



City of Kent
Regular City Council Meeting
319 S. Water Street, Kent, Ohio 44240
Wednesday, July 16, 2025

AGENDA - Amended

6:55PM BOARD OF CONTROL

7:00PM PUBLIC HEARING – DORA CONTINUATION

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING will begin immediately after Public Hearing

1. ROLL CALL

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

2.1 Executive session to discuss Board/Commission appointments

3. OPENING REMARKS AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Ms. Celko

4. COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 Public Comment – Anyone wishing to address Council must submit their written comments to the Clerk of Council at councilclerk@kentohio.gov by 4:30pm on the meeting day. If also requesting to speak at the meeting, comments are limited to three (3) minutes.

3.2 Written Communication (on file in Clerk of Council's office)

3.2.1 On June 27, 2025, the June minutes and July agenda for the Standing Rock Cemetery Board were received and posted online.

3.2.2 On July 3, 2025, the June minutes and July agenda for the Board of Health were received.

3.3 City Manager's Report

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine. Each item will be read individually into the record and 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.

- 4.1 Approval of June Regular Council Meeting minutes
- 4.2 Approval of July Council Committee Meeting minutes
- 4.3 Approval of July Special Meeting minutes
- 4.4 **DRAFT 2025-056** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE KENT FIRE DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR A “STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE” (SAFER) GRANT THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND FEMA, AND TO ACCEPT ANY GRANT, IF AWARDED, WITH CORRESPONDING APPROPRIATIONS OF FUNDS WHICH PROVIDES FUNDING FOR THREE (3) FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC POSITIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
- 4.5 **DRAFT 2025-057** A RESOLUTION CONDUCTING A FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF THE DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA AND APPROVING CONTINUED OPERATION IN SPECIFIED PUBLIC AREAS OF DOWNTOWN KENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
- 4.6 **DRAFT 2025-058** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF KENT TO SUBMIT A FUNDING APPLICATION TOTALING \$1,000,000 AND TO EXECUTE THE SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION (OPWC), AND TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF AWARDED, WITH CORRESPONDING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
- 4.7 **DRAFT 2025-059** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPROVE A NEW SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION FROM AXESSPOINTE COMMUNITY SERVICES KNOWN AS “GRILL FOR GOOD” TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025, AND THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF NORTH WATER STREET BEGINNING AT EAST MAIN STREET AND EXTENDING NORTH TO ALLEY 3 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
- 4.8 **DRAFT 2025-060** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPROVE A NEW SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION FROM MAIN STREET KENT KNOWN AS “THE LONGEST TABLE” TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2025, AND THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF WEST MAIN STREET BETWEEN RIVER STREET AND NORTH WATER STREET AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
- 4.9 **DRAFT 2025-061** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OUTDOOR SEATING PROGRAM GUIDELINES TO ALIGN WITH THE CITY’S CURRENT NOISE ORDINANCE REGULATIONS AND TO REMOVE THE PROHIBITION OF ALCOHOL BEING SERVED AT OUTSIDE TABLES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- 4.10 **DRAFT 2025-064** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR, UPON THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, TO PAY CERTAIN PURCHASE ORDERS MADE THAT EXCEED \$3000.00; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

6. STANDING COMMITTEES AND LEGISLATION

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

5.1.1 Board Appointment – **Board of Building Appeals**

5.1.1.1 Voting on Board of Building Appeals appointment

5.1.1.2 Motion to Authorize Insertion of Name into Legislation

5.1.1.3 **DRAFT 2025-062** A RESOLUTION APPOINTING _____ TO THE BOARD OF BUILDING APPEALS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

5.1.2 Board Appointment – **Fair Housing Board**

5.1.2.1 Voting on Fair Housing Board appointment

5.1.2.2 Motion to Authorize Insertion of Name into Legislation

5.1.2.3 **DRAFT 2025-063** A RESOLUTION APPOINTING CARA WOLFGRAM EVANS TO THE FAIR HOUSING BOARD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

5.1.3 Charter Review Amendments

5.1.3.1 **DRAFT 2025-065** AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025, WHICH WILL AMEND THE “PREAMBLE” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

5.1.3.2 **DRAFT 2025-066** AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025, WHICH WILL AMEND ARTICLE V, SECTION 5.01 TITLED “COUNCIL & MAYOR” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

5.1.3.3 **DRAFT 2025-067** AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025, WHICH WILL AMEND ARTICLE V, SECTION 5.03 TITLED “REMOVAL” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- 5.1.3.4 **DRAFT 2025-068** AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025, WHICH WILL AMEND ARTICLE V, SECTION 5.15 TITLED “RECALL PETITION AND ELECTION” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
- 5.1.3.5 **DRAFT 2025-069** AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025, WHICH WILL AMEND ARTICLE VI, SECTION 6.03 TITLED “CITY MANAGER” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
- 5.1.3.6 **DRAFT 2025-070** AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025, WHICH WILL AMEND ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 8.07 TITLED “CHARTER REVIEW” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- 5.2 Community Development Committee – Chair Rosenberg/Vice-Chair Clapper
- 5.3 Health & Safety Committee – Chair Amrhein/Vice-Chair Sidoti
- 5.4 Land Use Committee – Chair Shaffer Bish/Vice-Chair Hook
- 5.5 Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee – Chair Sidoti/Vice-Chair Clapper

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. COUNCIL MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

10. MAYOR’S REPORT

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 11.1 Executive session to discuss City Manager’s evaluation

12. ADJOURN



City of Kent

Regular City Council Meeting

319 S. Water Street, Kent, Ohio 44240

June 18, 2025

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. 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; Mr. Nick Cecil, IT Director; Ms. Bridget Susel; Community Development Director; Ms. Dominique Bollenbacher, Community Outreach Coordinator; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Ms. Joan Seidel, Health Commissioner; Ms. Kathy Coleman, Clerk of Council

Motion to excuse Ms. Rosenberg and Mr. Hook made by Mr. Clapper, seconded by Ms. Celko, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Amrhein led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance

COMMUNICATIONS

Public Comment: None

Written Communication:

- On June 3, 2025, the Clerk's office received from the Portage County Board of Elections certified results of the Election on Local Liquor Option, specifically the sale of spirituous liquor and wine and mixed beverages at Blind Squirrel Pub, precinct 1C, on Sundays. The measure was approved 67-10.
- On June 3, 2025, the May minutes and June agenda for Standing Rock Cemetery were received. They were posted online.
- On June 4, 2025, Bridget Susel shared a letter she received from Ms. Helen Holovak regarding funding for repairs/upgrades to mobile homes. The letter and Ms. Susel's response were shared with Council.
- On June 5, 2025, the May minutes of the Board of Health meeting were received.
- On June 9, 2025, the agenda and staff report for the June 16 meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals were received.

- On June 9, 2025, the agenda for the June 12 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board was received.
- On June 11, 2025, a letter from Ms. Jan Rader of Harris St. requesting future notification regarding the closing and re-opening of Franklin Ave. was received and shared with Council. The Clerk responded with a letter to Ms. Rader advising her of the schedule for the annual opening/closing of Franklin Ave.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

MOTION TO APPROVE ITEMS 1-11 OF THE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT was made by Mr. Amrhein, seconded by Mr. Clapper, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION TO SUSPEND THREE READINGS OF DRAFTS 2025-046 THROUGH 2025-052 AND 2025-053 was made by Mr. Clapper, seconded by Ms. Shaffer Bish, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA was made by Mr. Clapper, seconded by Ms. Shaffer Bish, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of May Regular Council Meeting minutes

Approval of June Council Committee Meeting minutes

DRAFT 2025-046 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR, UPON THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, TO PAY CERTAIN PURCHASE ORDERS MADE THAT EXCEED \$3000.00; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

DRAFT 2025-047 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING TO MODIFY THE STREET CLOSING FOR WIZARDLY WORLD OF KENT THAT WILL BE HELD ON JULY 18-19, 2025, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

DRAFT 2025-048 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPROVE A NEW SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION FROM BRANDED IN KENT KNOWN AS "FALL REVIVAL: HARVEST VINTAGE MARKET" TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025, AND THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF EAST ERIE STREET BETWEEN SOUTH WATER STREET AND THE PRIVATE ALLEY BY TREE CITY COFFEE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

DRAFT 2025-049 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPROVE A NEW SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION FROM BRANDED IN KENT KNOWN AS "SUMMER REVIVAL: GOLDEN HOUR MARKET" TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2025, AND THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF EAST ERIE STREET BETWEEN SOUTH WATER STREET AND THE PRIVATE ALLEY BY TREE CITY COFFEE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

DRAFT 2025-050 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO THE STATE OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PY2025 COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM (CHIP) AND UPON AWARDING OF THE GRANT, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

DRAFT 2025-051 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION TO CHANGE THE CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS SPECIFICALLY RULE 5.05 AND RULE 5.08 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

DRAFT 2025-052 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO EXECUTE A SURFACE EASEMENT AGREEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS FOR 300 NORTH WATER STREET WHICH IS ADJACENT TO THE CITY OWNED PROPERTY AT 266 NORTH WATER STREET, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

DRAFT 2025-054 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2024-127 THE POSITION ALLOCATION AND AFSCME CONTRACT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Consent agenda passes.

STANDING COMMITTEES AND LEGISLATION

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

Board/Commission Appointments

- Motion to appoint Stacey Wilson to the PARTA Board was made by Mr. Deleone, seconded by Ms. Celko; and carried 8-0-1, with Mr. Amrhein abstaining.
- Motion to authorize insertion of the name into Draft 2025-053 was made by Mr. Turner, seconded by Ms. Celko, and carried 8-0-1, with Mr. Amrhein abstaining.
- Motion to suspend 3 readings of Draft 2025-053 was made by Mr. Clapper, seconded by Mr. DeLeone, and carried 8-0-1, with Mr. Amrhein abstaining
- Motion to adopt Draft 2025-053 was made by Mr. DeLeone, seconded by Mr. Sidoti, and carried 8-0-1, with Mr. Amrhein abstaining.

DRAFT 2025-053 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING STACEY WILSON TO THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY BOARD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Draft 2025-053 passes.

Community Development Committee – Chair Rosenberg/Vice-Chair Clapper

No action.

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

No action.

Land Use Committee – Chair Shaffer-Bish/Vice-Chair Hook

No action.

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

No action.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Clapper requested committee time to discuss the issue of truck routes through the City and its impact on local streets. Motion to move to committee was made by Mr. Clapper, seconded by Mr. DeLeone, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Celko encouraged council members to attend the Charter Review Commission meetings.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fiala reminded Council about the upcoming ribbon cutting for the City Hall building and recognized the hard work of everyone involved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:11, a motion was made to move into executive session to receive an update from the law director regarding a lawsuit and to discuss the City Manager's evaluation.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION AND ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Kathleen Coleman
Clerk of Council

Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

City of Kent
City Council Committee Meeting
319 S. Water St., Kent Ohio 44240

July 2, 2025

MINUTES

At 7:00pm, Mayor Jerry T. Fiala called the City Council Committee 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; Mr. Nick Cecil, IT Director; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Ms. Bridget Susel, Community Development Director; Ms. Dominique Bollenbacher, Community Outreach Coordinator; Ms. Melanie Baker, Service Director; Mr. Eric Helmstedter, Economic Development Director; Ms. Angela Manley, Parks & Recreation Director; Ms. Joan Seidel, Health Commissioner; Ms. Rhonda Hall, Budget and Finance Director; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Mr. Jamie Samels, Fire Chief; Ms. Kathy Coleman, Clerk of Council

Board/Commission Interviews

Ms. Cara Wolfram Evans was interviewed for a position on the Fair Housing Board. Mr. Randall Houska and Mr. Christopher Syphrit were interviewed for a position on the Board of Building Appeals. Candidates were advised that voting would take place at the July 16, 2025 regular Council meeting and they would be notified via email of the results.

Public Hearing for 2026 Tax Budget

No public comment.

COMMITTEES

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Standing Roundtable Updates

- Community Development – Ms. Susel advised Council of CD’s new online development service, two emergency sewer grants and the finalization of the CHIP grant submission.
- Fire Department – Chief Samels provided an overview of the river rescues that had taken place the previous week after severe weather.
- Health Department – Ms. Seidel provided information on West Nile Virus in local mosquito populations.
- Community Engagement – Ms. Bollenbacher provided updates on the first neighborhood movie night, Heritage Fest, and the new yard recognition program.

Amendments to Outdoor Seating Program Guidelines

Renewal of Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area

Staff Report on 2026 Budget: Street Repair

Proposed 2026 Tax Budget for Submission to Portage County

SAFER Fire Department Staffing Grant

No business.

North Mantua Street - OPWC Application

Mr. Bowling requested Council's authorization to submit a funding application with the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWS) for the North Mantua Street project, which includes construction of a roundabout, boulevard, pedestrian facilities, and a section of the Lake Rockwell Hike and Bike trail on North Mantua St. The application includes \$850,000 in grant

funds and \$150,000 in no interest loans from OPWC. The total cost of the project is \$7,180,000 with construction tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2026. Motion to authorize the submission of the grant request was made by Ms. Shaffer Bish, seconded by Ms. Rosenberg, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

New Event Permit: Longest Table

Ms. Bollenbacher and Mr. Helmstedter requested Council's approval for a new event permit for a community dinner event known as "The Longest Table." The City is partnering with Main Street Kent to host the new event, which would take place on the Main St. bridge and would require the closing of Main St. between River St. and North Water St. on Sunday August 3rd from 3pm to 8:30pm. Motion to approve the permit was made by Mr. Amrhein, seconded by Mr. Hook and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Revised Special Event Permit Request – Grill for Good

Mr. Helmstedter requested a modification to the footprint of the annual Grill for Good fundraising event on September 13, 2025. The event is now sponsored by AxxessPoint Community Services, and they have requested to reconfigure the footprint to reduce traffic impacts by no longer closing East Main St. as part of the event. Motion to approve the modification was made by Mr. Amrhein, seconded by Ms. Celko, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to move to Executive Session to discuss possible property acquisition was made at 9:20pm by Mr. Amrhein, seconded by Ms. Celko, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Council returned to Regular Session at 9:26pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27pm.



Kathleen Coleman, Clerk of Council



City of Kent
City Council Special Committee Meeting
319 S. Water St., Kent Ohio 44240

July 9, 2025

MINUTES

At 7:00pm, Mayor Jerry T. Fiala called the City Council Special Committee 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. 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. Kathy Coleman, Clerk of Council; Charter Review Commissioners Dawn Albright; Craig Berger, Brian Bialik; Jason Gartland; Julie Hurd-Schmidt; Jasmine Jefferson; Tom Mahon; Darlene Rocco; Jeff Roeger; Don Schjeldahl; Adam Stephens; Barb Hipsman-Springer

Motion to excuse Mr. Sidoti was made by Mr. Clapper, seconded by Ms. Rosenberg, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

DISCUSSION REGARDING CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Lengthy discussion regarding the proposed charter amendments was held between Council, Charter Review Commissioners, and City staff. Audience members Sylvia Rhodes of N. Chestnut Street, John Barber of S. Depeyster St., Tina Bhargova of Crain Ave., Robin Turner, owner of Rolling Scones Bakery, Rachel Sage, operator of Paper and Leaf, and Randy Bish of S. Depeyster St. also participated in the discussions. After discussion, the following motions were made:

- PREAMBLE: Motion to move the amendment to the Preamble forward for voting as written was made by Mr. Clapper, seconded by Mr. Hook, and carried by unanimous voice vote.
- 5.01 COUNCIL and MAYOR: Motion to amend addition to 5.01 by removal of the phrase “or by ordinance for another reason” and forward for voting was made by Ms. Shaffer Bish, seconded by Mr. Clapper, and carried by unanimous voice vote.
- 5.03 REMOVAL: Motion to remove the phrase “moral turpitude, as defined by the Ohio Revised Code” from 5.03 and forward for voting was made by Ms. Celko, seconded by Chris, and carried by voice vote 7-1-0, with Mr. Turner voting no.
- 5.15 RECALL PETITION AND ELECTION: Motion to forward 5.15 for voting, with Ms. Jones’ rewording of the last sentence to specify type of office, was made by Ms. Rosenberg, seconded by Mr. Clapper, and carried by unanimous voice vote.
- 6.03 CITY MANAGER-Acting City Manager: Motion to move the amendment to 6.03 forward for voting as written was made by Mr. Clapper, seconded by Mr. DeLeone, and carried by unanimous voice vote.
- 6.04 CITY MANAGER-Powers and Duties: Motion to keep the amendment in Council and consider under item J was made by Mr. Clapper, seconded by Mr. DeLeone, and tied 4-4.

Motion to review language of 6.04 for future charter ballot inclusion was made by Ms. Celko, seconded by Ms. Shaffer Bish, and carried by voice vote 6-2-0.

- 7.03(E) DIRECTOR OF SAFETY: Motion to return this item to Council committee to review for policy development was made by Ms. Shaffer Bish, seconded by Mr. Clapper, and carried by voice vote 7-1-0, with Mr. Hook voting no.
- 8.07 CHARTER REVIEW: Motion to move amendment forward with the following changes was made by Mr. Clapper, seconded by Mr. DeLeone, and defeated by voice vote 2-6-0:
 - Add two alternates to the membership requirement in the second sentence of the first paragraph.
 - Reword the third sentence of the first paragraph to read “Council shall endeavor to select a Commission that is a diverse cross section of the City, keeping in mind characteristics such as age, race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and ward representation.”
 - Replace the October 1st deadline in the second paragraph with September 1st.
 - Include a statement requiring that sitting members of Council have no input to the Charter Review Commission once it is seated.

Motion to retain the first three components of the previous motion, but eliminate the last component and move forward for voting was made by Ms. Celko, seconded by Mr. Hook, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

- 9.02 ELECTIONS-Non-Partisan Elections: Motion to move amendment 9.02 forward for voting was made by Ms. Rosenberg, seconded by Ms. Celko, and defeated by voice vote.

Motion was made at 9:59pm by Mr. DeLeone to extend the meeting past 10:00pm, seconded by Mr. Hook, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion to move into Executive Session at 11:24pm was made by Mr. Amrhein; there was no second.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25pm.



Kathleen Coleman, Clerk of Council

DRAFT ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 056

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE KENT FIRE DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR A STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND FEMA, AND TO ACCEPT ANY GRANT, IF AWARDED, WITH CORRESPONDING APPROPRIATIONS OF FUNDS WHICH PROVIDES FUNDING FOR THREE (3) FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC POSITIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the Kent Fire Department would like to apply for a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant through the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA; and

WHEREAS, this grant will provide funding for three (3) Firefighter/Paramedic positions over a three (3) year period, such as salaries, benefits, etc; and

WHEREAS, the cost sharing portion is \$25,000 in years 1 and 2; and cost sharing portion is \$65,000 in year 3.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio:

SECTION 1. That Kent City Council authorizes the Kent Fire Department to apply for a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant through the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA.

SECTION 2. That the Kent City Council hereby approves the City's acceptance of any such grant, if awarded to the City, with corresponding appropriations for its use.

SECTION 3. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 4. That this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: _____
Date

Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: _____
Date

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen Coleman
Clerk of Council

I, KATHLEEN COLEMAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF *ORDINANCE No.* _____, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON _____, 20____.

(SEAL)

KATHLEEN COLEMAN
CLERK OF COUNCIL

DRAFT RESOLUTION 2025- 057

A RESOLUTION CONDUCTING A FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF THE DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA AND APPROVING CONTINUED OPERATION IN SPECIFIED PUBLIC AREAS OF DOWNTOWN KENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code (“ORC”) Section 4301.82, the City of Kent established a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (“DORA”) within specified public areas of downtown Kent, which City Council approved via Ordinance 2020-49; and

WHEREAS, ORC Section 4301.82(I)(1) requires that the legislative authority of a municipal corporation that has created a DORA conduct a review of the operation of the area not less than every five (5) years after its creation, by resolution, and either approve the continued operation of the area or dissolve it; and

WHEREAS, the City administration and this Council have reviewed the operation of the DORA over the past five (5) years, including input from the law enforcement, public safety officials, local businesses, and members of the public, and finds that the DORA has operated in a manner consistent with its intended purpose, has promoted economic development, and has enhanced the vibrancy of the downtown area; and

WHEREAS, the City has provided the necessary notice of its intent to approve the continued operation of the DORA as provided under ORC Section 4301.82(I)(1); and

WHEREAS, City Council desires to approve the continued operation of the DORA and affirm the existing regulations governing its use.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Kent, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That having reviewed the requirements of the DORA as established by Ordinance 2020-49, this Council approves the continued operation of a Downtown Designated Outdoor Refreshment comprised of the area depicted in Exhibit "A", attached hereto and made of part thereof.

SECTION 2. That the DORA approved herein shall be operated as set forth in the application attached to Ordinance 2020-49, or as it may be amended from time to time, with the approval of this Council.

SECTION 3. That this Council finds and determines that all public notice requirements of Revised Code 4301.82(I)(1) have been met prior to the passage of this Resolution.

SECTION 4. That the Clerk of Council is hereby authorized to forward a copy of this Resolution to both the Ohio Division of Liquor Control and to the Investigative Unit of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, all in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 4301.82.

SECTION 5. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 6. This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and welfare and for the further reason to clear the right of way for construction as soon as possible; wherefore, provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of Council elected or appointed, it shall take effect immediately upon its passage and execution by the Mayor; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: _____
Date

Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: _____
Date

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen Coleman
Clerk of Council

I, KATHLEEN COLEMAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF ORDINANCE No. _____, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON _____, 20_____.

(SEAL)

KATHLEEN COLEMAN
CLERK OF COUNCIL

DRAFT ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 058

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF KENT TO SUBMIT A FUNDING APPLICATION TOTALING \$1,000,000 AND TO EXECUTE THE SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION (OPWC), AND TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF AWARDED, WITH CORRESPONDING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the application submitted to OPWC will be for the North Mantua Street Improvement project which will include a boulevard, roundabout, pedestrian facilities and a section of Lake Rockwell Trail; and

WHEREAS, the Administration is requesting \$850,000 in grant funds and \$150,000 in no interest loans from OPWC. Total funding for this project is included in the approved 2024 Capital Improvement Plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio:

SECTION 1. That Kent City Council approves submission of the City's capital project pre-application request for Ohio Public Works Commission grant and loan funding totaling \$1,000,000, execution of the subsequent agreement, and authorized that the Administration provide all information, funds, and documentation required in said application for submission.

SECTION 2. That the Kent City Council hereby approves the City's acceptance of the grant, if awarded to the City, with corresponding appropriations for its use.

SECTION 3. That the Kent City Council hereby understands and agrees that participation in the OPWC grant program will require compliance with program guidelines and assurances.

SECTION 4. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 5. That this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: _____
Date

Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: _____
Date

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen Coleman
Clerk of Council

I, KATHLEEN COLEMAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF *ORDINANCE No.* _____, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON _____, 20____.

(SEAL)

KATHLEEN COLEMAN
CLERK OF COUNCIL

DRAFT ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 059

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPROVE A NEW SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION FROM AXESSPOINTE COMMUNITY SERVICES KNOWN AS “GRILL FOR GOOD” TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025, AND THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF NORTH WATER STREET BEGINNING AT EAST MAIN STREET AND EXTENDING NORTH TO ALLEY 3 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, AxessPointe Community Services would like to hold a special event known as “Grill for Good”; and

WHEREAS, Grill for Good will take place Saturday, September 13, 2025 from 12:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The temporary closure of West Main Street between River Street and North Water Street will begin Saturday at 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, the Kent City Council consents to authorizing the City Manager or his designee to sign the Special Event Application as long as he is comfortable and believes the safety and security of the City’s citizens will not be adversely affected.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio:

SECTION 1. That the Kent City Council authorizes the City Manager or his designee to execute the Special Event Application from AxessPointe Community Services in substantial conformance with the Special Event Application attached hereto as Exhibit “A”, as long as the City Manager or his designee believes the safety and security of Kent’s citizens are adequately projected.

SECTION 2. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: _____
Date

Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: _____
Date

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen Coleman
Clerk of Council

I, KATHLEEN COLEMAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF *ORDINANCE No.* _____, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON _____, 20____.

(SEAL)

KATHLEEN COLEMAN
CLERK OF COUNCIL

DRAFT

DRAFT ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 060

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPROVE A NEW SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION FROM MAIN STREET KENT KNOWN AS “THE LONGEST TABLE” TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2025, AND THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF WEST MAIN STREET BETWEEN RIVER STREET AND NORTH WATER STREET AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, Main Street Kent would like to hold a special event known as “The Longest Table”; and

WHEREAS, the Longest Table will take place Sunday, August 3, 2025 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The temporary closure of West Main Street between River Street and North Water Street will begin Sunday at 3:00 a.m. until 8:30 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, the Kent City Council consents to authorizing the City Manager or his designee to sign the Special Event Application as long as he is comfortable and believes the safety and security of the City’s citizens will not be adversely affected.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio:

SECTION 1. That the Kent City Council authorizes the City Manager or his designee to execute the Special Event Application from Main Street Kent in substantial conformance with the Special Event Application attached hereto as Exhibit “A”, as long as the City Manager or his designee believes the safety and security of Kent’s citizens are adequately projected.

SECTION 2. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: _____
Date

Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: _____
Date

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen Coleman
Clerk of Council

I, KATHLEEN COLEMAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF *ORDINANCE No.* _____, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON _____, 20____.

(SEAL)

KATHLEEN COLEMAN
CLERK OF COUNCIL

DRAFT

DRAFT ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 061

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OUTDOOR SEATING PROGRAM GUIDELINES TO ALIGN WITH THE CITY'S CURRENT NOISE ORDINANCE REGULATIONS AND TO REMOVE THE PROHIBITION OF ALCOHOL BEING SERVED AT OUTSIDE TABLES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the City of Kent wishes to amend the Outdoor Seating Program Guidelines which were approved by City Council April 18, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the guidelines are being amended to align with the City's current noise ordinance regulations and to remove the prohibition of alcohol being served at outside tables now that the City has a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio:

SECTION 1. That Council does hereby amend the Outdoor Seating Program Guidelines to align with the City's current noise ordinance regulations and to remove the prohibitions of alcohol being served at outside tables and is more fully outlined per Exhibit "A", attached hereto and made a part thereof.

SECTION 2. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: _____
Date

Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: _____
Date

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen Coleman
Clerk of Council

I, KATHLEEN COLEMAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND
IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS
OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF *ORDINANCE No.*
_____, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON _____, 20_____.

(SEAL)

KATHLEEN COLEMAN
CLERK OF COUNCIL

DRAFT

DRAFT ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 64

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR, UPON THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, TO PAY CERTAIN PURCHASE ORDERS MADE THAT EXCEED \$3000.00; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the Finance Director is required by ORC 5705.41(D) to certify the availability of funds to pay for goods or services upon all contracts and purchase orders; and,

WHEREAS, if the Certification of the Finance Director is not attached to the contract or purchase order over Three Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$3,000.00) Council must pass an ordinance allowing for a warrant for payment to be issued upon the Finance Director's certification that at the time of making the contract or order and at the time of the certification there was sufficient funds necessary for the payment of such contract and orders; and,

WHEREAS, the Finance Director has indicated that such a certification described above can be executed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio:

SECTION 1. That the Finance Director is authorized to make such warrants as are necessary to pay the due and owing amounts detailed in Exhibit "A", attached hereto and made an integral part hereof.

SECTION 2. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formation action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reason manifest to this Council this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediate after passage.

PASSED: _____
Date

Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: _____
Date

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen Coleman
Clerk of Council

I, KATHLEEN COLEMAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF *ORDINANCE No.* _____, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON _____, 20____.

(SEAL)

KATHLEEN COLEMAN
CLERK OF COUNCIL

DRAFT RESOLUTION 2025 - 062

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

TO THE BOARD OF BUILDING APPEALS AND

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio, at least a majority of all members elected thereto concurring:

SECTION 1. That IS hereby appointed to the BOARD OF BUILDING APPEALS

NAMES

TERM

08/01/2025 – 7/31/2028

SECTION 2. As stated in Section 150.01 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Kent, any person hereby appointed shall forfeit his or her term if he or she is absent from three (3) regular meetings of the Board or Commission to which he or she is appointed, unless one or more of these absences has been excused by the majority of members thereof.

SECTION 3. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meeting open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 4. That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: _____
Date

Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: _____
Date

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen Coleman
Clerk of Council

I, KATHY COLEMAN, ACTING CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF *RESOLUTION* No. _____ ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON _____.

(SEAL)

KATHLEEN COLEMAN
CLERK OF COUNCIL

DRAFT RESOLUTION 2025 - 063

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING CARA WOLFGRAM EVANS TO THE FAIR HOUSING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio, at least a majority of all members elected thereto concurring:

SECTION 1. That Cara Wolfgram Evans IS hereby appointed to the FAIR HOUSING BOARD

NAMES **CARA WOLFGRAM EVANS**

TERM
08/01/2025 – 7/31/2028

SECTION 2. As stated in Section 150.01 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Kent, any person hereby appointed shall forfeit his or her term if he or she is absent from three (3) regular meetings of the Board or Commission to which he or she is appointed, unless one or more of these absences has been excused by the majority of members thereof.

SECTION 3. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meeting open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 4. That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: _____
 Date

Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: _____
 Date

ATTEST: _____
 Kathleen Coleman
 Clerk of Council

I, KATHY COLEMAN, ACTING CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF *RESOLUTION* No. _____ ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON _____.

(SEAL)

KATHLEEN COLEMAN
CLERK OF COUNCIL

DRAFT ORDINANCE NO. 2025 – 065

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025, WHICH WILL AMEND THE “PREAMBLE” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio, two-thirds (2/3) of all members elected thereto concurring:

SECTION 1. That the question of the proposed amendment to the Charter of the City of Kent, Ohio, shall be submitted to the vote of the qualified electors of the City of Kent at the General Election to be held on November 4, 2025, at the regular places of voting in this City, during hours provided for by law. Such amendment being to amend the “PREAMBLE”, in the form set for in the ballot text appearing in Section 3 of this ordinance.

SECTION 2. That the ballots for said election shall be entitled, with appropriate language for balloting to be determined by the Board of Elections.

SECTION 3. That the question be submitted on said ballot shall be as follows: Shall the Charter of the City of Kent, Ohio the “PREAMBLE” be amended by the removal of the phrase “to almighty God” to reflect the separation of church and state and to avoid possible offense to residents, and the proposed Section shall provide as follows:

PREAMBLE

We, the people of the City of Kent, Ohio, grateful for the freedoms we enjoy, pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution of the State of Ohio, extending to municipalities the privilege of “Home-rule” in order to secure for ourselves and posterity practical and efficient methods in administering the affairs of the City, to protect the interests and insure the continued welfare of the community and to enjoy all the privileges of local self-government, do adopt this Charter.

SECTION 4. That the Clerk of this Council shall submit forthwith a certified copy of this ordinance to the Portage County Board of Elections.

SECTION 5. That the Board of Elections of Portage County shall cause an appropriate notice to be given of the election to be held on November 4, 2025, on the foregoing amendment to the Charter of this City and otherwise to provide for such election the manner provided by the general laws of the State of Ohio.

SECTION 6. That the Clerk of this Council shall cause the full text of this proposed Charter amendment to be published once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in this City, with the first publication to be made at least fifteen (15) days prior to the General Election to be held November 4, 2025.

SECTION 7. That there is hereby appropriated from the general fund a sufficient sum of money to pay the cost of compliance with Section 6 above.

SECTION 8. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council pursuant to ORC Section 121.22, and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements including Chapter 107 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Kent.

SECTION 9. That this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: _____
Date

Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: _____
Date

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen Coleman
Clerk of Council

I, KATHLEEN COLEMAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF *ORDINANCE No.* _____, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON _____, 20_____.

(SEAL)

KATHLEEN COLEMAN
CLERK OF COUNCIL

DRAFT ORDINANCE NO. 2025 – 066

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025, WHICH WILL AMEND ARTICLE V, SECTION 5.01 TITLED “COUNCIL & MAYOR” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio, two-thirds (2/3) of all members elected thereto concurring:

SECTION 1. That the question of the proposed amendment to the Charter of the City of Kent, Ohio, shall be submitted to the vote of the qualified electors of the City of Kent at the General Election to be held on November 4, 2025, at the regular places of voting in this City, during hours provided for by law. Such amendment being to amend Article V, Section 5.01, in the form set for in the ballot text appearing in Section 3 of this ordinance.

SECTION 2. That the ballots for said election shall be entitled, with appropriate language for balloting to be determined by the Board of Elections.

SECTION 3. That the question be submitted on said ballot shall be as follows: Shall the Charter of the City of Kent, Ohio Article V, Section 5.01 titled “Council & Mayor” be amended by allowing a ward councilperson to serve their entire term if ward boundaries are redrawn in such a way that the councilperson no longer resides in the ward in which they were elected, and the proposed Section shall provide as follows:

5.01 COUNCIL & MAYOR – Number, Selection, Term

Until enlarged by the procedures established by the general laws of the State of Ohio, the Council shall be composed of nine members, three of whom shall be elected at large and six of whom shall be elected from wards.

During the years 1964 and 1965, the Council shall be composed of the seven members elected to Council at the November 5, 1963, regular municipal election, or any successor appointed to fill a vacancy.

At the regular municipal election to be held in the year 1965, four members shall be elected from wards, one from each ward, for a two-year term expiring December 31, 1967. At the regular municipal election to be held in the year 1965 and every fourth year thereafter, members elected at large shall be elected for four-year terms. At the regular municipal election to be held in the year 1967 and every fourth year thereafter, members shall be elected from wards, one from each ward, for four-year terms.

If the city changes ward lines following a decennial census, a council member who was elected from one ward, but now resides in another, shall complete the remainder of their council term. In the election following the member's four-year term, said member must run in the newly drawn ward in which they reside.

All members of Council shall assume office on the first day of January next following their election.

SECTION 4. That the Clerk of this Council shall submit forthwith a certified copy of this ordinance to the Portage County Board of Elections.

SECTION 5. That the Board of Elections of Portage County shall cause an appropriate notice to be given of the election to be held on November 4, 2025, on the foregoing amendment to the Charter of this City and otherwise to provide for such election the manner provided by the general laws of the State of Ohio.

SECTION 6. That the Clerk of this Council shall cause the full text of this proposed Charter amendment to be published once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in this City, with the first publication to be made at least fifteen (15) days prior to the General Election to be held November 4, 2025.

SECTION 7. That there is hereby appropriated from the general fund a sufficient sum of money to pay the cost of compliance with Section 6 above.

SECTION 8. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council pursuant to ORC Section 121.22, and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements including Chapter 107 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Kent.

SECTION 9. That this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: _____
Date _____ Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: _____
Date _____

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen Coleman
Clerk of Council

I, KATHLEEN COLEMAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF *ORDINANCE No.* _____, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON _____, 20____.

(SEAL)

KATHLEEN COLEMAN
CLERK OF COUNCIL

DRAFT ORDINANCE NO. 2025 – 067

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025, WHICH WILL AMEND ARTICLE V, SECTION 5.03 TITLED “REMOVAL” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio, two-thirds (2/3) of all members elected thereto concurring:

SECTION 1. That the question of the proposed amendment to the Charter of the City of Kent, Ohio, shall be submitted to the vote of the qualified electors of the City of Kent at the General Election to be held on November 4, 2025, at the regular places of voting in this City, during hours provided for by law. Such amendment being to amend Article V, Section 5.03, in the form set for in the ballot text appearing in Section 3 of this ordinance.

SECTION 2. That the ballots for said election shall, be entitled, with appropriate language for balloting to be determined by the Board of Elections.

SECTION 3. That the question be submitted on said ballot shall be as follows: Shall the Charter of the City of Kent, Ohio Article V, Section 5.03 titled “Removal” be amended by identifying the Ohio Revised Code definition for “crimes of moral turpitude,” and the proposed Section shall provide as follows:

5.03 REMOVAL

The Council shall be the judge of the election and qualifications of its own members. It may remove any member for gross misconduct, or malfeasance in or disqualification for office, or for conviction while in office for a crime, or if adjudicated legally incompetent, or for a violation of the oath of office or persistent failure to abide by the rules of Council, or absence from three consecutive regular meetings of the Council unless one or more of such absences shall have been excused by the Council; provided, however that such removal shall not take place without the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the remaining members of Council nor until the accused member shall have been notified in writing of the charge or charges against him or her at least fifteen days in advance of a public hearing upon such charge or charges and the member or member's counsel shall have been given an opportunity to be heard, present evidence, and examine, under oath, all witnesses appearing in support of such charge or charges. The accused member shall not vote on the question of removal.

SECTION 4. That the Clerk of this Council shall submit forthwith a certified copy of this ordinance to the Portage County Board of Elections.

SECTION 5. That the Board of Elections of Portage County shall cause an appropriate notice to be given of the election to be held on November 4, 2025, on the foregoing amendment to the Charter of this City and otherwise to provide for such election the manner provided by the general laws of the State of Ohio.

SECTION 6. That the Clerk of this Council shall cause the full text of this proposed Charter amendment to be published once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in this City, with the first publication to be made at least fifteen (15) days prior to the General Election to be held November 4, 2025.

SECTION 7. That there is hereby appropriated from the general fund a sufficient sum of money to pay the cost of compliance with Section 6 above.

SECTION 8. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council pursuant to ORC Section 121.22, and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements including Chapter 107 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Kent.

SECTION 9. That this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: _____
Date Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: _____
Date

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen Coleman
Clerk of Council

I, KATHLEEN COLEMAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF *ORDINANCE No.* _____, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON _____, 20____.

(SEAL)

KATHLEEN COLEMAN
CLERK OF COUNCIL

DRAFT ORDINANCE NO. 2025 – 068

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025, WHICH WILL AMEND ARTICLE V, SECTION 5.15 TITLED “RECALL PETITION AND ELECTION” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio, two-thirds (2/3) of all members elected thereto concurring:

SECTION 1. That the question of the proposed amendment to the Charter of the City of Kent, Ohio, shall be submitted to the vote of the qualified electors of the City of Kent at the General Election to be held on November 4, 2025, at the regular places of voting in this City, during hours provided for by law. Such amendment being to amend Article V, Section 5.15, in the form set for in the ballot text appearing in Section 3 of this ordinance.

SECTION 2. That the ballots for said election shall be entitled, with appropriate language for balloting to be determined by the Board of Elections.

SECTION 3. That the question be submitted on said ballot shall be as follows: Shall the Charter of the City of Kent, Ohio Article V, Section 5.15 titled “Recall Petition and Election” be amended by adding a time frame to ineligibility for office after removal, and expanding that ineligibility to any city appointment or office for one year, and the proposed Section shall provide as follows:

5.15 RECALL PETITION AND ELECTION

The electors shall have the power to remove from office by recall election any elected officer of the City. If an elected officer shall have served for six months of a term, a petition demanding such officer's removal may be filed with the Clerk of Council who shall note thereon the name and address of the person filing the petition and the date of such filing. Such petition shall be signed by at least that number of electors which equals 20% of the total number of votes cast at the next preceding regular municipal election in the City of Kent. In the case of a ward council person the required number of electors shall equal 20% of the total number of votes cast in that ward at the next preceding regular municipal election. Within ten days after the day on which such petition shall have been filed, the Clerk shall determine whether or not it meets the requirements hereof. If the Clerk shall find the petition insufficient, the Clerk shall promptly certify the particulars in which the petition is defective, deliver a copy of this certificate to the person who filed the petition, and make a record of such delivery. Such person shall be allowed a period of twenty days after the day on which such delivery was made in which to make the petition sufficient. If the Clerk shall find the petition sufficient, the Clerk shall promptly so certify to the Council, shall deliver a copy of such certificate to the officer whose removal is sought, and shall make a record of such delivery. If such officer shall not resign within five days after the day on which such delivery shall have been made, the Council shall thereupon fix a day for holding a recall election, not less than sixty nor more than seventy-five days after the date of such delivery. At such recall election this question shall be placed on the ballot: "Shall (naming officer) be allowed to continue as (naming the office)?" with

provision on the ballot for voting affirmatively or negatively on such question. If a majority of the votes cast at such election shall be voted affirmatively, such officer shall remain in office. If a majority of the votes cast shall be voted negatively, such officer shall be considered as removed, the office shall be deemed vacant, and such vacancy shall be filled as provided in this Charter. An officer removed by recall shall not be eligible for appointment to the vacancy created by their own removal, nor shall they be eligible for appointment to any other vacant office of the City where appointments are made by the City Manager for a period of one year following the election in which they were recalled.

SECTION 4. That the Clerk of this Council shall submit forthwith a certified copy of this ordinance to the Portage County Board of Elections.

SECTION 5. That the Board of Elections of Portage County shall cause an appropriate notice to be given of the election to be held on November 4, 2025, on the foregoing amendment to the Charter of this City and otherwise to provide for such election the manner provided by the general laws of the State of Ohio.

SECTION 6. That the Clerk of this Council shall cause the full text of this proposed Charter amendment to be published once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in this City, with the first publication to be made at least fifteen (15) days prior to the General Election to be held November 4, 2025.

SECTION 7. That there is hereby appropriated from the general fund a sufficient sum of money to pay the cost of compliance with Section 6 above.

SECTION 8. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council pursuant to ORC Section 121.22, and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements including Chapter 107 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Kent.

SECTION 9. That this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: _____
Date

Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: _____
Date

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen Coleman
Clerk of Council

I, KATHLEEN COLEMAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND
IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS
OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF *ORDINANCE No.*
_____, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON _____, 20_____.

(SEAL)

KATHLEEN COLEMAN
CLERK OF COUNCIL

DRAFT

DRAFT ORDINANCE NO. 2025 – 069

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025, WHICH WILL AMEND ARTICLE VI, SECTION 6.03 TITLED “CITY MANAGER” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio, two-thirds (2/3) of all members elected thereto concurring:

SECTION 1. That the question of the proposed amendment to the Charter of the City of Kent, Ohio, shall be submitted to the vote of the qualified electors of the City of Kent at the General Election to be held on November 4, 2025, at the regular places of voting in this City, during hours provided for by law. Such amendment being to amend Article VI, Section 6.03, in the form set for in the ballot text appearing in Section 3 of this ordinance.

SECTION 2. That the ballots for said election shall, be entitled, with appropriate language for balloting to be determined by the Board of Elections.

SECTION 3. That the question be submitted on said ballot shall be as follows: Shall the Charter of the City of Kent, Ohio Article VI, Section 6.03 titled “City Manager” be amended by deleting the word “disability” to reflect modern awareness, and the proposed Section shall provide as follows:

6.03 CITY MANAGER – Acting City Manager:

By letter filed with the Clerk of Council, the Manager shall, within sixty (60) days of appointment, designate, subject to approval of the Council, a qualified City Administrative officer to exercise the powers and perform the duties of Manager during any absence or inability to perform such duties. During such absence or inability to perform relevant duties, the Council may revoke such designation at any time and appoint another qualified City administrative officer to serve until the Manager shall return, is able to perform relevant duties, or a new manager is appointed.

SECTION 4. That the Clerk of this Council shall submit forthwith a certified copy of this ordinance to the Portage County Board of Elections.

SECTION 5. That the Board of Elections of Portage County shall cause an appropriate notice to be given of the election to be held on November 4, 2025, on the foregoing amendment to the Charter of this City and otherwise to provide for such election the manner provided by the general laws of the State of Ohio.

SECTION 6. That the Clerk of this Council shall cause the full text of this proposed Charter amendment to be published once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in this City, with the first publication to be made at least fifteen (15) days prior to the General Election to be held November 4, 2025.

SECTION 7. That there is hereby appropriated from the general fund a sufficient sum of money to pay the cost of compliance with Section 6 above.

SECTION 8. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning

and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council pursuant to ORC Section 121.22, and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements including Chapter 107 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Kent.

SECTION 9. That this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: _____
Date Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: _____
Date

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen Coleman
Clerk of Council

I, KATHLEEN COLEMAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF *ORDINANCE No.* _____, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON _____, 20_____.

(SEAL)

KATHLEEN COLEMAN
CLERK OF COUNCIL

DRAFT ORDINANCE NO. 2025 – 070

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025, WHICH WILL AMEND ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 8.07 TITLED “CHARTER REVIEW” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio, two-thirds (2/3) of all members elected thereto concurring:

SECTION 1. That the question of the proposed amendment to the Charter of the City of Kent, Ohio, shall be submitted to the vote of the qualified electors of the City of Kent at the General Election to be held on November 4, 2025, at the regular places of voting in this City, during hours provided for by law. Such amendment being to amend Article VIII, Section 8.07, in the form set for in the ballot text appearing in Section 3 of this ordinance.

SECTION 2. That the ballots for said election shall, be entitled, with appropriate language for balloting to be determined by the Board of Elections.

SECTION 3. That the question be submitted on said ballot shall be as follows: Shall the Charter of the City of Kent, Ohio Article VIII, Section 8.07 titled “Charter Review” be amended by detailing the process for meetings of the Commission, as well as lowering the number of members from 15 to nine, and amending the review process to occur every five years instead of ten, and the proposed Section shall provide as follows:

8.07 CHARTER REVIEW:

Beginning in 2030 and every five (5) years thereafter, the Council shall appoint a Charter Review Commission to review the provisions of this Charter and make such recommendations to the Council for its amendment as the Commission may deem appropriate. The Commission shall consist of nine (9) residents of the Municipality—not holding any other elected or appointed office in the Municipality. Additionally, two (2) residents shall be selected as alternates. Council shall endeavor to select a Commission that is a diverse cross section of the City keeping in mind characteristics such as age, race, gender, ethnicity, sexual identity, and ward representation. The term of the Commission shall end immediately following Council’s final vote on the Commission’s recommended amendments.

The President Pro-Tem of Council shall be responsible for launching the Charter Review process in the October preceding the year in which the review is to occur. The President Pro-Tem shall direct the Clerk of Council to create and publish an application for prospective Commission members by September 1st of the year preceding the review year with a submission deadline of October 31st; the Clerk of Council shall collect all completed applications and make them available to every member of Council for their review. All nine members of the Commission shall be formally appointed by Council no later than November 30th preceding the review year.

At its initial organizational meeting, the Commission shall elect from among its members a Chair and Vice-Chair, who shall preside over its meetings. Following

the Commission's organizational meeting, the President Pro-Tem of Council shall work with the Chair and Vice-Chair to host an Introductory Meeting by February 1st of the review year that is open to the public and to which members of Council, city employees, and Charter Review Commissioners are invited. This meeting shall minimally provide information about the Charter, its role in governing the City, the Charter Review process, the roles of Commissioners, Council members, city employees, and members of the public throughout the process, and an established timeline. The Introductory Meeting shall be recorded and made publicly available no later than one week following its occurrence.

The Commission shall publicly meet at least once a month and shall provide an interim report of its progress to Council by April of the review year. During the Charter Review process, the Commission shall host at least one Town Hall meeting in addition to the Introductory Meeting to present proposed amendments and collect public feedback. All meetings shall be recorded and made publicly available no later than one week following its occurrence.

Following the second Town Hall meeting and no later than June 15th, the Commission shall report its final findings and recommendations to the Council. Upon receiving the Commission's report, Council shall publish it and consider its recommendations. Council may submit any proposed amendments to the electors in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio; should it submit proposed amendments to the electors, Council will appropriate the requisite funds for associated ballot expenses. The Council shall appropriate sufficient funds to the Commission for staff help, costs related to copying, meeting space, or other related administrative expenses.

SECTION 4. That the Clerk of this Council shall submit forthwith a certified copy of this ordinance to the Portage County Board of Elections.

SECTION 5. That the Board of Elections of Portage County shall cause an appropriate notice to be given of the election to be held on November 4, 2025, on the foregoing amendment to the Charter of this City and otherwise to provide for such election the manner provided by the general laws of the State of Ohio.

SECTION 6. That the Clerk of this Council shall cause the full text of this proposed Charter amendment to be published once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in this City, with the first publication to be made at least fifteen (15) days prior to the General Election to be held November 4, 2025.

SECTION 7. That there is hereby appropriated from the general fund a sufficient sum of money to pay the cost of compliance with Section 6 above.

SECTION 8. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council pursuant to ORC Section 121.22, and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements including Chapter 107 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Kent.

SECTION 9. That this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: _____
Date

Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: _____
Date

ATTEST: _____
Kathleen Coleman
Clerk of Council

I, KATHLEEN COLEMAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF *ORDINANCE No.* _____, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON _____, 20_____.

(SEAL)

KATHLEEN COLEMAN
CLERK OF COUNCIL