# 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

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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