



Special Council Meeting

1. 2009 Budget

Council will have the second reading on the proposed 2009 City Budget, including the 2009 appropriations ordinance and the 2009 position allocation ordinance.

2. Main Street Kent

Council will have the third reading for the Main Street Agreement for 2009 and 2010.

Finance Committee

1. Final 2008 Appropriations Amendment

Barb Rissland has been working with the department heads to make final changes to the year end 2008 budget ordinance. Barb has compiled a list of budget changes that the department's have requested and she will review those changes with Council in Committee. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

The final expense items for 2008 need to be allocated appropriately in the budget and Council's authorization is required for the year-end accounting to occur.

Council Action

Adopt the proposed changes to the 2008 Appropriations Amendment.

Community Development Committee

2. Neighborhood Enrichment Presentation

In our continued effort to help stabilize Kent neighborhoods through our Neighborhood Enrichment Initiative we have invited a couple of guest speakers from an architectural/design firm (GBBN Architects, Inc. in Cincinnati) that were referred to us based on their work in other university cities to restore and revitalize "edge" neighborhoods around universities. They will talk about common problems and the types of solutions that they've seen work in cities. I've attached a preliminary copy of their presentation for your information. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Consider the best practices discussed in the presentation for further consideration in Kent and direct staff accordingly.

Council Action

No action necessary.

3. Community Reinvestment Area Update

In response to Council's request Gary Locke will present an update on the status of the City's Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) programs. Gary has provided some background information in preparation for his discussion. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Receive the update and direct staff accordingly.

Council Action

No action necessary.



Information Items

1. Crain Avenue Right of Way Acquisition Information

In light of recent questions, Jim Bowling has provided a more detailed explanation of the process we are required to use for the Crain/Fairchild Avenue bridge for Right of Way acquisition. (attachment)

2. Triangle Cleaners

For the last year Dan Smith has been working with the Downtown Kent Corporation to try to get the owner of the Triangle Cleaners to pay his back taxes and rent for the use of the City property in the West River neighborhood. Unfortunately, these efforts have not proven successful and I wanted to let you know that final notice was given for the tenant to be removed from the building. Dan has also provided a letter in reply to the owner that I have copied for you regarding the owner's request for compensation for loss of business due to the Crain Avenue bridge project. (attachment)

3. NOPEC Resolution

Over the last month I have been providing copies of correspondence between NOPEC and First Energy regarding electric rates for this winter. NOPEC has again asked for the City's consideration of a resolution urging the General Assembly to protect the rate payers against the prospect of a rate increase set to go into effect January 1, 2009. I have included a copy of the cover letter and sample resolution from NOPEC for Council's consideration.

4. Health Department Monthly Statistics Report and Board Agenda

John Ferlito has provided a copy of the Health Board minutes from October, the agenda for the November 20th meeting and the department's Statistical Report through October 31, 2008. As you read through the data you'll see that John classifies the data based on the type of service request and the Ward in which the resident resides. (attachments)

5. Strategic Planning

As we're nearing the end of 2008 I wanted to distribute the notes (attached) that were transcribed from our last strategic planning worksession on July 9th, 2008. As you may recall we spent most of that session discussing the "make or break decisions" facing our community and Council's priorities. I've in turn taken your comments and incorporated them into the Community Strategy Framework that we've developed as a management tool to make sure we're staying on track with Council's and the community's priorities. I'd like to schedule another strategic planning session in the next month to review our strategic framework heading into 2009. (attachments)

6. Parks and Recreation Public Information Request

I wanted to follow up to the questions that arose regarding a public information request submitted for Parks and Recreation personnel and payroll records. Despite the suggestion that the staff has not complied with the records request, I wanted you to know that 1,368 pages of records were indeed provided to the individual that made the records request back in September. Based on the individual's comments at the last Council meeting apparently he still has some questions and Jim Silver is scheduling a private meeting with him to better understand exactly what he is seeking. In the meantime John Idone has provided a summary of the use of merit in his department and I didn't see anything that looked out of the ordinary but our HR Manager is reviewing those records to be sure. Mr. Idone pointed out that although our procedures do not require it he always takes his merit recommendations for approval by the full Parks and Rec Board. These are public meetings and all minutes are maintained in the City Clerk's Office so John is using a very open public process. Because these are personnel matters we were handling the review internally but if Council would like a full report in Committee we can do that as well. (attachment)

Information Items (continued)

7. Status of the Old Diner

Dan Smith has provided an update on the status of the demolition and removal of the old diner on Water Street. As you'll see in his note he's trying to work with the bidder to establish a fair timeline for the removal of the diner in light of the recent weather that has delayed the contractor unexpectedly. (attachment)

8. Crain Avenue Bridge Repair Update

Here is a report from Gene Roberts on the status of the Crain Avenue Bridge repairs:

"CSX has completed their temporary rail repairs. The temporary rail "panels" installed by R J Corman Derailment Services last Friday (11/21/08) and completed Saturday morning (04:00) have been set to grade by CSX personnel around 13:00 Tuesday. The temporary rail panels are pre-assembled rail and cross ties hauled to the site in 50-ft. sections and bolted together for emergency rail replacement. CSX will replace the temporary rail panels sometime next summer with continuous rails. The completion of the adjustment to the rails (grade setting) will allow CSX to return to normal speed on their rails.

A meeting with CSX and their environmental cleanup firm, Sunpro, was held on site today. Sunpro worked at removing the coal from the storm sewer headwall just south of the bridge. This work was done to allow storm water to drain from the east side of the rails and prevent subgrade soil saturation of the rail bed. Sunpro will be onsite all night pumping storm water around to prevent contamination (coal mixing with runoff water) from reaching the Cuyahoga River. They have advised that their schedule is to restore the storm sewer flow on the south side of the bridge by Wednesday evening.

Sunpro stated that they will need two weeks to remove the coal piled up during the emergency site repair operations. After the coal is removed the train car debris will be removed along with all the cross ties and rail that was damaged during the derailment.

The original repairs anticipated for the City's sanitary and storm sewer can not be completed as planned. What is needed to be done to place these utilities back in service is to replace both sewers from the upper tracks to their current termination points. A 12-inch sanitary sewer will be placed under the rail using the existing 18-inch storm sewer as a casing pipe which will connect the upstream end at a manhole on the slope between the upper and lower tracks and the north end manhole on the City's north-south interceptor sanitary sewer. Once the sanitary sewer is complete the CSX contractor will grout the area between the old storm sewer and the new sanitary sewer.

A new storm sewer will be directionally drilled through the bedrock starting north of the existing Crain Avenue bridge and west of the CSX rails at an angle to the southeast to connect to the existing storm sewer outfall located between the east bridge abutment and the sanitary sewer. CSX representatives have authorized this work at their expense.

The sanitary work will continue through Wednesday evening and then work will be suspended until Monday, December 1. Considerable discussion occurred prior to deciding to suspend work but the final determination was made based on the fact that parts would not be available until after the holiday. The simple problem is the work will be designed while it is being built and it is unknown exactly what pipe fittings and other materials or equipment will be needed to complete the connections.

Midwest Mole, CSX's Contractor completing the sewer replacements, believe if all goes well it will take until Friday December 5, 2008 to complete the sanitary sewer repair and the following Friday December 12 to complete the storm sewer repairs.

With all the work activities planned for the next two plus weeks, the weather forecast (snow), the safety of the workers on site and equally the safety of the motoring public the bridge will not be opened until such time as all the work requiring the bridge for access is complete. Current estimate for the Crain Avenue bridge reopening is Friday December 12. The only alternative would be to open and close the bridge as needed for work progression, which is believed to become a larger problem/aggravation for our residents than the alternative of leaving the bridge closed until it can be opened without interruption.

It must be stated that the cleanup and repairs are still very dynamic and subject to change and further updates will be forthcoming as work progresses.