



Works Session

1. City Boards and Commissions

Council members will have an opportunity to interview candidates for vacancies on City Boards and Commissions.

Administrative Recommendation

Interview the prospective candidates.

Council Action

Interview the prospective candidates.

Community Development Committee

1. City Wards Reapportionment

Gary Locke has requested Committee time to review the changes to the 2010 Census data with the members of City Council and discuss possible Ward Reapportionment as a result of those demographic changes consistent with the direction of the Kent City Charter. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

The staff has suggested modifications to Wards 3 and 4 to meet the Charter test requirements for Ward population and I would encourage Council's discussion and support for these modifications.

Council Action

Approve and adopt the proposed Ward Reapportionment.

2. Shade Tree Commission Mission Statement

The members of the City Shade Tree Commission have crafted a new mission statement and they have requested Council's consideration to adopt the mission statement on their behalf. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

The staff and I recommend the adoption of the proposed Shade Tree Commission mission statement as presented.

Council Action

Adopt the proposed mission statement for the City Shade Tree Commission.

Land Use Committee

3. Acceptance of an Easement

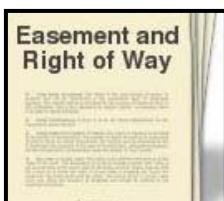
Gary Locke has requested Committee time to review a recommendation from Jen Barone to have the Edwards Company dedicate a 10' easement (approximately 150' along the Summit Street right of way) to the City for the future improvements planned for East Summit Street. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

I recommend Council's support for acceptance of the easement as presented.

Council Action

Authorize acceptance of the easement as presented.





Land Use Committee (continued)

4. City Vacation of Easements for Lincoln Commons

Gary Locke and Jen Barone have requested Committee time to ask for Council's approval to release the temporary utility easements (50' on Primrose Lane, 20' in Block A) originally adopted for the construction of Lincoln Commons subdivision.

Administration Recommendation

The temporary easements no longer match up with revised land use plans for the property that have been approved by the Planning Commission and I would recommend releasing the temporary utility easements as presented.

Council Action

Authorize the release of the temporary easements.



5. Planning Commission Request to Close High Street Sidewalks

Staff has requested Committee time for Council to discuss the request from the Planning Commission to consider closing the sidewalk and vacating a portion of High Street in order to respond to High Street residents concerns for the impact of the Edwards student housing project and increased cut-thru traffic on their street. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Discuss the request and direct staff accordingly.

Council Action

Discuss the request and direct staff accordingly.



6. City/Kent State University Land Swap/Acquisition

In order for the City to proceed with a Lease Agreement with Fairmount Properties for the mixed use project in the block bordered by Depeyster, Erie, Water Street and Haymaker Parkway, the City needs to acquire the land in that block that is currently owned by Kent State University. The University had previously acquired the land on the west side of Depeyster Street for the purpose of building the new hotel but with the hotel now proposed on the east side Depeyster, that land is available for redevelopment by the City.

Administration Recommendation

Staff will present a proposal to complete a land deal with KSU in order to move forward with the downtown project. I encourage Council's approval.

Council Action

Receive the staff report and authorize staff to proceed with the land swap/acquisition as presented.

Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee



7. Street Closure Request for the Kent Historical Society

The Kent Historical Society is planning a 135th birthday celebration for the Main Street Bridge in downtown Kent. The event is planned for September 25th from 2 to 4 pm and includes a short parade with a horse and wagon beginning at the West River Medical Arts building and ending at the Home Savings Plaza. The street closure would just be for the parade event. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council's approval of the street closure request as presented.

Council Action

Approve the street closure for the Kent Historical Society as proposed.

Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee (continued)

8. Street Closure Request for the Park 'n Roll Skate Challenge



Portage Skates, in cooperation with Kent State University, has requested Council's authorization to host a new event, the Park 'n Roll Skate Challenge and Cookie Bake Off on September 24th from 8 am to 1 pm at Dix Stadium. The event will include a skate challenge with skaters following the KSU Hike and Bike Trail, including street crossings at Rhodes Road and points within the campus. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council's approval of the event permit request as presented.

Council Action

Approve the event permit as proposed.

9. Acorn Alley Phase II License to Occupy



Jim Bowling and Gene Roberts have requested Committee time to discuss a request from Ron Burbick to allow portions of his Acorn Alley Phase II project to encroach upon the public right of way. The project developer has proposed building an elevated patio area for private dining that will encroach into the public right of way along Erie Street.

Administration Recommendation

Receive the staff report and authorize staff to proceed with a license to occupy the public right of way.

Council Action

Authorize staff to proceed with a license to occupy the public right of way.

10. Vacant Property Ordinance Follow-Up Discussion



As requested by City Council, staff has completed further review of possible ordinance changes that would be intended to create a dis-incentive for property owners to allow properties to sit vacant and become blighted. The original Council referral asked staff to consider an ordinance similar to the one passed in East Cleveland that assesses annual registration fees to properties that are vacant and deteriorated. Jim Silver will present his suggestions for possible changes to City Code to help with the management of vacant property problems. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The removal of blighted properties has been one of the City's top priorities and is one of the motivations behind the City's significant property acquisition and investment in downtown Kent over the last 5 years. In order to protect that investment, and the significant investment made by private property owners in the central business district, I urge Council's support to consider mechanisms available to discourage property owners from allowing properties to decline.

Council Action

Receive the staff report, discuss and authorize next steps.

Finance Committee

11. 2011 Appropriations Amendments, Transfers & Advances



Dave Coffee has been working with the department heads to reconcile the approved 2011 budget line items and he has prepared the necessary appropriations amendments to reflect the changes needed to balance those line items. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council's authorization of the appropriations amendments.

Council Actions

Approve the appropriations amendments as presented.

Information Items

1. Income Tax Report

Dave Coffee has provided a summary of income tax collections thru the end of June 2011. Overall the City income tax collections are up 5.22% (\$273,803) from June 2010. Kent State University's collections thru the end of June are up .99% (\$21,267). (attachment)

2. Main Street 1st and 2nd Quarter Reports 2011

Mary Gilbert has provided the quarterly reports for the first and second quarters of 2011. The Main Street Board approved the new format for these quarterly reports which includes a summary of work activities by committee, economic impact statistics and the status of the Main Street budget after the first 6 months of the year. (attachment)

3. Fire Incident Report

Jim Williams has provided a copy of the fire and emergency medical services report for June 2011. In 2011 fire alarm calls are down .5% (2 calls); fire mutual aid assistance is down 2 events in 2011; and EMS responses are down 3% (47 calls). (attachment)