



Special Council Meeting Items

The Clerk has posted a special Council meeting for Monday night at 5 pm to discuss contract negotiations and a couple of land acquisition items. The staff and I will join you in executive session for review of these items.

Information Items

1. NOPEC Notification of FirstEnergy Electric Rate Increases for 2009
I have attached a memo from Leigh Herington, Executive Director of NOPEC, advising of FirstEnergy's refusal to extend the electric rate discount currently offered to NOPEC communities and to raise the rates under a recently approved rate plan. NOPEC is recommending contacting our state representatives and urging state intervention on our resident's behalf. (attachments)

2. Traffic Engineering and Safety Meeting Summary

Bill Lillich has provided a summary of the discussion from the October 17, 2008 Traffic Engineering and Safety meeting. The items reviewed include: SR261 signal changes at Mogadore and Sunnybrook Road, SR59 signal project update, E. main Street pedestrian island, N. Mantua Street school zone markings, Crain Avenue traffic calming, E. Summit Street signage, E. Main Street sidewalk ramps, no turn on red at Summit & Morris, audible pedestrian signals, and College Ct. parking regulations. (attachment)

3. Dominion East Ohio Gas Customer Web Site

I've provided a copy of a letter we received from Dominion East Ohio announcing their new web site (www.dominiongaschoice.com). The site provides a one-stop shop for gas choice information. With winter approaching you may want to refer residents with gas cost questions to the site. (attachment)

4. Kent Receives Safety Council Discount

I received good news from the Human Resource Manager, Liz Zorc. She advised me that as a result of our conscientious efforts to keep City workers safe and healthy on the job we qualified for the FY08 Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation discount program. (attachments)

5. Fire Safety

Chief Williams sent me a short report on a fire incident that should serve as a good reminder of how important smoke alarms are. As we look to switch the clocks back next week, it's a great time to change your smoke alarm batteries. (attachment)

6. Main Street Design Guidelines Meeting

Mary Gilbert sent me a note announcing a public meeting set for October 28th at 7 pm at the Kent Stage to discuss design guidelines for downtown Kent. You're welcome to attend as are any of your constituents.

Information Items (continued)

7. Kent Ravenna Bike Trail Connection

The high school sports rivalry between Kent and Ravenna remains strong but I'm pleased to announce that when it comes to bike trails we set rivalries aside. The Portage Park District and Kent Parks and Recreation will be celebrating the grand opening of the final phase of the bike trail linking Kent and Ravenna. The dedication takes place at 10 a.m. on November 1st at the Lake Rockwell trailhead, just south of Beckwith's Orchards, 1617 Lake Rockwell Road in Franklin Twp.

8. Sports Tourism in Action: Kent High School Lacrosse Tournament

The City Manager's Office continues to work with Kent State Athletics, Kent State School of Sports & Leisure and Kent Parks and Recreation to attract more sporting events to venues in Kent. Last year our interns landed the Ohio high school rugby state tournament and this year they've organized a new Fall high school lacrosse tournament that is scheduled for November 1, 2008. The tournament is bringing 14 of the top regional teams to Kent to compete in a round-robin double elimination tournament. The championship game will be held in Dix stadium. This is planned to be an annual event that we believe can attract 50+ teams in future years.

9. Kent Franklin JEDD Revenues

The Kent Franklin JEDD Board met this month and we reviewed our JEDD receipts. As you can see in the attached spreadsheet the Kent Franklin JEDD has brought in nearly \$300,000 to the City of Kent in the first 18 months of operation. As you all know, this is extremely important in our current fiscal times so I wanted to be sure to share this information with you. (attachment)

10. Kent Police Efforts Appreciated

This will certainly be a busy weekend for our Kent City Police forces and all the officers from Kent State and around the region who come downtown to help keep everyone in the Halloween crowds safe. Certainly this is no small task but it's not just the big events that draw appreciation from our residents. Below are copies of two emails that I received this past week that I thought I'd share with you:

EMAIL FROM CAPTAIN LEE

"Mr. Kiefer from 429 Earl Ave. came by the station requesting to speak to a supervisor. He is the resident of the home burglarized Tuesday night. He wanted to ensure that a supervisor knew how grateful he was for our quick response and how impressed he was by the professionalism of officers/dispatchers handling this call. He knew that police don't often get praised or thanked for the jobs we do and he wanted to do that in person. I thanked him back for taking the time out of his day to do this and guaranteed him I would pass this along. Nice job to all involved in this call!!! We all know the great jobs we do in this city but sometimes it's nice to hear it from those we serve. "

EMAIL FROM CHIEF PEACH

"Kudos to the Night shift officers and dispatchers for the timely response, investigation and arrest of the person who broke into a home of an occupied residence in the middle of the night. Special recognition goes to Marty Gilliland, who was not only the OIC, but also for Felo's tracking and locating of the suspect. All officers and dispatchers are to be commended for their outstanding performances. The family and neighborhood are extremely appreciative of your actions. Congratulations and thanks for a job well done!"