



City of Kent
Wednesday, September 21, 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: Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, 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; 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. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council

Absent: Ms. Gwen Rosenberg

MOTION TO EXCUSE MS. ROSENBERG MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. Garret Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

Mayor Fiala provided the evening's opening remarks, reminding everyone that Kent was named one of Ohio Magazine's Best Hometowns and passed out buttons for all council members. He asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION TO APPROVE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 17, 2022 MADE BY Mr. Robin Turner, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-1. Ms. Wallach voted 'abstain'.

Communications

Public Comment

Mayor Fiala read the following statement:

"While the law does not require Council to provide time for public comment, we have historically invited the public to make comments and we appreciate their

input. This is the time where residents and others can comment on matters that concern them. However, we will not engage in debate, and as President of Council, I reserve the right to end any public communication that is disruptive, embarrassment, harassment or otherwise objectionable. We ask you to give your name and address and limit comments to three (3) minutes.”

Ms. Wilkens called the first speaker to the microphone.

Mr. Max Brockwell of N. Willow Street in Kent approached the microphone and introduced himself to Council. He read from a prepared statement (**Attachment #1**)

Mr. Michael Massey approached the microphone next and read his prepared statement regarding Medicare for All. (**Attachment #2**)

Next, Ms. Lauren Genco of Alpha Drive, in Kent approached the microphone and read her prepared statement regarding Medicare for All (**Attachment #3**)

Mr. Rayhon Asif of S. Prospect St. in Kent, Ohio read his remarks regarding support of Medicare for All (**Attachment #4.**)

Mr. James Moore then approached the microphone , stating he resides on N. Mantua Street and is in support of City Council writing a resolution in support of Medicare for All (**Attachment #5**)

Ms. Diane Smith approached the microphone next and stated there was another round of layoffs at the Record Courier. She said Gannett informed its employees in August that there would be a round of layoffs. She explained the actions of the Local News Guild. The Manager Editor of the Record Courier was the only person at that paper laid off. She added that there has to be local news and if anyone has anything of interest, go to her. She said they will be there advocating for their communities as long as they can. She invited all to attend an Alternate Town Hall on October 6, 2022. The link to the event will be shared on social media.

Lastly, Mr. Jon Ridinger of Harold Avenue in Kent, gave a brief update regarding the work of the City Flag Committee. He said they had received many submissions, with some people sending in multiple versions. The hope of the Committee is to bring something before Council before the end of the year, and definitely before the finishing of the new City Hall building.

Written Communication

1. Council member Tracy Wallach submitted the Portage County Solid Waste Management Policy Committee Meeting Minutes from January 23, 2019 on June 27, 2022.
2. Standing Rock Cemetery Board August Meeting minutes and Agenda for the September 8, 2022 meeting received on September 1, 2022.
3. City Flag Committee Agenda for the September 14, 2022 meeting received on September 8, 2022.

4. The Parks and Recreation Board Packet for the September 15, 2022 meeting was received on September 9, 2022.
5. Board of Zoning Appeals Agenda and Staff report for September 19, 2022 was received on September 12, 2022.
6. Letter from First Energy in regards to the Ohio Edison Efficiency Safety Incentive Program for streetlighting service was received on September 13, 2022.
7. Civil Service Commission Agenda for September 19, 2022 received on September 14, 2022.
8. Email from Paul Sellman resigning from the Board of Zoning Appeals effective immediately was received on September 13, 2022.

Communication received after the agenda was published:

1. Email from Max Brockwell received on September 14, 2022 requesting City Council to consider passing a resolution in support of medicare for all.
2. Revised BZA Agenda for the September 19, 2022 meeting was received on September 16, 2022
3. Email from Ms. Jalessa Caples in regards to the upcoming Health Equity Task Force Meeting on October 20, 2022 was received on September 19, 2022
4. Email from Kent City Health Commissioner, Ms. Joan Seidel, sharing the recently passed Board of Health Resolution supporting Medicare for all, was received and forwarded to Council members on September 19, 2022.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESIGNATION BY MR. PAUL SELLMAN FROM THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

City Manager's Report

1. Request for Council's authorization to accept and allocate a \$5,000 donation to the Kent Parks and Recreation Youth Tackle Football and Cheer program from the Adam Hamilton Memorial Fund.
2. Request Council's authorization to accept and allocate a \$50 donation to the Kent Police Department to be used to purchase Halloween candy to hand out to kids.
3. Request Council's authorization to allocate \$750 to be used to provide food and beverages to support the public safety staff working the Halloween night shifts.
4. Request Council's authorization to accept and allocate a \$5,000 donation from the Estate of Carol A. Lockhart to the Kent Fire Department.
5. Request Council's authorization to accept and allocate a \$150 payment received from the Deerfield Township Fire Department for the purchase of the City's used fire equipment.

6. Request Council's authorization to accept and allocate a \$50 donation from William and Marilyn McCandless to be used by the Kent Fire Department for the Paramedicine Program.
7. Request Council's authorization to schedule the annual Democracy Day session prior to the October 5th Committee meeting.
8. Asked for Community Development Committee time to review the status of the Design Guidelines update with Council.
9. Requested Community Development Committee time to provide an opportunity for the consulting firm selected to complete the City's Climate Action Plan to provide an overview of their work and solicit Council/public input.
10. Request for Committee of the Whole time to allow Council to interview prospective candidates for vacant positions on City Boards and Commissions.
11. Request for Committee of the Whole time to provide Council with a brief update on the status of the new City Hall construction project.
12. Request for Community Development Committee time to present a proposed new part time sustainability position to work on the City's Climate Action Plan and Sustainability Goals.
13. Request for Committee of the Whole time to discuss possible changes to the eligibility requirements to fill long-term vacant Board positions.
14. Request for Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee time to present an overview of the City's yard waste facility use and options to provide an opportunity for landlords to be eligible to use the site.
15. Request for Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee time to request Council's approval of the new Hudson Road Resurfacing Agreement and associated OPWC funding request.
16. Request for Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee time to request Council's authorization to renew the bridge inspection agreement with ODOT.

MOTION TO APPROVE City Manager's Report MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

Standing Committees & Legislation

Committee of the Whole Chair Mayor Fiala

MOTION TO APPROVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 7, 2022 MADE BY Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-1. Ms. Wallach voted 'abstain'.

MOTION TO APPROVE ACTION(S) RECOMMENDED MADE BY Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Mr. Garret Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

Action Recommended:

1. Authorize the update of the annual replacement pages to the City Ordinance Book with an emergency clause.

DRAFT 2022-097 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE CITY OF KENT CODIFIED ORDINANCES 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 2022-097 MADE by Mr. Garret Ferrara, **SECONDED** by Mr. Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion **CARRIED** by a roll call vote of 8-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2022-097 MADE by Mr. Garret Ferrara, **SECONDED** by Mr. Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion **CARRIED** by a roll call vote of 8-0-0.

Ordinance 2022-097 passed.

Land Use Committee (Chair Ferrara/Vice-Chair Shaffer Bish)

MOTION TO APPROVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 7, 2022 MADE BY Mr. Garret Ferrara, **SECONDED** by Mr. John Kuhar and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 7-0-1. Ms. Wallach voted 'abstain'.

MOTION TO APPROVE ACTION(S) RECOMMENDED MADE BY Mr. Garret Ferrara, **SECONDED** by Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

Action(s) Recommended:

1. Authorize the proposed text amendment to the City's Zoning Code, with the emergency clause.

DRAFT 2022-098 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A PETITION WITH THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PORTAGE COUNTY, OHIO TO CHANGE THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY LINES IN ORDER TO REMOVE 174.828 ACRES OF TERRITORY FROM FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP AND MAKE THE TOWNSHIP LINES IDENTICAL WITH THE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO, AS A RESULT OF REMOVING SAID TERRITORY FROM THE TOWNSHIP, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (AUTHORIZED 4/20/2022) was read by title only by Clerk

Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2022-098 MADE by Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2022-098 MADE by Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0-0.

Ordinance 2022-098 passed.

DRAFT 2022-099 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF KENT'S ZONING CODE IN ORDER TO GREATER CLARIFY TEXT OR CORRECT ERRORS IN THE CODE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2022-099 MADE by Mr. John Kuhar, SECONDED by Mr. Garret Ferrara. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0-0.

Mr. Sidoti commented that they appreciate the hard work and dedication that goes into these things and that we avoid problems that could come about if the code isn't written correctly.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2022-099 MADE by Mr. John Kuhar, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0-0.

Ordinance 2022-099 passed.

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

MOTION TO APPROVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 7, 2022 MADE BY Mr. Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Mr. Jack Amrhein and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-1. Ms. Wallach voted 'abstain'.

MOTION TO APPROVE ACTION(S) RECOMMENDED MADE BY Mr. Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Mr. Jack Amrhein and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

Action(s) Recommended

1. Approve the North Mantua Street Improvements Agreement with the emergency clause.

DRAFT 2022-100 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO EXECUTE THE NORTH MANTUA STREET IMPROVEMENTS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF KENT, KENT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE DAVEY TREE EXPERT COMPANY TO ADDRESS EXISTING NEEDS ALONG THE ROADWAY, 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 2022-100 MADE by Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2022-100 MADE by Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0-0.

ORDINANCE 2022-100 passed.

Finance Committee Chair DeLeone/ Vice-Chair Wallach

MOTION TO APPROVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 7, 2022 MADE BY Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Mr. Jack Amrhein and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-1. Ms. Wallach voted 'abstain'.

MOTION TO APPROVE ACTION(S) RECOMMENDED MADE BY Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Mr. John Kuhar and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

Action(s) Recommended

1. Authorized the certification of tax rates to the Portage County Auditor's Office, with an emergency clause.
2. Authorize the purchase of the proposed utility billing software with an emergency clause.
3. Authorize the current budget appropriations as presented, with an emergency clause.

DRAFT 2022-101 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2022-101 MADE by Mr.

Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2022-101 MADE by Ms. Tracy Wallach, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0-0.

ORDINANCE 2022-101 passed.

DRAFT 2022-102 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF KENT'S BUDGET & FINANCE DEPARTMENT TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CIVICA AUTHORITY TO UPDATE THE UTILITY BILLING SOFTWARE, 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 2022-102 MADE by Mr. Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2022-102 AN ORDINANCE MADE by Mr. Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0-0.

ORDINANCE 2022-102 passed.

DRAFT 2022-103 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2021-133, THE CURRENT APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, PASSED DECEMBER 15, 2021; SO AS TO ADJUST APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS AND ADVANCES FROM THE VARIOUS FUNDS OF THE CITY OF KENT TO INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2022-103 MADE by Mr. Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Mr. John Kuhar. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2022-103 MADE by Mr. Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Mr. John Kuhar. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0-0.

ORDINANCE 2022-103 passed.

DRAFT 2022-104 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.00 TO THE CITY OF KENT PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT FROM ADAM HAMILTON MEMORIAL ACADEMIC & ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR KENT PARKS AND RECREATION YOUTH TACKLE FOOTBALL AND CHEER 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 2022-104 MADE by Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0-0.

Ms. Wallach stated that if Ms. Rosenberg were there, she would have said thank you for the donation to Parks and Recreation.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2022-104 MADE by Mr. John Kuhar, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0-0.

ORDINANCE 2022-104 passed.

Unfinished Business

NONE

New Business

MOTION TO SEND TO COMMITTEE A DISCUSSION ON A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MEDICARE FOR ALL MADE BY Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Ms. Tracy Wallach and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

Ms. Shaffer Bish stated the students speaking on the topic this evening were incredibly well spoken and she is so happy they have taken up this cause. She added that as a grant writer, most of the grants she writes are often for the underinsured, who are usually people with private insurance. She said these initiatives really do come from the bottom up.

Ms. Wallach says it just makes sense and is a win-win for everyone, helping people and that we should do it.

Mr. Sidoti commended the speakers on the topic and said while they were talking, he looked up the amount of money spent on the Ukrainian War, which has been \$8.2 billion, with another \$12 billion on the way. He said that is 20 billion dollars and yet the argument against Medicare for All is the cost. He said the reality of it is when we put our minds to it, we come up with the money in this country. He said he thinks it is more of an issue of people thinking it moves us away from a capitalist society into a socialist society, but the reality is that the only way we can have a strong capitalist society, we have to have healthy people who can work and produce, so it just makes good sense.

Mr. Robin Turner said that due to the expansion of Medicaid by a Republican governor he saved his life. There are many people who have to choose whether to receive healthcare or not due to insurance. He said he would be proud to make a motion.

Mr. Amrhein thanked them all for the information. He said for the United State of America to be finishing last in many of these areas is simply unacceptable.

Councilmembers' Comments

Mr. Kuhar said it is very refreshing to see the progress on the new city administration building.

Mayor Fiala said he sat in the new council chambers already. There was a round of laughter.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Fiala said Clerk Wilkens asked the Mayor to remind everyone about all of the positions opening up on Boards and Commissions. He explained how to apply, both online or by paper application.

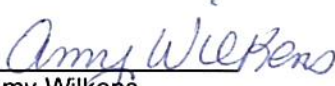
Executive Session

MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS EMPLOYEE EVALUATION AND COMPENSATION MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. Garret Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

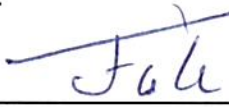
MOTION TO RETURN TO THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE 5% INCREASE IN SALARY TO CITY MANAGER DAVE RULLER, RETROACTIVE TO JUNE 15, 2022 MADE BY Mr. Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Mr. Jack Amrhein and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-1. Ms. Wallach voted 'abstain'.

The public meeting adjourned at 9:10 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.

Max Brockwell:

534 N Willow St, Kent OH

Hello members of the City Council. I'm Max Brockwell, and I may have spoken to some of you already, but for those who I haven't met yet I'm a second-year medical student at NEOMED. Myself and a few other medical students have come here today so we can discuss an issue that is significantly intertwined with our profession: health insurance. We are all members of Students for a National Health Program, and while our local chapter was only founded last year, we have 114 members supporting our cause.

Many of our members joined SNaHP because through our work in the healthcare field we've discovered an unfortunate truth: the system is broken. Currently, the US spends more money on our healthcare system than other countries with universal coverage, and this number has been increasing in the past few years leading to record high spending. Despite the government spending more, worker and employee contribution has been significantly increasing as well. Sadly, even though we spend the most compared to similar countries, our healthcare system is ranked 11 out of 11. Last place. The US has the lowest life expectancy of these countries, the highest infant mortality rate, and the highest maternal mortality rate (and this is increasing whereas in other countries this statistic is decreasing). All of this leads to delayed care and worse health outcomes.

I would like to share a personal experience with you. Before I started medical school I worked in a skin cancer clinic in Columbus dealing mostly with melanoma and other metastatic skin cancers. Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the US, and it is unique in that it is one of the most treatable if identified early. Removal of the tumor in early stages is often curative. However, we have no shortage of patients. Far too often I would hear stories of people who delayed care until the disease had spread, because they were worried about the cost of therapy. And this is a fair concern. While doctors should be able to focus on providing patients care, the reality is that we consistently had to have financial conversations with patients. During initial appointments as we discussed treatment options, patients would hesitantly ask how much therapy would cost. The response is sobering, and I quote: "without insurance, about the cost of a nice small home." You can imagine that this leaves patients distressed and facing huge financial burdens.

For far too long patients have struggled with paying for medications, treatment and preventative care. This is why we are urging the Kent City Council to pass a resolution supporting S.4204, the Medicare for All Act of 2022. We recognize this is a complex issue, and we would love to discuss the specific logistics and statistics at greater length. If we would be able to present briefly at the next subcommittee meeting to explain our stance further, we would be happy to do so. We also have provided a packet with some information, links to our YouTube lectures on the topic, and a copy of our resolution.

I would also like to let the council know that all the students present today have a major exam Friday, but they felt this issue was important enough to take time away from studying to express their support of this policy. Thank you for your time, and we hope the council will add this issue to the agenda for the October subcommittee meeting.

Michael Massey

6010 Pebblebrook Lane, Kent OH

Hello members of the city council. My name is Michael Massey, I am also a second year medical student like Max, and I wanted to share a quick story with you about why I became such a staunch advocate for Medicare for All as a medical student.

A few years ago, I was shadowing a physician in Columbus, Ohio on the night shift where I met a patient who would change my entire outlook on medicine going forward. The patient was a woman in her late-30's/early-40's. When I entered her room at 3am, the patient was crying and contorting on the hospital bed. As it turns out, she was diagnosed with early-onset Multiple Sclerosis (or MS) as a teenager. Unfortunately for her, her family never had health insurance growing up. Even when I met her, she did not have insurance even as her husband worked two jobs and she now worked from home mainly making phone calls.

I bring up her lack of insurance, because all effective medications for MS cost over \$70,000 dollars per year. So she could never afford treatment. Because of that, as the doctor told me, her MS ravaged her nervous system multiple decades before it would have with the medication. So she was actually immobilized to a wheelchair from her condition as a young mother of two.

You may be thinking why this patient was in the hospital if she knew she couldn't afford treatment for MS? Well she was actually in the hospital because her motorized wheelchair malfunctioned and careened her into a vending machine shattering both of her knees. I can still picture her grimacing through tears- telling me and the physician that she needs to get out of the hospital as soon as possible, because she knew that her stay would bankrupt her family.

This story does not happen in a vacuum. I have seen dozens of similar stories in my clinical experience since then, and we know that 26 million Americans are uninsured and millions more are underinsured with sky-high deductibles. Medical debt is also the highest cause of bankruptcy in the US. I support Medicare For All, because these stories would no longer exist in my profession.

Medicare For All, according to over 24 studies, would save billions of dollars per year while saving an estimated 45,000 to 68 thousand Americans who die every year due to a lack of health insurance. It provides full medical, dental, vision and hearing, mental, and long term health coverage to everyone in the country without any out of pocket expenses except for a \$200 cap on prescription drug fees per year.

I'll defer to our handout and any questions for more details on the financial and health benefits. I just want to say that last week, the Kent Board of Health passed a resolution urging the City Council to take action on this issue. We implore you to introduce our resolution in support of Medicare For All. If it is passed here, the Kent City Council would join over 100 cities, 5 states, and 15 national medical societies in calling upon congress to pass Medicare For All.

Lauren Genco:

6800 Alpha Dr, Kent OH

Hi, I'm Lauren Genco. I'm also a resident of Kent and a second-year medical student at NEOMED. I'm here to advocate for Medicare For All, a Single Payer Universal Healthcare system to service all who live in America, because it would be right for Kent.

Over the past 60 years, 58 other countries established similar systems and pay half of what the US pays for healthcare. Why can't we in the US do the same? Think about it. Rigorous scientific studies show that with Medicare For All we can make healthcare a right for all of our people while saving billions of taxpayers' dollars and saving countless lives. As the richest nation in the world, we should have Medicare For All because:

1. It's right for our communities. It would include all medications, dental, vision, long term care, mental health and addiction treatment, with no co-pays or deductibles, or other hidden charges. We could stop worrying that a single illness or accident will bankrupt us.
2. It's right for our businesses. Medicare For All unties healthcare from employment. Workers are free to change jobs, or start their own businesses. It means no extra medical liabilities for Workers Comp or property insurances. It will make America globally competitive once again.
3. And finally, it's right for Kent. Under Medicare For All, public agencies, such as the City of Kent, would save significant amounts of money due to decreased cost of health insurance for its employees. There has never been an easier decision for this city council to make. It's time for us to demand Medicare For All, because it's the right thing to do for our families, our businesses, and especially for our city. Thank you for your time.

Rayhan Asif:

4782 S Prospect Street, Ravenna OH

I support this Resolution endorsing the Medicare 4 All bill because universal healthcare is the most practical and fair method of providing care to people of any socioeconomic status. I grew up in an upper middle-class family where my father was luckily earning enough to be able to pay for all of our health expenses. Around and after the Great Recession in 2007, he had trouble finding a job, working at different places, even around the country. His top priority was to get us quality healthcare, but oftentimes the private insurance that came from his employer was limited and had issues with what they would cover, especially in terms of dental and vision care. In the years that my father was unemployed in, I was able to get the best health coverage of my life through the state Medicaid program. I got glasses as I was otherwise unable to read the boards in school, impacting my performance, and braces to correct an impacted tooth, which almost every private insurance company would deem as "cosmetic" even though it can cause nerve damage to the area and is at higher risk of getting infected. When I was on my father's company's insurances, I had numerous instances where the insurance company refused to pay, and we had to pay out of pocket. For my family, the out-of-pocket costs were inconvenient but manageable and I was able to have a favorable health outcome. Others are not so lucky to have a financial cushion for medical costs. To me, universal healthcare represents stability, efficiency, quality, and equity: ideals which we should all aspire to achieve in society.

James Tyler Moore:

345 N Mantua, Kent OH

Good evening members of the city council, Mayor, and everyone in the audience who's listening. My name is James Tyler Moore and I'm a long-term resident of our fair city. I am the 3rd generation in my family to graduate from Kent State University. Now, I'm the first generation in my family to earn a medical doctorate over at NEOMED. Right out of college, I worked all over our county as a behavioral health case manager at Coleman Health Services. And I bring all this up because I have seen firsthand how the disparities and the inefficiencies in our current health system affect the lives of our local citizens.

As a case manager, I spent literally dozens and dozens of hours sitting down at Jobs and Family Services and in my own office helping struggling people fill out forms to obtain Medicaid coverage, to obtain Medicare coverage, and even to deal with the problems of supposedly "good" private insurance plans that universally refuse to cover case management services no matter how obvious it is that it is a direly needed service. When clients weren't covered by pre-existing Medicaid coverage, someone had to eat the cost. That someone is the county, it's the organization itself, and in some cases it's the city of Kent directly. To put the scale of this issue in perspective, according to recent numbers from Data USA, 18.1% of Kent residents currently rely on Medicaid as their primary health insurance.

If, God willing, my clients stabilized enough to find gainful employment and begin to rise out of poverty, they had the prospect of getting kicked off their medical insurance and having to navigate the marketplace alongside premiums, deductibles, co-pays, co-insurance, and healthcare providers whose hands are tied by the stringent prior authorization requirements that for-profit insurance companies use to buffer their margins.

As someone who is dedicating their career to medicine as a future psychiatrist, this system is maddening. Our people deserve better, and right now as leaders of our city government, you have an opportunity to add our community to the growing number of cities in Ohio that are taking a stand to demand something better. A system, perhaps, like those that every other highly developed nation has somehow achieved before us.

I'd like to end by just pointing out that the authors of Medicare as we know it originally intended for it to begin as a program for the elderly and then to expand its coverage to all citizens from there once the infrastructure was in place. Obviously, that hasn't happened. Special interests killed that vision—some of whom, ashamedly, were part of my profession.

This is obviously an uphill battle, but it is one that will eventually be won. I believe it will happen in my lifetime, but it is up to the people, city by city, taking every opportunity that we have to make the push to complete the unfinished business that was started when President Johnson signed Medicare into law in 1965. It's 2022 now, and passing local resolutions like the one presented to you today is a critical step in realizing this goal. I thank you for your time and attention.