



City of Kent
Wednesday, June 19, 2024
Regular City Council Meeting
320 S. Depeyster Street, Kent, OH 44240

MINUTES

At 07:00 PM, Mayor Jerry T. Fiala called the Regular City Council Meeting to order.

Present: Mr. Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, Mr. Roger Sidoti

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. Dominique Bollenbacher, Community Engagement Coordinator; Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council

Absent: Ms. Gwen Rosenberg, Mr. Robin Turner

MOTION TO EXCUSE MS. ROSENBERG AND MR. TURNER MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, **SECONDED** by Mr. Chris Hook and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

Mr. Jeff Clapper expressed gratitude to Maurice Drake, sharing a personal anecdote about him. Mr. Clapper reminisced about one of his earliest memories in Kent about the smell of the bakery, and how Maurice was a familiar and friendly figure around town. He highlighted Maurice's quiet but significant contributions to the community, emphasizing that while Maurice may not have received widespread recognition, his impact on individual lives and his dedication to the community were deeply appreciated. Mr. Clapper underscored the importance of serving the community with love, time, and effort, as Maurice did.

He then asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 15, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MADE BY Mr. Roger Sidoti, **SECONDED** by Ms. Melissa Celko and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

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 Whitney Randolph to speak.

Ms. Whitney Randolph, a resident of Stow, the current president of the Kent Jaycees, addressed the City Council to discuss the organization's stake in the city's planned restructuring of event permitting processes, particularly those affecting events on East Main Street and North Water Street. She emphasized that the Kent Jaycees host two significant events in this area: the Craft Beer Fest and the Grill for Good, both of which are crucial for the organization's fundraising and community support activities. Whitney highlighted the financial success and impact of the Craft Beer Fest, noting that this year's event generated over \$50,000 in revenue and netted over \$19,000. The event is meticulously planned, with extensive efforts in brewery agreements, vendor agreements, volunteer recruitment, advertising, and more. The proceeds support various community organizations, young professional development, and the maintenance of the historic train car in Kent. She detailed the Kent Jaycees' community contributions, including over \$20,000 in train car improvements and more than \$10,000 in donations to local organizations such as the Haymaker Farmers' Market, The Haven of Portage County, Coleman Professional Services, Ben Curtis Family Foundation, CASA of Portage County, Open Arms Adoption, and more recently, the Thomas Anderson Community Garden and Neighborhood Bridges Kent. Whitney stressed the organization's commitment to supporting the Kent community through charitable donations and the development of future leaders. She expressed the Kent Jaycees' eagerness to collaborate with the city and other stakeholders to find positive, fair, and equitable solutions for event permitting. She concluded by reaffirming the organization's dedication to contributing to the community and building the skills of future leaders.

There were no further residents signed in to speak.

Written Communication

1. Standing Rock Cemetery Board Agenda for June 13, 2024 was received and posted on June 6, 2024.
2. Portage County Solid Waste Management Policy Committee Meeting minutes from April 11, 2024 were received on May 23, 2024.
3. Board of Health Meeting Agenda for June 11, 2024 was received on June 7, 2024.
4. Board of Zoning Appeals Agenda and Staff Report for June 17, 2024 was received on June 10, 2024.
5. On June 10, 2024 received notification that the 6/17/24 Board of Zoning Appeals meeting was canceled and cases continued to July 15th.
6. Kent Parks and Rec Meeting Agenda Packet for June 20, 2024 was received on June 14, 2024
7. Portage County Solid Waste Management approved minutes from the May 23, 2024 meeting were received on June 18, 2024

City Manager's Report

MOTION TO APPROVE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

1. Request for the Council's approval of a temporary right of way agreement negotiated with Taco Bell (\$6,975) for the East Main Street Improvement Project. (Draft Number 2024-057)
2. Request for Council's approval to schedule a public hearing at 7 pm on July 10th for the City's proposed 2025 tax budget.

3. Request Committee of the Whole time to provide Council with an opportunity to discuss the process used to select candidates for City Boards and Commissions.
4. Request for Committee of the Whole time to provide Council with a brief update on the status of the new City Hall construction project.
5. Request for Community Development Committee time to present an opportunity to partner with NOPEC to begin planning efforts to "decarbonize" city buildings.
6. Request for Community Development Committee time to present a request to expand the boundaries of the City's Downtown Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) to include the new Board and Bevy business at the corner of Depeyster and Summit Street.
7. Request for Community Development Committee time to present a request from the Unitarian Universalist Church (UUC) to designate the Church as a "local historic property."
8. Request for Community Development Committee time to present a proposed Operating Agreement with the owner of Bliss to allow for the sale of adult use marijuana in accordance with the State dual license for medical and adult use marijuana.
9. Request for a public hearing and Finance Committee time to present the proposed 2025 City Tax budget for submission to Portage County.
10. Request for Finance Committee time to present Council with information on the City's insurance coverage.
11. Request Finance Committee time to ask for Council's authorization to submit an OPWC Grant/Loan application.
12. Request Health & Safety Committee time to share an update with Council on the progress of the Fire Department paramedicine program.
13. Request for Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee time to present the "Purpose and Needs Statement" for the N. Mantua Street projects.

Standing Committees & Legislation

Committee of the Whole

MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE 5, 2024 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES MADE BY Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Mr. Jack Amrhein and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

Action(s) Recommended: NONE

MOTION TO APPOINT KAREN BECK TO THE PARTA BOARD MADE BY Mr. Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

MOTION TO APPOINT ALYSSA FLEMING TO THE CRAHC MADE BY Mr. Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE INSERTION OF NAMES INTO LEGISLATION MADE BY Mr. Chris Hook, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

DRAFT 2024-050 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING KAREN BECK TO THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY 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 2024-050 MADE BY Mr. Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, and Mr. Roger Sidoti. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2024-050 MADE BY Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Heidi

Shaffer Bish. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, and Mr. Roger Sidoti. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-0-0.

Resolution 2024-050 passes.

DRAFT 2024- 051 RESOLUTION APPOINTING ALYSSA FLEMING TO THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA HOUSING COUNCIL 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 2024- 051 MADE by Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, and Mr. Roger Sidoti. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2024- 051 MADE by Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, and Mr. Roger Sidoti. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-0-0.

Resolution 2024-051 passes.

Community Development

MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE 5, 2024 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES MADE BY Mr. Chris Hook, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

Action(s) Recommended: NONE

Finance Committee

MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE 5, 2024 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES MADE BY Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Ms. Melissa Celko and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE ACTION(S) RECOMMENDED MADE BY Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Ms. Melissa Celko and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

1. Authorize the "Notice to Proceed" for the placement of the renewal of the 2025 General Operating Levy (1.16 mils) on the November 2024 ballot, with the emergency clause.
2. Authorize the application for grant funds by the Health Department, and if approved, authorize appropriation of those funds, with the emergency clause.
3. Authorize the bond refunding the Safety Center debt (2014) and Alley 4 bond debt (2013), with the emergency clause.
4. Approve the 2024 budget appropriations amendments, with the emergency clause.

DRAFT 2024-052 A RESOLUTION DETERMINING TO PROCEED TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF KENT THE QUESTION OF THE RENEWAL OF THE CITY'S EXISTING 1.16-MILL TAX LEVY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSE OF MAINTAINING AND OPERATING THE GENERAL FUND IN THE CITY OF KENT PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 5705.19(I) AND 5705.191 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2024-052 MADE by Ms. Melissa Celko, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack

Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, and Mr. Roger Sidoti. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2024-052 MADE by Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, and Mr. Roger Sidoti. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-0-0.

Ordinance 2024-052 passes.

DRAFT 2024- 053 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF KENT HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$199,237.00, AND TO ACCEPT THE GRANTS, 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 2024- 053 MADE by Ms. Melissa Celko, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, and Mr. Roger Sidoti. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2024- 053 MADE by Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, and Mr. Roger Sidoti. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-0-0.

Ordinance 2024-053 passes.

DRAFT 2024-054 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF BONDS IN THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$3,190,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFUNDING AT A LOWER INTEREST COST CERTAIN OF THE CITY'S OUTSTANDING SAFETY CENTER CONSTRUCTION BONDS, SERIES 2014, DATED DECEMBER 11, 2014, 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 2024-054 MADE by Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, and Mr. Roger Sidoti. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2024-054 MADE by Mr. Michael DeLeone SECONDED by Mr. Chris Hook. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, and Mr. Roger Sidoti. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-0-0.

Ordinance 2024-055 passes.

DRAFT 2024-055 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF BONDS IN THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$4,185,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFUNDING AT A LOWER INTEREST COST CERTAIN OF THE CITY'S OUTSTANDING VARIOUS PURPOSE BONDS, SERIES 2013, DATED OCTOBER 7, 2013, 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 2024-055 MADE by Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, and Mr. Roger Sidoti. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2024-055 MADE by Ms. Melissa Celko, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, and Mr. Roger Sidoti. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-0-0.

Ordinance 2024-055 passes.

DRAFT 2024- 056 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2023-97, THE CURRENT APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, PASSED DECEMBER 20, 2023; 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, 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 2024- 056 MADE by Ms. Melissa Celko, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, and Mr. Roger Sidoti. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2024- 056 MADE by Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, and Mr. Roger Sidoti. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-0-0.

Ordinance 2024-056 passes.

DRAFT 2024-057 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN TACO BELL OF AMERICA, LLC., AND THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO, WITH THE CITY OBTAINING A TEMPORARY EASEMENT, FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY PURPOSE, TO INSTALL, CONSTRUCT AND RECONSTRUCT THE ROADWAY FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS EAST MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FROM TACO BELL OF AMERICA, LLC., 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 2024-057 MADE by Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, and Mr. Roger Sidoti. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2024-057 MADE by Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, and Mr. Roger Sidoti. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-0-0.

Ordinance 2024-057 passes.

Health & Safety Committee

MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE 5, 2024 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

Action(s) Recommended; NONE

Land Use Committee

MOTION TO APPROVE ACTION(S) RECOMMENDED MADE BY Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

Action(s) Recommended

1. Authorize the addition of adult use cannabis and vape retail stores to the City's Industrial District, with the emergency clause.

DRAFT 2024-058 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF KENT'S ZONING CODE IN ORDER TO INCORPORATE NEW LAND USE OF "ADULT USE CANNABIS (RECREATIONAL) FACILITIES" 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 2024-058 MADE by Mr. Chris Hook, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, and Mr. Roger Sidoti. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2024-058 MADE by Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Mr. Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, and Mr. Roger Sidoti. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-0-0.

Ordinance 2024-058 passes.

Streets, Sidewalks and Utilities

MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE 5, 2024 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES MADE BY Mr. Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE ACTION(S) RECOMMENDED MADE BY Mr. Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

Action(s) Recommended

1. Authorize the installation of the new mural for the Haymaker Farmers Market beneath the Haymaker Parkway bridge, with the emergency clause.

DRAFT 2024-059 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO ENTER INTO A LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE HAYMAKER FARMERS' MARKET (HFM, INC.) TO INSTALL A NEW MURAL BENEATH THE HAYMAKER PARKWAY BRIDGE; 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 2024-059 MADE by Ms. Melissa Celko, SECONDED by Mr. Jack Amrhein. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, and Mr. Roger Sidoti. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2024-059 MADE by Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by

Mr. Roger Sidoti. On Roll Call Voting "Yes" Mr. Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Mr. Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish, and Mr. Roger Sidoti. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-0-0.

Ordinance 2024-059 passes.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business

MOTION TO APPROVE JUNE 19TH NATIONAL HOLIDAY FOR CITY OF KENT EMPLOYEES BEGINNING CALENDAR YEAR 2025 MADE BY Mr. Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

Mr. Roger Sidoti acknowledged that Council may have overlooked this, for which he makes no excuses. However, he said that addressing it now is the right thing to do. He expressed confidence that the Council has consistently demonstrated a commitment to doing what is right and believes they should take this action on behalf of their employees.

Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish shared her experiences from both the nonprofit and private sectors regarding the adoption of a holiday. In the nonprofit sector, the holiday was used to educate and discuss the reasons behind it, as well as the ongoing efforts needed to achieve equity. She emphasized that freedom alone isn't sufficient; equity must also be ensured. In contrast, her current private sector organization didn't acknowledge the holiday, which made her feel bad. Ms. Shaffer Bish said it is important for Kent to adopt the holiday thoughtfully, not just as another day off, but in a way that includes meaningful commemoration, possibly involving City staff initiatives.

Next, Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish emphasized the importance of discussing the city's climate action plan and its progress. She noted that many grants available, especially for capital funding, align with climate-friendly projects. She wants to see these opportunities leveraged by the city and called for a discussion on the current status and future plans of the climate action initiatives. Mr. Ruller mentioned Julie Morris, Sustainability Coordinator, recently provided a presentation and update to Council and there is a discussion planned for the July meeting in regard to solar. Ms. Shaffer Bish acknowledged Julie's efforts and was pleased to hear that updates, particularly on solar energy, are scheduled for next month. Heidi stressed the need to keep climate action in the forefront of the city's agenda and ensure ongoing and planned projects are aligned with these goals.

Next, Mr. Jeff Clapper raised concerns about tree health, especially in rental properties, in light of recent storms. He recounted an incident where a tree, compromised by a landlord cutting its roots, fell during a storm, narrowly avoiding harm to children. Jeff suggested considering an arborist's inspection as part of rental property inspections every few years to prevent such dangers. He acknowledged potential pushback from landlords but emphasized the importance of safety and preventing injuries or fatalities due to falling trees or branches.

MOTION TO SEND TO COMMITTEE A DISCUSSION REGARDING INVOLVING AN ARBORIST IN RENTAL INSPECTIONS MADE BY Mr. Jeff Clapper, SECONDED by Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

Council Members' Comments: None

Mayor's Report

Mayor Fiala commended all city departments for their exceptional work during the recent storm, acknowledging their efforts in managing the situation despite challenges. He also praised the City's

Health Department fair at the recreation center, noting its success and growing popularity. Additionally, he mentioned recent and upcoming ribbon cuttings, indicating positive developments and progress in the city.

MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS AN EMPLOYEE EVALUATION MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. Michael DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

MOTION TO EXCUSE MR. ROBIN TURNER AND MS. GWEN ROSENBERG MADE BY Mr. Michael DeLeone, SECONDED by Ms. Melissa Celko and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-0.

At 7:33 p.m., Council moved into an executive session.

When City Council returned from executive session to the regular meeting, there was no further business and Council adjourned for the evening.

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.