



Land Use Committee

1. Zoning Text Amendment

Jennifer Barone has requested Committee time to discuss two proposed changes to the Zoning Code. The first amendment would allow public or private schools to be considered as a conditionally permitted use in the Open Space/Recreation (O-R) district. The second amendment would allow church owned or sponsored recreational uses as a permitted use in the University Zone District (U). The Planning Commission unanimously approved both amendments. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The staff and I recommend Council's acceptance of the text amendments.

Council Action

Adopt the proposed text amendments to the Zoning Code.

Finance Committee

2. Energy Conservation Program

Gene Roberts and Dave Coffee have requested Committee time for Council's consideration to authorize staff to proceed with the Energy Conservation program immediately rather than waiting until after January 1 as approved in the 2010 Capital Budget. Gene also has information that he wishes to present and discuss with Council regarding solar hot water heaters as requested by Council. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Given the anticipated operational cost savings expected from the implementation of the energy conservation program, I would recommend Council's support to appropriate funds from the undesignated fund balance immediately rather than in January 2010 so that the new program can begin immediately. The solar hot water heater appears to be less economical than some of the other elements of the proposal but it is certainly consistent with the intent of the Council's energy conservation objectives so we could add this to the project if that is Council's desire.

Council Action

Authorize staff to proceed and appropriate the funds in 2009 rather than 2010.

3. 2010 Operating Budget Preliminary Information

The staff and I have been busy preparing the 2010 proposed budget. At this point, we are aiming for presentation of the draft budget at our November 4th Committee meeting. In order to develop the 2% reduction scenario as requested by Council we would like more guidance and feedback from Council in terms of where you would accept lower levels of service and where you do not want to see any cuts. I have included in your packet a short budget survey for you to indicate your funding preferences. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Discuss 2010 budget expectations.

Council Action

No action necessary at this time.



Finance Committee (continued)

4. Appropriations Amendments

Dave Coffee has been working with the department heads to reconcile the approved 2009 budget line items and he has prepared the necessary appropriations amendments to reflect the changes needed to balance those line items. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council's authorization of the appropriations amendments.

Council Actions

Approve the appropriations amendments as presented.



5. City Contract Residency Incentive

At Council's request the staff has scheduled Committee time to consider a proposal to add language to City contracts that would provide an incentive for contractors to hire local Kent residents in large capital construction projects. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

The City currently offers a 10% price preference for bids/contracts located in Kent. The proposed residency incentive could be modeled in similar fashion. Without more detailed financial and administrative analysis the staff is reluctant to recommend making it a mandatory requirement but it could be considered on an incentive basis for a trial period at Council's direction.

Council Action

Discuss and direct staff accordingly.



Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee

6. SR 59 Signal Replacement Project Agreement with ODOT

Jim Bowling has requested Committee time to seek Council's approval of the ODOT project agreement for the SR 59 Signalization project. As a Federally funded project the City and ODOT must enter into a "Federal Local-Let" project agreement, the terms of which include the allocation of \$1,606,400 in Federal funds for the improvement of traffic signals on SR 59 from Middlebury Road to Horning Road. Jim has also included a request to accept 2 easements from Kent State University for this project. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

The SR 59 Signal project is included in the approved Capital Plan and I recommend Council's approval of the project agreement and acceptance of the easements.

Council Action

Authorize staff to enter into the SR 59 signal replacement project agreement and acceptance of the 2 easements donated by Kent State University.



7. Sidewalk Snow Removal (continued)

As a result of the last Council discussion on snow removal the staff was asked to review and report back on five recommendations: 1. Change the current code section to a civil infraction; 2. Review the possibility of a snow plow operator licensing program; 3. Review the possibility of a subscription services for sidewalk snow removal; 4. Develop a snow removal educational campaign; and 5. Allocate \$50,000 for private contract work at key intersections in the City. Gene Roberts, Gary Locke and Jim Silver have prepared some initial comments to each of these items for Council discussion. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Review, discuss and direct staff accordingly.

Council Action

Discuss and direct staff accordingly.



Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee

8. Riverbend Park Land Designation

John Idone has requested Committee time to clarify a park land designation issue that has arisen in the context of the approval of the State river access grant. John has asked for a chance to explain the issue in Committee so has not provided any advance information to share with you at this time.

Administrative Recommendation

Review and approve the Park land designation.

Council Action

Approve the Park land designation as requested by the Parks Director.



Information Items

1. Traffic Engineering and Safety Meeting

Bill Lillich has provided copies of the September 15, 2009 Traffic Engineering and Safety meeting. There were 4 items up for discussion including: parking issues pertaining to the prospective hotel/conference center; private property towing signs; request to convert Whittier Drive into a one-way street; and an update on a possible electronic bulletin board in downtown Kent. (attachment)

2. Law Department Monthly Activity Report

Jim Silver has provided a summary of the activities of the Law Department during the month of August 2009. This is a new reporting mechanism that Jim has started to prepare to help Council track the status of legal matters that the Law Department is working on. (attachment)

3. Police Statistics Report

Chief Peach has forwarded his August Police Statistics report. Total calls for service are slightly up (1.7% overall). Total arrests are down 6% from last year while traffic and parking citations are up 6%. Accident reports are also up 6% from last year but incidents of serious crimes are down 7%. (attachment)

4. Income Tax Report

Dave Coffee has provided a summary of income tax collections thru the end of August 2009. Overall the City income tax collections are up \$60,913 (.85% increase) through the same month last year with Kent State's collections up 6.24% (\$211,608). (attachment)

5. Crain/Fairchild Avenue Bridge Flyer

I have included a copy of the latest public information piece that Jim Bowling has developed for the Crain/Fairchild Avenue Bridge project. We plan to have these available at public locations and if you would like to have copies for your own distribution just let us know and we'll be sure to get them to you. (attachment)

6. Civil Service Commission Meetings

I have included copies of the minutes from the Civil Service Commission meeting held on August 10, 2009 and the agenda from the September 14th Commission meeting for your information. (attachment)

Information Items (continued)

7. Planning Commission October 6th Agenda and Staff Report

Gary Locke has provided a copy of the October 6th Planning Commission agenda and staff report. The Planning Commission will be considering a request to install an elevated deck and outdoor seating at the EuroGyro Restaurant, 107 S. Depeyster Street. Staff recommends approval with conditions. (attachment)

8. City Trash Bags For Sale

Hallie Stone in Public Service reports that effective this week, the Giant Eagle in Stow (Target Plaza) has our City (minimum service) trash bags for sale as a courtesy to their customers. They purchased two cases (20 bundles of 10) up front and will have them available for purchase at the Service Desk at cost (\$18.50 per bundle). They approached us only as a convenience to their Kent resident customers and will purchase more from us to sell on a as needed basis. She has also contacted the Kent Acme about selling our bags and we're awaiting a return call as the manager had to check with their corporate office. Hopefully this will be a good option for those who can not purchase bags during our office hours.

9. City Short Term Notes Savings of \$100,000

Dave Coffee reported good news this week from our debt underwriters at KeyBanc. The KeyBanc representatives confirmed our BAN sale with the new yield at 1.00% and a Coupon rate of 1.50%. This compares to the current yield at 3.30% with a Coupon rate of 3.75% on the existing debt. In real money terms the interest expense goes from \$154,500 to \$57,300 but of course the principal is being reduced by \$300,000 also.

10. Main Street Kent Quarterly Reports

Mary Gilbert has provided the Main Street Quarterly Reports for April, May and June 2009. Mary indicated that the July, August and September Reports are due by mid-October and as she finishes those she will forward copies to Council as well.

11. River Clean Up Results

Last weekend Gene Roberts and Bob Brown led the annual river clean up and thanks to great participation from resident and student volunteers, they pulled an estimated 8 tons of debris from the river. I've attached more information (including some pictures) from a blog post early this week. (attachment)