



City of Kent
Wednesday, October 19, 2022
Regular City Council Meeting
320 S. Depeyster Street, Kent, OH 44240

MINUTES

At 07:25 PM, Mayor Jerry T. Fiala called the Public Hearing to order.

Present: Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach

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

Ms. Bridget Susel addressed City Council in regards to the PY2021 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) which is done 45 days after the completion of its most recent period, which ended July 31, 2022. During this CAPER period, the City expended \$230,006 on activities that benefited low to moderate income persons. It spent 3% on economic development initiatives for job opportunities; 41% on housing rehabilitation activities; 20% on public facilities improvement; 23% on public services to benefit low to moderate income persons which includes homeless assistance; 13% on fair housing. This report will be submitted to HUD on October 31, 2022.

Mayor Fiala asked if there were any comments from the audience. There were none.

The Public Hearing adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Board of Control and Regular Council Meeting

At 07:30 PM, Mayor Jerry T. Fiala called the Regular City Council Meeting to order.

Present: Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach

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

Mayor Fiala introduced Mr. Roger Sidoti to make the opening remarks.

Mr. Sidoti thanked Mayor Fiala and began by saying he couldn't believe he actually got his snow blower out today. He encouraged everyone to prepare and remember there is an ordinance in regards to keeping sidewalks clear. He also said the city workers do an excellent job of keeping up with the leaf pickup, but reminded all to have some patience as they work to come around to all of the neighborhoods.

He asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Police Officer Commendation

Chief Shearer thanked members of the Council for the opportunity to do this. He said all too often we see negative stories involving police officers and he wanted to take the time to commend officers involved in a couple of events where the officers performed admirably.

He called Officer Matt Butcher to the front of the room. He said Officer Butcher has been with the department for fifteen years and in his time here he has always excelled at dealing with people in mental health crises. This year marks the third year that Officer Butcher was named Officer of the Year for the Crisis Intervention Team. On Wednesday, August 10th, Officer Butcher was called to a suicidal subject call and was able to make contact with the male and took a calculated risk in doing so. He used his deescalation skills to arrive at a peaceful outcome. It is nothing short of amazing he was able to build a rapport with the person and get him to come out. The subject went out of the house and met with Officer Butcher. Even after the fact, you can still hear the compassion and care in his voice as he talked to this gentleman and he rode in the ambulance with him to the hospital. Chief Shearer said he appreciated his efforts and handed him a commendation.

Next, he asked Lieutenant Short, Officer Cole and Officer Kunka to the front of the room. He described an incident on August 26, 2022, where the officers were called to respond to a crime of a protection violation offense. As they investigated the report, the suspect exited the house on the roof and cut and stabbed himself repeatedly. The officers used their deescalation techniques to surround the gentleman who then fell from the roof. They then rendered life-saving medical aid to the subject. The emergency room doctor verified that if not for the quick action of the officers, his likelihood of survival would have been lower to none. Chief Shearer said he appreciated these life-saving efforts and presented commendations to the officers.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION TO APPROVE SEPTEMBER 21, 2022 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MADE BY Mr. Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Ms. Gwen Rosenberg and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

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."

Ms. Wilkens called the first speaker to the microphone.

Alex Hyde from Doyleston approached the microphone and read from a prepared statement

advocating for Medicare for All. **(Attachment #1)**

Shawn Schreckengost who lives on Morris Road in Kent, was next to speak to Council in regards to Medicare for All. **(Attachment #2)**

Emily Huff of Rootstown approached the microphone and read from a prepared statement supporting Medicare for All. **(Attachment #3)**

Next, Dr. Josephn Zarconi, spoke to Council and read from his prepared statement. **(Attachment #4)**

Max Brockwell was the last member of the public to address Council on the topic of Medicare for All and read his prepared statement. **(Attachment #5)**

Next, Mr. Doug Fuller applauded the comments and efforts of the group who spoke before him on Medicare for All. He then addressed Council on the progress of the Design Guidelines and the consulting group the City is currently working with. He thought their ideas were good, but said they should have more concrete items to give to Council at this point in time. He said the consultants have done 30-40 interviews and have not presented any information from those. He encouraged Council to ask a lot of questions and encouraged them to learn how communities can have guidelines and have laws about those guidelines. He said he was willing to help in any way.

Written Communication

1. Planning Commission Agenda and Staff Report for the October 4, 2022 meeting was received on September 27, 2022.
2. Architectural Review Board Agenda for the October 4, 2022 meeting was received on September 29, 2022.
3. Notification that both the Planning Commission and ARB meeting on October 4, 2022 were canceled was received on October 3, 2022.
4. Standing Rock Cemetery Board of Trustees meeting agenda for October 13, 2022 was received on October 5, 2022.
5. Board of Zoning Appeals Agenda and Staff Report for October 17, 2022 was received on October 10, 2022.

City Manager's Report

1. Request for Council's authorization to accept and allocate a \$1,625.75 donation from Mike Beder and the Kent Firefighter Association Local 721 to the new Fire Department Paramedicine program.
2. Request Council's authorization to temporarily extend the terms of Bridget Tipton (expires 12/31/22) and Dave Basista (expires 12/31/22) on the ARB until Council has finalized the Design Guidelines update and determined the membership requirements under the new Guidelines.
3. Request for Committee of the Whole time to allow Council to interview prospective candidates for vacant positions on City Boards and Commissions.
4. Request for Committee of the Whole time to provide Council with a brief update on the status of the town gown projects and partnerships.
5. Request for Committee of the Whole time to provide Council with a brief update on the status of the new City Hall construction project.

6. Request 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.
7. Request Community Development Committee time to present a new TREX liquor license request for Redding Empowered LLC (DP Dough).
8. Request Community Development Committee time to present a Planning Commission recommendation for a proposed text amendment to the Zoning Code (adding microbreweries and limited indoor food service).
9. Request for Finance Committee time to present the Proposed 2023-37 Capital Improvement Plan for Council's consideration and approval.
10. Request for Finance Committee time for Council to authorize requesting the advance taxes from Portage County for 2022.
11. Request for Finance Committee time for Council to consider a 2022 Budget Appropriations Amendment.
12. Request Finance Committee time for Council to consider the proposed Local Government Fund shared revenue calculation for Portage County.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. Garret Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Standing Committees & Legislation

Committee of the Whole

MOTION TO APPROVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 5, 2022
MADE BY Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-1. Ms. Wallach voted to abstain.

MOTION TO APPROVE ACTION(S) RECOMMENDED MADE BY Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Action(s) Recommended

1. Authorize appointment of candidates to appropriate Boards and Commissions.
2. Authorize the agreement with KSU to create a new part-time City Sustainability position, with the emergency clause.

MOTION TO APPOINT JEFF FORSTNER AND LAURA SCARNACHIA TO THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS MADE BY Mr. John Kuhar, SECONDED by Mr. Jack Amrhein and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE TO INSERT NAMES INTO LEGISLATION MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. John Kuhar and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

DRAFT 2022-105 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING JEFF FORSTNER AND LAURA SCARNACHIA 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 OF DRAFT 2022-105 MADE by Mr. John Kuhar, SECONDED by Ms. Gwen Rosenberg. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2022-105 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. Gwen Rosenberg, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

RESOLUTION 2022-105 PASSES.

DRAFT 2022-106 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF KENT AND KENT STATE UNIVERSITY TO CREATE A NEW SHARED SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR POSITION 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 2022-106 MADE by Mr. Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Ms. Gwen Rosenberg. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2022-106 MADE by Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Ms. Gwen Rosenberg. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

Ms. Shaffer Bish commented that she commended the city manager for being out in front of the issues regarding sustainability. If we don't have people responsible then we wouldn't be able to meet our goals. She appreciates our city manager presenting this idea.

ORDINANCE 2022-106 PASSES.

Community Development

MOTION TO APPROVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 5, 2022 MADE BY Mr. John Kuhar, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-1. Ms. Wallach voted 'abstain'.

Action(s) Recommended: NONE

Health & Safety Committee

MOTION TO APPROVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 5, 2022 MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-1. Ms. Wallach voted 'abstain'.

MOTION TO APPROVE ACTION(S) RECOMMENDED MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-2-0. Mr. Ferrara and Mr. Kuhar voted 'No'.

Mayor Fiala asked if there was any discussion on the item recommended.

Mr. Kuhar said the students from NEOMED did an excellent job presenting the information

but he is not a medical expert. He consulted administrators at a local hospital and family physicians and insurance people and said they all agreed the last person who should be involved in healthcare is the US Government. He said drug companies and administrative costs are a big problem. He did say they all agreed our medical care needs to improve, but he does not feel this is the answer.

Mr. Sidoti said, the people Mr. Kuhar mentioned having vested interests and that they would not do anything to jeopardize their interests. He said we need to start having real conversations and step back from these interests. The best way to do it is to agree that we need change and throw out our ideological and financial ideas. He said the Declaration of Independence states that we are born with inalienable rights to life, liberty, property. He said it does not say "if you can afford it". He wants to force the conversation and supports the resolution.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said the government is in the healthcare business. For our oldest citizens, there is Medicare and for those of low income there is Medicaid. These have removed a lot of barriers for those to have access to healthcare, including preventative health care. It may not be perfect. There is an arbitrary line where you could lose Medicaid benefits and then you are stuck, potentially become uninsured or under insured. We often face high deductibles because we rely on employers and employers are strapped. This should be decoupled from employment. We will see a flowering of innovation and it is really the right thing to do. The time has come for a single-payer system. Having access to government-supported healthcare works. Using our old outdated employer healthcare does not. It leaves many out in the cold without prevention, stuck in jobs they don't want. There are many barriers to access and debt.

Mr. Turner said he supports this resolution and that Obamacare won. They are expanding healthcare and are talking about life and death. This is one of the most important things we can do to make this statement and support this resolution. He commended those who brought this forward and now we can do our part to start lifting people up.

Ms. Gwen Rosenberg thanked everyone attending and presenting tonight and choosing a profession of helping others. She is going to support the resolution and believes it is a human right to access medical care. Government entities are already paying for healthcare after the fact; our paramedics is an example. She added that although this is a resolution in support of it is meaningful and will hopefully spread to more cities, as that is how change comes about.

Mr. Amrhein said he supports the resolution as it is long overdue. He said we have a tough road to go down with this because there will be those entities that are against this. He said our country needs a new slogan "Let's Make America Care Again".

Action(s) Recommended:

1. Authorize a Resolution in support of the Medicare for All initiative.

Draft 2022-107 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO ENDORSING THE MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT OF 2022 (S.4204); AND DECLARING THAT ACCESS TO QUALITY AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE IS A HUMAN RIGHT, 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 2022-107 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. Gwen Rosenberg, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft 2022-107 MADE by Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Ms. Tracy Wallach. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-2-0. Mr. Ferrara and Mr. Kuhar voted 'No'.

Ms. Tracy Wallach said that when the residents have an opportunity to vote on expanding Medicaid, it seems like they always vote to expand it, in spite of state legislatures.

RESOLUTION 2022-107 PASSES.

Land Use Committee

MOTION TO APPROVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 5, 2022 MADE BY Mr. Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-1. Ms. Wallach voted 'abstain'.

MOTION TO APPROVE ACTION(S) RECOMMENDED MADE BY Mr. Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Action(s) Recommended:

1. Authorize repeal of ordinance 2022-098.
2. Authorize approval of accepting land from Franklin Township as part of the annexation process.

Draft 2022- 108 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2022-098, PASSED SEPTEMBER 21, 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- 108 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. Gwen Rosenberg, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft 2022- 108 MADE by Mr. Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Ms. Gwen Rosenberg. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

ORDINANCE 2022-108 PASSES.

Draft 2022-109 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AN ANNEXATION OF 174.828 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, FROM FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, PORTAGE COUNTY TO THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF Draft 2022-109 MADE by Mr. Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Ms. Gwen Rosenberg. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft 2022-109 MADE by Mr. Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Mr. Garret Ferrara. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

ORDINANCE 2022-109 PASSES.

Streets, Sidewalks and Utilities

MOTION TO APPROVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 5, 2022 MADE BY Mr. Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-1. Ms. Wallach voted 'abstain'.

MOTION TO APPROVE ACTION(S) RECOMMENDED MADE BY Mr. Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Action(s) Recommended:

1. Authorize the resurfacing agreement for Hudson Road with Franklin Township and approve the submission of grant funding with OPWC.
2. Authorize the renewal of the bridge safety inspection services agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).

Draft 2022-110 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO SUBMIT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF KENT AND FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, AN APPLICATION TO THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION (OPWC) FOR THE HUDSON ROAD PHASE V WIDENING AND RESURFACING PROJECT, 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 2022-110 MADE by Mr. John Kuhar, SECONDED by Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft 2022-110 MADE by Mr. John Kuhar, SECONDED by Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said this is another example of the City providing access to the bike trails, eliminating the need to take a car to the bike trail. She said this is one way we are incrementally working with partners (Franklin Twp.) to make the route to the bike trails safer for our citizens.

ORDINANCE 2022-110 PASSES.

Draft 2022- 111 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO RENEW AN AGREEMENT GIVING CONSENT TO THE STATE OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) FOR PARTICIPATION IN THEIR BRIDGE INSPECTION PROGRAM SERVICES FOR THE YEAR 2023; PID 117554; 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- 111 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. Gwen Rosenberg, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft 2022- 111 MADE by Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Ms. Gwen Rosenberg. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

ORDINANCE 2022-111 PASSES.

Finance Committee

MOTION TO APPROVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 5, 2022 MADE BY Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Mr. John Kuhar and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE ACTION(S) RECOMMENDED MADE BY Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Ms. Gwen Rosenberg and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Action(s) Recommended:

1. Approve the 2022 budget appropriation.
2. Authorize Employment Contract between the City of Kent and Dave Ruller.

DRAFT 2022- 112 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- 112 MADE by Mr. John Kuhar, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2022- 112 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. Gwen Rosenberg, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

ORDINANCE 2022-112 PASSES.

Draft 2022-113 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY BUDGET & FINANCE DIRECTOR AND LAW DIRECTOR, OR THEIR DESIGNEES, TO SIGN AN EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF KENT AND DAVID RULLER, 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 2022-113 MADE by Mr. Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Ms. Gwen Rosenberg. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr Jack

Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft 2022-113 MADE by Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, SECONDED by Mr. Garret Ferrara. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

Mr. Ferrara said he is happy to extend the contract of the City Manager and said he does a great job for our City. Mr. Sidoti said he seconds those comment.

ORDINANCE 2022-113 PASSES.

Unfinished Business: NONE

New Business : NONE

Councilmembers' Comments

Ms. Gwen Rosenberg congratulated Main Street Kent for a fantastic Rainbow Weekend. She said it is important to celebrate it and that people come out and enjoy themselves. It says a lot about our city. She said she also wanted to remind everybody over the age of 18 to please vote and that early voting had begun. It is important for our democracy.

Ms. Shaffer Bish thanked the students from NEOMED for their dedication, compassion and willingness to put their time and effort into this process. She applauded the amount of planning that went into their presentation. She encouraged future advocacy work and hopes it will continue when they become physicians. It is very heartening to see the effort put into this. She said she hopes everyone has a safe and happy Halloween.

Mr. Robin Turner thanked the students for presenting their information on Medicare for All and said that this is the change we need. He also commended the Kent Police Department regarding the handling of an incident of a shooting that happened in front of his house. They inspire confidence in the community and in the neighborhood. He said the police of the city of Kent are the best. He is very appreciative of how it was handled.

Mr. Kuhar said he has been on the Council for over ten years. He said when he first began, 90% of the complaints he received were from students saying the police bullied them. He added it had been a long time since he had had any of those complaints. He said he now gets the normal complaints about tree roots and raccoons. He likes to think it is because we are getting better.

Mr. Sidoti said that when Officer Butcher first started, he was always up at the school and said it had been so impressive watching him grow in his profession. As long as department chairs and others have a growth mindset, there really isn't anything we can't do. He said we are on the right track and commended Officer Butcher on his growth.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Fiala wished Mr. John Kuhar a happy birthday on the following day.

He continued by stating for the past 2 years, the City has given a gift of \$25 to spend in downtown Kent and would like to continue that tradition again this year.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE GIFT CARD PROGRAM MADE BY Mr. John Kuhar, SECONDED by Mr. Jack Amrhein and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-1. Ms. Rosenberg voted 'abstain'.

Mayor Fiala said he commended the students for the Medicare for All presentation, and added that someone has to pay the bill eventually, and it will probably be their kids. He reminded all to vote in the next election.

Executive Session

MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS AN EMPLOYEE EVALUATION AND COMPENSATION MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. John Kuhar and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

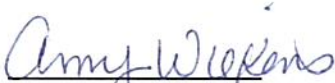
Present: Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Garret Ferrara, Mr. John Kuhar, Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti, Mr. Robin Turner, Ms. Tracy Wallach

Also Present: Mayor Jerry T. Fiala

MOTION TO RETURN TO THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MADE BY Mr. John Kuhar, SECONDED by Mr. Garret Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO GIVE THE CLERK OF COUNCIL A 2% MERIT RAISE WHEN SHE RECEIVES HER CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL CLERK CERTIFICATION, RETROACTIVE TO THE ANNIVERSARY DAY OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2022 MADE BY Mr. Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Mr. Jack Amrhein and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 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.

Alex Hyde:

Hello members of the Kent City Council. My name is Alex Hyde and I'm here to advocate for Medicare for All. By now you've heard my colleagues expound on our dismal health outcome statistics, that the US is ranked last in practically every metric of healthcare. That we have the highest infant and maternal mortality rates. That 30% of the US population is saddled with crippling levels of medical debt. That we as a nation spend more on healthcare than every other nation with an established universal health care model, all so that we can receive mediocre healthcare outcomes. I'm not here to talk about that, what I'm here to talk about is the moral argument for Medicare for All and the obligation of the state to provide healthcare to its people.

I'll start and end by asking you this, "What is the primary goal of any government?" The answer: to care for its people. Every other argument for the government flows from this answer, be it national defense, funding for public education, or even something as mundane as zoning laws. Healthcare is no exception, and as it stands right now the US is failing to care for its citizens at a fundamental level. For without Medicare for All, people of all social standings are forced to live their lives in fear of what might happen to them instead of living their lives as free Americans. Health is not some abstract metric that can be manipulated on a spreadsheet, it is the visceral, lived reality of everyone everywhere. It is quite telling of the character of a government if it is willing to ignore such an integral and blatantly obvious obligation in caring for its citizens.

If we want to continue to proclaim that the US is shining beacon on a hill, we have to act like it. We must right this moral injustice, one city at a time if we have to. Which is why I am urging the Kent City Council to join over 100 localities and national organizations in calling upon congress to pass Medicare For All.

Hello everyone,

My name is Shawn Schreckengost. I am a public health student at Kent State University with a focus in public policy, economics, and administrations of health services. I am also a campus leader as president of the public health student Alliance. My education and experience has provided me with a unique perspective on how all policies influence our health.

Americans take pride in our individual rights, freedoms, and liberties. As they should! This is what so many have fought for. The United States is the world's largest economy and is often an agent of change. This being said we are not perfect, we have to be willing to set our pride aside to acknowledge change needs to happen. We must step back from our systems and question who our systems really work for?

Tonight I would like to discuss a unique, complex issue of health and how our created systems hinders the upward modality of so many. According to the Commonwealth Fund, the US has the highest chronic disease burden and two times the rate of obesity compared to other developed countries. Yet the United States spends the most on health care and health services, how is this possible? Is it the individual's behaviors and habits? Or is it the systems that we have created and these outcomes are a product of that?

The Kaiser Family Foundation estimates 1 in 10 adults owe medical debt, with millions owing more than \$10,000. For many this places a price on life saving medications and procedures. This stops many from seeking any form of low cost prevention services, which have been proven effective in reduce spending and improving health outcomes. Now Americans have to weigh the options of feeding their families or taking their life saving medications.

Where do we draw the line with corporations prioritizing record profits, while their clients suffer. If not now, when is the point where we stand together against these injustices.

With this being said I am in support of Kent City Council passing a resolution in support of Senate Bill 4204, Medicare for All. The time to act is now. Health knows no boards. By passing this resolution we can impact the lives of those in the Kent community and so many more individuals. So I hope you will act in the interest of the Kent community and so many others, by voting yes for a resolution supporting Medicare for All.

Regards,

Shawn Schreckengost Jr.

Kent State University, Class of 2023

Email: sschrec3@kent.edu

Emily Huff:

I'm a second-year medical student who grew up in Cincinnati, attended the University of Oklahoma, and then went abroad for my graduate studies. I lived in London for a number of years where I studied neuroscience and worked as a nurses' assistant in a publicly funded NHS hospital. Moving from the privatized US healthcare I had known to the publicized European model, I was able to see that my upbringing had blinded me to the faults in our deeply broken insurance system. I learned that a better way was possible, and that public healthcare was not an impractical fantasy but rather a lived reality for nearly 70% of the first-world population. As I have begun my medical training, I have come to believe that Medicare for All is not only a feasible political policy, but also an urgent moral necessity.

As some of you may know from firsthand experience, it is a shamefully common occurrence for Americans to be forced into making horrifying choices between death and bankruptcy. One story that has stayed with me is that of a young unemployed mother learning that her infant daughter had a terminal autoimmune disorder and would not live to see her first birthday without treatment. Unfortunately, the treatment she needed cost more than \$11,000 per month. This was incredibly devastating news, but even more heartbreaking was the mother's reaction— not to ask how she could possibly afford the treatment, but to begin trying to calculate, based on her savings, how long she could afford to keep her daughter alive.

This is not conscionable.

This child did nothing wrong— no amount of healthy lifestyle choices, hard work, or personal responsibility could have prevented her illness. I'm not as well-versed on the political and economic nuances of Medicare as some of my colleagues, but to me this is an ethical issue. No one deserves to die because they cannot afford medical treatment. Illness is not a punishment for bad choices or a failure to plan. Health is not a reward you earn through gainful employment. It is a basic human right, and our country's decentralized healthcare system has resulted in crippling debt, unnecessary suffering, and preventable death.

I understand many have concerns regarding the financial aspects of such a change; however, the role of a government should be at times to assume the burden of policies which exist to serve the public good, rather than to generate profit. We are willing to federally provide for public school costs because we believe that it is more important to live in a country where children have access to education, rather than a country where schools are sufficiently profitable to their investors. In the same way, I support Medicare for All because I believe that it is more important to live in a country where people do not have to die of preventable diseases just because they are poor or unemployed or unlucky, rather than a country where hospitals are sufficiently profitable to their investors.

We as physicians have a responsibility to help our patients, and with financial considerations limiting what we can do for them, our hands are always halfway tied— an invisible binding that many Americans do not even notice because they were born into this and have never known anything different. Please consider using your platform to support our mission to improve the health of your city and your country. Thank you very much for your time.

Joseph Zarconi, M.D., F.A.C.P.
Tenured Professor, Internal Medicine

Good evening. I am Dr. Joseph Zarconi, I live in west Akron, and am a long-standing member of the clinical faculty at NEOMED.

I want to start by making the claim that uninsurance and under-insurance have become a public health crisis in our country.

I am a kidney specialist. When I see a patient with kidney disease, it's my job to first try to determine the cause to see if it can be fixed. If it can't be fixed, it may well progress to total kidney failure known as end-stage renal disease or ESRD. A person facing ESRD has basically three options. They can undertake dialysis treatments for the rest of their lives, they can undergo kidney transplantation, or they can choose neither treatment and accept dying. The best of these options is transplantation, but many patients aren't candidates because of the surgical risks. Dialysis, the most common pathway, is certainly an effective way of prolonging the patient's life, but it's associated with many health setbacks, frequent hospitalizations and procedures and complications, and it's incredibly costly. It also dramatically shortens the patient's life expectancy, and by *decades*. So when we see patients with abnormal kidney function, all of our initial approaches are aimed at either preventing the eventual need for dialysis by curing or stabilizing the disease if possible, or, when the disease can't be fixed, preparing the patient to do everything he or she can to slow its progression to delay the need for dialysis as far into the future as possible.

For my insured patients, I can initiate a diagnostic work up that includes an ultrasound of the kidneys, a battery of elaborate bloodwork, and possibly a kidney biopsy to determine whether there's something we can fix. For my uninsured patients, I can't offer this diagnostic work up because it's too expensive. They simply can't afford it. So it's quite possible that an uninsured patient might have a treatable or fixable condition, but we have no way to find that out. We can only resign ourselves to watching that person's kidney dysfunction progress to eventual dialysis.

For my insured patients, we can begin to talk about all of the things we can do to slow progression, including good medical management and control of their diabetes, their high blood pressure, their high cholesterol levels, all in collaboration with their primary care doctor, and numerous medications as part of that chronic disease management. For my uninsured patients who don't have access to primary care doctors, and who can't afford the medications they need, their kidney disease progresses much more rapidly. They're likely to face dialysis within a period of about two years, much as it was in the 1980s when I was first training to be a nephrologist, rather than many years or even decades as it is today, with good medical care.

The bottom line is that our uninsured patients don't get to know if they might have a fixable disease, don't get the many additional years of slowing their progression, so they suffer more, are in and out of the hospital with complications and setbacks, and then die at an age that we would all agree is far too soon. That's not fair. That's not good health care. Frankly, in the words of some of my patients, "that sucks."

In 2019, we spent \$51B on Medicare-related health care expenditures in this country, a large chunk of which was spent on dialysis care. We didn't need to spend that much, and wouldn't have if all of our

citizens could access health care with insurance. Too many people have suffered unnecessarily and died prematurely because we haven't fixed the underlying problem.

I implore you as public servants to urge Congress to act on this concern as a matter of great urgency.
Thank you.

Max Brockwell:

Hello members of the City Council, and residents of Kent. I have spoken with many of you at length this Fall discussing implementation of a national single payer healthcare system: Medicare for All. As future physicians we have all seen more than our fair share of health inequity, as a part of the healthcare institution we are taking action to correct this injustice. Because if we do not speak out against an unjust system, we are complicit in it.

Over the past four weeks, you have heard a few stories from students that have witnessed firsthand the delay of patient care, suboptimal care, or care that was forgone all together. All unified in one explanation, there are serious flaws in our healthcare system. Unfortunately, these few examples were chosen from a large pool of similar experiences, highlighting the extensive nature of this issue.

We have established that our current system is broken, leading to health disparities and significantly worse health outcomes compared to similar nations that have national healthcare programs. We discussed the details of Medicare for All, which would expand access to affordable healthcare to all members of our society, including dental, vision, and mental health care. We delved into the inefficiencies in healthcare today and explored how single payer healthcare reform would be both affordable and sustainable according to multiple rigorous academic studies. Today, we come to you asking that you enact this resolution declaring the council's support of Medicare for All. It will improve the health of our community. It will decrease financial burden on the residents of Kent when healthcare is needed. It will begin to right decades of injustice which have affected women and social minorities most.

I truly appreciate the time you have provided us, and on behalf of our organization I would like to thank the members of our local government and the city as a whole. The support for this issue we have experienced makes me proud to be a resident of Kent. Thank you.

