



Unauthorized Items

1. New Budget Line Item for the Justice Assistance Grant

Dave Coffee has been working with Bill Lillich to administer the JAG grant funds (\$45,000) that we received in 2009 for use in crime prevention. Dave reports that the terms of the grant require the City to create a new special revenue fund to be used to keep the grant funds separate from our other Police funds. (Draft no. 09-147)

Administration Recommendation

Adopt the resolution authorizing the establishment of a new special revenue fund designated for the JAG grant.

Council Action

Adopt the resolution authorizing the establishment of a new special revenue fund designated for the accounting of the JAG grant.

2. Franklin Township Fire Services Agreement

Bill Lillich reports that the current fire service agreement with Franklin Twp expires at the end of December. Jim Williams and Bill met with the trustees to discuss general contract service issues but since we do not have a final budget yet we cannot set the final prices of the service for next year in the township. With that in mind we have proposed to the Trustees that we enter into a temporary extension of the current agreement to start the year and they are in agreement with that process. Jim Silver has prepared an ordinance to permit the extension of the current agreement and terms for six months. (Draft No. 09-149)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council approve the contract extension for fire services with the Franklin Township.

Council Action

Approve the contract extension.

Information Items

1. Health Board Meeting Minutes and Department Statistics

John Ferlito has provided copies of the health board agenda and minutes from the November 10th meeting, the agenda for the December 8th meeting, as well as the statistical report for the year through November 30th, 2009. For the year, Health Dept. fee receipts are up less than .4% from last year for the same period. (attachment)

2. Monthly Permit and Zoning Reports

Gary Locke has enclosed a copy of the monthly zoning and permit violations report thru November 30, 2009. The total number of permits issued this year is down 3% from last year (thru November 30) and the corresponding revenues are down 47% (\$132,000). Troy had 28 action items on his November report. (attachment)

3. Civil Service Commission Meeting

I have included a copy of the agenda for the December 14, 2009 Civil Service Commission meeting for your information. (attachment)



Information Items (continued)

4. Additional Crime Comparative Statistics

I have included additional crime data that we compiled that demonstrates that the recent crimes noted in the local news, while troubling, do not appear to be indicative of a trend. As you can see in the data serious and violent crime has been on the decline in Kent for 15 years and our numbers for incidents of crimes per capita look quite favorable when compared to other cities. (attachment)

5. Sidewalk Snow Update

Gene Roberts reports that he has signed a contractor to perform the intersection clearing duties that Council authorized for this winter. Gene said that there were a number of local bidders and he felt that competition helped us get good prices for the contract. That contract has been awarded and the contractor is ready on an as-needed basis. In addition, Gary Locke advised that in late October - November he ran three ads in the Record Courier seeking information about contractors who would be interested in being listed on a snow removal list for the City. As previously discussed this list would be published so that residents and property owners could use it as a reference to secure snow clearing services on their own. Unfortunately we received no calls or inquiries from the ads so we don't have a list at this time. We are evaluating other methods, including direct mailing to landscape contractors, to see if we can produce a list. Lastly, we have been working with Kent State University's volunteer coordinator to match up residents who might need assistance with shoveling duties with student volunteers. If you have a couple of names of residents in your neighborhood that you think could benefit from the volunteer shoveling services, please forward their contact information to me.

6. Kent State Construction Activity Tax Generation

I was pleased to read that the Board of Trustees for Kent State University approved a \$250 million bond issue for campus construction activity at their quarterly meeting last month. As someone that sees the campus as one of the City's biggest selling points to attracting new businesses and residents to join us here in Kent, I figure a one-quarter of a billion dollar investment is bound to have dramatic impact on how the campus looks — and the better it looks the better Kent looks.

But not to be overlooked is the amount of new tax dollars that \$250 million will bring to the City at time when we could really use a boost. I talked with our engineers to get a feel for how much of the \$250 million is likely going to translate into new payroll. The rule of thumb for construction work is that approximately half of the project costs are in personnel payroll.

Using that logic, then we might anticipate an injection of \$100 to \$125 million in new payroll which at the City's 2% tax rate equates to \$2 to \$2.5 million in new income taxes. Admittedly this new cash will be a one time bump in payroll receipts but \$2.5 million is about 22% of our total income taxes in a given year so that's a big bump even if it is just temporary. If the construction stretches out over the next 5 years we would likely see a \$400,000 to \$500,000 bump in our tax base over the next 5 years if plans proceed as forecasted.

7. Bicentennial Plan, Sustainability Goals Progress Report

I have included a copy of an update from Gary Locke on the City's progress towards the sustainability goals outlined in the Bicentennial Plan. The major changes since last year include: 1) the NSP grant funds for blighted housing; 2) the adoption of a portion of the Exterior Maintenance Code; 3) the adoption of architectural design guidelines for downtown; and 4) progression towards adding a formal design review component to the Zoning Code. (attachment)