

May 16, 2008



Unauthorized Items

1. Boards and Commissions Vacancies

Council has 4 position appointments to make and approve as unauthorized.

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council vote and select the new members.

Council Action

Vote and select new Committee members for current vacancies.

2. Police Radar Unit Donation

The State of Ohio has offered to donate a police radar unit (valued at \$1,800) to the City of Kent for our participation in the statewide buckle-up promotion campaign.

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council accept the donation.

Council Action

Accept the donation.

3. Fairchild Avenue Bridge Project Right of Way Agreements

As previously discussed, rather than bringing the construction project Right of Way Agreements for full Committee review we have placed them on your agenda as unauthorized. Again, these Agreements (Draft Nos. 08-77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, and 84) were amicably negotiated and they are within the parameters established by ODOT for this project.

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council's approval of the Right of Way Agreements.

Council Action

Approve the Right of Way Agreements as presented.



Information Items

1. Crain/Fairchild Avenue Bridge – Property Status Report

At Council's request Jim Bowling has provided a status report (map attached) on the right-of-way acquisition process for the Crain/Fairchild Avenue Bridge project. The map delineates the properties that have already been acquired, the properties that have been requested (in negotiation), and those that will be needed. It's important to remember that the right-of-way agreements include both temporary easements for during the construction period only and permanent easements. (attachment)

Information Items (continued)

2. Utility Billing Public Notice



As you may recall, Council authorized a modification in the City's utility billing policies that changed the billing from the tenant to the property owner. The staff have been re-writing the policy and they have prepared the necessary changes which would go into effect January 2009. We are providing a long lead period in order to allow landlords as easy a transition as possible with their tenants. The attached letters and information items will be sent out to the property owners shortly so I wanted you to have a copy for your reference as well. (attachment)

3. Traffic Engineering and Safety Committee

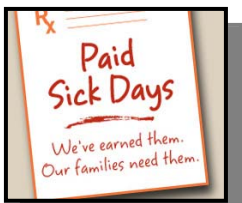
I've attached the May agenda for the Traffic Engineering and Safety Committee for your information. The meeting was held last week but I wanted you to be aware of some of the traffic issues that they are reviewing in case you get any questions from constituents. In particular, the residents of the Lakes of Franklin Mills have sent a letter (also attached) reiterating their continued interest in a new traffic signal installation at the intersection of Fairchild Avenue and Stonewater Drive. I'll keep you posted on the progress of these items. (attachment)

4. ODOT Summer Construction Work in Portage County

In the last 2 years Kent has been the beneficiary of paving work on SR 43 and SR59 which has significantly improved the road quality of these two important gateways into Kent. ODOT has released their project plans for 2008 and it appears that the good work they began in Kent is now extending further out as both SR43 and SR59 will have active roadway projects this year just outside of the Kent boundaries. Anything that makes it easier to get people into Kent is good so I thought you'd also like to see a listing of planned ODOT improvements in Portage County (attachment).

5. Ohio Healthy Families Act

Last week the Mayor and I met with Representative Chandler, Representative Sawyer (via telephone) and lobbyists from an organization that is campaigning for Council's support of a Ohio Healthy Families Act that would require businesses with 25 or more employees to provide full-time employees to earn 7 paid sick days per year. I've attached some of the information items that they left with us. The lobbyists were hoping the City would join them in a media event that would use the recent Chipolte Norovirus outbreak here in Kent to support their cause but the Mayor, John Ferlito and I did not feel that was an appropriate role for the City. The organization still asked for Council's consideration to support their proposed legislation and they have drafted a resolution of support that is included in this packet. (attachment)



Information Items (continued)

6. 2009 Budget Preparation

The City staff and I have begun our 2009 budget preparation. At this point we are not assuming any changes in revenues that may (or may not) come as a result of Council's reconsideration of the Blue Ribbon Panel recommendations so all the departments are urged to continue to hold the line on spending. However, after freezing spending at 0% growth last year we are granting departments the ability to submit a budget request that allows for a 2% increase where it can be justified.

Here's a look at our 2009 Budget Schedule:

May 7	Distribute 2009 Budget Request Forms to Departments
May 30	Return Budget Requests to Budget and Finance Department
June 2-6	Data Entry of Budget Information by Budget and Finance
June 22	Advertise Public Hearing for County Tax Budget
July 2	County Tax Budget Hearing and Adoption by City Council
July 15	Departments Submit 5-Year Capital Plan to Budget and Finance
July 20	Submit Adopted Tax Budget to County Auditor
August	Five Year Capital Plan Presented to City Council City Manager Finalize 2009 Proposed Operating Budget
October	Presentation of the Proposed Operating Budget to Council
November	Council Passage of the 2009 Operating Budget

I have talked with the Finance Committee Chair and we are still working on finding time in the next couple of months to schedule a reconsideration of the Blue Ribbon Panel recommendations. I'll keep you posted on our progress. In the meantime, I read with interest 2 news articles (attached) from last week that talked about tax issues very similar to our situation in Kent from our neighbors in Lorain and Streetsboro. (attachment)