

March 26, 2009



Finance Committee

1. Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC) Annual Report

Each year the Tax Incentive Review Council reviews the performance of the Enterprise Zone agreements for the City of Kent and submits an annual report for Council approval. There are 2 active Enterprise Zone agreements in Kent (Land O'Lakes, Star of the West Milling) (another agreement with Elbex Inc. expired on 12/31/08) and 1 active Community Reinvestment Area agreement (Don Joseph Toyota). The TIRC members are recommending continuing all 3 agreements. Gary Locke will go through the details of the TIRC recommendation in Committee and answer any questions that you might have.



Administration Recommendation

The TIRC members have reviewed each agreement and after deliberation they have proposed to continue these agreements. I would encourage Council to support the TIRC's recommendation.

Council Action

Accept and adopt the TIRC Annual Report.

2. 2009 Appropriations Amendment

The interim Finance Director, John Mockler, has identified an additional \$540 that has become available from reimbursement from the State of Ohio for Police Officer training and he recommends amending our 2009 Appropriations to reflect the addition of \$540. (attachment)



Administration Recommendation

This amendment reflects additional funds that have become available that were not budgeted so I would recommend Council's support.

Council Action

Authorize the amendment of the appropriations ordinance as proposed.

3. Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

Bill Lillich has reported that Byrne Grant funds have become available through the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The City and Portage County have been advised that \$71,000 has been allocated for grants in our respective jurisdictions and Bill has requested Committee time to review some of the options the staff would like to pursue for these funds. The grants may be used to provide personnel, equipment, training, technical assistance, and information systems for more widespread apprehension, prosecution, adjudication, detention, and rehabilitation of offenders who violate state and local laws. (attachment)



Administration Recommendation

Given our current fiscal condition we have been aggressively pursuing grant funding opportunities and I would encourage Council's serious consideration of Bill's proposals.

Council Action

Authorize staff to pursue the Byrne Justice Grant funds.

Streets, Sidewalks and Utilities Committee

4. Sidewalk Snow Removal Citizen Recommendations

The members of the citizens' snow removal committee have requested Committee time to present their recommendations for policy, procedural and operational changes for improved sidewalk snow removal results.

Administration Recommendation

Receive the citizen's committee report.

Council Action

Adopt, decline, modify or refer committee recommendations.



5. Stonewater Drive Right of Way Donations

The Engineering Division has identified 2 more parcels of right of way containing a total of .381 acres that need to be accepted by City Council as a donation (valued at \$3,706) from Albert and Rosaline Klaben for the completion of the Stonewater Drive roadway extension project.

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council's acceptance of the donated parcels.

Council Action

Accept the right of way donations.



Community Development Committee

6. City Facilities Energy Proposal

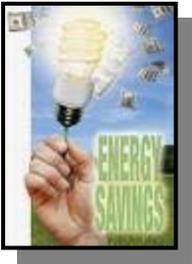
Gene Roberts has been working for several months to develop a bid package to solicit proposals from energy firms to work with the City to perform a thorough audit of our operations, looking for energy conservation improvement opportunities. This is the same process used by both Kent City Schools and Kent State University over the last couple of years to reduce their energy usage and save money. Gene will present an overview of the bid proposal and update Council on the process.

Administration Recommendation

We are anxious to move forward on by enlisting the expertise of a professional energy firm that has a proven track record for saving their clients money. I would encourage Council's support for the energy services initiative.

Council Action

Authorize staff to proceed with the energy bid proposal.



8. Zoning Code Amendments

Jen Barone and Gary Locke have been working with the Planning Commission to consider two amendments to the Zoning Code (Part 11 of the Codified Ordinances). The amendments are text changes, the first of which relates to public testimony by Commission members and the second establishes a schedule for periodic review of the Zoning Code. Public hearings were held on both of these items in March and both items were subsequently approved by the Planning Commission prior to being submitted to Council for their consideration.

Administration Recommendation

The amendments were favorably received by the public and the Commission members and I would recommend Council's support.

Council Action

Authorize the Zoning Code text amendments as proposed.

Information Items

1. Income Tax Report

John Mockler has provided a summary of income tax collections thru the end of February 2009. With an increase in tax receipts in 2009 over 2008 of 1.2% the income tax revenues continue to remain on pace to meet budgetary expectations which is good news considering the state of the economy. Kent State University continues to offset the erosion of income tax receipts from the other business sectors. In reading John's report you may note some format changes, most of which have to do with the way RITA reports the City's income tax receipts. John's report actually has more information than the previous report format. (attachment)

2. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Funds

Gary Locke and Bridget Susel have forwarded a copy of the letter sent to Mayor Fender from HUD announcing additional funds that has been made available to the City for our HUD sponsored programs. We intend to revisit our 2009 HUD Program Plan and amend it where appropriate to reflect the additional funding opportunities. (attachment)

3. Police Department 2008 Annual Report

I have included a copy of the 2008 Annual Report for the City of Kent Police Department. As you read through the report you will see that 2008 was a busy year for our force. (attachment)

4. Key West Business Fee Update

I have included a short summary of the Key West Business fee program that I prepared after talking with the woman in charge of the program for the City of Key West for Council's information. (attachment)

5. Neighborhood Policing Set to Resume

I wanted to let you know that the Police Chief reports that the Neighborhood Policing program will resume Monday, April 30, 2009. The department is making an effort to return to the original spirit and intent of the community policing philosophy. The officers will work on foot and bicycle patrols so that they can maximize their time meeting and talking with neighborhood residents. The officers will use this time to be available to listen to residents' complaints and concerns, and to hopefully make them feel a little bit better knowing that there is a officer in their neighborhood looking out for them.

6. Lincoln Commons Senior Village

We received notification from MV Residential Development LLC that they are proposing a new senior village at Lincoln Commons (between High Street, Lincoln Street, Marigold Lane and Vine Street) that will include up to 36 single story garden style villas in five buildings that will target low to moderate income seniors (ages 55+). Subsidized housing of this nature requires a notification period for submission of comments and/or concerns of the impacts of the project in our community. I have attached the details of the project and the contact information for the Ohio Housing Finance Agency for any written statements that Council may want to submit for the project either directly or through the City staff. (attachment)

7. Community Development Social Service Funding

Each year the City budgets \$100,000 to allocate to various Kent social service agencies. The Community Development Department reviews the funding requests and makes the grants using a competitive application process. The Department has completed their review for 2009 and I have provided Council with a list of the staff funding allocation decisions. (attachment)

Information Items (continued)

8. New May 4th Visitor Center Meeting Planned

Kent State University is beginning the design of a new May 4th visitors center in Kent. They are inviting community members to attend an interactive planning discussion about the goals and themes of the proposed project on Thursday, April 2, 2009, 7:00 to 8:00 pm, in McKay Bricker Framing in Downtown Kent.

The visitor's center will provide a central place where people can explore and better understand the events that took place at Kent State University on May 4, 1970, the impact of those events, and their meaning for today. While preserving the memory of that day within historical and personal contexts, the visitors center's permanent exhibit and other resources will respect differing perspectives and promote inquiry into the events that occurred before, during, and after the Kent State shootings. The center will strive to provide information for the needs of a broad audience, including:

- general visitors
- students of many ages and their teachers
- parents, families, and alumni
- community members
- historians and other researchers and scholars
- journalists
- on-line visitors

The University has asked us to please recruit others to attend the meeting, so that they can reach as many members of the University community as possible. A flyer is attached for you to post and share with others. (attachment)