



City of Kent
Regular City Council Meeting
320 S. Depeyster Street, Kent, Ohio 44240
Wednesday, December 18, 2024

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; 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; Mr. Eric Fink, Portage County prosecutor; Mr. Nick Cecil, IT Director; Ms. Angela Manley, Parks and Recreation Director; Bridget Susel, Community Development Director; Melanie Baker, Service Director; Jamie Samels, Fire Chief; Dominique Bollenbacher, Community Engagement Coordinator; Ms. Kathy Coleman, Interim Clerk of Council

OPENING REMARKS AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. DeLeone wished everyone happy holidays and a safe new year, then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

- On 11/25/24, the November meeting notes and December agenda for Standing Rock Cemetery were received.
- On 12/2/24, a notice from the Board of Liquor Control advising of a Change of Corporate Stock Ownership from "1450 Inc." to "Rockne's Inc" was received. Chief Shearer has no objections.

MOTION TO APPROVE was MADE by Mr. DeLeone, **SECONDED** by Mr. Clapper, and **CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote.

- On 12/4/24, the November meeting minutes, November statistical report, and December agenda were received from the Health Department.
- A notice dated 11/27/24 was received from the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, advising of an increase in Enbridge Gas Ohio's rates and charges for service.
- A request for an updated list of City Elected Officials was received from the Ohio Ethics Commission. The update was completed and emailed on 12/6/24. The OEC will be doing another final update in January 2025.
- On 12/10/24, the Community Development staff report and BZA agenda were received and posted.
- On 12/13/24, Certificates of Election results concerning the renewal of the 1.16 mill tax levy and Sunday liquor sales in precinct 5A were received from the Board of Elections.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Nick Cecil has asked for Council's approval to authorize the donation of a surplus hard drive from the City's used equipment inventory to Standing Rock Cemetery for use in the administration of the cemetery.
- Jim has asked for the Council's approval to accept a donation of permanent right of way from Kent State University for the East Main Street improvement project. (Draft number 2024-118)
- Bridget has requested Council authorization of an administrative zoning variance that would allow 4 accessory structures (shed, outbuilding, etc.) on the 180-acre site, rather than 2 accessory structures allowed per zoning.
- Jim has asked for Council's approval of two resolutions of intent on two projects (water tank and clarifier rehabilitation) that have been funded using no interest loans provided by the OPWC. Council has already approved the projects and funding; this is a new requirement from OPWC. (Draft number 2024-119, 2024-120)
- Jamie is requesting Council's authorization to submit for \$591,536.96 in FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) funds, which, if awarded,

would be used towards the replacement of the 1994 ladder truck. Jamie is also asking Council to authorize acceptance and allocation of the funds if approved by FEMA. (Draft number 2024-121)

- Staff have requested Committee of the Whole time to update Council's Pending List for 2025.
- Bridget has asked for Community Development Committee time to update Part 13 of the City Building Code related to fines and penalties for violations.
- Eric has requested Streets, Sidewalk and Utilities Committee time to provide recommendations to update the City's special event permit process and event street closure regulations.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES from the November Regular Council meeting and the December Committee meeting was **MADE** by Mr. DeLeone, **SECONDED** by Mr. Sidoti, and **CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFTS 2024-122 THROUGH 2024-131 was **MADE** by Ms. Shaffer Bish, **SECONDED** by Mr. Sidoti, and **CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF DRAFTS 2024-122 THROUGH 2024-131 was **MADE** by Ms. Shaffer Bish, **SECONDED** by Mr. Hook, and **CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote.

4.3. DRAFT 2024-122 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF KENT TO FUND THE COST OF THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY FOR THE 2025 HERITAGE FESTIVAL TO KENT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR THREE YEARS SUBJECT TO COUNCIL'S APPROPRIATION IN EACH OF THOSE YEARS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

4.4. DRAFT 2024-123 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF KENT, WITH THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, PORTAGE COUNTY, FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL COUNSEL TO INDIGENT PERSONS CHARGED WITH POTENTIAL PENALTY OF INCARCERATION FOR OFFENSES COMMITTED IN VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCES OF SAID CITY FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

4.5. DRAFT 2024-124 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 353.02 "PARKING REGULATION AUTHORIZATION" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY

OF KENT TO CHANGE THE PERMISSABLE PARKING CONDITIONS ON VINE STREET, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

4.6. DRAFT 2024-125 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 358 TITLED “PARKING METERS”, IN ORDER TO CHANGE SECTIONS 358.01, 358.06, 358.11 AND ADDING A NEW SECTION 358.16, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

4.7. DRAFT 2024-126 A 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.

4.8. DRAFT 2024-127 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2023-96 THE POSITION ALLOCATION, THE GENERAL COMPENSATION PLAN AND AFSCME CONTRACT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

4.9. DRAFT 2024-128 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 915.72 OF THE KENT CODIFIED ORDINANCES, INCREASING THE SEWER RATES OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO BY THREE PERCENT (3%) BEGINNING WITH THE FIRST BILLING CYCLE IN JANUARY, 2025, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

4.10. DRAFT 2024 - 129 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 913.05 OF THE KENT CODIFIED ORDINANCES, INCREASING THE WATER RATES OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO BY THREE PERCENT (3%) BEGINNING WITH THE FIRST BILLING CYCLE IN JANUARY, 2025, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

4.11. DRAFT 2024-130 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR, UPON THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, TO PAY CERTAIN PURCHASE ORDERS MADE THAT EXCEED \$3,000.00; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

4.12. DRAFT 2024-131 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING 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, 2025, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

STANDING COMMITTEES AND LEGISLATION

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

Interviews were held for Board and Commission candidates. The candidates spoke briefly about themselves and their interest in their respective board or commission. The following candidates were present:

- Robert Rummel – Board of Building Appeals
- O’livia Kennedy – Board of Zoning Appeals
- James Daugherty – Parks & Recreation Board
- Tracy Wallach – Sustainability Commission

Candidates were informed that they would be notified via email of the results of the voting.

Health & Safety Committee-Chair Amrhein/Vice-Chair Sidoti

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2024-121 was MADE by Mr. Sidoti, SECONDED by Ms. Rosenberg, and CARRIED by unanimous roll call vote.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF DRAFT 2024-121 was MADE by Mr. Sidoti, SECONDED by Ms. Rosenberg, and CARRIED by unanimous roll call vote.

DRAFT 2024-121 (UNAUTHORIZED) - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE KENT FIRE DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY 2024 AFG GRANT THROUGH FEMA, AND TO ACCEPT ANY GRANT, IF AWARDED, WITH CORRESPONDING APPROPRIATIONS OF FUNDS WHICH PROVIDES FUNDING FOR A NEW 100-FOOT LADDER TRUCK AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2024-118 was MADE by Mr. Sidoti, SECONDED by Ms. Rosenberg, and CARRIED by unanimous roll call vote.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF DRAFT 2024-118 was MADE by Ms. Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Ms. Celko, and CARRIED by unanimous roll call vote.

DRAFT 2024-118 (UNAUTHORIZED) AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A DONATION OF A PERMANENT RIGHT OF WAY FROM KENT STATE UNIVERSITY FOR THE

PROJECT KNOWN AS EAST MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2024-119 was MADE
by Mr. Sidoti, SECONDED by Ms. Celko, and CARRIED by unanimous roll call
vote.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF DRAFT 2024-119 was MADE by Mr. Sidoti,
SECONDED by Ms. Rosenberg, and CARRIED by unanimous roll call vote.

DRAFT 2024-119 (UNAUTHORIZED) A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE OFFICIAL
INTENT AND REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF THE CITY OF KENT ON BEHALF OF
THE STATE OF OHIO (THE BORROWER) TO REIMBURSE ITS 201 WATER FUND
FOR THE CG27AB / CG28AB, ELEVATED & GROUND WATER STORAGE TANKS
REHABILITATION WITH THE PROCEEDS OF TAX-EXEMPT DEBT OF THE STATE OF
OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFT 2024-120 was MADE
by Ms. Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Mr. Hook, and CARRIED by unanimous roll
call vote.

DRAFT 2024-120 (UNAUTHORIZED) A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE OFFICIAL
INTENT AND REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF THE CITY OF KENT ON BEHALF OF
THE STATE OF OHIO (THE BORROWER) TO REIMBURSE ITS 202 SEWER FUND
FOR THE CG29AB / CG30AB, WRF PRIMARY CLARIFIER NO. 1 REHABILITATION
WITH THE PROCEEDS OF TAX-EXEMPT DEBT OF THE STATE OF OHIO, AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

NEW BUSINESS

Council was provided with the 2025 Regular and Committee meeting dates.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Sidoti announced that he would not be running for Council again. He stated that he
loved Kent and being on Council, but it was time to support the next generation
stepping up. His last meeting will be December 17, 2025.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fiala stated that he was proud to work with the Council and appreciated how Council represented a good cross-section of the City of Kent, and how it's important for the City to keep growing. He acknowledged the holiday season and the importance of respecting all beliefs and traditions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 7:04pm

MOTION TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss Board and Commission Appointments was MADE by Mr. Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. Hook, and CARRIED by unanimous roll call vote.

RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING – 7:26pm

Appointment of Candidates

MOTION TO APPOINT **ROBERT RUMMEL** TO THE **BOARD OF BUILDING APPEALS** AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was MADE by Mr. Sidoti, SECONDED by Mr. DeLeone, and CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION TO APPOINT **O'LIVIA KENNEDY** TO THE **BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS** AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was MADE by Mr. DeLeone, SECONDED by Ms. Celko, and CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION TO APPOINT **ALLAN ORASHAN** and **MARK WEISMAN** TO THE **DESIGN AND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE** AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was MADE by Mr. Hook, SECONDED by Mr. Amrhein, and CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION TO APPOINT **ROUVEN CYNCYNATUS** TO THE **FAIR HOUSING BOARD** AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was MADE by Mr. Clapper, SECONDED by Mr. Sidoti, and CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION TO APPOINT **JULIAN TIPTON** and **STEVE MITCHELL** TO THE **PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD** AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was MADE by Ms. Rosenberg, SECONDED by Mr. Sidoti, and CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION TO APPOINT **DEREK SALUSTRO** TO THE **PLANNING COMMISSION** AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was MADE by Ms. Rosenberg, SECONDED by Mr. DeLeone, and CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION TO APPOINT **TRACY WALLACH** TO THE **SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION** AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was MADE by Ms. Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Mr. Amrhein, and CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION TO APPOINT **JASON STEWART** TO THE **LOAN REVIEW BOARD** AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was MADE by Mr. Clapper, SECONDED by Mr. Sidoti, and CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE INSERTION OF NAMES INTO LEGISLATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was MADE by Mr. Hook, SECONDED by Ms. Celko and CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS OF DRAFTS 2024-132 THROUGH 2024-139 was MADE by Mr. Sidoti, SECONDED by Ms. Shaffer Bish and CARRIED by roll call vote 9-0-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFTS 2024-132 THROUGH 2024-139 was MADE by Mr. Sidoti, SECONDED by Ms. Rosenberg, and CARRIED by roll call vote 9-0-0.

DRAFT 2024-132 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ROBERT RUMMEL TO THE BOARD OF BUILDING APPEALS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

DRAFT 2024-133 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING O'LIVIA KENNEDY TO THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

DRAFT 2024-134 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ALLAN ORASHAN AND MARK WEISMAN TO THE DESIGN AND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

DRAFT 2024-135 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ROUVEN CYNCHYNATUS TO THE FAIR HOUSING BOARD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

DRAFT 2024-136 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING JILLIAN TIPTON AND STEVE MITCHELL TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

DRAFT 2024-137 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING DEREK SALUSTRO TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

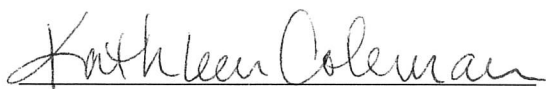
DRAFT 2024-138 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING TRACY WALLACH TO THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

DRAFT 2024-139 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING JASON STEWART TO THE LOAN REVIEW BOARD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

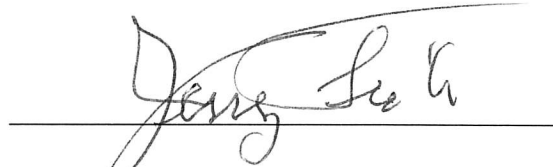
Council requested that Justine Gallo be invited back to interview for the Sustainability Commission and expressed their appreciation for James Daugherty and suggested he apply for a position on another board or commission.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.



Kathleen Coleman
Interim Clerk of Council



Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor & President of Council

