



City of Kent

Regular City Council Meeting

319 S. Water Street, Kent, Ohio 44240

July 15, 2026

MINUTES

At 7:00pm, Mayor Amrhein called the Regular City Council meeting to order.

Present: Ms. Melissa Celko; Mr. Jeff Clapper; Mr. Eric Dreger; Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish;
Mr. Benjamin Tipton; Ms. Sarah Wesley

Also Present: Mr. Jack Amrhein, Mayor and President of Council; Ms. Kathy Coleman, Clerk of Council; Mr. Dave Ruller, City Manager; Ms. Bridget Susel, Community Development Director; Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Fire Chief Jamie Samels; Dominique Bollenbacher, Community Outreach Coordinator; Ms. Melanie Baker; Service Director; Ms. Angela Manley; Parks & Recreation Director; Police Chief Gary Stone; Jordan Snyder, IT Technician

Motion to excuse Mr. Turner, Mr. Hook and Ms. Wallach was made by Mr. Clapper, seconded by Ms. Shaffer Bish, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

OPENING REMARKS and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Amrhein introduced Gary Stone, the new Police Chief, who spoke briefly to Council. Mayor Amrhein then led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMUNICATIONS

Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

Written Communication

- On June 25, 2026, the Clerk's office was notified that, due to a lack of agenda items, there will be no Planning Commission meeting in July.
- On June 30, 2026, the June minutes and July agenda of the Standing Rock Cemetery Board of Trustees were received and posted online.

- On July 2, 2026, an email was received from Rick Hawksley, inquiring about the progress on establishing a snow and ice management strategy for the coming winter. The email was shared with Council.
- On July 2, 2206, the Clerk's office, along with some members of Council, received an email from Alex Bladwin regarding the trees and landscaping on Haymaker Parkway. Mr. Dreger responded to the email.
- RECEIVED AFTER AGENDA PUBLICATION:
 - On July 9, 2026 the July agenda for the Parks & Recreation Board meeting was received in the Clerk's office.
 - On July 13, 2026, the Clerk's office was notified that, due to a lack of agenda items, there would be no Planning Commission meetings in August.

City Manager's Report

MOTION TO APPROVE ITEMS 1-8 OF THE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT was made by Mr. Clapper, seconded by Ms. Celko, and passed by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM JUNE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AND JULY COMMITTEE MEETING** was made by Mr. Clapper, seconded by Ms. Celko, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ON FIRST READING was made by Ms. Shaffer Bish, seconded by Mr. Clapper, and carried by unanimous roll call vote, 6-0-0.

- **DRAFT 2026-61** 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 2026-62** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY BUDGET & FINANCE DIRECTOR AND LAW DIRECTOR, OR THEIR DESIGNEES, TO SIGN AN ADDENDUM TO THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF KENT AND DAVID RULLER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
- **DRAFT 2026-63** A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2027, SUBMITTING THE SAME TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
- **DRAFT 2026-64** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2025-111, THE CURRENT APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, PASSED DECEMBER 17, 2025; 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, 2026; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- **DRAFT 2026-65** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE KENT FIRE DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE 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 FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
- **DRAFT 2026-66** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE KENT FIRE DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANT (FP&S) THROUGH FEMA, AND TO ACCEPT ANY GRANT, IF AWARDED, WITH CORRESPONDING APPROPRIATIONS TO PURCHASE A MODEL TECH HAZARD KITCHEN SAFETY PROP AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
- **DRAFT 2026-67** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE KENT FIRE DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) THROUGH FEMA, AND TO ACCEPT ANY GRANT, IF AWARDED, WITH CORRESPONDING APPROPRIATIONS TO PURCHASE TEN (10) SETS OF FIREFIGHTER'S TURNOUT GEAR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
- **DRAFT 2026-68** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO ENTER INTO A JOINT USE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF KENT, THE DAVEY TREE EXPERT COMPANY AND KENT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT TO OUTLINE THE SHARED USE OF THE EXISTING JOHN DAVEY ARBORETUM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NEW DAVEY SEED CAMPUS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
- **DRAFT 2026-69** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND / OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED (WRF SCADA Replacement)
- **DRAFT 2026-70** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND / OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED (SR 59 Alternative Transportation Improvements)

- **DRAFT 2026-71** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 509.12 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF KENT TITLED "UNLAWFUL NOISE", AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Consent agenda passes on first reading.

STANDING COMMITTEES AND LEGISLATION

Committee of the Whole – Chair Amrhein/Vice Chair Clapper

- Sustainability Commission Appointment
 - MOTION TO APPOINT ASH D'ANGELO TO THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION was made by Mr. Clapper; seconded by Ms. Celko, and carried by unanimous voice vote.
 - MOTION TO AUTHORIZE INSERTION OF NAME INTO DRAFT 202-72 was made by Mr. Clapper, seconded by Ms. Shaffer Bish, and carried by unanimous voice vote.
 - MOTION TO APPROVE DRAFT 2026-72 ON FIRST READING was made by Ms. Shaffer Bish, seconded by Ms. Celko, and carried by unanimous roll call vote, 6-0-0.

DRAFT 2026-72 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ASH D'ANGELO TO THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Draft 2026-72 passes on first reading.

Community Development Committee – Chair Shaffer Bish/Vice-Chair Wallach

No action.

Finance Committee – Chair Celko/Vice-Chair Tipton

No action.

Health & Safety Committee – Chair Hook/Vice-Chair Clapper

No action.

Land Use Committee – Chair Clapper/Vice-Chair Hook

No action

Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee – Wallach/Vice-Chair Tipton

No action.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

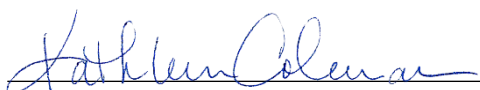
None

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Amrhein reminded Council that Main Street Kent would be celebrating its 20th anniversary with various events on July 25, 2026 and encouraged everyone to attend.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12pm.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kathleen Coleman", written over a horizontal line.

Kathleen Coleman
Clerk of Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jack Amrhein", written over a horizontal line.

Jack Amrhein
Mayor and President of Council