

June 27, 2008



Community Development Committee

1. Walk 'n Roll Presentation



Councilwoman Wallach has arranged for a representative from Walk 'n Roll in Cleveland to come talk to us about their work in promoting "bicycling, walking, alternative transportation, public health, diversity and community-building through human-powered neighborhood programs that combine fun with active living, learning and participating." Tracy is interested in the City considering sponsoring a Kent Walk 'n Roll event that could be done in conjunction with the return of the Kent State students so we put it on the agenda in time to plan for an event should the Council desire to do so. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

From what I've been able to learn about this organization, I share Tracy's interest in a possible Kent event and I would encourage Council to support further planning work.

Council Action

Listen to the presentation and direct staff as to next steps.

2. Loan Subordination Policy Changes



Gary Locke is requesting Council's approval to modify the City's current loan subordination policy. This matter has come up as a result of a letter that Gary received from one of our housing rehab clients who is trying to refinance her home down to a lower interest rate. The resident is trying to refinance her interest rate down from a higher variable rate to a lower fixed rate. However, having just bought the house within the past several years, she does not have much equity and cannot meet our present policy for loan subordination. Gary advises that the current policy does not allow us to subordinate the City's loan to new financing in such cases where the City's subordinated loan position would exceed 90% of the appraised value of the home. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

I think it makes sense for the City to consider waiving the 90% rule in situations where homeowners are attempting to refinance to a lower interest rate as long as that is the purpose of the refinancing and I encourage Council's support for Gary's recommended changes.

Council Action

Modify the City's loan subordination policy.

Community Development Committee (continued)

3. Revolving Loan Fund Amendment For JEDDs

Dan Smith is requesting Council's approval to authorize the extension of the City's revolving loan fund program outside the corporate limits of the City to include the JEDDs. Dan notes that certainly our preference is to get businesses to locate within the City but for those cases where appropriate sites are not available in Kent proper he'd like the flexibility to offer the incentive of the revolving loan fund in the JEDD areas where we can still collect a portion of business income taxes. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The Franklin JEDD Board passed a resolution in support of the extension of the revolving loan fund as an economic development tool for the JEDD district and I would encourage Council to approve that recommendation.

Council Action

Authorize staff to extend the revolving loan fund incentive in the JEDDs.

Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee

4. Horning Road Township/KSU/City Agreement

The Engineering staff is ready to move forward with the proposed access path improvements along Horning Road that has previously been presented and approved by Council. To that end, an Agreement has been prepared that details the terms of this collaborative (City, Township, Kent State) project that requires Council approval. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

The Horning Road path improvements have been approved by Council and funds have been allocated so I recommend Council's approval of the project Agreement.

Council Action

Approve the Horning Road Access Path collaborative Agreement.

5. Spaulding Drive Bridge City/ODOT Agreement

Jim Bowling has requested Council time to present the Spaulding Drive Bridge Replacement Agreement with ODOT that will allow us to use \$463,000 in federal bridge funds to replace the bridge. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The Spaulding Drive Bridge replacement project is funded in our Capital Plan and I recommend Council's support to enable this project to move forward.

Council Action

Council authorization of the Agreement.

6. ODOT Agreement for Road Salt Purchase

Gene Roberts has been working with ODOT and Portage County in a joint road salt purchase for winter operations. The details of the purchase terms have been defined in an Agreement that Gene is bringing to Council for approval and authorization to execute. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

As you know, road salt is critical to ensuring public safety in winter conditions and it represents a significant cost item. Gene and I believe that the joint purchase Agreement will enable us to obtain the most economical price so I recommend Council's support of the Agreement.

Council Action

Approve the ODOT road salt purchase Agreement and authorize staff to proceed.



Streets, Sidewalks & Utility Items (continued)

7. Dedication of Rhodes Road Right of Way

Jennifer Barone has been working with Mr. and Mrs. Kuhar to reconfigure their property lot lines at the corner of Glad Boulevard and Rhodes Road. One of the outcomes of the proposed lot changes is for the property owners to dedicate their portion of Rhodes Road to the City of Kent. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Currently Mr. and Mrs. Kuhar's property extends to the centerline of the street and as a part of these lot changes that portion in the street will be dedicated to the City which makes sense and is standard practice, so I encourage Council's acceptance of the dedication.

Council Action

Accept the property dedication for right of way.

Finance Committee Items

8. Blue Ribbon Recommendations

Council requested additional time for further deliberations on the revenue options as presented by the Blue Ribbon Panel and the Finance Committee Chair has made that time available at our July Committee meeting.

Administration Recommendation

Continue the discussion and direct staff accordingly.

Council Action

Continue the discussion and direct staff accordingly.

Information Items

1. Neighbor Cities Financial Challenges

As we continue our review of financial options, I have copied more recent news articles from other cities in our region for your information. (attachment)

