



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