

June 12, 2009



Unauthorized Items

1. Acceptance of Parks and Recreation Donations (draft # 09-74)

John Idone reports that Kent Parks and Recreation have received donations in the amounts of \$1,000 from the Dubois Family Foundation for educational exhibits and children's theater and \$225 from residents of Norwood and Beech Streets for the purchase of trees. We are requesting Council's approval to accept those donations. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

Recommend Council's support and acceptance of the donations.

Council Action

Adopt a resolution accepting the generous donations as presented.

2. Appropriations Amendment (draft # 09-77)

John Mockler has provided a request to make 2 changes to the 2009 Appropriations Ordinance. The first change is an increase of \$27,500 for the Wireless 911 program. This change reflects the recent changes to the 911 funding distribution whereby Kent State 911 funds will now be passed through the City of Kent. The second change comes from Gene Roberts request to advance \$39,500 to the solid waste fund to cover the estimated start up costs (e.g., printing, mailing, purchase trash bags) to begin the new citywide trash service. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The first item (911 funds) is simply pass-through funds and I encourage Council's support. In regards to the second item, Council authorized the implementation of the new trash contract in May and Gene has been busy working out the details to start the service beginning in August 2009. In order to save our residents money, we agreed to have the City purchase and sell the trash bags to be used in the service and Gene needs to have funds advanced now so that he can go out and purchase the bags so that residents can in turn buy them from us. I recommend Council's support for the second item as well.

Council Action

Authorize the appropriations amendments as presented.

Information Items

1. New Trash Service Notification Letter

I have provided a copy of a letter that I have scripted under my signature that we plan to send to all Kent residents that will be receiving the new citywide trash service with R&R Sanitation. In the next couple of weeks we will be sending out a packet of information to residents explaining the new trash service and we thought we should give them some advance notice with the enclosed letter so that they can be made aware of what's coming and be looking for the information in the mail. We recognize that this is a significant change for City residents so we are trying to do whatever we can to make this transition as easy as possible. (attachment)



Information Items (continued)

2. Plum Creek Park Response Letter

Earlier this week we received a copy of a letter from J.S. Gibbons expressing concern for the conditions observed in Plum Creek. The letter was forwarded to John Idone and John Ferlito. In response the staff has inspected the areas of concern and I have enclosed a copy of John Ferlito's response for your information. (attachment)

3. Civil Service Commission Meeting

I have included a copy of the minutes from the Civil Service Commission meeting (May 11, 2009) for your information. (attachment)

4. Police Statistics

Chief Peach has forwarded his May 2009 Police Statistics report. Total calls for service are slightly up (1%) while total arrests are slightly down (.8%). Similarly, accident incidents are up 10% while incidents of serious crimes are up 2%. (attachment)

5. Board of Zoning Appeals Agenda

Gary Locke has included a copy of the agenda and staff report for the June 15, 2009 Board of Zoning Appeals meeting. There is one item up for consideration: 814 South Depeyster Street, setback variance for a new deck. (attachment)

6. Monthly Permit and Zoning Reports

Gary Locke has enclosed a copy of the monthly zoning and permit violations report thru May 2009. Permit activity is down 17% from last year at this time and the fee revenues are down a corresponding 18% (\$20,000). You can see where Troy has expanded his zoning violations report to include more action items than he reported on the previous reports. Troy had 78 action items on his May report, many of which were grass and weed violations. (attachment)

7. Planning Commission June 16th Agenda and Staff Report

Gary Locke has provided a copy of the June 16th Planning Commission agenda and staff report. The Planning Commission will be considering a site plan from West River Medical to expand parking behind the Wild Goats restaurant. (attachment)

8. Law Report on Board Member Comments at Meetings

Jim Silver has provided a summary of his evaluation of the issue of whether it is a violation of free speech to preclude Board member comments before other Boards on issues that could come before the Board upon which they sit. (attachments)

9. Kent State University Summer Construction Report

I have included a copy of the summer construction activity underway at the Kent campus of Kent State University for your information. (attachment)

Information Items (continued)

10. FEMA Recognition for Fire Chief Williams

I have included a copy of a public notice issued by FEMA recognizing Chief Williams as a Bronze Level Trainer for his dedication to emergency preparedness as demonstrated through his leadership and training commitments. This is an exceptional honor bestowed upon Jim and it reflects positively for the Department and City overall. (attachments)

11. Fire Department Incident Report

Chief Williams has provided a copy of the Fire Department call and activity report for May 2009. The report data indicates fire incident calls are down 6% from 2008 while emergency response calls are up 2%. The Chief has also recorded the usage of mutual aid and you can see that Kent has been the beneficiary of 69% of the mutual aid assistance. (attachment)

12. Bridge Repairs Update

Jim Bowling advised me that the County is still planning on having the Middlebury Road Bridge repairs completed by June 26th, at which time the bridge will be re-opened for traffic. At the City's request, ODOT has delayed the closing of SR 261 to repair the bridge over Plum Creek until the County opens the Middlebury Road Bridge back up. If the County re-opens the Middlebury Road Bridge as planned I would expect to see ODOT close SR 261 by the end of this month to begin those repairs. The City's contractor is underway working on the replacement of the Spaulding Drive Bridge. Bid opening for the Fairchild Avenue/Crain Avenue Bridge project is set for June 24th.