



Unauthorized Items

1. Kent United Services Organization (KUSO)



The City Clerk advised me that the City's commitment to KUSO for planning and overseeing the Heritage Fest is up for renewal. As you may be aware, KUSO is a not-for-profit corporation that partners with the City and community stakeholders to manage the City's largest festival each year – Heritage Fest. KUSO is a group of volunteers who provide invaluable assistance in making Heritage Fest a success. In order to continue their planning efforts for Heritage Fest 2008, KUSO is asking for Council to renew their 5-year commitment that includes an annual cash contribution from the City of \$5,500 (which is in our approved budget). Once the commitment is renewed Bill Lillich will work with KUSO to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The City Clerk and I felt that in the interest of time we would put this item on your agenda as unauthorized rather than go through Committee. KUSO has performed their services very well and we would recommend the renewal of this commitment.

Council Action

Authorize the renewal of the KUSO commitment for a new 5 year term.

2. Student Appointment to Traffic Advisory Committee



I have exchanged emails with Jonathan Bey of the Kent State Student Senate regarding possible candidates to fill the student vacancy on the University Area Project and Traffic Planning Citizen Advisory Committee. Jonathan advised me that he has discussed this matter with the undergraduate Student Senate and they have identified a few possible candidates. Jonathan said that the Senate has not made their final recommendation but he hopes to have one by our Wednesday night meeting so I can include it in my Manager's Communication for Council approval.

Administration Recommendation

Approve the Student Senate nominee at Wednesday night's meeting.

Council Action

Appoint a student to the Citizen Advisory Committee.

3. Crain / Fairchild Avenue Bridge ROW Amendments



The City Clerk has worked with the Engineering Division to amend the eight Ordinances that Council passed in January related to easement agreements in the Crain / Fairchild Avenue Bridge project. Linda is recommending amending the Ordinances to specify those easements that were temporary, permanent or land purchases in the Ordinance itself.

Administration Recommendation

Council has already approved the easement agreements, this action is just to amend the Ordinances to better match the terms of the easements, so I recommend Council approval.

Council Action

Authorize the 8 amended Ordinances as requested.

Information Items

1. Council/Manager Form of Government

As discussed in Committee, it appears that next Wednesday night is a date that will work for both City Council and Professor Sy Murray of Cleveland State University (CSU) for an overview of the Council/Manager form of government. Sy served as city manager for decades and as a professor on this topic at CSU he has offered to share some of his insights on what makes the Council/Manager form of government work best. He has requested a 1 to 2 hour block of time to go through what he considers the things that Council members and staff should know in order for the Council/Manager form of government to be most productive. Sy has provided a number of hand-outs that we've included in this mailing in preparation for the meeting so if you get a chance please try to read through them. (attachments)

2. Normal Illinois Powerpoint Presentation

We've included a copy of the slides from Mr. Peterson's presentation on the Normal Illinois Uptown redevelopment project. We decided to only print copies of the slides that had his points and text, rather than all the before and after pictures. However, if you want a copy of the full presentation we'd be happy to print one or put one on a CD for you. (attachments)

3. Agricultural District Notification

The City Clerk advised me that we have just received notification for placement of farmland in an agricultural district from Newcomer Dev. Grp., LLC for property owned at Newcomer Rd. and Johnson Rd. This was approved by City Council in 2007 when Bob Heimann owned the property but it will now have to be re-approved for the new owner/applicant. By law, we need to hold a public hearing, and Council must approve, approve with modifications, or deny said application. Unfortunately these are time sensitive, so we need to have the Public Hearing on March 5, with a brief committee meeting, with oral motion approval on March 12. I will be asking for Council approval in my Communication Wednesday to schedule these meetings.

4. St. Patrick's Day Free Parking Request

The Kent Alcohol and Beverage Association has submitted a request for the City to suspend the 2-hour parking restrictions in downtown Kent on St. Patrick's Day. The staff has discussed this matter briefly with the Parking Action Committee and although they didn't vote on it some of the Committee members were concerned with the impact on the non-bar businesses that will also be open on St. Patrick's Day whose customers may not be able to find parking spaces. I wanted to bring this matter to your attention and to let you know that we'll be requesting Committee time on March 5th to review this matter.

5. Crain / Fairchild Avenue Bridge Funding

Jim Bowling and his staff have been working with Congressman Ryan's Office to seek more federal funding for the Crain/Fairchild Avenue bridge project. Jim advises me that as ODOT continues to update the project cost estimates for inflation we are nearing the limits of the funding we have set aside in our capital plan so any additional funding we can secure would help offset those inflationary impacts. To that end, Congressman Ryan's Office asked us to fill out an appropriations request form (attached) that Jim submitted for the Congressman's consideration this week. Jim also said that he met with the Citizens Advisory Committee and he'd like to schedule Council Committee time to update Council on the bridge project at our March 5th meeting.