



## 2010 Tax Budget Public Hearing

Just a reminder that we have advertised for a public hearing on the 2010 Tax Budget at the start of our meeting. The Tax Budget has been available for public review in the City Clerk's Office since last Friday and a copy is included in this mailing for your information.

## Finance Committee

### 1. 2010 City Tax Budget Public Hearing

John Mockler and I have prepared the draft 2010 Tax Budget for Council's approval. This budget document is required by the County for notification of any changes to the tax rate in the next budget. Our draft County Tax Budget proposes no changes to the tax rates in the City. (attachment)

#### *Administration Recommendation*

With no proposed changes to the tax rates, approval of the County tax budget is primarily a procedural matter and I encourage Council's authorization of the tax budget. We will get into our annual City budget deliberations in much greater detail in September.

#### *Council Action*

**Authorize submission of the City's 2010 Tax Budget to the County.**

### 2. Justice Action Grant Funds

Bill Lillich reports that the Kent Police Department is eligible for \$11,173 in grant funds with an application deadline of July 8, 2009. To meet that requirement Bill is requesting Council's approval to allow us to enter an Agreement with Portage County to apply for the funds by the grant deadline. Bill is recommending the funds be used to expand neighborhood policing. (attachment)

#### *Administration Recommendation*

This is another opportunity to leverage grant dollars for priority local service so I recommend Council's support.

#### *Council Action*

**Authorize staff to enter into an Agreement and apply for the JAG funds.**

### 3. Public Service Position Re-classification and Re-allocation

Gene Roberts has requested Committee time to discuss his request to assign new duties to the Environmental Technician position in his department and to reclassify the position to match those new duties. (attachment)

#### *Administration Recommendation*

Gene has provided a summary of the changes to the position classification and he has demonstrated how those changes are consistent with Council directives. The position upgrade represents an increase in pay but due to the nature of the expanded duties the increase in total cost will be eligible to be allocated to the respective enterprise funds so overall the change will actually reduce the cost of the position to the General Fund, which is why I recommend Council's support.

#### *Council Action*

**Authorize the position change as proposed.**



## Special Council Meeting

In order to meet the time deadlines of the Tax Budget and JAG Grant, staff is requesting Council's approval of Draft Ordinance 09-80 (Authorization to apply for JAG); Draft Ordinance 09-81 (Agreement w/County for JAG); and Draft Ordinance 09-82 (Tax Budget) in a Special Council meeting.

## Health and Public Safety Committee

### 4. Drug House Draft Legislation

Chief Peach, Bill Lillich, John Ferlito, Gary Locke, and Jim Silver have been working on developing legislation to address the need to assign responsibility for the costs of remediation and clean up work at properties where illegal drugs have been manufactured. Jim Silver has requested Committee time to present the legislative recommendations. (attachments)

#### *Administration Recommendation*

Clean up and remediation of drug contaminated sites can be costly so it is important to have well defined policies in place to define the responsibilities and clarify the processes to be used for compensation. This legislation achieves these goals and I recommend it for Council approval.

#### *Council Action*

**Adopt the drug house legislation as presented.**



## Community Development Committee

### 5. 2009 Celebrate Kent Grant Awards

Dan Smith has evaluated the applications that we received for the 2009 Celebrate Kent Grant Awards and he has prepared his funding recommendation for Council's approval. You may recall that Council authorized an additional \$5,000 for 2009 so this year's total allocation was \$15,000. Dan notes that he received 7 applications for a total request of \$24,000. (attachment)

#### *Administration Recommendation*

Dan has allocated the \$15,000 across all 7 applicants and I would recommend Council's support for this year's funding proposals.

#### *Council Action*

**Authorize the 2009 Celebrate Kent funds as presented.**



### 6. Community Relations

As requested by Council, we have scheduled additional Committee time to follow up to the discussion held in June regarding options to improve community relations. I have included a copy of some information regarding neighborhood liaisons that seem to have had success in other university cities for Council's information. The staff is not planning to make any presentations but we will certainly participate in the discussions with Council as appropriate. (attachment)

#### *Administration Recommendation*

These are important issues to our community and I encourage continued thoughtful deliberation working towards productive engagement.

#### *Council Action*

**Review the information and direct staff accordingly.**



## Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee



7. Kent State University–Citizen Advisory Committee on Transportation  
Gene Roberts has provided a summary of the work of the Kent State University – Citizen Advisory Committee on Transportation since its inception in February 2005. Gene reports that at the May 26, 2009 Committee meeting, the Committee members voted in favor of decommissioning themselves since their initial mission has been accomplished. However, Gene recommends convening a new Summit Street Transportation Improvement Project Citizen Advisory Committee. (attachment)

### *Administration Recommendation*

I recommend Council's approval of the status of the advisory committees as recommended by Gene.

### *Council Action*

**Authorize the de-commissioning of the Kent State University-Citizen Advisory Committee on Transportation and approve the creation of a new Summit Street Transportation Improvement Project Citizen Advisory Committee.**

## 8. Utility Dedication at Greek Village

Jennifer Barone has requested Committee time to seek Council's approval for the acceptance of the sanitary sewer to be dedicated from the Greek Village project developed by ASW Properties at 1375 West Campus Center Drive. (attachment)

### *Administration Recommendation*

All of the appropriate inspections have been performed and the developer obligations have been met so I recommend Council's approval to accept the dedicated infrastructure items.

### *Council Action*

**Accept the sanitary sewer infrastructure from the Greek Village Project.**

## 9. Proposed Sidewalk Snow Removal Program

Gene Roberts has been working with Gary Locke to develop the parameters for the new sidewalk snow removal program that Council requested, modeled after the program in Bowling Green, Ohio. The staff have compiled recommended guidelines for the program and they would like Committee time to present those guidelines for Council's consideration. Specifically, Gene will review the assumptions that staff made in order to get more direction from City Council on their expectations for the new service. The assumptions have financial consequences so it is important to have Council agreement as we seek to set a budget for the new service. (attachment)

### *Administration Recommendation*

I recommend Council's consideration of the new program guidelines and I would ask for Council feedback on their service expectations so we can seek to roll the program out this fall and winter.

### *Council Action*

**Consider the proposed new service guidelines and direct staff accordingly.**

## Information Items

### 1. Income Tax Report

John Mockler has provided a summary of income tax collections thru the end of May 2009. You may recall that April saw a troubling decline in income tax receipts but based on the rebound in May, it appears to be a timing issue more than a trend. Overall the City income tax collections are up .83% from 2008, with Kent State's collections up 5%. (attachment)



## Information Items (continued)

### 2. Dominion East Ohio Rate Increase

I have included a copy of a letter from Dominion East Ohio that outlines their recent submission to PUCO to justify a new tariff to recover pipeline infrastructure costs. Apparently PUCO has already approved the tariff but the numbers submitted by Dominion East have to be audited for accuracy before the tariff is added to the monthly customer bill. (attachment)

### 3. Bridge Repair Update

Gene Roberts reports that Portage County has changed their anticipated re-opening of the Middlebury Road bridge from June 29 to the first week of July. ODOT has in turn delayed the closing of SR261 over Plum Creek to July 7<sup>th</sup> in order to allow Middlebury Road Bridge to re-open prior to the closure of SR261.

### 4. City Financial Audit

John Mockler has advised me that the City's auditing firm will be holding the audit kick-off meeting on Wednesday July 1st at 10:00 am in the Finance Department Conference room. The audit firm typically covers their approach to the audit and the process that will be used to complete it. This is an open meeting and if any of you would like to attend you're welcome to do so. Otherwise John Mockler and I will keep you posted as appropriate.