



City of Kent
Wednesday, October 16, 2024
Regular City Council Meeting
320 S. Depeyster Street, Kent, OH 44240

MINUTES

At 7:00pm, 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. 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. Jamie Samels, Fire Chief; Mr. Nick Cecil, IT Director; Ms. Kathy Coleman, Interim Clerk of Council

Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

Bridget Susel provided the Community Development Block Grant Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). In 2023, the City spent \$141,142, all of which was spent on activities, housing and housing rehabilitation projects, and public services for low income households, including 69% for extremely low income households.

Ms. Melissa Celko led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

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. Coleman called the first speaker to the podium.

Ms. Sherry Rose from the League of Women Voters spoke to Council in support of Resolution 2024-110, highlighting the importance of safeguarding our election process. She thanked Council for their leadership surrounding this issue and expressed appreciation on behalf of the League.

Ms. Coleman called the next speaker to the podium.

Dr. Kathy Kerns spoke at the request of M. Renee (Reney) Romine, President of the Portage County NAACP, and stated that the chapter wished to express its thanks to Kent City Council for addressing the issue of voter suppression, and supports the Council's approval of the resolution.

Written Communication

- Email received from Greg Coleridge on October 7, 2024, thanking Council for being attentive to his remarks at Democracy Day, and encouraging support of the WeThePeopleAmendment, HJR54.
- Application for a position on the Sustainability Commission was received from Justine Gallo on October 9, 2024.
- Email received from Jean Chrest, Standing Rock Cemetery Clerk, on October 3, 2024 with SRC's October agenda.
- Email received from Sherry Rose, League of Women Voters of Kent, with a letter to Council with their response to the recent free speech intimidation in Portage County.
- Sandee Reid with Davey Tree invited Council members and senior City staff to a guided tour of the new SEED campus on October 24, 2024 with a light lunch at 11:45 at the corporate office, followed by the tour by shuttle, and finishing up by 1:00pm.

Additional Communication Received After Agenda Publication

- An application for the Parks and Recreation Board was received via email from James Daugherty on October 10, 2024.
- The agenda for the October meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was received via email from Karen Magilavy on October 11, 2024.
- An email entitled "Divesting from genocide" was received from Rick Hawksley on October 13, 2024, with his comments on the situation in the Middle East and links to an Akron Beacon Journal article and an NPR story.
- An email from KPD Lt. Mike Lewis was shared on October 15, 2024, with news of the death of the 19-year old KSU student Jaden Brieske, who fell from the roof of the University Inn. An email link to the GoFundMe page for his family was included.

**MOTION TO APPROVE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT MADE BY Mr. Amrhein,
SECONDED BY Mr. DeLeone and CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.**

1. Angela is requesting Council's authorization to accept and allocate a \$100 donation from Tree City Carvers to Kent Parks and Recreation for the planting of a Memorial Tree in honor of the memory of George Davis.
2. Bridget has requested Health & Safety Committee time to allow the Executive Director of Sherpherd's House (formerly the Haven of Portage County) to discuss homeless shelter needs and options.
3. Chief Shearer has requested Health & Safety Committee time to request Council's renewal of the City of Kent Police-Kent State University Police mutual aid contract.
4. Bridget is requesting Community Development Committee time to ask for Council's approval to renew the parking lot agreement at 307 West Main Street (West River Medical).
5. Hope is requesting Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee time to present an appropriation request that she is requesting to continue with the East Main Street Transportation Improvement project right of way and easement acquisitions.
6. Jim is requesting Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee time to present a summary of the progress of the City's capital projects in 2024.
7. Jim is requesting Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee time to present a property deed transfer for a portion of a cul-de-sac on Burnett Road from ODOT to the City.
8. Rhonda is requesting Finance Committee time to ask for Council's approval to request Portage County to release the 2024 taxes early in December 2024 rather than February 2025.
9. Rhonda is requesting Finance Committee time to present the proposed 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Plan for Council's approval.
10. Joan is requesting Finance Committee time to ask for Council's authorization to accept and appropriate %50,000 from the CDC to support the Health Department's accreditation efforts.
11. Rhonda is requesting Finance Committee time to present a 2024 budget appropriation amendment.
12. The staff is requesting Council's authorization to allocate \$750 to provide food and drinks for the crews working the overtime Halloween shifts.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine. Each item will be read individually into the record and the Consent Agenda will then be enacted as a whole by one motion and one roll call. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion by Council is desired on any item on the Consent Agenda, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda by Council motion and considered in its normal sequence under the Regular Order of Business.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES was MADE BY Mr. Clapper, SECONDED by Mr. Amrhein and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-1, with Ms. Rosenberg abstaining.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 2, 2024 CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING, AND CONSENT AGENDA RECOMMENDED ACTIONS was MADE BY Ms. Shaffer-Bish, SECONDED by Ms. Celko, and CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.

Recommended Actions:

- Proceed with the appropriation of temporary easement of the real property located at 405 East Main Street, Kent Ohio, with the emergency clause.
- Authorize the Civil Service Commission to change the Civil Services rules to allow for Clerk of City Council to perform the duties of the Civil Service Coordinator and change the pay grade, with the emergency clause.
- Appropriate property interests for the East Main Street Improvement project, with the emergency clause.

DRAFT 2024-104 A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO PROCEED WITH THE APPROPRIATION OF TEMPORARY EASEMENT OF THE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 405 EAST MAIN STREET, KENT, OHIO, PPN: 17-024-33-00-123-000 FOR THE EAST MAIN STREET IMPRO-VEMENT PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

DRAFT 2024-105 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION TO CHANGE THE CIVIL SERVICE RULES TO ALLOW FOR CLERK OF CITY COUNCIL TO PERFORM THE DUTIES OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COORDINATOR, CHANGING THE PAY GRADE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

DRAFT 2024-108 A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENT TO APPROPRIATE PROPERTY INTERSTS FOR THE EAST MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

STANDING COMMITTEES AND LEGISLATION

Committee of the Whole

MOTION TO APPOINT SARAH WESLEY AND TONY MOSCA TO THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was MADE BY Mr. Sidoti, SECONDED by Mr. Amrhein and CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE INSERTION OF THE NAMES INTO THE LEGISLATION was MADE BY Mr. Hook, SECONDED by Mr. DeLeone, and CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

DRAFT 2024-109 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING SARAH WESLEY AND TONY MOSCA TO THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Law Director Hope Jones at Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2024-109 was MADE BY Mr. Amrhein, SECONDED by Ms. Celko. On roll call voting YES: Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2024-109 was MADE BY Mr. Clapper, SECONDED by Mr. Sidoti. On roll call voting YES: Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

Resolution 2024-109 passes.

Draft 2024-110 A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE CITY OF KENT AND ITS COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT THAT SAFE AND FAIR VOTING ENVIRONMENTS FOR VOTERS IS A RIGHT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Law Director Hope Jones at Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2024-110 was MADE BY Ms. Shaffer-Bish, SECONDED by Mr. Sidoti. On roll call voting YES: Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

Council members Shaffer-Bish, Turner, Sidoti, and Hook all spoke in support of the resolution and its importance, both practically and symbolically, to individuals and the community.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2024-110 was MADE BY Ms. Shaffer-Bish, SECONDED by Mr. DeLeone. On roll call voting YES: Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

Resolution 2024-110 passes.

Community Development

Draft 2024-103 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF KENT'S ZONING CODE IN ORDER TO INCLUDE ELEMENTS FROM THE RECENTLY UPDATED DESIGN GUIDELINES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Law Director Hope Jones at Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2024-103 was MADE BY Ms. Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Mr. Sidoti. On roll call voting YES: Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

Ms. Shaffer Bish expressed thanks to Ms. Susel for her work in implementing meaningful design guidelines which are enforceable.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2024-103 MADE BY Mr. Sidoti, SECONDED BY Ms. Shaffer Bish. On roll call voting YES: Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

Ordinance 2024-103 passes.

Draft 2024-106 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH KLABEN PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, LLC AND KLABEN FORD LINCOLN, INC. PROVIDING FOR A PROJECT (NEW DEALERSHIP) AND REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO THE OHIO COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA PROGRAM (CRA), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Law Director Hope Jones at Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2024-106 was MADE by Mr. Sidoti, SECONDED by Mr. DeLeone. On roll call voting YES: Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2024-106 was MADE BY Mr. Sidoti, SECONDED by Mr. DeLeone. On roll call voting YES: Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

Ordinance 2024-106 passes.

Draft 2024-107 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH KLABEN PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, LLC AND KLABEN FORD LINCOLN, INC. PROVIDING FOR A PROJECT (SERVICE CENTER) AND REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO THE OHIO COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA PROGRAM (CRA), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Law Director Hope Jones at Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2024-107 was MADE by Mr. Sidoti, SECONDED by Ms. Rosenberg. On roll call voting YES: Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT 2024-107 was MADE BY Mr. Sidoti, SECONDED by Mr. Hook. On roll call voting YES: Jack Amrhein, Ms. Melissa Celko, Mr. Jeff Clapper, Michael DeLeone, Mr. Chris Hook, Gwen Rosenberg, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner. The motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 9-0-0.

Ordinance 2024-107 passes.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Celko congratulated Mayor Fiala on his Tree City Award for lifelong public service and encouraged Council members to attend the award ceremony in November.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fiala reminded Council about Trick or Treat on October 27, 2024 from 4-6 pm. Mayor Fiala advised the Council that Linda Copley was having serious health problems and urged Council to keep her in their thoughts and prayers.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm.



Kathleen Coleman
Interim 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 330-678-8007. 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.

