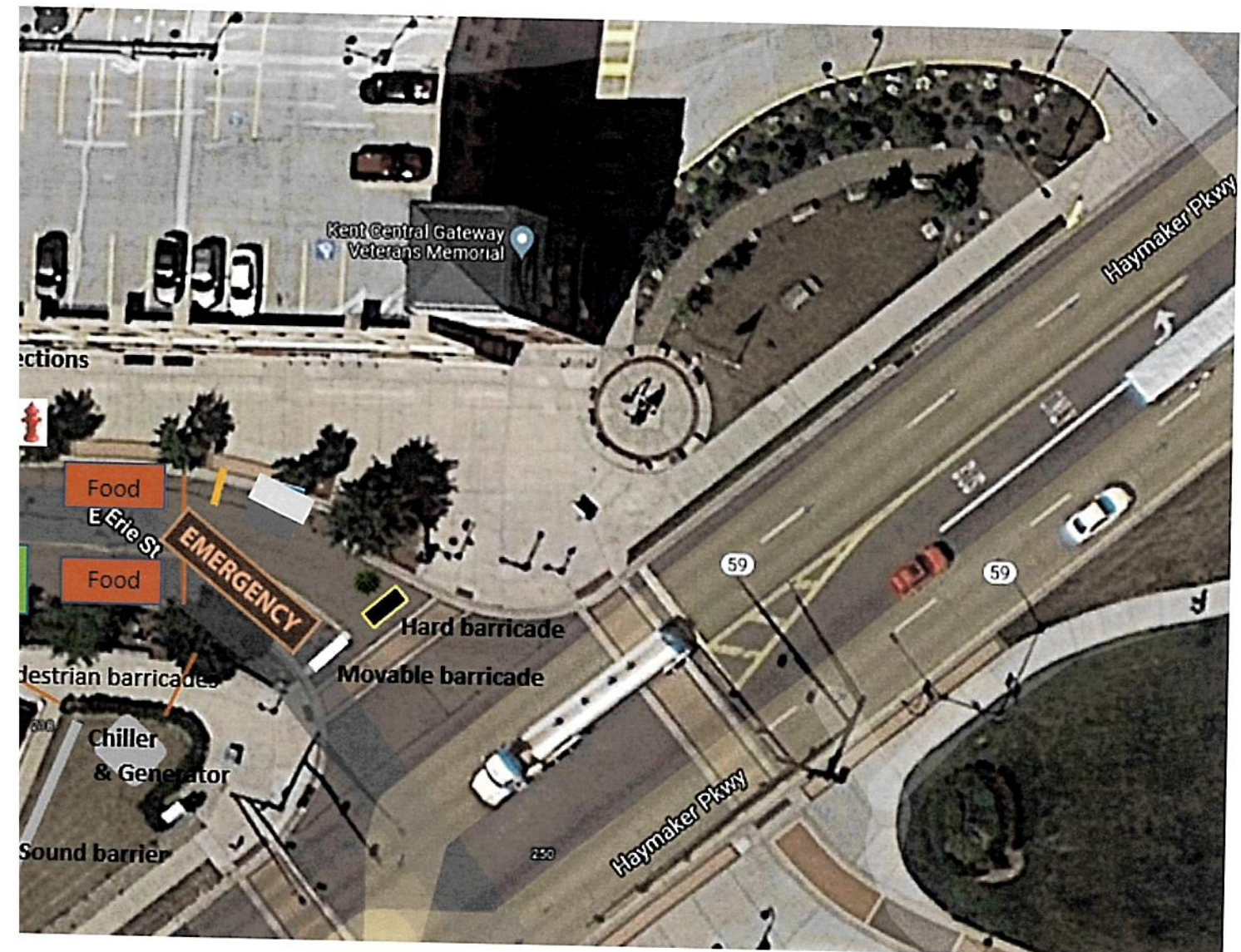
There is access off of Depeyster for emergency vehicles and access to the hotel's fire connection.

EMERGENCY

Additional Emergency access is off of Haymaker should there be a need to access the fire connection. There will be a lot of congestion at this end with people, tables, and food trucks.

There is video surveillance for the safety of the rink and activities in the area.

g Rink - Layout



the salons off of Depeyster and for food trucks, access will be off of Haymaker. It is agreed that the hotel and salons
' delivery and closed after drop off or delivery is complete.

turning. Should there become an issue with maneuverability and pedestrians, we will need to revisit and evaluate.

anticipated this spot will be the best spot for access to the ice rink and injuries.

or hydrant to the PARTA Parking garage. This should not be used for emergency injury access as