

April 27, 2012



Joint Meeting

Council will hold its annual joint meeting with the Franklin Township Trustees.

Community Development Committee

1. Update on the Wells-Sherman House Status

The staff continues to work with members of the community that are seeking a location and funding to relocate the Wells-Sherman house. I've asked for Committee time to update City Council on the status of these efforts.

Administrative Recommendation

Receive the information, discuss and direct staff accordingly.

Council Action

Receive the update and direct staff accordingly.



2. Main Street Kent Update

As you may recall, there has been turnover in the leadership at Main Street Kent so Bridget Susel and I have been working with the volunteer representatives of the organization to close out the Main Street finances for 2011 and establish the level of the City's financial assistance in 2012. We have concluded those housekeeping efforts and it seems an appropriate time to receive an update on the overall status of Main Street programming. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Receive the Main Street Kent update.

Council Action

Discuss and direct staff accordingly.



3. Prospective Kent Veterans Memorial Update

Bryan Smith with PARTA has offered to come to Committee to provide the members of City Council with an update on the status of PARTA's efforts to solicit bids for the design of a new Veterans Memorial to be located at the corner of their new multi-modal property on Erie Street at SR59. PARTA has hired a consultant to help manage the process to be used to solicit design concepts, gather public input, select a final design and construct the Memorial coinciding with the opening of the multi-modal facility in March 2013. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Receive the Memorial update from PARTA.

Council Action

Discuss and direct staff accordingly.





Health and Safety Committee

4. Entertainment District Designation

Dan Smith has requested Committee time to seek Council's authorization to designate portions of the new development in downtown Kent as an entertainment district which will enable the State to issue 4 liquor licenses for the new restaurants in the downtown redevelopment project. The staff has discussed this new designation with the existing bar and restaurant owners in downtown Kent and we are now prepared to move forward with it. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council's authorization to establish the entertainment district as presented.

Council Actions

Authorize the entertainment designation as presented.

Finance Committee

5. Jobs Relocation Incentive Request

Dan Smith has requested Committee time to discuss a request to provide an incentive to return office jobs that had previously operated in Kent, back into Kent. Dan was approached by the CEO of a local organization to see if the City had any financial assistance to offer in order to help bring the jobs back to Kent and Dan has an alternative that he would like to present to Council for consideration.

Administration Recommendation

Dan and I have evaluated a number of options and I think we have an opportunity to support the request so I would recommend that Council receive Dan's report and direct staff accordingly.

Council Actions

Consider the relocation incentive proposal and direct staff accordingly.

6. Haymaker Farmer's Market Grant Support

Bridget Susel has requested Committee time to ask Council to consider authorizing the staff to join in the submission of a collaborative grant proposal with the USDA under the 2012 Farmer's Market Promotion Program (FMPP) in partnership with the Haymaker Farmer's Market, Kent State University and the Ecoponics Group. A small working group, consisting of the grant partners, have spent the last 6 months developing a multi-year strategy to enhance the Haymaker Farmer's Market and expand the local food economy serving Kent residents, institutions, and businesses. The grant application is one of the initial outcomes of this partnership. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The staff and I feel that Kent's location – on the edge of the population centers to the west and the farms to the east – creates a unique strategic advantage to build a strong local food business network that is centered around the Haymaker Farmer's Market. The local foods initiative is also a central theme in Kent's Sustainability Goals and is a core value supported in the Kent community so I would strongly recommend Council's support for the grant application.

Council Actions

Authorize the staff to participate in the submission of the collaborative grant application.



Finance Committee continued

7. 2012 Appropriations Amendment

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.



Information Items

1. May Planning Commission Meeting

Gary Locke has enclosed copies of the Planning Commission agenda and staff report for the May 1st Planning Commission meeting. There is 1 item up for consideration: 1)1524 S. Water Street, Kent Lanes/Penske Truck Rental, conditional zoning certificate and site plan review. (attachment)

2. Income Tax Report

Dave Coffee has provided a summary of income tax collections thru the end of March 2012. Overall the City income tax collections are up 4.29% (\$113,284) from March 2011. Kent State University's collections thru the end of March are down .57% (\$6,347). (attachment)

3. Kent Police Statistics

Chief Lee has provided a copy of the police statistics report for March 2012. In 2012 calls for service are up 5.5% (257 calls); traffic citations are up 4% (36 tickets); accident incidents are down 4% (39 incidents) and serious crimes are up 33% (51 cases, increase mostly in assault cases). (attachment)

4. Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC) and CRA Report

I have attached the 2012 Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) and Tax Incentive Review Council annual meeting summary report from Bridget Susel. There are a total of 14 active projects under each of the programs and the TIRC recommendation is to continue those agreements so no action necessary by City Council at this time. This information was forwarded to the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) on March 30th as required by State law. (attachment)