



City of Kent
Wednesday, October 18, 2023
Regular City Council Meeting
320 S. Depeyster Street, Kent, OH 44240

MINUTES

Public Hearing- Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

At 7:30 p.m. Mayor Fiala opened the meeting by introducing the CAPER Public Hearing. 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. Kyle Kelly, Public Health Sanitarian; Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council

Ms. Bridget Susel, Community Development Director said the public hearing was to take public comments on the city's program year 2022 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). This report covers expenditures and activities conducted during the prior Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding year, which runs from August 1st, 2022, through July 31, 2023. She said total spending during the specified period was just over \$492,000, and all of it benefited low to moderate-income communities. \$127,000 was allocated for housing rehabilitation activities and improvements to rental housing. \$320,000 was spent on infrastructure improvements in low-income areas, particularly related to the Walnut phase project. Although construction has not started, preparations have been made for it in 2024. \$41,000 was spent on public services, which included activities like homeless services at Miller House and Safer Futures. \$3,800 was allocated to general administrative costs, covering items like advertisements and training.

Mayor Fiala asked the audience if there were any comments. There were none and the public hearing concluded.

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE. PUBLIC HEARING MADE BY Mr. Garret Ferrara, **SECONDED** by Mr. Michael DeLeone and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

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. Kyle Kelly, Public Health Sanitarian; Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council

Opening Remarks and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Turner expressed his empathy and concern for recent difficult world events. He acknowledged the challenges and difficulties that have affected people globally and within their communities. Mr. Turner said that his thoughts and prayers are with those who have been impacted by these events, both outside of their community and within it. He expressed hope that people can come together and support one another during these trying times. He then asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION TO APPROVE SEPTEMBER 20, 2023 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, **SECONDED** by Ms. Gwen Rosenberg and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Public Comment

There were two residents signed in to speak to Council, Ms. Betty Jennings and Dianne Papes, who both reside on Sunrise Drive. Ms. Betty Jennings was called to the microphone, and she asked to yield her three minutes to Ms. Dianne Papes. Ms. Papes approached the microphone and introduced herself to Council.

Ms. Papes addressed two main issues:

Road Conditions: She said that Sunrise Drive, where many residents of various age groups, including children, middle-aged people, and senior citizens, frequently walk, bike, and exercise, is in poor condition with deep potholes. She emphasized the need for consistent maintenance and patching of the road to improve safety and requested that the city allocate resources for these necessary repairs.

Curb Trees: Ms. Papes said that the utility company severely damaged their curb trees in 2022 and that the Kent arborist committed to cutting down the damaged trees and replanting new ones in the spring of 2023. She expressed concerns about the lack of follow-up and requested that the city address the issue promptly.

There were no further residents signed in to speak to Council.

Written Communication

1. Board and Commission applications for the Planning Commission, Design and Preservation Committee, Shade Tree Commission, and Health Board, were received between September 14 and October 10, 2023.

2. Notification from Board of Building Appeals member, David Soukenik, that he has moved to Florida and will no longer be serving on that board was received on September 26, 2023.

MOTION TO ACCEPT RESIGNATION MADE BY Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Ms. Gwen Rosenberg and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

3. Liquor License NEW request was received on September 27, 2023, for Mamacita, Inc, 911 E. Main St., Kent. Chief Shearer had no objection.

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

4. Liquor License NEW request was received on September 27, 2023, for Family Dollar Stores of Ohio, LLC DBA Family Dollar Store 28636, 1316 S. Water St., Kent. Chief Shearer had no objection.

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

5. Liquor License TRANSFER request was received on September 27, 2023, for Timothy J. Surgen, 802 N. Mantua St. Kent. A 30 day extension for further review of this request was made by Chief Shearer.

MOTION TO HOLD LEGISLATIVE NOTICE FOR FURTHER REVIEW MADE BY Mr. Mike DeLeone SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

6. Liquor License TRANSFER request was received on October 4, 2023 for Szechuan Gormet Kent Inc. DBA Szechuan Gourment, 156 Cherry St. Kent. Chief Shearer had no objection.

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

7. Letter from Jeremy Austin regarding Summit Gardens Apartments development was received and forwarded to Council on October 5, 2023.

8. City Flag Committee Meeting Agenda for October 11, 2023 was received and posted on October 5, 2023.

9. Health Board Agenda for the October 10, 2023 meeting was received and posted on October 5, 2023.

10. Board of Zoning Appeals Agenda and Staff Report for the October 16, 2023 meeting was received on October 10, 2023.

11. Planning Commission Agenda and Staff Report for the October 17, 2023 meeting was received on October 10, 2023.

City Manager's Report

1. Request Council's authorization to accept and allocate a \$200 donation from the Beech and Norwood Memorial Tree Fund to Kent Parks and Recreation.
2. Request Council's authorization to accept and allocate a \$60 donation to Kent Parks and Recreation youth tackle football and cheer program from MJ's Great American Frites and Fries.
3. Request Council's authorization to extend the Franklin Street closure through October 22, 2023.
4. Request Council's authorization to allow a retired Kent Firefighter to keep an expired City laptop computer that he continues to use for fire safety training purposes.
5. Request Council's authorization to accept a donation of 3 recovered kayaks from the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.
6. Request for Committee of the Whole time to provide an update on the status of the construction of the new City Hall building.

7. Request Community Development time to present the final version of the design guidelines for Council's approval.
8. Request Committee of the Whole time to provide an update on the timing requirements for the consideration of the proposed Charter change related to Ward boundaries.
9. Request Health & Public Safety Committee time to discuss the proposed idling ordinance to be presented by Council member Tracy Wallach.
10. Request Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee time to present proposed updates to the City Code that are designed to streamline the approval of new and recurring special events in Kent that require street closures for under 3 hours.
11. Request Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee time to present a summary of the progress of the City's capital projects in 2023.
12. Request Finance Committee time to request Council's authorization for Portage County to advance taxes to the City.
13. Request Finance Committee time to present the proposed 2024-28 Capital Improvement Plan for Council's approval.
14. Request Finance Committee time to present the list of capital projects proposed for grant funding through AMATS.
15. Request Council's authorization to allocate \$750 to provide food and drinks to the crews working the overtime Halloween shifts.

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

Ms. Gwen Rosenberg expressed gratitude and acknowledged donations made to the Parks and Recreation Department. She thanked the Beach and Norwood Memorial Tree Fund and MJ's Great American Fruits and Fries for their donations. Additionally, she extended thanks to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park for their donation of kayaks, which is much appreciated.

Standing Committees & Legislation

Committee of the Whole Chair Mayor Fiala/ Vice-Chair Amrhein

MOTION TO APPROVE OCTOBER 4, 2023 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES MADE BY Mr. Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Mr. John Kuhar and CARRIED by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Action(s) Recommended: NONE

MOTION TO SEND BACK TO COMMITTEE A DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT MADE BY Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-2-0. Ms. Rosenberg and Ms. Wallach voted 'No'.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said a review of the timing was required to place something on the ballot and expressed the opinion that it warrants further discussion. She suggested that the matter should be saved for committee discussion, indicating that a more detailed examination is needed.

Draft 2023- 061 (2nd Reading) AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE PRIMARY ELECTION ON MARCH 19, 2024, WHICH WILL AMEND ARTICLE XII, SECTION 12.02 TITLED "VOTING WARD APPORTIONMENT," AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor Fiala announced that draft number 2023-61, which was scheduled for its second reading, will not take place tonight.

Health & Safety Committee Chair Amrhein/ Vice-Chair Sidoti

MOTION TO APPROVE OCTOBER 4, 2023 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. Garret Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-1. Ms. Wallach abstained.

Action(s) Recommended:

1. Refer to the Administration to further research the parking limits in the city and report back to Council.

Ms. Rosenberg said that she will vote "no" on the matter because, based on conversations with residents, she has learned that there is overwhelming disinterest in having additional parking on the streets for an extended period.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said that she voted "no" last time and will do so again. She expressed concerns about the consequences of allowing extended parking on the streets.

Mr. Ferrara likens the issue to "broken window syndrome" and is concerned that allowing longer parking on the streets will make it easier for rental properties to park on the street, exacerbating existing problems. Therefore, he intends to vote "no."

Mr. Turner mentions that he initially had significant concerns about the matter. However, he believes that the flexibility proposed by the city, where neighborhoods can make the determination and maintain a 70% requirement, seems reasonable. He's inclined to vote in favor of this approach.

Mr. Kuhar said that he would vote against it. He believes that the use of the 70% rule, as done in the past, is adequate, and there's no need to change it.

MOTION TO APPROVE ACTION(S) RECOMMENDED MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. John Kuhar and **FAILED** by a voice vote of 3-6-0. Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish, and Mr. Sidoti voted 'No'.

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

MOTION TO APPROVE OCTOBER 4, 2023 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES MADE BY Mr. Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-1, with Ms. Wallach abstaining.

MOTION TO APPROVE ACTION(S) 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. Accept the perpetual road and public utility easement at the property located at 200 West Williams Street, with the emergency clause.

2. Authorize the memorandum of understanding with Kent State University to allow relocation of the City's 24" waterline, with the emergency clause.

Draft 2023- 067 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE AN EASEMENT FROM HOMETOWN BANK GRANTING A PERPETUAL ROAD AND PUBLIC UTILITY EASEMENT LOCATED AT 200 WEST WILLIAMS STREET FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACCESS TO THE UNDERGROUND UTILITIES, 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- 067 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 was CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft 2023- 067 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 was CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

Ordinance 2023-067 has passed.

Draft 2023-068 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH KENT STATE UNIVERSITY TO ALLOW FOR THE RELOCATION OF THE CITY'S 24" WATERLINE, 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 2023-068 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 was CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft 2023-068 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 was CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

Ordinance 2023-068 has passed.

Finance Committee Chair DeLeone/ Vice-Chair Wallach

MOTION TO APPROVE OCTOBER 4, 2023 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES MADE BY Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-1, with Ms. Wallach abstaining.

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

Action(s) Recommended

1. Authorize the PEP grant application in the amount of \$1,000 and authorize the acceptance and allocation of the funds to the Health Department with the emergency clause.
2. Authorize the HEAL grant application in the amount of \$25,000 and authorize the acceptance and allocation of the funds to the Health Department with the emergency clause.
3. Authorize a collective bargaining agreement with the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association for the period of November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2026, with the emergency clause.

Draft 2023-069 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF KENT HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR A PUBLIC ENTITIES POOL (PEP) GRANT, AND TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF AWARDED, WITH CORRESPONDING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS 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 2023-069 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 was CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft 2023-069 MADE by Ms. Tracy Wallach, 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 was CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

Ms. Wilkens stated that **Ordinance 2023-069 has passed.**

Draft 2023- 070 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF KENT HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO ACCEPT THE AWARDED HEALTH EATING AND ACTIVE LIVING GRANT (HEAL) FOR 2024, 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 2023-070 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 was CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft 2023-070 MADE by Ms. Tracy Wallach, 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 was CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

Ms. Wilkens stated that **Ordinance 2023-070 had passed.**

Draft 2023-071 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF KENT AND THE OHIO PATROLMEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION (OPBA), FOR THE PERIOD OF NOVEMBER 1, 2023, THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2026, 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 2023-071 AN ORDINANCE

AUTHORIZING A COLLECT 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 was CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0..

MOTION TO ADOPT Draft 2023-071 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A COLLECT 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 was CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

Ms. Wilkens stated that **Ordinance 2023-071 had passed.**

Unfinished Business

Mr. Amrhein expressed concern about the tree mutilations occurring not only on Sunrise Drive but also on Major's Lane and in other areas around Kent. He said that they have two severely mutilated trees on Major's Lane that look terrible. He was unsure about what could be done because he understands that the electric company hires a tree-trimming company to prevent the trees from entangling with wires. He called for some form of intervention or assessment of the trees to determine if they are beyond recovery and should be removed. They specifically request that the city's arborist inspect these trees and take appropriate action.

New Business

Ms. Shaffer Bish began a discussion about the discontinuation of funding for the skating rink in downtown Kent. She mentions that the university, which had been funding the rink, has experienced funding cuts. Ms. Shaffer Bish said her belief that the rink has been a valuable investment for the community and that it would be a shame to lose this amenity without exploring alternative funding sources or cost reduction measures.

MOTION TO SEND ITEM TO ADMINISTRATION MADE BY Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Mr. Garret Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-1-0, with Ms. Wallach voting "No".

Ms. Shaffer Bish suggested possibly involving the Parks and Recreation Department and various community partners to find a solution to keep the skating rink operational.

Mr. Sidoti expressed the need to gather data on the cost of the skating rink and the contributions made by different entities, including the city and the university. He emphasizes the importance of having this information to make informed decisions.

The discussion revolved around the value of the skating rink to the community and the need for concrete financial data before proceeding with any actions.

Next, Mr. Sidoti discussed a project brought together by multiple community players, including the Kent Junior Mothers and Rotary Club. The project aims to create a "Safety Town" for schoolchildren, focusing on safety education. The proposal is to build this Safety Town in an area behind Columbus Hall near Holden Street, and it has gained approval from various stakeholders, including the Board of Education, Kent City Schools, the fire department, the police chief, parks and recreation, and Kent State University. He said that they have raised approximately \$166,000 in seed money for design and work. The plan involves constructing permanent buildings for the Safety Town, with Metis Construction providing the design. The city is expected to play a role in this project, and they are coming to the City Council to discuss potential partnerships and the city's involvement in the development of Safety Town.

MOTION TO SEND ITEM TO COMMITTEE MADE BY Mr. Roger Sidoti, **SECONDED** by Mr. Robin Turner and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 9-0-0.

Councilmembers' Comments

Mr. Turner asked for clarification on a previous issue related to a charter amendment. He wanted to understand whether the matter had been put forward for legal determination or if it was a timing issue. He mentioned that it was brought by Ms. Wallach and Ms. Shaffer Bish and was initially perceived as a timing issue rather than a discussion of the viability of the proposal.

The Mayor explained that the issue was primarily a timing concern and that the administration asked them to slow down the process. Ms. Hope Jones said the motion that has been made allows for further discussion, including comments from those who may not have been present for the initial vote.

Mr. Turner expressed his concern that he initially thought it was purely a timing issue and didn't want to reopen a discussion on the viability of the proposal. He expressed confusion about the process and the motion to refer the matter back to a committee for further discussion. He said he wouldn't have voted for it. The mayor clarified that the motion to refer it back to the committee was a way to ensure the timing was aligned with legal requirements and that was the motion that was made and voted on.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Fiala mentioned the recent Bowman breakfast and how it featured an overview of the last 60 years of the event and the collaboration between Kent State University and the city to achieve various goals.

He continued by reminding everyone that many board and commission appointments would be expiring by the end of the year. The city encourages people to apply for these positions, and information about the openings and the application process can be found on the city's website. The application deadline is October 31, 2023, and interviews for candidates will take place on November 8, 2023. Mr. Turner encourages the minority population to apply for these positions and participate in boards and commissions, emphasizing the importance of their input and involvement.

The mayor acknowledged John Kuhar's upcoming birthday on October 20th and wished him a happy birthday.

Mr. Garret Ferrara was recognized for receiving an award from Kent State University for advocacy between the city and the university. Mr. Ferrara expressed gratitude for the award and credited it to the collective work of the council and the university.

There was no further business to attend to, and the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Amy Wilkens , CMC
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.