



City of Kent
Wednesday, October 2, 2024
City Council Committee Meetings
320 S. Depeyster Street, Kent, OH 44240

MINUTES

Board and Commission Interviews

Sarah Wesley introduced herself to City Council as a member of the community member looking to get more involved by joining the Civil Service Commission.

- Mr. Sidoti asked her what she knows about the Civil Service Commission.
- Ms. Shaffer Bish asked if she owns a business and if she has experience hiring people. She said she has experience hiring, firing, applications, etc. and referred to herself as a "one woman show."
- Mr. Turner thanked the applicant and asked her what her prime attributes were to the position.
- Mr. Sidoti asked her why she decided not to teach.

Democracy Day Public Hearing

At 6:00 PM, Mayor Jerry T. Fiala called the Democracy Day Public Hearing to order.

Mr. Bill Wilen was the first speaker and thanked City Council for the ninth year bringing Democracy Day to them. He highlighted a feature from Move to Amend entitled "Questions we would have asked the Presidential candidates."

Mr. Andrew Rome, the Director of the Haymaker Farmers' Market, was next, thanking City Council for supporting the Haymaker Farmer's Market, and providing an overview of the Market's success, and outlining the importance of supporting local food resources.

Mr. Greg Coleridge, Director of the National Coalition for the Move to Amend, spoke next on the topic of corporate constitutional rights and the influence of corporate funding in the election process.

The final speaker was Ms. Nancy Worlop, who related personal stories of the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, and the connection between severe weather, global warming, and large corporate interests.

At 6:35, Mayor Fiala announced the order of the agenda would be changed due to the Public Hearings ending early.

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

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; Ms. Rhonda Hall, Budget and Finance Director; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Mr. Jamie Samels, Fire Chief; Ms. Dominique Bollenbacher, Community Engagement Coordinator; Mr. Eric Helmstedter, Economic Development Director; Mr. Erik Fink, Prosecutor; Ms. Angela Manley, Parks and Recreation Director; Ms. Suzanne Stemnock, Human Resources Director; Mr. Oliver Wuensch, Marketing & Special Events Coordinator; Ms. Kathy Coleman, Secretary to the Chief, Police Department; Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council.

Absent:

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

Parks and Recreation Update

Ms. Angela Manley, Director of Parks and Recreation, came to Council to speak about all the offerings provided to Kent's residents. Discussion stemming from the presentation included ways Council could support Parks and Rec over the next 3-5 years, collaboration with Kent State, capital funding projects, getting information out to the community, public/private partnerships, and the Parks & Rec Master plan.

Community Development Committee - Chair Rosenberg/Vice-Chair Clapper

Chair Rosenberg opened the Community Development Committee meeting at 6:35 PM.

Zoning Code Text Amendments

Ms. Bridget Susel discussed changes to the following chapters of the zoning code:

CHAPTER 1102: DEFINITIONS

CHAPTER 1103: ZONING DISTRICTS, LAND USE, AND ZONING MAP

CHAPTER 1104: SUPPLEMENTAL ZONING DISTRICT STANDARDS AND

OVERLAY ZONING DISTRICTS
CHAPTER 1106: GENERAL PROVISIONS
CHAPTER 1109: SIGNS

CRA Agreement, Klaben: New Lincoln Dealership Building

Ms. Bridget Susel explained the CRA 2 District and presented two projects with Klaben. Ms. Susel reviewed the specifics of the project.

Mr. Rich Klaben came to Council to speak about the project. He gave the background of the company, which began in 1973. He gave an indepth overview of his dealership over the years and plans for the future.

Discussion included questions about the number of jobs being created by the CRA, the move to electronic vehicles, interest rates and expectation of growth.

CRA Agreement, Klaben: Renovation/Expansion of Service Center

See above

Design recommendation on proposed exterior facade alterations to 265 West Main Street

MOTION TO APPROVE Design recommendation on proposed exterior facade MADE BY Robin Turner, SECONDED by Mr. Jeff Clapper and CARRIED by a voice vote of 10-0-0.

Health and Public Safety Committee - Chair Amrhein/Vice-Chair Sidoti

Paramedicine Program Update

Fire Chief Jamie Samels introduced the topic and paramedicine nurse Sara Slanina provided a description of the program, slideshow, and statistics. Dr. John Hill, an ED physician at UH Portage and Medical Director for KFD, spoke about the success of the program and how it is being used as a template of sorts to start paramedicine programs in other communities.

Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee - Chair Sidoti/Vice-Chair Clapper

Mr. Sidoti referenced a motion on the table to proceed with the East Main Street improvement process. Hope Jones advised that once a resolution to proceed was approved, the process could move forward and be handed over to an outside attorney to finish the work of appropriation.

MOTION to authorize the resolution with the emergency clause was MADE by Heidi Shaffer-Bish, SECONDED by Chris Hook, and PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

Executive Session

MOTION to enter into Executive Session Council to: consider the purchase of property for public purposes, the sale of property at competitive bidding, or the sale or other disposition of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit-for-use property; to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official; to confer with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action was MADE by John Amrhein, SECONDED by Chris Hook, and PASSED by roll call vote 10-0-0. Council entered Executive Session at 8:26pm.

MOTION TO RETURN TO THE REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING MADE BY Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. Chris Hook and CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:16pm.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kathleen Coleman", is written over a horizontal line.

Kathleen Coleman
Interim Clerk of Council

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