



City of Kent
Wednesday, May 31, 2023
Special City Council Meeting
320 S. Depeyster Street, Kent, OH 44240

MINUTES

At 05:00 PM, Mayor Jerry T. Fiala called the Special 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

Also Present: Mr. Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor and President of Council; Ms. Hope Jones, Law Director; Ms. Melanie Baker, Service Director; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council

Absent: Ms. Tracy Wallach

Legislation - 2nd Reading

Draft 2023- 030 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A CERTAIN BID FROM REPUBLIC SERVICES FOR THE COLLECTION OF REFUSE AND RECYCLED MATERIALS FROM CITY CUSTOMERS; 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- 030 MADE by Mr. John Kuhar, SECONDED by Mr. Jack Amrhein. 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. The motion was CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-1-0. Mr. Turner voted 'No'.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said she learned the next meeting would be held tomorrow, and it does not give the public enough time to weigh in on this issue. She said there is already a mistake with billing, as people have already been billed and it hasn't even passed. She added Ms. Baker explained what had happened, but the rollout is concerning. She wanted to allow the public to weigh in as they care deeply about this topic. She has decided to go ahead with the suspension so as not to delay it further. If it was another week, she would have voted no. She is going to vote against the adoption, standing with the current system, and feels it is important to stay with Portage County Recycling.

Mr. Kuhar said he has talked with a lot of people who are happy to get a reduction in rates. The only complaint he had gotten was about residents not having the ability to choose their trash collector. He has not gotten any complaints about letting Portage County Recycling go.

Mr. Sidoti discussed past discussions about expanding the third floor of the new City Administration, saying Ms. Shaffer Bish had changed his mind with her argument that it would cost \$500,000 to

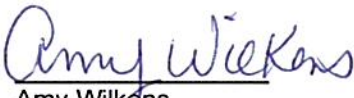
taxpayers. He said if you do the math, it is over \$1 million dollars over the course of five years with Portage County Recycling, which with Republic, it will cost \$792,000, which is a savings of \$660,000 over five years. He cannot justify this to those who ask. He said delaying this is not going to change the legality of this, as the bid has already been accepted. He does argue that we have to hold Republic accountable for billing issues and any others that arise. If issues cannot be resolved over the next five years, we can make changes during the next bidding.

Mr. Turner said the issue regarding having a meeting the following day is a political move. He said if time is extended, we create the possibility that things may change. He was under the impression it would need to be brought up again by someone who voted against it. He said things got beyond him and believes the City Administration and the Service Director did their jobs perfectly. He would not have supported something coming to the table to vote on something with historical linkage to this community. He said what previous people have done made Kent leaders in recycling. He added that he believes that two council people did not vote their values, but voted due to legalities. He said we need to do some education on processes. He said he doesn't believe people would care about the cost. He said Portage County Recycling is destabilized by this. He says there is no blame being placed on the administration, but it is unclear how this got by Council. He will accept the vote as it goes tonight and will continue to make Kent a better community. He hopes to continue working to rebuild a partnership with the Solid Waste District.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft 2023- 030 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. Gwen Rosenberg, and Mr. Roger Sidoti. The motion was CARRIED by a roll call vote of 6-2-0. Ms. Shaffer Bish and Mr. Turner voted 'No'.

Ordinance 2023-030 passed.

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.


Amy Wilkens
Clerk of Council


Jack Amrhein
President Pro Tem