



City of Kent
Wednesday, February 15, 2023
Regular City Council Meeting
320 S. Depeyster Street, Kent, OH 44240

MINUTES

7:15 P.M. Special Council Committee Meeting (Separate Agenda)

7:25 P.M. CDBG Public Hearing

Mayor Fiala called the CDBG Public Hearing to order at 7:25 p.m. Roll call was taken.

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. 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; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council

On January 20, 2023, notice was given that the Kent City Council was conducting a Public Hearing to allow for public comment on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Year (PY) 2023 Action Plan.

Ms. Bridget Susel, Director of Community Development, announced this was the 1st Public Hearing for the CDBG Program. The City's program period begins August 1, 2023 and ends July 31, 2024. The priorities the City has identified for the use of the CDBG funds include housing for low to moderate income persons, and infrastructure projects.

Mayor Fiala asked for comments from the audience. There were no comments.

Hearing no further business, Mayor Fiala adjourned the Public Hearing at 7:26 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting

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. 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; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council

Opening Remarks and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Kuhar said looking back over the past few years, that they have been really hectic, troublesome and stressful. He said the world is changing tremendously in the different ways people act and the way they do things. He added that some of it seems pretty good, but a lot doesn't. He said we need to mellow out a little bit and find out what the good things are and try to phase out those things that aren't. He said the Council's job is going to try to keep things moving in a positive direction and keep the economy moving in a positive direction. He believes they have a council that's capable of doing so. He asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certified Municipal Clerk Presentation

Mayor Fiala introduced Ms. Helen Dunlap, VP of Ohio Municipal Clerks Association and Clerk of Council for the City of Broadview Heights. Ms. Dunlap read the following statement:

Good evening Mayor Fiala, Members of Council, Administration and Members of the Public.

My name is Helen Dunlap, and I am the Vice President of the Ohio Municipal Clerks Association and the Clerk of Council for the City of Broadview Heights. The OMCA is the state of Ohio municipal clerks' organization that is affiliated with the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. I am here this evening to make a very special presentation to a member of the City of Kent Staff.

IIMC was founded in 1947 and is a professional association with more than 15,000 members in the United States, Canada and 15 other countries. Its primary goal is to actively promote the continuing education and professional development of municipal clerks through extensive education programs, certification, publications, networking, conferences and research. IIMC also engages in municipal research administration, enhances critical professional skill development and fosters a spirit of mutual assistance and good fellowship among municipal clerks around the globe.

The Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation program is designed to enhance the job performance of the Clerk in both small and large municipalities. To earn the CMC designation, a Municipal Clerk must attend extensive education programs. The designation also requires pertinent experience in a municipality. The program prepares the participants to meet the challenges of the complex role of a Municipal Clerk by providing quality education in partnership with 47 institutions of higher learning.

Earning the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk is more than a pin, a certificate and three letters at the end of your name. It is a declaration that you are proficient in your important position and that you have demonstrated mastery of administrative skills critical to good government.

It is with great pleasure that I stand before you tonight to officially present your Clerk, Amy Wilkens, with her Certified Municipal Clerk designation. After a dedicated journey of several years, hours of seminars, conferences, and institute sessions, she has reached this pinnacle, an achievement that very few clerks are able to accomplish. Out of 15,000 IIMC members, she is one of 4,640 members worldwide to obtain this certificate. In Ohio, there are less than 100 CMC's.

I know Amy is dedicated to the City of Kent and works very hard to do the best job possible for the residents of Kent, Council and administration. With that said, I am honored to be here tonight to present Amy Wilkens her certificate for achieving her Certified Municipal Clerk designation.

Congratulations Amy on reaching this achievement in your career!

Ms. Helen Dunlap presented Ms. Amy Wilkens with the plaque from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Ms. Wilkens thanked the Mayor, Council, City Manager and staff for their support over the years that enabled her to obtain her certificate.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 18, 2023 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MADE BY Mr. John Kuhar, SECONDED by Ms. Tracy Wallach and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Public Comment

Mayor Fiala asked if there was anyone signed in. Clerk Wilkens reported there were no members of the public wishing to speak to Council.

Written Communication

1. Official List of Elected Officials and Notification of Filing Requirement was received from the Ohio Ethics Commission and forwarded to Council on January 31, 2023.
2. Standing Rock Cemetery Board of Trustees Agenda for February 9, 2023 was received on January 31, 2023.
3. Email from Mr. Bill Wilen requesting Kent install solar canopies in large parking lots located throughout the city, was received and forwarded to councilmembers on February 3, 2023.
4. Kent City Board of Health Agenda and Statistical report for the February 13, 2023 meeting was received on February 8, 2023.
5. Liquor License NEW request was received on February 8, 2023 for 265 West Inc., The Underground in Kent, 265 West Main St. Lower Level, Kent.
Ms. Wilkens reported she spoke with Ohio Liquor Control, who said they were notified the liquor license being requested was in a dry area. It would need to go on the ballot before a license could be approved. Mayor Fiala reported there was a group going door to door to get signatures to put on the ballot.

MOTION TO RETURN WITH NO OBJECTION MADE BY Mr. John Kuhar, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Communication Received After Agenda Published

6. Letter from Bobeck Funding II, LLC in regards to a rehabilitation project at Summit Gardens Apartments located at 1101 Summit Gardens Blvd, Kent was received and forwarded to Council on February 10, 2023.
7. Board of Zoning Agenda and Staff Report for the February 20, 2023 meeting was received on February 14, 2023.

City Manager's Report

1. Request for Committee of the Whole time to request Council approval of the replacement pages for the City's Codified Ordinances.

2. Request for Committee of the Whole time to provide an update on the Climate Action Plan with Keramida.
3. Request for Community Development Committee time to review the staff recommendations for the City's PY2023 CDBG programs.
4. Request for Community Development Committee time to present the final recommendations for the update to the City's Design Guidelines.
5. Request for Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee time to discuss options to expedite the approval of special events and street closures.
6. Request for Finance Committee time to ask for Council's approval for the use of the 2023 NOPEC Energized grant funding.

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

Standing Committees & Legislation

Committee of the Whole Chair Mayor Fiala

MOTION TO APPROVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 1, 2023 MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-1. Ms. Wallach voted 'Abstain'.

MOTION TO APPROVE ACTION RECOMMENDED MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Action(s) Recommended:

1. Authorize amending membership requirements to the City's Revolving Loan Fund Loan Review Board.

MOTION TO APPOINT PATRICIA LOWERY TO THE LOAN REVIEW BOARD MADE BY Mr. Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Mr. Garret Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE INSERTION OF NAMES INTO DRAFT ORDINANCE 2023-004 MADE BY Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Mr. Garret Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Draft 2023- 004 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING PATRICIA LOWERY TO THE LOAN REVIEW BOARD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF Draft 2023- 004 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 2023- 004 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. 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 2023-004 has passed.

Draft 2023- 005 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2014-115, PASSED OCTOBER 15, 2014, TO AMEND THE SPECIFIED QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITIONS ON THE LOAN REVIEW BOARD; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF Draft 2023- 005 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.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft 2023- 005 MADE by Mr. Garret Ferrara, 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 9-0-0.

Ordinance 2023-005 has passed.

Community Development Chair Kuhar/ Vice-Chair Rosenberg

MOTION TO APPROVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 1, 2023 MADE BY John Kuhar, SECONDED by Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-1. Ms. Wallach voted 'Abstain'.

MOTION TO APPROVE ACTION RECOMMENDED MADE BY Mr. John Kuhar, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Action(s) Recommended

1. Authorize the renewal of the sublease to the Haymaker Farmer's Market for the 2023 season.

Draft 2023- 006 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO RENEW THE AGREEMENT WITH THE HAYMAKER FARMERS' MARKET FOR THE SUB-LAND LEASE OF A PARKING LOT LOCATED NORTH OF SUMMIT STREET, WEST OF FRANKLIN AVENUE, AND EAST OF AKRON BARBERTON CLUSTER RAILWAY COMPANY'S MAIN LINE TRACK, CONTAINING 0.168 ACRES, FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2023 THROUGH NOVEMBER 25, 2023; CONTINGENT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE CITY'S LEASE WITH THE AKRON BARBERTON CLUSTER RAILWAY COMPANY, FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$1.00; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF Draft 2023- 006 MADE by Ms. Tracy Wallach, SECONDED by Mr. John Kuhar. 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 2023- 006 MADE by Mr. John Kuhar, 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 9-0-0.

Ordinance 2023-006 has passed.

Health & Safety Committee Chair Amrhein/ Vice-Chair Sidoti

MOTION TO APPROVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 1, 2023 MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. John Kuhar and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-1. Ms. Wallach voted 'Abstain'.

MOTION TO APPROVE ACTIONS RECOMMENDED MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. Garret Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Action(s) Recommended:

1. Authorize the submission of the PEP Grant request for \$1000; allocating funds toward enhanced security at the Health Department.
2. Authorize Ohio First Responder Grant application; allocating funds and allowing staff to sign the grant agreement.

Draft 2023- 007 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING FOR THE KENT HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000.00 FROM THE PUBLIC ENTITIES POOL (PEP) TO INSTALL TWO (2) PANIC BUTTONS AT FRONT DESK, 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 2023- 007 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. 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 2023- 007 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.

Ordinance 2023-007 has passed.

Draft 2023-008 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING FOR THE KENT POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$102,500.00 FROM THE ARPA FIRST RESPONDER WELLNESS, RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, AND RESILIENCY GRANT PROGRAM TO DEVELOP WELLNESS PROGRAMS, 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 2023-008 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 9-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft 2023-008 MADE by Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, 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 2023-008 has passed.

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

MOTION TO APPROVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 1, 2023
MADE BY Mr. Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Mr. John Kuhar and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-1. Ms. Wallach voted 'Abstain'.

MOTION TO APPROVE ACTIONS RECOMMENDED MADE BY Mr. Roger Sidoti,
SECONDED by Mr. John Kuhar and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Action(s) Recommended

1. Authorize a new agreement between the City and Summit County Metroparks to enable the joint trail rerouting of a section of the hike and bike trail in the vicinity of the Middlebury Road Bridge.

Draft 2023-009 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO ENTER INTO A CONSTRUCTION MAINTENANCE AND USE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF KENT AND SUMMIT METRO PARKS (SMP) FOR AN OFF-ROAD BIKE/HIKE TRAIL CONNECTION, 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 2023-009 MADE by Mr. John Kuhar, 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 9-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft 2023-009 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. 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 2023-009 has passed.

Draft 2023-010 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPROVE A NEW SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION FROM DAVID SCHOEFLER TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JUNE 24 AND SUNDAY JUNE 25, 2023, AND THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ERIE STREET BETWEEN SOUTH DEPEYSTER STREET AND ROUTE 59, 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 2023-010 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 2023-010 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. 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 2023-010 has passed.

Finance Committee

Chair DeLeone/ Vice-Chair Wallach

MOTION TO APPROVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 1, 2023 MADE BY Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-1. Ms. Wallach voted 'Abstain'.

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

Actions Recommended:

1. Approve and accept the NOPEC Event Sponsorship Grant in the amount of \$3,500 and allocate funds to Kent Skates project in 2023.
2. Approve the 2023 budget appropriations amendments.

Draft 2023-011 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT THE NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) 2023 COMMUNITY EVENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,500.00, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF Draft 2023-011 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.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft 2023-011 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 2023-011 has passed.

Draft 2023- 012 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2022-138, THE CURRENT APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, PASSED DECEMBER 21, 2022; 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, 2023; 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 2023- 012 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.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft 2023- 012 MADE by Mr. Michael DeLeone, 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 2023-012 has passed.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Kuhar said in 2009/2010 Council had approved and allotted \$30000 for solar panels on the Fire Station and, if not that, the truck wash rack. He said not for electricity but for hot water. He said it's been a while and it was approved and would like to bring this back up again. Mayor Fiala said this would need to be researched and thanked Mr. Kuhar for bringing this up. Mr. Kuhar said he would be glad to help in any way that is needed.

New Business

Ms. Shaffer Bish said it is really important to understand that rent rates have increased and it has priced some people out of affordable housing. At the same time, the housing stock is old and aging. She feels very passionate about looking for new ways to develop either new housing or to improve the housing stock in the city of Kent. She added that fortunately, it has come to light that a developer is proposing a low income housing tax credit project to improve an existing apartment complex- Summit Gardens. They are looking for support from the City because the application process is very competitive.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO BE WRITTEN ON BEHALF OF CITY COUNCIL IN REGARDS TO THE SUMMIT GARDENS APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE MADE BY Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Mr. John Kuhar and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Mr. Kuhar said this apartment complex is in his ward and that it is depressing to walk through. There are two units which have new doors and they really stick out. Just the appearance of a new door made the appearance better. He is unsure how the management let it get into such disrepair. He encourages anything that could be done to help.

Ms. Roseberg asked if the letter was in support of the developer or the project in general, and not specific to any individual developer. Ms. Shaffer Bish said this particular developer came forward and will be submitting the application for the process. Ms. Rosenberg said she would like to support the idea of improving the apartments but is not ready to commit to supporting a particular developer.

Mr. Sidoti said the problem is the developer wants to do it and no other developer has stepped up to do it, so what we are doing is supporting their application to the government to obtain the resources.

Mayor Fiala recognized Ms. Bridget Susel. She clarified the letter of support is for the application of submission. This has been done in the past with Maplebrook. The letter will show it aligns with the CDBG safe housing and will be addressed to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency.

Mr. Turner doesn't think it is a bad thing to make a general comment of support. This is on our agenda as a community to help get assistance with low to moderate income housing. We need to make a statement that we believe this is very important for the community. He said we should also be looking into the homeless issue.

Ms. Wallach said Point of Order.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said this does seek to provide housing for those who cannot afford housing. She said any opportunity to support affordable housing needs to be taken. It doesn't mean they will all be 100% low income, but if they do get the tax credits they will go through the whole vetting process.

Mr. Kuhar asked if the property had changed hands yet. Mr. Ruller said it may be contingent.

Councilmembers' Comments

Mr. DeLeone asked if there were any updates to the City's digital sign. He said it needs to be fixed as it is still very hard to read. Mr. Ruller said he would look into and report back to Council.

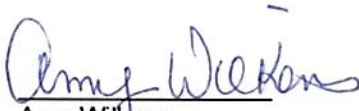
Mr. DeLeone then commented that he heard the City was purchasing a few new police cars and thought that College Street will hopefully be on the list of streets that are repaired in the near future.

Mr. Sidoti thanked Ms. Bridget Susel on the information she sent out in regards to the work that has been done to date by the consultants in regards to the Design Guidelines. He also commented that Kent is made up of approximately 50% rentals and that needs to change.

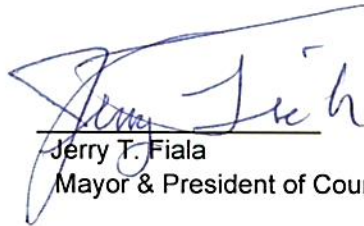
Mayor's Report

Mayor Fiala commented on the signing of the final beam that was installed in the new Kent City Hall and that ceremonial champagne was used to christen it. He thanked all who attended.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.



Amy Wilkens
Clerk of Council



Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor & President of Council