

**THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WED., MAY 4, 2016**

This meeting of the Community Development Committee of Kent City Council was called to order at 7:38 p.m. on Wed., May 4, 2016, by John Kuhar, Chair.

PRESENT: MR. AMRHEIN, MR. DeLEONE, MR. FERRARA, MR. KUCHAR, MS. SHAFFER, MR. SIDOTI, MR. TURNER, AND MS. WALLACH

ALSO PRESENT: J. FIALA, MAYOR & PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL; D. RULLER, CITY MANAGER; J. SILVER, LAW DIRECTOR; T. WILKE, ECON. DEV. DIR.; J. BOWLING, CITY ENGINEER; AND L. JORDAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL

ABSENT: MS. LONG

Chair Kuhar said the first item was the Celebrate Kent grants.

DAVE RULLER, CITY MANAGER, said it was that time of year again. He said some of the groups wanting money have an event coming up. Mr. Ruller said the amount was increased to \$15,000 a few years earlier to promote events that celebrate Kent. Mr. Ruller said this year's requests were \$23,000 and **TOM WILKE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**, did his best. He said they were hoping the Committee would authorize the amount.

Mr. Wilke said they moved up the cycle by two months, and advertised in March. He said with \$15,000 allocated, they received requests totaling \$23,000. Mr. Wilke said they reviewed the events and how they had been funded, and were able to fund most at a level of 80% of their request. He said there were some exceptions, as some asked for a lot more than they got previously. He said those groups received a lesser percentage of their grant request.

Mr. Wilke said he added two columns to the information. He said one dealt with the expected attendance, which is estimated at a total of 40,000. He said he felt those were reasonable estimates on the number of people coming downtown. Mr. Wilke said they also looked at matching funds, adding the groups had taken the City's money, and added \$120,000 in matching funds and in kind dollars. He said that is an eightfold increase of the City's money. Mr. Wilke said it is a good statement that they can go out and get that type of support in the community.

Mayor Fiala asked if everyone got their money the previous year, and Mr. Wilke said it is a reimbursement grant. He said all monies were received except for one event that occurred the previous month.

Ms. Shaffer said there are a few she always attends, like the Kent Blues Fest and the Reggae Jam. She asked what the groups need to fund, and Mr. Wilke said it is used primarily for advertising. He said they mostly advertise outside of the county to bring in people. Ms. Shaffer said it is very effective as she could not get in the bars at the Blues Fest.

Ms. Wallach asked the attendance for each of them, and Mr. Wilke said the overall total was 40,450, with more than one-half at the Farmer's Market. He said 23,000 are expected at the Farmers Market.

Mr. DeLeone said he found that number low. He said with any of the events, he cannot park, cannot walk, and cannot get in the door. Ms. Wallach said the figures were self-reported.

Mr. Kuhar asked the Clerk if he should abstain since one of the participants was his tenant. The Clerk deferred to the Law Director, who suggested it could not hurt if Mr. Kuhar abstained.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CELEBRATE KENT GRANTS AS PRESENTED.

Motion made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mr. DeLeone, and carried by a voice vote of 6-0-2, with Mr. Kuhar and Mr. Amrhein abstaining.

Chair Kuhar said the next item was the public art project MOU.

Mr. Ruller said as they discuss community support, he noted that Jeff Myers of Sommers Architects, who was present, was involved in the next project. He said public art is a daily event. He said it is an enrichment to one's life if they like art. Mr. Ruller said this is another way to support the downtown, and to have it as a destination that is different. He said it is not as distinctive as it used to be, as they see this type of art in a number of college towns. Mr. Ruller said this idea popped on their radar screen five years earlier, but they were busy with economic development and did not have a master public arts plan.

Mr. Ruller said one benefit with the joint plan with Kent State was how it began to dedicate a group devoted to the arts. He said the City could be at the table to help discuss it. Mr. Ruller said this project is a child of those discussions among a number of artistic and eclectic people. He said this project popped up as one that is doable, adding he hoped for further momentum. Mr. Ruller said the utility boxes are artistic, and said he likes the project as it is interesting.

Mr. Ruller said that Wick Poetry is taking poetry written by students and residents of Kent, and putting them on a traveling stanza. He said it will have the art work, with a poem. Mr. Ruller said some of the students wanted an inexpensive way to push a button to hear the child's voice reading the poem. Mr. Ruller said it is reasonably priced.

Mr. Ruller said **Jim Bowling, City Engineer**, was present to discuss the formalities. He said they have drafted a Memorandum of Understanding.

Mr. Bowling said he was dealing with the nuts and bolts, adding the MOU sets the framework as to how they will get the project done and the shared responsibility. Mr. Bowling said Kent State is designing the artwork and providing the audio speakers. He said the City will prep and paint the boxes, and install the adhesive. He said Main Street Kent will maintain them, checking the batteries and keeping them clean. He said if there is any other type of "artwork," they will clean it. Mr. Bowling said research shows less likelihood for graffiti on murals than on a plain box. He said one was already tagged, adding it is their worst piece of infrastructure.

Mr. Bowling said the funding is part of the TIF financing. He said those funds can only be used downtown, and cannot be used in the neighborhoods for sidewalks or pavement. He requested Council's authorization of the MOU.

Ms. Wallach asked how many boxes were planned and where they were located. Mr. Bowling said there will be seven boxes, and listed their locations at this time. He said one will be in Alley 9; one at the Dan Smith Park; two at the intersection of Depeyster and Main; one at the intersection of Depeyster and SR 59; one at the intersection of Erie and SR 59; and one near Huntington Bank at the intersection of Main and Water Street.

Mr. Sidoti asked if it is vinyl, and Mr. Bowling said Main Street Kent did some research. He said it is vinyl, and the adhesive that goes on the box is weatherproofed. Mr. DeLeone asked if it was like a wrap, and Mr. Bowling said that was correct.

Mayor Fiala asked about the funding and who was participating, and Mr. Bowling said Main Street Kent would provide the labor and the resources for maintenance. He said Kent State is responsible for the art work and audio speakers, and anticipate an upper limit of \$20,000. He said Kent is at \$12,000, adding they expect it to be less, for any contingencies. He said that money comes from the TIF financing. Mayor Fiala asked if that also covers the audio boxes, and Mr. Bowling said that was correct.

Ms. Wallach said the MOU speaks of a two-year project. She asked if they can expand at that time into the neighborhoods. She said their downtown is visually busy, and has big signs, art work, etc. She suggested they may need to relax a little bit on the downtown. Mr. Bowling said the two-year time frame is a minimum. He said if the art work is doing fine, they will leave it on.

Hearing no further questions, Chair Kuhar called for audience comment. Hearing no audience comment,

Chair Kuhar returned to the committee.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PUBLIC ART PROJECT MOU WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE.

Motion made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Ms. Shaffer, and carried by a voice vote of 7-0-1, with Chair Kuhar abstaining.

Chair Kuhar said the final item on their agenda dealt with the Middlebury Rd. Bike Path.

Mr. Bowling said the bike trail to Middlebury Road was built in 2009. He said Summit Metro Parks did the Freedom Trail to Middlebury Road in 2014. Mr. Bowling said there is a short stretch between the two trail heads that has seen a steady increase in bike and pedestrian traffic. He said it is a curvy section of the road, adding the site distance is difficult and the shoulders are not striped as wide as they could be.

Mr. Bowling said that since 2014, they have been upping awareness. He said the City and Metro Parks added signs. Mr. Bowling said they are getting more requests to improve it, including from the Sustainability Commission, who wanted bike lanes added.

Mr. Bowling said he reached out to Tallmadge and the Metro Parks in November to see if they were interested in making the connection. He said that since two bridges were replaced in the last ten years, the road is wide enough for all standards in accordance with ODOT. Mr. Bowling said one small portion that may need widening is in Tallmadge.

Mr. Bowling said the MOU proposes that Tallmadge would widen the road to allow bike lanes striped and installed. He said Kent would restripe the road, and move the signage for the bike lanes between the two trail heads. Mr. Bowling said they would like to see this done in the spring and summer, and they have quotes. He said the City's maximum cost, if they have to pay contractors, is \$20,000. Mr. Bowling said Tallmadge will be doing it in house for \$7000.

Mr. Bowling requested authorization of the MOU with the emergency clause.

Mr. Sidoti asked if there is any concern raised with Tallmadge about the parking at the corner of Middlebury and SR 261. He said they have their parking lot, but a lot of cars park around the corner, making it hard to make a turn. Mr. Bowling said he uses the route daily for work, and has never noticed that. Mr. Sidoti said it is on the weekends. He said the cars keep moving down, and Mr. Bowling may want to make them aware. Mr. Bowling said there is a long term fix in the plan to connect the two trails so they are not on the road. He said the plan includes expanding the parking lot. Mr. Bowling said it was funded by AMATS during the last round.

Hearing no further questions, Chair Kuhar called for audience comment.

Hearing no audience comment, Chair Kuhar returned to the committee.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MIDDLEBURY RD. BIKE PATH MOU WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE.

Motion made by Mr. Amrhein, seconded by Ms. Shaffer, and carried by a voice vote of 8-0-1.

Hearing no further business before this Committee, Chair Kuhar adjourned this meeting at 8:00 p.m.


Linda M. Jordan, Clerk of Council

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

- 1) TO AUTHORIZE THE CELEBRATE KENT GRANTS
- 2) TO AUTHORIZE THE PUBLIC ART PROJECT MOU WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE
- 3) TO AUTHORIZE THE MIDDLEBURY RD. BIKE PATH MOU WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE.

**THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO
ANNUAL JOINT MEETING WITH FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
WED., MAY 4, 2016**

This annual meeting with the Franklin Township Trustees was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Wed., May 4, 2016, by Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor & President of Council.

PRESENT: MR. AMRHEIN, MR. DeLEONE, MR. FERRARA (ARR. @ 7:05 p.m.), MR. KUCHAR, MS. SHAFFER, MR. SIDOTI, MR. TURNER, AND MS. WALLACH

ALSO PRESENT: J. FIALA, MAYOR & PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL; D. RULLER, CITY MANAGER; J. SILVER, LAW DIRECTOR; AND L. JORDAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL

MR. BECKWITH, MR. BENJAMIN, AND MR. SWAN, FRANKLIN TWP. TRUSTEES

ABSENT: MS. LONG

MOTION TO EXCUSE MS. LONG.

Motion made by Mr. DeLeone, seconded by Ms. Shaffer, and carried by a voice vote of 10-0.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE MR. DeLEONE'S NAME INSERTED IN DRAFT NO. 16-43.

Motion made by Mr. Amrhein, seconded by Mr. Sidoti, and carried by a voice vote of 9-0-1, with Mr. DeLeone abstaining.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE DRAFT NOS. 16-42 AND 16-44

Motion made by Mr. Amrhein, seconded by Mr. Sidoti, and carried by a voice vote of 10-0.

Mayor Fiala asked the Clerk to read Draft No. 16-42 by title only at this time.

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP AND THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO, PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 759.34 DETERMINING THAT THE RATE OF TAXES TO BE LEVIED UPON ALL THE TAXABLE PROPERTY OF SAID MUNICIPALITY AND SAID TOWNSHIP FOR CEMETERY PURPOSES FOR THE TAX YEAR OF 2016 SHALL BE AND HEREBY IS FIXED IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO .400 MILLS FOR THE CITY OF KENT AND .400 MILLS FOR FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS.

Motion made by Mr. DeLeone, seconded by Mr. Sidoti.

Roll call was taken on the motion. Voting aye: Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Beckwith, Mr. Benjamin, Mr. Swan, and Mr. Amrhein. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 10-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE ORDINANCE.

Motion made by Mr. Kuhar, seconded by Mr. Sidoti.

Roll call was taken on the motion. Voting aye: Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Beckwith, Mr. Benjamin, Mr. Swan, and Mr. Amrhein. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 10-0.

JR 2016-01: A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP AND THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO, PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 759.34 DETERMINING THAT THE RATE OF TAXES TO BE LEVIED UPON ALL THE TAXABLE PROPERTY OF SAID MUNICIPALITY AND SAID TOWNSHIP FOR CEMETERY PURPOSES FOR THE

TAX YEAR OF 2016 SHALL BE AND HEREBY IS FIXED IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO .400 MILLS FOR THE CITY OF KENT AND .400 MILLS FOR FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP.

Linda M. Jordan, Clerk of Council

Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor & President of Council

The Mayor asked the Clerk to read Draft No. 16-43 by title only at this time.

A JOINT RESOLUTION APPOINTING MR. DeLEONE, A MEMBER OF KENT CITY COUNCIL, TO THE STANDING ROCK CEMETERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 759.36, FOR THE TERM BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2017 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS.

Motion made by Ms. Shaffer, seconded by Mr. Sidoti.

Roll call was taken on the motion. Voting aye: Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Beckwith, Mr. Benjamin, Mr. Swan, and Mr. Amrhein. Mr. DeLeone abstained. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 9-0-1.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE ORDINANCE.

Motion made by Mr. Kuhar, seconded by Mr. Sidoti.

Roll call was taken on the motion. Voting aye: Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Beckwith, Mr. Benjamin, Mr. Swan, and Mr. Amrhein. Mr. DeLeone abstained. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 9-0-1.

JR 2016-02: A JOINT RESOLUTION APPOINTING MR. DeLEONE, A MEMBER OF KENT CITY COUNCIL, TO THE STANDING ROCK CEMETERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 759.36, FOR THE TERM BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2017 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019.

Linda M. Jordan, Clerk of Council

Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor & President of Council

The Mayor asked the Clerk to read Draft No. 16-44 by title only at this time.

A JOINT RESOLUTION GRANTING SALARY AND HOURLY PAY RAISES TO THE PERSONNEL OF THE STANDING ROCK CEMETERY.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS.

Motion made by Mr. Sidoti, seconded by Mr. Amrhein.

Roll call was taken on the motion. Voting aye: Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Beckwith, Mr. Benjamin, Mr. Swan, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, and Mr. Ferrara. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 11-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE ORDINANCE.

Motion made by Mr. Sidoti, seconded by Mr. DeLeone.

Roll call was taken on the motion. Voting aye: Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Beckwith, Mr. Benjamin, Mr. Swan, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, and Mr. Ferrara. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 11-0.

JR 2016-03: A JOINT RESOLUTION GRANTING SALARY AND HOURLY PAY RAISES TO THE

PERSONNEL OF THE STANDING ROCK CEMETERY.

Linda M. Jordan, Clerk of Council

Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor & President of Council

Hearing no further business before this Council, Mayor Fiala adjourned this meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Linda M. Jordan, Clerk of Council

Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor & President of Council

**THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO
FINANCE COMMITTEE
WED, MAY 4, 2016**

This meeting of the Finance Committee of Kent City Council was called to order at 8:11 p.m. on Wed., May 4, 2016, by Michael DeLeone, Chair.

PRESENT: **MR. AMRHEIN, MR. DeLEONE, MR. FERRARA, MR. KUCHAR, MS. SHAFFER, MR. SIDOTI, MR. TURNER, AND MS. WALLACH**

ALSO PRESENT: **J. FIALA, MAYOR & PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL; D. RULLER, CITY MANAGER; J. SILVER, LAW DIRECTOR; DAVE COFFEE, DIR. OF BUD. & FINANCE; J. BOWLING, CITY ENGINEER; AND L. JORDAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL**

ABSENT: **MS. LONG**

Chair DeLeone said the first item on their agenda dealt with the proposed capital asset policy.

DAVE COFFEE, DIR. OF BUDGET & FINANCE, requested consideration and adoption of the proposed capital asset policy listed in his memo of April 26 to the City Manager. He said the proposed policy formalizes current and existing practices, as well as articulates some definitions, roles, and responsibilities not previously defined. Mr. Coffee said he wanted to get this in writing, and make it a formal policy on a citywide basis.

Mr. Coffee said the purposes of this policy are as follows:

- a) Clear and accurate City Financial Statement information
- b) Prudent control and accountability for capital assets, in an area that has potential for improper use
- c) Timely and accurate accounting for depreciation, consistent with GASB and GAAP
- d) Proper documentation of capital asset accounting and management to ensure and demonstrate Audit compliance

Mr. Coffee said this is about accounting and accountability. He said he hoped that was echoed throughout the document. Mr. Coffee said they have integrated a few changes from the current practices. He said one is to redefine the threshold for the definition of a capital asset, from \$2500 to \$10,000, keeping with best practices of local government. He said this does not change their budgeting or expenditure practices, but how financial statements present the capital assets. Mr. Coffee said they also articulate the Finance Department's responsibility. He said they intentionally and deliberately emphasized the responsibility on departments for maintenance of the capital assets as well as the inventory annually. He said the departments have control over the assets, so it makes sense they should have the annual accountability. Mr. Coffee said they added a few other procedures, such as transferring assets, disposing of assets, and the acquisition of assets.

Ms. Wallach asked if motor vehicles are considered to be capital assets, and Mr. Coffee said that is correct as they cost \$10,000 or greater. Ms. Wallach said the policy calls for them only to be used on City business. She asked if that means they cannot take them home, and Mr. Coffee said there are some exceptions in public safety and emergency personnel. Ms. Wallach asked if it means they cannot take them to the rec center or to lunch, and Mr. Coffee said that would be a correct statement, as that is not the intended use.

Mr. Kuhar said they bumped up the asset from \$2500 to \$10,000 and added the accountability. He asked about those items below \$10,000, and Mr. Coffee said they created new definitions. He said they

now become controlled capital type assets, having a value between \$500 and \$10,000. Mr. Coffee said they are still part of the inventory that is tracked. He said they are not relinquishing the control of those assets. Mr. Coffee said this is an additional step to further improve the accountability of City assets. Mr. Kuhar said he would think if they have an emergency safety responder, on call, they would be allowed to use their vehicle for lunch, etc. Mr. Coffee said the policy is not intended to impede existing provisions in place for legitimate city business.

Mr. Sidoti said he assumed this aligns with the State, and Mr. Coffee said they knew it would be in their comments. Mr. Sidoti said this helps their audit, adding they get excellent audits. Mr. Coffee agreed, but noted that aside from that point, they felt this was needed.

Ms. Shaffer asked how this was done previously, and asked if the department was responsible. Mr. Coffee said the Department would reach out to the individual departments, and ask for an update of their capital assets. He said the procedure was a little bit “clunky” and a little hit and miss. He said at times, personnel was not as responsive as they would like to see.

Ms. Shaffer asked who would coordinate this, and Mr. Coffee said it is the Finance Department. Ms. Shaffer asked if there was a particular individual assigned to coordinate or if they would need to hire someone. Mr. Coffee said the Controller, Brian Huff works with the Auditor of State as they review the inventory. Ms. Shaffer asked if this could be inventoried on the web, and Mr. Coffee said he did not contemplate that at this time. He said they have a few kinks to work out. He said they may do it down the road, but it is not in the immediate plan.

Hearing no further questions, Chair DeLeone called for audience comment. Hearing no audience comment, Chair DeLeone returned to the committee.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PROPOSED CAPITAL ASSET POLICY.

Motion made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mr. Kuhar.

Mr. Kuhar asked if this would be right after the credit card machines, and Mayor Fiala pointed out there was a motion on the floor.

The motion carried by a voice vote of 7-0-1, with Mr. DeLeone abstaining.

Chair DeLeone said the final item dealt with an update on the proposed city administration building.

Mr. Ruller said he distributed information to them, and was not anticipating any discussion at this meeting. He said they have tried to make some progress about the next City Hall. Mr. Ruller said many of the Committee members are excited as they do not get to do this often. He noted on the cover of the notebook he distributed, there is a picture they found at the Kent Historical Society from the 1950s or 1960s.

Mr. Ruller said this is a window of opportunity, and they are trying to discern the path forward. Mr. Ruller said there are so many ways to do this, adding they can add space, subtract space or relocate. He said for more than ninety years, city hall has always been in a one block radius. Mr. Ruller said there is nothing that says it has to stay in its current location. He said he has heard a lot of suggestions, and the residents may have a range of opinions. Mr. Ruller said at some point, they need to narrow it down, step by step.

Mr. Ruller said they thought they would talk about other cities and what they are doing, as they are not the first one to build a City Hall. He said Mr. Ferrara loved Beachwood’s city hall and Ms. Long gave a few suggestions also. Mr. Ruller said they tried to compile information to wrestle the bear.

Mr. Ruller said every community is unique, and there are some patterns and trends that begin to emerge.

He said they do not see a lot of public work yards right next to city halls, as they are incompatible. He said there are different sets of office needs and environment.

Mr. Ruller said the Mayor wants a one stop shop under one roof, adding they need to better understand that. He said they looked at other communities, and in the notebooks are maps showing how they are dispersed. Mr. Ruller said even the richest communities do not have the biggest, nicest city halls. Mr. Ruller said Hudson's median income tops the charts, and they moved into a transitional location while they decide.

Mr. Ruller said there is no formula available, so he tried to wrestle a few issues. He said they have comparisons of other cities, with some pictures. He said some are pretty and some are functional. Mr. Ruller said they also tried to deal with the issue of how many customers actually go to City Hall. He said they need to be as convenient as possible. He asked how many people visit him, the Clerk, the Mayor, Human Resources, or the Law Department. He said the big numbers are the Health Department and the Finance Department. He noted the Clerk gets a fair number through passports.

Mr. Ruller said they talked to staff members, adding they do not have exact figures. He said many numbers were the result of conversation, and then the counting started. Mr. Ruller said he was trying to give them a sense of the order of magnitude. Mr. Ruller said whether they are in the middle of town depends on the number of people they see.

Mr. Ruller said he tried to throw in the piece of "where." He said City Hall has been in the same block for ninety plus years, and nothing in the Charter mandates that. Mr. Ruller said the cheapest build would be on land they own, so they took a quick look at what they own, and where it would work. Mr. Ruller said their old site was 1.7 acres, and 20,000 square feet. He said they only needed about 15,000 square feet, and those were rough numbers from Jeff Myers, of Dave Sommers Architect. Mr. Ruller said one acre would be more ideal. He said he had a good discussion with Mr. Bowling earlier in the day. He said Jeff Myers has given them great starting points, and now they need to refine them.

Mr. Ruller said if they started with a baseline, they would need about one acre holding 17,000 square feet. He said it could be one-half acre and three stories or one acre and one story. He said they have land at the Water Reclamation and Water Treatment Plants, but they are inaccessible as they are secured facilities.

Mr. Ruller said the compost site has land, but not where they want it. He said they defined the locations by green, red, and yellow. He said red will not work, and yellow is a middle ground, while it is not great, it may work. Mr. Ruller said a good example of that would be the service facility. He said it is not a good location, but they could reconfigure it to separate city hall from public works. Mr. Ruller said former Service Director Gene Roberts had mentioned the City bought a few houses on Middlebury Road. He said the Parks and Recreation Department bought the properties, adding it may be an option for a future recreation center. Mr. Ruller said they could make the case that the City holds the title on all of the land. He said the monies came from the Park Funds, and would have to be paid back. He said although they are titled to the City, there are certain restrictions on the land. He noted that he was sure the Park Board would not be too happy.

Mr. Ruller said another "yellow" is adding a second floor wing of the new police station. He said while there would be complications because they are far enough down the tract, it could be done.

Mr. Ruller said at the end of the day, the only one they own outright is the existing police station site. He said they can draw their own conclusions. Mr. Ruller said he wanted to give them basic starter information, which is why he gave them a notebook as they envision adding to it. Mr. Ruller said they invited themselves to be part of the planning process, so now they have a group project notebook. Mr. Ruller said in the appendix are things like Mr. Myers contract. He said they included the resident survey that will begin in two weeks. He said this will be done by the same company that did the police facility

survey. Mr. Ruller said there about fifteen to eighteen questions, including how important it is to have city hall in the middle of town or in the outskirts. Mr. Ruller said it will also be made available online, and they will continue to collect data. Mr. Ruller said there is more work to do and Mr. Bowling is scoping out the next steps.

Ms. Shaffer said as she looked at the executive summary, she did not see the Health Department on any cities list. She asked if they do not have a health department, and Mr. Ruller said a lot of other cities use their County Health Department. Mr. Ruller said his intern, Harrison, did a lot of data crunching. He said it was a good follow up question. Mr. Ruller said when Mr. Myers did his bubble diagrams, it looked at who interacted, and the Health Department is one of the least interconnected and most autonomous.

Ms. Shaffer said she did not see building or engineering departments on the bubbles, adding it is somewhere people go frequently. She asked if they decided to leave them where they are, and Mr. Amrhein asked if they want everything under one roof.

Mr. Ruller said the basic assumption was that whatever was in the former city hall is in the next city hall. He said Kent State wants to be a joint partner with the Health Department, adding he is unsure how that will work. Ms. Shaffer said other communities have those functions together, adding that Kent is a little unusual.

Ms. Wallach said a member of the Health Board indicated they want to be back in the main City Hall. She said they need to be centrally located. Ms. Wallach said one selling point on selling the old city hall was using existing money and not spend much more. She said the only way that is possible is to build it where the existing police station is located. She said other developments have been looked at for that location, and there is no potential. She said they can build a nice, centrally located building.

Mr. Kuhar said they will probably try to crucify him. He asked if they considered the costs of tearing down the old station, and Mr. DeLeone said it was included in the cost of building the new one. Mr. Kuhar suggested land on the southern entrance into Kent, and Mr. Ruller said it is private land. He said he started with the city owned land, adding there is a budgetary limit. Mr. Kuhar said he was unsure the cost of one acre of land in the old mall site, and Mr. Ruller said downtown is about \$700,000 per acre.

Mayor Fiala asked when they plan to build City Hall, and whether 2020 (listed on the front cover) was the target date. Mr. Ruller said he did not know what would be a reasonable time frame. Mayor Fiala said he gets asked, and has no answer. Mr. Bowling said it depends on how quickly they agree on what goes in it. He said adding land acquisition would be another year. Mr. Ruller said it could be 2020 if built where the existing police station is located.

Mayor Fiala asked when the police department would move to the new facility, and Mr. Myers said it would be late summer, 2017. Mayor Fiala said with respect to people visiting his office, he had more at the old building. He said he does more work in his car now than before.

Mr. Ferrara said they need to look at this from the aspect of continuing the redevelopment of the downtown or stimulating redevelopment elsewhere. Mr. Ruller said because of the land they own, they are limited to the downtown. Mr. Ferrara said they have had conversations with developers, and it could be a catalyst. He said with respect to the potential of developing other areas, they need to look at the possibility of expanding the scope and adding a wellness/recreation center or community center. Mr. Ferrara said he thought they could go back to the citizens if it is something they can use. He said they would get something the City needs and something the residents want. Mr. Ferrara said they should not be afraid of expanding the costs if they get something that everyone would utilize.

Mr. Turner said he supported the concept of partnering with some other group, like a social service agency. He said whatever land is out there could also be used in another way in the private sector. He said they could gain greater community support, enabling them to do more with the community support.

Mr. Sidoti said he was not sure building a public building would stimulate private growth, increasing their tax basis. He said he believed 2020 is doable, even if they expand their thinking. Mr. Sidoti said one partnership is with Parks and Recreation, adding they cannot just take their land, as it lacks integrity and what they are about. Mr. Sidoti said shared costs would be appreciated by the people. He said they just heard about a health crisis in Kent, and a lot has to do with physical fitness. He suggested they bring the Parks and Recreation Board to the table. Mr. Sidoti said even if it costs a little more, they may be able to address concerns raised by the community. He said he does not like the big Quonset huts, and would love to see a recreation center, city hall, and expanded parking. He said at their existing site, they are concerned with parking and would need additional land.

Mr. Sidoti said he concurred with Mr. Ferrara and Mr. Turner about broadening their scope and developing partnerships. Mr. Sidoti said the Park Board has been talking about a Rec Center since he moved to Kent in 1975. He said there is strength in numbers. Mr. Sidoti suggested a city hall/social service agencies/recreation center. He said they could put them together to make something happen.

Ms. Wallach said they could have done this with the police station, adding they did not have to buy private land. She said there was a push for a city campus. Ms. Wallach suggested they stay with the city campus, and keep city hall in the same area.

Ms. Shaffer agreed with Mr. Sidoti, but on a smaller version. She said she saw the Health Department and Rec Center sharing the same space. She said it would be nice to plan a rec center, with a health and wellness location. Ms. Shaffer said that would be nice on Middlebury. Ms. Shaffer said they need to have a stately city hall, allowing access to the Clerk and the Mayor.

Mr. Amrhein said everyone had great comments. He said they are going to do a community survey, and suggested they listen to what the people want. He said if they are going to sell this to a community, they need to include them. Mr. Amrhein suggested they send out the survey, then look at the results and see what the City wants. Mr. Amrhein said he pays \$500 to belong to the wellness center, and would much rather see a community wellness center. Mr. Amrhein continued he is unsure what people want. Mr. Amrhein said they need to do the survey.

Mr. Turner thanked Mr. Amrhein for a very intelligent comment. He said people have to be supportive and engaged. He said Mr. Sidoti's comments on partnering were excellent, and people have to buy in. Mr. Turner said funding is an issue. He said if it is about the police or fire, the public is okay, but not with the "other guys" who are part of the government. Mr. Turner agreed with Mr. Amrhein. He said that presupposing what people want should not happen now. Mr. Turner said it makes sense to try and sell what they have. Mr. Turner said they have one opportunity to get it right, and need to be sure people believe as well.

Mr. Kuhar asked when the rules for open discussion were suspended. Mr. DeLeone said the Manager had said this would be a discussion. Mr. Kuhar said he has heard everything from a fitness center to health "joints." He asked where the funding is coming from, and Mr. Ruller said that would be the challenge. He said they are all great ideas, but they cannot do all of the ideas. He said their thoughts were fascinating.

Mr. Kuhar told Mr. Amrhein that the "Silver Sneakers" program was free.

Ms. Wallach said it is all well and good for people doing a survey. She said if they ask them about a recreation center, the people would want one. She said if they ask them to pay for it, and they will decline. Ms. Wallach said in the survey, they need to make sure they know about the funding. Mr. Ruller said he is not asking about a Rec Center, adding that the Park Board has their own consultant doing that. He said his direction is for City Hall.

Mr. Ferrara said the questions may lead to other things. He said if they do not want it downtown, they could look at the other potentials. Mr. Ferrara said people questioned the library when it was built, and now it is busy all of the time. He said he is unsure how many people come to the place is a true measure of what it has to be. He said they still need a place for employees to get their work done. He said the question is whether they think a presence downtown is important. Mr. Ferrara said Stow does not have a defining downtown. Mr. Ferrara said they were told sixteen years ago that Kent had great bones. He said they have to embrace that aspect.

Ms. Wallach said that was a good idea. She said Mr. Ruller is concerned about people being downtown. She said if they move the city hall, they will lose all of those employees that go downtown to shop or eat on their lunch hour.

Mr. Ruller said they would schedule another meeting.

Mr. Kuhar asked if they were not just talking about a project on SR 261 to enhance the development of that area. He said people paying their water bills could go downtown for lunch, or they could develop a city hall on the south side, working with the SR 261 corridor. He suggested they could develop other businesses. Mr. Kuhar said they still need to look at the convenience to people. He said he surveys people in restaurants in the outlying areas, and asks them why they are there. He said they have told him they can relax and find a place to park without paying. Mr. Kuhar said a lot of people do not like having to pay to park, and like the convenience of close parking.

Mr. Ferrara said if someone is not going out because it costs \$2.50 to park, then they are not going out to eat. Mr. Kuhar said it is the convenience also.

Ms. Shaffer said they need to build for the future, adding that not everyone will have their own private auto. Mr. Kuhar said they will ride bikes, and Mr. Ferrara suggested UBER will drop them off at the door.

Chair DeLeone suggested they all go home and read their notebooks.

No action was needed on this item as it was an update.

Hearing no further business before this Committee, Chair DeLeone adjourned this meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Linda M. Jordan, Clerk of Council

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

- 1) TO AUTHORIZE THE DRAFT CAPITAL ASSETS POLICY
- 2) UPDATE PRESENTED ON CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING; NO ACTION

**THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO
HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
WED., MAY 4, 2016**

This meeting of the Health & Safety Committee of Kent City Council was called to order at 7:06 p.m. on Wed., May 4, 2016, by Jack Amrhein, Chair. Chair Amrhein said the only item on their agenda was the Community Health Assessment data.

PRESENT: MR. AMRHEIN, MR. DeLEONE, MR. FERRARA, MR. KUCHAR, MS. SHAFFER, MR. SIDOTI, MR. TURNER, AND MS. WALLACH

ALSO PRESENT: J. FIALA, MAYOR & PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL; D. RULLER, CITY MANAGER; J. SILVER, LAW DIRECTOR; J. NEISTADT, HEALTH COMMISSIONER; AND L. JORDAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL

ABSENT: MS. LONG

DAVE RULLER, CITY MANAGER, explained that **JEFF NEISTADT, HEALTH COMMISSIONER**, had asked for committee time to review the results of the community health assessment. He said with the accreditation issues and rental inspections, Mr. Neistadt has been very busy. Mr. Ruller said they looked at how the community ranks in health categories. He said healthy places are becoming criteria for where businesses and people choose to locate, adding it is a bigger picture in today's day and age. Mr. Ruller said the community is part of the public health process, adding he has seen communities do active campaigns. Mr. Ruller asked Mr. Neistadt to present the facts and data compiled at this time.

Mr. Neistadt explained this process began in 2014, adding they worked with the Kent State University School of Public Health. He said they looked at community needs, and what Kent has for recreation facilities, parks, medical and dental resources. He said from this process, it is evident they lacked primary health data. He said they have never asked a citizen how they feel or how their health was, adding they have a lot of data that discusses poverty, crime rates, and drug use.

Mr. Neistadt said that since this was never done before, they decided they needed to start the process. He said they have spent the last year and one-half working with forty-eight various groups, including University Hospital, who paid for most of the assessment, while they looked at the feasibility of locating in Portage County. Mr. Neistadt said they partnered with University Hospital, the Salvation Army, Portage County Health Department, and the Portage County EMA, among others. He said it was quite a large group, and they started meeting to look at the type of questions to ask. Mr. Neistadt said they had 150 questions, and reduced that to 75 valid questions, adding that some of the questions had multiple parts.

Mr. Neistadt said they also looked at child data, and went to the schools. He said they implemented assessments for grades sixth through twelve, without the teachers being present. Mr. Neistadt said they asked the parents some of the questions. He said they looked at items like how many nights a week children eat with their parents, and that sort of information. Mr. Neistadt said some of the information was alarming.

Mr. Neistadt said they summarized some of the data. He said they sent out over 1200 surveys to the citizens of Kent, adding it was done randomly, and there was a response rate of 35%. He said those participating were randomly selected, and he did not want participants to be in the inner ring around the University as he felt it may skew the responses. Mr. Neistadt said they focused on the outer rings of the community so they would not run into some of the issues they run into close to the university. He said they did youth surveys for sixth, eighth, tenth, and twelfth graders, and worked with Kent City Schools a lot. He said individuals at the schools were somewhat concerned about the process with respect to the questions on sex and drug use, so they toned them down.

He said he distributed some of the data sets, adding it was all adult information as they are still working through the youth and child data. He said that when they see 5% or 7%, they need to remember there are 30,000 residents in Kent. Mr. Neistadt said that when they see that 2% or 4% attempted suicide that translates into 600 to 1200 people.

Mr. Neistadt said 53% of the adults surveyed in Kent and Portage County ranked their health as very good or excellent. He said that amount lowers throughout the country with socioeconomic issues. He said of those with incomes of less than \$25,000, only 32% rank themselves as excellent or good, while 17% rank themselves as fair or poor. Mr. Neistadt said that 20% of the county, including Kent, reported their physical health was not good on four or more days monthly, and noted that is a mental health indicator. Mr. Neistadt said the mental health rates in Kent and in the County are not good. He said 28% of the adults reported that their poor mental health prohibited them from doing chores, bathing or going outside.

Mr. Neistadt said they started looking at their rates, as compared to Portage County, with respect to health care access, adding that some things are better, while some things are worse. He said physical health is worse in Kent, with 31% saying their physical health was not good four or more days, while 32% indicated their mental health was not good 4 or more days. Mr. Neistadt said that was a high number, because based on a population of 30,000 that equates to almost 10,000 people. He said they obviously have some work to do.

Mr. Neistadt said they looked at health care utilization, Kent City residents were more likely to use drug abuse programs. He said they also recognized they have weight issues, adding that is no secret in Ohio. Mr. Neistadt said that 11% in Kent looked for weight control methods or some sort of outreach. Mr. Neistadt said this data can be used by the Health Department, but also the Kent Parks and Recreation Department as they look at programs.

Mr. Neistadt said Kent adults are less likely than Portage County residents to go to a dentist, adding only 53% did the previous year. He said some companies in the health insurance exchange may not have dental coverage. He said Kent lacks dentists, adding they are surrounded by other communities but not so much in Kent.

Mr. Neistadt said Kent residents are less likely to look for alcohol abuse programs, adding drinking rates are high but only 1% sought help for alcohol. Mr. Ferrara commented that 6% of Kent residents sought substance abuse assistance, but only 1% for alcohol. Mr. Neistadt said the data was broken out, with alcohol and drug in different sections. Mr. Ferrara asked if he interpreted that data as counter intuitive, and Mr. Neistadt said it begs the question. He said as they look at a lot of the data, they know they have the services, but people are not using them or they are ineffective.

Mr. Neistadt said with respect to chronic disease numbers, people were more likely to have high blood pressure, adding it was around 37%, and was the same with arthritis. He said that is the type of data they do not receive from the national data center. He said Kent residents are less likely to have high cholesterol, but 33% do. He said 11% suffer from depression. Mr. Neistadt said they have poor mental health rates, but they are not diagnosing it. Mr. Neistadt said 9% have diabetes, with those afflicted by cancer being around 7%.

Mr. Neistadt said they reviewed risky behaviors, adding 13% said they drink five or more nights a week. He said they tried not to get the university students. Mr. Neistadt said with respect to binge drinking, 33% say they do, which is four or five drinks for a man and three to four drinks for a woman. He said it is a moving target to quantify. Mr. Neistadt said that 30% surveyed had a PSA test, adding those results indicate they hit their target audience.

Mr. Neistadt said that 17% said they eat five servings of fruits or vegetables daily, so that tells them the Farmer's Market is being used since Kent does not have a "healthy" grocery store. He said that 33%

indicated they have been limited in some way, either physically, emotionally, or mentally, throughout the month. He said Kent residents are less likely to be obese, but 56% are considered to be obese, which is more than half. Mr. Neistadt said that is where the State of Ohio is also. He said this is something they recognize as an area to work on, as it leads to other issues.

Ms. Shaffer said there are pockets in Portage County where the obesity rate is higher than 56% and Mr. Neistadt agreed. He said it has to do with access to healthy food choices.

Mr. Neistadt said that 1% have attempted suicide in Kent, with 5% attempting suicide in Portage County. He said that 2% in Kent had given it serious consideration, as compared to 6% in the County.

Mr. Neistadt said that with respect to social issues, Kent residents are more likely to have smoke detectors, and less likely to have firearms. He said that is a good statistic for the Police Chief to know, adding it is a possibility of 30% with respect to the availability of a firearm in a residence.

Mr. Neistadt said that 3% said they were forced to have sexual intercourse, as compared to 10% in the County. He noted that is a high number, and equates to 12,000 people.

Mr. Neistadt said their next step is where they are at and where they are going. He said the Health Department's website has the full report with a lot of charts and graphs they can review. He said this is data they can utilize when they compare data sets. Mr. Neistadt said this was the first step in the process. He said they are going to engage the members they have engaged through the community health improvement planning process, looking at the indicators, to develop an action plan. Mr. Neistadt said the Health Department does not do mental health services, and needs to engage their partners in the process. He said the data shows that with respect to adults, they have some of the worst mental health numbers in Ohio. He said their obesity rate is average with the State. Mr. Neistadt said there is a lot of work to do, adding that injury prevention is a broad topic, and includes domestic violence and DUIs. He said they have high rates for those driving under the influence.

Mr. Kuhar asked if he thought their mental health numbers were high because of the availability of social service agencies, and suggested they may be attracting them. Mr. Neistadt said they did discuss that. He said that certain pockets live in certain areas so they can walk, as they do not have transportation. He said that could be true. Mr. Neistadt said the six to twelve year olds had some of the highest mental health rates. He said that asks the questions as to why and what they are doing. Mr. Neistadt said there is a lot of pressure on children to succeed, adding parents push their children hard, whether it is sports or school work. Mr. Neistadt said there is a lot out there for children, and they are constantly inundated with information, which is not always good.

Mr. Sidoti to Mr. Neistadt they did a good job, and it is good to get the information. He said he is troubled with the mental health issues. Mr. Sidoti said a lot of the issues their law enforcement deals with has mental health at its core. Mr. Sidoti said an increase in mental health issues is a cost to the community. He said that is an incentive.

Mr. Neistadt said the next step is to see what has been implemented that works. He said it is hard to say if the mental health rates are the same as ten years ago because of the stigmas. Mr. Neistadt said it is no longer swept under the rug, and people are apt to say they are depressed. He said it is also associated to the higher drinking rates. Mr. Neistadt said they worked hard with the Kent School Board. He said they need the information, and did not have the ammunition to go after funding. Mr. Neistadt said this information is so valuable for many individuals.

Mr. Turner asked how they established their samples, adding poor people are less likely to participate. Mr. Neistadt said University Hospital paid a \$2 bill with every survey as an incentive, and everything was postage paid. He said they received a post card telling them they would get the survey. Mr. Neistadt said that some people even sent back the \$2 bill. He said some of the questions were intrusive. Mr.

Neistadt said Mr. Turner makes a good point, but he cannot tell them what household did the survey as they were randomly selected. He said they did not look at any factors, like how many people in the household. Mr. Turner asked if that skewed their response, and Mr. Neistadt said it was hard to say. He said the data they received included people's income. He said as the income amounts went down, the poor health outcomes rose. Mr. Neistadt said they are in line with where they should be with valid data. He said he does not know if the data is skewed. Mr. Neistadt said he is not a "huge data cruncher", so he cannot answer that question efficiently. He said there may be some bias and issues, and Mr. Turner said there are always issues.

Mr. Kuhar said they do not know the who, what, or where, and Mr. Neistadt had mentioned juvenile mental health, equating it to the requirements and stress they put on their children. Mr. Kuhar said they may have so many low income housing projects, children without complete family units can end up with some mental disabilities. He said they do not have a standard to go by. Mr. Neistadt agreed, adding the data showed the average family eats dinner one day a week together, adding that schedules can dictate otherwise. He said there is a loss of family bonding that occurred historically. He said they found that 60% of the children are bullied, with some of them bullied daily. Mr. Neistadt said there has been a lot of time and attention was given to some of the issues, but they still happen and it is getting worse. Mr. Neistadt said those are the issues they need to study.

Ms. Shaffer said as someone who did these kind of surveys and used to do extensive health attitudes and practices interviews, the work was commendable. She told Mr. Neistadt she is impressed with the topics. She asked if there were comparable data sets in other counties as comparison points, and Mr. Neistadt said they did look at comparable cities and counties in Ohio. He said there are several counties similar to Portage County with large urban populations like Kent. He said that information is all included in their report. He said any social service agency can look on their website, and use the data. Ms. Shaffer said she was impressed with a lot of the topics, like what adults dealt with as a child. Mr. Neistadt said that kind of information affects how they do things with their children.

Mr. Sidoti said Mr. Turner's concern brought up an important issue. He said Mr. Neistadt told them the demographic information was asked for up-front in the survey. He asked if they could take Kent's demographics and see if they have a valid sample. He asked if they could compare those to see if it is a sampling indicative of the demographics. Mr. Neistadt said this information went through various review people. He said they do not know which household answered what question. Mr. Sidoti suggested they could compare the data with the last census, and Mr. Neistadt agreed. He said they did not dive into it in nitty gritty detail, but it could be done.

Hearing no further questions or audience comment, Chair Amrhein adjourned this meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Linda M. Jordan, Clerk of Council

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

- 1) COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT DATA PRESENTED; NO ACTION NEEDED.

**THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO
STREETS, SIDEWALKS, AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE
WED., MAY 4, 2016**

This meeting of the Streets, Sidewalks, & Utilities Committee of Kent City Council was called to order at 8:00 p.m. on Wed., May 4, 2016, by Roger Sidoti, Chair.

PRESENT: **MR. AMRHEIN, MR. DeLEONE, MR. FERRARA, MR. KUJAR, MS. SHAFFER, MR. SIDOTI, MR. TURNER, AND MS. W ALLACH**

ALSO PRESENT: **J. FIALA, MAYOR & PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL; D. RULLER, CITY MANAGER; J. SILVER, LAW DIRECTOR; J. BOWLING, CITY ENGINEER; AND L. JORDAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL**

ABSENT: **MS. LONG**

Chair Sidoti said the first item on their agenda dealt with the consent legislation for the ODOT microsurfacing.

JIM BOWLING, CITY ENGINEER, said this was similar to other agreements they have accepted previously. He said the only difference is that ODOT is going to a more preventive maintenance basis, and will not just be milling and resurfacing every ten years. He said this would be microsurfacing on SR 43 and SR 261. He said the section on SR 43 is from the southern corporation line to SR 261, and is not the worst section. He said the other areas are too bad for this type of treatment. Mr. Bowling said the area of SR 261 is from Summit Street to the northern corporation limit.

Mr. Bowling requested authorization of the legislation for the ODOT microsurfacing with the emergency clause.

Mr. DeLeone asked if the materials being put down are asphalt, and Mr. Bowling said he had not seen it yet. He said they say it is cold applied paving material, and they are trying to address the oxidation. Mr. DeLeone asked if it was similar to the rejuvenation done in the Township, and Mr. Bowling said this was a little different. He said it was not resurfacing and was a little different.

Hearing no further questions, Chair Sidoti called for audience comment.

Hearing no audience comment, Chair Sidoti returned to the Committee.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CONSENT LEGISLATION FOR THE ODOT MICROSURFACING WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE.

Motion made by Mr. DeLeone, seconded by Mr. Kuhar, and carried by a voice vote of 7-0-1, with Mr. Sidoti abstaining.

Chair Sidoti said the final item was the AMATS planning grant application.

Mr. Ruller said he was trying to be efficient, and did his communication early. He said he realized his recommendation did not match what Mr. Bowling wanted. He reminded the committee that this is the one grant where all three projects had merit. He said when he and Mr. Bowling first talked, they agreed to the two he listed. He said that since that time, Mr. Bowling talked to the grant people and received better direction.

Mr. Bowling said after they met the previous month, he contacted AMATS again. He said three representatives came to Kent, and they walked all three sites. He said they liked all of the projects, but immediately ruled out one, which was the study area between Lincoln, Summit, Main Street and SR 59. He said one representative liked the Water Street project, while another liked the SR 261 project. He said the third one had to think about it.

Mr. Bowling said after speaking with them, his recommendation is to go for the grant for SR 261 which is long term funding. Mr. Bowling said it has a bigger scope of work. He said they are attacking Water Street with their own local funds, and have already hired a consultant. Mr. Bowling said that is their recommendation, adding they can do something differently, but he would not suggest the one they already ruled out.

Mr. Bowling said with the SR 261 grant, they will analyze the traffic and traffic safety of the corridor, incorporate additional transportation modes, with public stakeholder involvement. He said Franklin Township and the County would be part of the stakeholder involvement, adding it would be the start. Mr. Bowling said the city of Akron is eliminating the inner belt, and received \$500,000 in their initial grant funding for the study. Mr. Bowling said if they wish to maximize their dollars, this would be the one to pursue. He said it would be a matching grant, and they are suggesting \$44,400, with \$29,600 from Kent. Mr. Bowling said this maximizes the points they are awarded.

Hearing no further questions, Chair Sidoti called for audience comment.

Hearing no audience comment, Chair Sidoti returned to the Committee.

Mr. Bowling requested authorization of the grant application with the emergency clause.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE AMATS PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE.

Motion made by Mr. Kuhar, seconded by Ms. Shaffer.

Ms. Shaffer said she is excited about this, as they are looking into the future. She said they are bringing together their values as well as bringing in the citizens. She told Mr. Bowling she was impressed they walked on SR 261.

The motion carried by a voice vote of 7-0-1, with Mr. Sidoti abstaining.

Hearing no further business before this Committee, Chair Sidoti adjourned this meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Linda M. Jordan, Clerk of Council

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

- 1) **TO AUTHORIZE THE CONSENT LEGISLATION FOR THE ODOT MICROSURFACING WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE**
- 2) **TO AUTHORIZE THE AMATS PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE.**