



Work Session

Council will interview candidates for vacancies on City Boards and Commissions.

Health & Safety Committee

1. Proposed Ban on Fracking

At the request of City Council, time has been set aside in Committee for local residents to speak to Council regarding the prospects of banning fracking in Kent. Fracking has received a fair amount of media attention as it has been a driving force in the economic recovery in Ohio and Pennsylvania, but it has also been linked to environmental concerns resulting from the hydraulic injection and the gas retraction process. The regulatory environment affecting this emerging industry is managed at the state level but local residents have asked Council for Committee time to discuss their concerns. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Receive the information from the residents, discuss the item and direct staff accordingly.

Council Action

Discuss the item and direct staff accordingly.

Community Development Committee

2. Wells-Sherman House Discussion

In order to consider requests from the Friends of the Sherman House to relocate and restore the Erie Street Wells-Sherman house staff facilitated a walk-thru of the property and collected information regarding the historical status of the structure. Rick Hawksley has asked for Committee time to present a proposal to City Council to help relocate and restore the house.

(Rick's proposal was sent in City Clerk packet)

Administrative Recommendation

Kent State University has offered to sell the house to any interested party that would be willing to pay for the relocation of the property by the end of April in order to stay on schedule with the Esplanade construction. The property has been determined to have historic roots in the Kent community, the question before Council is whether there is enough historic value remaining the house to warrant an investment of City funds.

Council Action

Discuss the item and direct staff accordingly.



Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee

3. Sidewalk Seating and Patio Authorization



Bridget Susel has requested Committee time to review the policy established by City Council that authorized businesses, like the Franklin Square Deli, to obtain the City's approval to place chairs and tables on the public sidewalk in order to create outdoor eating cafes. Bridget has been working with Gene Roberts and Jim Silver to update that policy in order to accommodate the many new businesses that are opening in downtown Kent and have begun to request similar sidewalk access. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The downtown revitalization project is built around the concept of creating a synergy between downtown business activity and great public space. The City is investing significant funding towards extra wide sidewalks and streetscape upgrades in order to create a sense of place in the downtown that has become the hallmark of vibrant downtowns. I would recommend Council's support of the update to the policies and procedures suggested by staff to accommodate the business requests in a manner that ensures public safety and contributes to the desired ambience for the downtown.

Council Actions

Authorize the proposed modifications to the policies and procedures used to authorize temporary seating and dining on City sidewalks.

Land Use Committee

4. Rehab Parcel Property Transfer to Family & Community Services



Bridget Susel has requested Committee time to seek Council's authorization to transfer property that has been part of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) to Family and Community Services for reconstruction purposes. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council's authorization to transfer the property as presented.

Council Actions

Authorize the property transfer as presented.

Finance Committee

5. Family & Community Services Loan Repayment



Bridget Susel has requested Committee time to discuss options for Council's consideration to restructure the terms of the City loan to Family & Community Services that was used to finance the Miller House. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

Mark Frisone will be attending the meeting to outline his request to restructure the loan. I recommend receiving and reviewing the request, and directing staff accordingly.

Council Actions

Consider the loan restructuring request and direct staff accordingly.

Finance Committee continued

6. Rehab Loan Subordination Request



Bridget Susel has requested Committee time to ask Council to consider a request from a recipient of a City rehab loan to subordinate the City's loan interest in order for the resident to refinance their debt and avoid loan default. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

Like many lenders in this economy, the City has had a couple of instances of loan default on rehab loans and as a result we have tried to work with loan recipients to do whatever possible to avoid further default and foreclosure. Bridget believes that the City's loan subordination is a reasonable request that could help ensure the ability of the borrower to refinance and continue to make loan payments at a lower interest rate, and I support Bridget's recommendation to Council.

Council Actions

Authorize the proposed loan subordination as presented.

7. Bond Anticipation Notes



Dave Coffee has been working with bond counsel and he is recommending the rollover of \$4,000,000 in notes for the City's share of the PARTA facility and \$1,650,000 in new bond funding for various elements of the downtown project. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The bond issues continue to work within the financial parameters established by City Council for the downtown revitalization projects and the anticipated TIF revenues, so I recommend Council's authorization of the borrowing proposed for the downtown project at this time.

Council Actions

Approve the note rollover and additional debt purchase.

8. 2012 Appropriations Amendments



Dave Coffee has been working with the department heads to adjust the approved 2012 budget to match the revisions required by the department heads to continue projects and services as planned. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council's authorization of the appropriations amendments.

Council Actions

Approve the appropriations amendments as presented.

9. 2012 Position Allocation Ordinance



Jeff Neistadt and Liz Zorc have requested Committee time to ask for Council's authorization to restructure the positions in the Health Department. Jeff is proposing to reallocate the funds for the vacant Deputy Director position to create 2 new field-level positions. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

Jeff and Liz have worked out the details for this reallocation so that it would be cost neutral, and I believe that this change would improve the day-to-day services delivered by the City's Health Department so I recommend Council's support.

Council Actions

Authorize the changes to the Position Allocation Ordinance.

Finance Committee continued



10. Surplus City Property Auction Items

Gene Roberts has been working with the Department heads to sort through surplus City property items that could be sold at auction and he has requested Committee time to receive Council's authorization to proceed with the auction. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council's authorization to proceed with the on-line auction of surplus City property as presented.

Council Actions

Authorize the sale of surplus City property at auction.

Information Items

1. SR43/Fairchild Bridge Changes

Jim Bowling has announced the next round of construction detour impacts resulting from the Fairchild Avenue Bridge construction. As the work shifts to back to SR43, SR43 will be reduced to two lanes beginning April 2 through August 2012. With only two lanes of traffic, Jim will have to prohibit any left turns from southbound SR43 on to the new bridge. Eastbound traffic will be detoured to Main Street and/or HayMaker Parkway. See Jim's note below:

STATE ROUTE 43
LANE CLOSURE
From Fairchild Ave. to Stinaff St.

CUYAHOGA & STINAFF STREETS
Closed at State Route 43

Beginning April 2, 2012 and estimated to last through August, 2012

DUE TO THE ONGOING CONSTRUCTION OF THE CRAIN AVENUE BRIDGE PROJECT, THE FOLLOWING TEMPORARY CHANGES WILL GO INTO EFFECT BEGINNING APRIL 2, 2012:

- TRAFFIC WILL BE REDUCED TO 2 LANES ON S.R. 43; 1 NORTHBOUND AND 1 SOUTHBOUND, FROM FAIRCHILD AVE. TO STINAFF ST.
- CUYAHOGA STREET AND STINAFF STREET WILL BE CLOSED AT S.R. 43
- NO LEFT TURN FROM S.R.43 SOUTHBOUND ONTO FAIRCHILD AVENUE BRIDGE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, RESIDENTS MAY CONTACT THE DIVISION OF ENGINEERING AT 330-678-8106.

City of Kent, Ohio


James Bowling, P.E.
City Engineer