THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
WEDNESDAY, August 7, 2019

Mr. Amrhein, President Pro-Tem, called the Committee of the Whole of Kent City Council to order at 5:34 p.m.
MOTION FOR COUNCIL TO ENTER AN EXECUTIVE SESSION *IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORC §121.22 Section G, Item (1): To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public hearing* Made by Mr. Amrhein and seconded by Ms. Rosenberg. On Roll Call voting "yes:" Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms Rosenberg, Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Turner.

At 6:58 Council ended the Executive Session.

PRESENT: Mr. Jack Amrhein; Mr. Michael DeLeone; Mr. Garret Ferrara; Mr. John Kuhar; Ms. Gwen Rosenberg; Mr. Roger Sidoti; Mr. Robin Turner.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Dave Ruller, City Manager; Ms. Hope Jones, Law Director; Ms. Bridget Susel, Community Development Director; Ms. Melanie Baker, Public Service Director; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Fire Chief John Tosko; Mr. Dave Coffee, Budget and Finance Director; Mr. Tom Wilke, Economic Development Director; Ms. Dawn Bishop, Interim Clerk of Council.

ABSENT: Mr. Jerry T Fiala, Mayor and President of Council; Ms. Heidi Shaffer; Ms. Tracy Wallach

There were two (2) items on the Agenda.

1. Interview Candidates for Boards and Commissions

Due to an oversight, the audio was not picked up for the first two candidates.

Morgan Tipton, 451 Park Avenue, Kent, applying for appointment on the PARTA Board of Trustees. She spoke about being reliant on walking or public transportation her entire life. She spoke about her desire to serve fellow citizens and her qualifications. There were a few questions from Council and then Mr. Amrhein thanked Ms. Tipton for applying.

Janet Rusnack, 1440 Loop Road, Kent, applying for appointment to the PARTA Board of Trustees. She said she is now a frequent user of the public transportation system now that she no longer drives. Ms. Rusnack said she has no complaints about PARTA and would like to help keep it that way and spoke on her qualifications. There were a few questions from Council and then Mr. Amrhein thanked Ms. Rusnack for applying.

Bridget Tipton, 458 W Main, Kent, applying for appointment to the Architectural Review Board. She said board meets her interests and aptitudes. She's been a Kent Jaycee since 2013 and her background is in interior design, just completing graduate degree in architecture. She is an instructor at Kent State in the interior design program for eight years now. She's presented to the review board, prepared documents for them, and now would like to serve on the board.

Mr. Sidoti asked how Ms. Bridget Tipton thought Kent was doing in terms of architecture.

Ms. Tipton said as a Pittsburgh area transplant, she takes great pride in Kent as her chosen adopted city and architecturally it's really interesting with what the university has been doing and the city buildings, what they have been and will be doing, and it's all coming together in a way that makes sense, particularly in vibrancy and growth downtown. While some of the styles may not appeal to her taste, it all seems to come together.

Mr. Ferrara asked if Bridget Tipton's plans were to stay in Kent and continue teaching at the University.

Ms. Tipton plans on staying at the University as an adjunct professor and her and husband and she just purchased a second home so they are not going anywhere.

Mr. Ferrara asked if she was related to the previous Tipton applicant, she answered they were sisters in law, and then Mr. Amrhein thanked her for applying.

William Dunick, 1307 Sunset Way BD, Kent, applying for appointment to the Design and Preservation Committee. He is interested in helping the community more now that he is retired and chose this committee because of his skills.

Mr. Kuhar asked what he could bring to the table.

Mr. Dunick said he volunteers at Hale Farm and Village in preserving their village and farm for the past five years and is also a carpenter. He also has management skills that help him get along with people. Mr. Amrhein thanked him.

Jordan Cinderich, 1104 Munroe Falls-Kent Road, Kent, interested as a second choice in appointment to the Design and Preservation Committee, has been a resident for four years, is a recent home owner, and is applying for a position on a committee because public service interests him. He currently serves as a Catholic minister for Kent State University students.

Ms. Rosenberg asked what was it about this particular committee (Design and Preservation Committee) that most interests him?

Mr. Cinderich said he believes he applied for both Fair Housing and this committee, but as far as design, he is a carpenter, works with his hands a lot, wood works, and as a history major he enjoys historical aspects of that as well.

Mr. Amrhein asked if he had anything to add about his Fair Housing Board interest.

Mr. Cinderich said he would only like to add that his interest in that board comes from both a renter and now a homeowner, so he has seen both sides. He's known some of the different people who live in neighborhoods vs apartments and there's a big difference. In his higher education he has studied anti-discrimination law thoroughly and so has knowledge of Fair Housing Act.

Mr. Ferrara wanted to clarify that the Fair Housing Board is his first choice.

Mr. Cinderich said yes it is.

Mr. Sidoti asked what, from his perspective, are the one or two biggest problems we may have to be addressing with the Fair Housing Board.

Mr. Cinderich said with only limited knowledge of how the Fair Housing Board operates, he would say he definitely noticed that in the apartment building he lived in, that we are dealing with a wide range of ages, nationalities, ethnicities, race. He doesn't know if those people know the Fair Housing Board exists and those demographics are probably must susceptible to discrimination. So he would be most interested in finding out more about that.

Deborah Douglas, 1104 Munroe Falls-Kent Road, Kent, applying for Fair Housing Board said she's been a resident of Kent for ten years after her parents moved here from Strongsville after she started college here. They picked Kent because they fell in love with the city and said they had never seen a city with more trees then Kent. Ms. Douglas said since living in Kent she's lived in probably most of the apartments offered as student housing, has lived in dorms, etc. Throughout her journey here she also developed good rapport with a couple of building managers.

Mr. Sidoti asked if there was one particular issue that may need some addressing by the Fair Housing Board.

Ms. Douglas said her last experience at her last apartment before she became a homeowner, was where trying to work with the landlord regarding complaints, and those complaints weren't heard seriously and were getting into legal issues. She just wished she would have known about the board then.

Mr. Turner asked how she would educate the public regarding things she didn't understand and how does she believe the board operates, seeing as Kent doesn't have a Fair Housing agency, which actually functions in Akron.

Ms. Douglas said she would look in to seeing if including information about the Fair Housing Board in rental applications was possible.

Mr. Kuhar asked what did Ms. Douglas believe her duties on the Fair Housing Board would encompass?

Ms. Douglas she's hoping she could be an advocate for change regarding complaints or suggestions.

Mr. Kuhar asked what did she think the Fair Housing people do?

Ms. Douglas said she would think hearing complaints and helping with solutions.

Mr. Kuhar asked what kind of complaints?

Ms. Douglas said from what she understood, any sort of discrimination that the Fair Housing Act covers.

Mr. Amrhein said Thomas Simpson, the only applicant for the Parking Action Committee, was not in attendance, and then voting for the boards and commissions will take place at the next regular meeting on August 21.

2. <u>City Hall Project Update</u>

Mr. Ruller said as they begin to tighten up the concept drawings of City Hall and the general blessing is given, they will be able to start heavy duty construction drawings and fine tuning pricing and materials. Mr. Ruller said he knows Ms. Wallach, although absent tonight, had wanted to get an update on cost of the building but he wanted to relay they are still working within the parameters from 2018 of 5.2 to 5.7 million. Mr. Ruller relayed what Melanie Baker had told them: now is the time to let them know if 5.2 to 5.7 is not a good number to work with anymore and Ms. Nancy Nozik can select different materials, etc. They are looking for reaffirmation to keep working with that number.

Ms. Melanie Baker said one of the things they did was take some boards to the Heritage Fest with postcard responses to come back, and while they didn't get hundreds of thousands of returns back they thought it was a decent return and Council seems to be on track with what the citizens want. The citizens want a place that is welcoming to the public. They want it as a city unity spot and a place for gatherings. The public had several suggestions on what to do with the open space. Staff is going to follow up after this meeting tonight regarding space and some things may shift in size or location. They will try to have an open public meeting like Council has asked to do. Addressing the cost: remember there is a range of everything from $100 a square foot to $500 a square foot and then there will be those cost differences when selecting materials and coming back to Council with those different options.

Ms. Nancy Nozik from Brandstetter Carroll reiterated that the feedback from the Heritage Fest reflects that Council is on the right track of what the public expects from the new City Hall. Without compromising any functional spaces, they did take out about 3000- 4000 square feet from the last time (Attachment 1.) Those plans will distributed to the departments before the staff meeting. For example, they took a half a bay out of one area and were just looking at easy ways to get the square footage down before the hard ways. Ms. Nozik pointed out the council chambers room would be the width of the current space being used for meetings and twice the depth. It's almost twice as big as this room. When doing concept planning, they thought the building needing to be between 21500- 23000 square feet. They want to continue to try to hone this down and continue developing the look of the building and the cost effective materials. Ms. Baker and she have been getting bid documents together for the demolition of the existing building and make sure that's dealt with properly to be prepared for the new building in its play and getting a survey of the area.

Mr. Kuhar said the first thing that popped out to him is shaving off ten feet off that council chambers and it wouldn't hurt anything. He said everything looked great and while it might not be exactly how he would do it, he's not everybody in the city. He said they've done a wonderful job and if it had some solar panels on the roof it would be perfect.

Mr. Sidoti said he had a question from a resident. The portion in the front, the portico, would it be possible, as there is anchoring where the two doors are, to get rid of those skinny little posts in the middle. Where it says Kent City Hall would it be able to be support in another way.

Ms. Nozik said yes absolutely.

Mr. Sidoti asked about cutting out 2300 square feet: did it impact the functionality of the building, or does it impact the functionality ten years from now.

Ms. Nozik said in the previous version there was a lot of unassigned space. There was that ten foot bay taken out of the building, but there is still a lot of space in there, multiple conference rooms/storage rooms, so they want to make sure they are planning for the future but also want to get in budget. It always happens in projects where you start cutting things, but the minute you get into building it, you regret that cut. There were some easy cuts made but she'll see once they meet with department heads about those things.

Mr. Sidoti said he asks as ultimately a lot of them making these decisions ultimately will not be around in twenty or thirty years to see what becomes of those plans and he likes to protect their ability for growth and also to note it's a lot cheaper to build it now then in twenty or thirty years and start putting additions on. He said it's hard because of budgetary constraints sometimes.

Ms. Rosenberg asked about the topography of the first floor where council chambers are: Is it ground level for visitors? Are they coming in and using an elevator?

Ms. Nozik said yes and the whole lower level is at the street level out front. The middle level is at parking lot level behind.

Ms. Rosenberg asked if it was possible to have an exit or doorway there.

Ms. Nozik said yes, there will be an exit and right now that exit is at the south but it may need to go out towards the west because of the way the topography works; but they do need an egress out of there.

Mr. Ferrara asked what would Ms. Nozik say Council and the administration is missing in this design?

Ms. Nozik said so far nothing. Right now there are many things Council has brought to the table that are not shown on here yet as far as sustainability elements that are talked about but not physically represented yet. Once you get to the point of 'let's do this, don't do that' then I may be able to better answer that question. To date, it's been a good back and forth and nothing apparently glaring in design. Ms. Nozik said city halls are a balancing act because they want the welcoming public space but nobody wants to spend money on city halls, they are different entity then police and fire. They want a monumental structure without a whole lot of money put in to it, which could be possible with different materials for the project.

Mr. Ferrara said you can't make chicken salad out of chicken crap at the end of the day.

Hearing no further business before this Committee, Mr. Amrhein adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

____

Dawn Bishop
Interim Clerk of Council

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

1) **Vote on Board Vacancies at the next Regular Council Meeting August 21, 2019**

THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2019

Chair Kuhar called the Community Development Committee Meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. after

PRESENT: Mr. Jack Amrhein; Mr. Michael DeLeone; Mr. Garret Ferrara; Mr. John Kuhar; Ms. Gwen Rosenberg; Mr. Roger Sidoti; Mr. Robin Turner.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Dave Ruller, City Manager; Ms. Hope Jones, Law Director; Ms. Bridget Susel, Community Development Director; Ms. Melanie Baker, Public Service Director; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Fire Chief John Tosko; Mr. Dave Coffee, Budget and Finance Director; Mr. Tom Wilke, Economic Development Director; Ms. Dawn Bishop, Interim Clerk of Council.

ABSENT: Mr. Jerry T Fiala, Mayor and President of Council; Ms. Heidi Shaffer; Ms. Tracy Wallach

There were two (2) items on the Agenda.

1. Rental Licensing Text Amendment

   Ms. Susel said as Council is aware, in 2016 they voted to allow for the inspection and licensing of smaller residential rental units by the Community Development Department that were not covered by the Health Department. Staff from the City's Community Development Department, the Assistant Law Director, and former Health Commissioner worked together to ensure Title Seven of the Housing Code was compatible across both programs. There was one area that was different. Both the City and the Health Department use civil enforcement for compliance with the rental licensing program. The former health commissioner wanted certain language kept in there as the back door protection if he needed it, including a misdemeanor criminal offense and assign a fine of $3000 in certain instances. They would like that language removed and the language for both the City and Health Department to be exactly the same; also requesting a change where the Health Commissioner was able to assign a fine of up to $3000, reducing that to $1000.

   Mr. Sidoti asked if part of this just goes along with amending the whole code.

   Ms. Susel said yes, she's constantly making adjustments. The program is up and running, doing over a little over 190 inspections and licensing and it's gone fairly well.

   Mr. Sidoti asked if this was part of the zoning code.

   Ms. Susel said no it's under Title Seven of the Housing Code, referencing 501.13 the civil offense code.

   Bernie Noble of Mogadore Road and Carla Bachtel of 705 Judson Road both spoke of rental licensing inspections before Ms. Jones called a point of order. As they were not speaking to the subject in front of the committee, Mr. Kuhar advised the audience comments at a committee meeting are only taken regarding the agenda items; other items may be brought up at a regular council meeting.

   There were no further comments regarding the text amendment.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE LICENSING TEXT AMANDMENT, WITH AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Ms. Rosenberg, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0

2. Updated MOU between the City and Portage County for use of NSP program income

Ms. Susel said for those not a part of Council in 2009, the city received a portion of Neighborhood Stabilization Program after the housing crisis as a sub recipient. The county was the grantee. The City used the funds to demolish nine properties and build on two of those sites. That generated program income of about $139,000. The issue became as a subrecipient of the NSP money, but in HUD's world we were always an entitlement direct of CDBG money. The funds have been in an interest earning account since about 2012 waiting for guidance from HUD on how to expend those dollars. They received the guidance from HUD and ODSA in 2018 that they were going to be able to use those funds for a CDBG eligible project.

Ms. Susel continued that the City is proposing to apply those funds to a 2018 CDBG project that will enable Family and Community Services to complete necessary renovations and upgrades to six units at Kentway Apartments on Summit Street. The county is in support but as none of the commissioners had signed the original MOU, they are requesting an addendum of the MOU to reflect what is current now while giving the historical context.

Mr. Ferrara asked how much money have we had since 2012?

Ms. Susel responded with $139,000.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE MOU BETWEEN THE CITY AND PORTAGE COUNTY FOR USE OF NSP PROGRAM INCOME, WITH AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mr. Sidoti, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0.

Mr. Kuhar adjourned the Community Development Committee Meeting at 7:52 PM.

____
Dawn Bishop
Interim Clerk of Council

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

1. **AUTHORIZE THE LICENSING TEXT AMENDMENT, WITH AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE**
2. **AUTHORIZE THE MOU BETWEEN THE CITY AND PORTAGE COUNTY FOR USE OF NSP PROGRAM INCOME, WITH AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE**

THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO
FINANCE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2019

Chair Michael DeLeone called the meeting of the Finance Committee of Kent City Council to order 8:00 p.m.

PRESENT:	Mr. Jack Amrhein; Mr. Michael DeLeone; Mr. Garret Ferrara; Mr. John Kuhar; Ms. Gwen Rosenberg; Mr. Roger Sidoti; Mr. Robin Turner.
ALSO PRESENT:	Mr. Dave Ruller, City Manager; Ms. Hope Jones, Law Director; Ms. Bridget Susel, Community Development Director; Ms. Melanie Baker, Public Service Director; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Fire Chief John Tosko; Mr. Dave Coffee, Budget and Finance Director; Mr. Tom Wilke, Economic Development Director; Ms. Dawn Bishop, Interim Clerk of Council.
ABSENT:	Mr. Jerry T Fiala, Mayor and President of Council; Ms. Heidi Shaffer; Ms. Tracy Wallach

There were four (4) items on the Agenda.

1. East Main Street Transportation Improvement Funding Applications

Mr. Ruller said they are very excited about this project. He continued with they have the most unsafe corridor for pedestrians and traffic in Portage and Summit Counties with E Main and then when you end up looking for funding, you have a pretty good case to make when you have those stats and go to the funding agencies. This would be another city/neighborhood/university partnership and it could potentially be one of the most significant transformations, and not just talking about safety. He said Jim Bowling thinks he has extremely competitive proposals going in to the funding agencies.

Mr. Bowling said this is a long process, we've had agreements with KSU to study it, amended agreements, and then just two months ago Council approved Purpose and Needs. The next two months is a very important step and we will either have something or we won't. He's going to take these concepts to funding agencies. Mr. Bowling reiterated this is the worse corridor in Summit and Portage Counties. From 2016-2018, 12% of all crashes city-wide happened in that .8 mile stretch; we have over 90 miles of roadway and then 15% of all pedestrian crashes were in that same stretch. It is a significant problem that needs addressed. We have a great opportunity with what has been going on with the neighborhood involvement and we are coming forward with a greater plan than probably could have come up with on their own. Also Kent State's Gateway Plan is an opportunity to make changes on campus that dovetail in with E Main to make it safer and enhance the neighborhood to the north, not cut off the neighborhood to the north.

Mr. Bowling continued with some basic elements in the plan: wider sidewalk, tree lawn, bus pull off, projected tree lined boulevard, bike facility at Willow to Horning on the south side, enhance/improve lighting. There's a bunch of work to go into those ideas. Three things they are looking at right now: asking for 7.5 million grant funding from ODOT's Highway Safety Program for design, right of way, and construction; asking for 3.6 million grant from AMATS Surface Transportation Funding; and asking for 6 million in grant funding from AMATS Congestion Mitigation for construction. Funding would become available in 2024/2025. Their ultimate goal would be for the city to fund 10% of the costs for the total project from beginning to end.

Mr. Ferrara asked what is the total cost?

Mr. Bowling said 20 million.

Mr. Ferrara asked what was Summit Street?

Mr. Bowling said Summit Street was 17 million, so basically the same accounting for inflation. It's been almost a year since Summit Street has been open and at this point traffic crashes have been reduced by 50% and considering there were over 200 crashes in that corridor in three years, that's a significant impact.

Mr. Sidoti asked as the south side is state property, does that help us in terms of application process?

Mr. Bowling said it helps the most as like on Summit, they hope to build sidewalk on Kent State property and not stay in the right of way. That gives us more room to expand south.

Mr. Sidoti said it's worth pointing out how significantly Kent State has been working with the City.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EAST MAIN STREET TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT FUNDING APPLICATIONS, WITH AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Ms. Rosenberg.

Mr. Ferrara said when you look at the project on Summit Street and all the safety concerns, it's the proverbial no brainer, and the benefits will outweigh the City's costs. There's also the appreciation what Kent State has brought to the partnership on Summit Street and now with E Main Street as well.

Mr. Kuhar said it's a good thing. He didn't see some of the issues on Summit Street and now that he travels the road every day, you get that safer feeling, and if you could only get people to stop texting and driving you could probably reduce crashes 75%.

Mr. Sidoti said the response from his most recent attended Rotary meeting was overwhelmingly positive when speaking about the project and people wondered is this even possible.

MOTION CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0.

2. <u>2019 Budget Appropriations Amendment</u>
   Mr. Coffee requested committee authorization for the appropriation amendment. There's one item under Fire EMS contingent on the committee's next agenda action.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE 2019 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS AMENDMENT, WITH AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE made by Mr. Sidoti, seconded by Mr. Kuhar, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0.

3. <u>Authorization to Sell the Retired Heavy Duty Rescue Truck</u>
   Mr. Ruller said the chief has been trying to sell this on line. They got an offer on it from a community. This vehicle has already been replaced.

   Chief Tosko said overall it's a very good deal for the city. They've sold their 1991 Telescort for $13,000; this is a little bit older than that was at the time. It's going to a small volunteer department in PA. They run a 400 square mile area. They have a lot of river rescues so can certainly relate to that. Just asking permission to sell that. They've been offered $40,000.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF THE RETIRED HEAVY DUTY RESCUE TRUCK WITH AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mr. Kuhar, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0.

4. Certifications of Delinquent Accounts for Portage County's Property Tax Liens
   Mr. Ruller said is pretty much the yearly housekeeping. Pending Council approval, they would like to certify the delinquencies to Portage County Auditor to be applied as a tax lien against the property.

   Mr. DeLeone joked he was looking if his name was on there.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CERTIFICATIONS OF DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS FOR PORTAGE COUNTY'S PROPERTY TAX LIENS, WITH AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Ms. Rosenberg, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0.

Hearing no further business before this Committee, Chair DeLeone adjourned the committee meeting at 8:19 p.m.

____

Dawn Bishop
Interim Clerk of Council

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

1) **AUTHORIZE THE CITY TAX BUDGET, WITH AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE.**
2) **AUTHORIZE THE BAN RENEWAL, WITH AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE.**
3) **AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF THE RETIRED HEAVY DUTY RESCUE TRUCK, WITH AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE.**
4) **AUTHORIZE THE CERTIFICATIONS OF DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS FOR PORTAGE COUNTY'S PROPERTY TAX LIENS, WITH AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE.**

THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO
STREETS, SIDEWALKS, AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2019

Chair Roger Sidoti called the meeting of the Streets, Sidewalks, and Utilities Committee of Kent City Council to order at 7:52 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Jack Amrhein; Mr. Michael DeLeone; Mr. Garret Ferrara; Mr. John Kuhar; Ms. Gwen Rosenberg; Mr. Roger Sidoti; Mr. Robin Turner.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Dave Ruller, City Manager; Ms. Hope Jones, Law Director; Ms. Bridget Susel, Community Development Director; Ms. Melanie Baker, Public Service Director; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Fire Chief John Tosko; Mr. Dave Coffee, Budget and Finance Director; Mr. Tom Wilke, Economic Development Director; Ms. Dawn Bishop, Interim Clerk of Council.

ABSENT: Mr. Jerry T Fiala, Mayor and President of Council; Ms. Heidi Shaffer; Ms. Tracy Wallach

There were three (4) items on the Agenda.

1. Proposed Downtown Parking Ordinance Change
Ms. Susel said they were approached by Tom Simpson, owner of Kent Stage, as one of their recent events some of his patrons and some of the performers and support team received parking tickets. It is not enforced on a regular basis, but the city's code does have two hour parking limits from 8am until 3am. Mr. Simpson asked removing that restriction and allowing unlimited parking from 5pm until 3am. The two hour limit is constraining if for example someone is coming downtown for dinner and a show. They took this matter before an internal administration committee, Traffic, Engineering, and Safety Committee, and they voted unanimously in favor of this change. The Parking Action Committee also voted unanimously recommending Council authorize these changes to 353.02 in the core downtown.

Mr. Kuhar asked for clarification on the time: 5pm to 3am?

Ms. Susel said correct, remaining two hour limit from 8am until 5pm and of course not in effect in the case of a snow ban emergency.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PROPOSED DOWNTOWN PARKING ORDINANCE CHANGE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY made by Mr. Kuhar, seconded by Ms. Rosenberg, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0.

2. Proposed Street Closure Event for the Creativity Festival
Mr. Ruller said at the last minute the Creativity Fest had to be cancelled because of concerns for safety in light of the talk of an open carry rally. They have always been peaceful but there was talk amongst parents, etc, and Kent State in an abundance of caution cancelled the event last year. So this year the committee came up with a Plan B.

Mr. Ferrara asked what is the window to make this Plan B call in order to notify of street closures?

Mr. Wicks said postcards normally go up 72 hours prior to event, so as long as they feel they can make a decision within 72 hours, they'll be good.

Mr. DeLeone wanted clarification that this was only a Plan B.

Mr. Wicks said yes, only in the event that they feel they cannot be on campus.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE STREET CLOSURE EVENT FOR THE CREATIVITY FESTIVAL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY made by Mr. DeLeone, seconded by Mr. Kuhar, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0.

3. Renew City ODOT Bridge Inspection Agreement
Mr. Bowling said since 2014 ODOT as performed necessary federal requirements for inspection, load ratings, etc. The City has ten or eleven bridges. Every three years we have to renew this agreement so this one will cover 2020-2022 at no cost to the City.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CITY-ODOT BRIDGE INSPECTION AGREEMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY made by Mr. Kuhar, seconded by Ms. Rosenberg, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0.

4. Proposed Joint Easement with PARTA for new bus shelter at Kentway
Mr. Bowling said as Council is aware, an MOU was signed with PARTA to construct bus passenger shelters in residential areas. A councilmember had suggested Kentway as a good place for it and they've been working with PARTA for a good spot to it. Kentway has agreed to grant a joint access easement for $1 to construct the concrete pad and then shelter.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE JOINT EASEMENT WITH PARTA, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY made by Mr. Kuhar, seconded by Mr. Ferrara, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0.

Hearing no further business before this Committee, Chair Sidoti adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

____
Dawn Bishop
Interim Clerk of Council

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

1. **AUTHORIZE THE PROPOSED DOWNTOWN PARKING ORDINANCE CHANGE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**
2. **AUTHORIZE THE STREET CLOSURE EVENT FOR THE CREATIVITY FESTIVAL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**
3. **AUTHORIZE THE RENEWAL OF THE CITY-ODOT BRIDGE INSPECTION AGREEMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**
4. **AUTHORIZE THE PROPOSED JOINT EASEMENT WITH PARTA FOR NEW BUS SHELTER AT KENTWAY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**