



Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee

1. AMATS Gas Tax Proposal

As the City's representative to AMATS Gene Roberts reports that AMATS is requesting member jurisdictions to consider supporting a proposal to raise the Federal gas tax. AMATS will be voting on the issue at their September 29th meeting which if passed would be sent with other Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organization resolutions to the Federal representatives that set the gas tax rate. Gene has provided a letter from the AMATS Executive Director summarizing their position. (attachments)

Administrative Recommendation

Raising the gas tax would bring more grant and transportation funds to our region which could benefit City projects but the question is whether the public would accept higher gas prices during these already troubled economic times.

Council Action

Discuss the AMATS proposal and direct staff accordingly.

2. Haymaker's Farmer's Market Request

The Haymaker Farmer's Market was successful in obtaining state grant funds to paint a mural beneath the Haymaker Parkway Bridge adjacent to the area where the Farmer's Market sets up each week. ODOT has authorized the Market to proceed with the painting pending the appropriate approvals of the City of Kent. Jim Bowling reports that in order to proceed the Market must sign a License to Occupy Agreement with the City that details the specific terms for installation and maintenance of the mural and the bridge. (attachments)

Administrative Recommendation

The License to Occupy Agreement satisfies the staff requirements to paint the mural so I recommend Council's support.

Council Action

Authorize staff to enter into the License to Occupy Agreement with the Haymaker Farmer's market.

Health and Safety Committee

3. Street/Sidewalk Vendor Administration

Over the last several months the City has received an increasing number of requests from people interested in setting up street vending sales operations in downtown Kent. There have also been a couple of incidents where vendors have complained about the encroachment of another vendor into their sales area. As a result, Jim Silver has proposed beginning to regulate this segment of the business community. Jim has requested Committee time to begin to discuss the issues pertaining to vendor regulation. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

The staff and I think that this is an important issue that needs a better level of control than currently exists.

Council Action

Receive Jim's report and direct staff accordingly.



Finance Committee

4. Rollover of City Notes

Dave Coffee has reviewed short and long term financing rates and he is recommending the rollover of \$3,820,000 in various purpose notes. The City's financial advisors continue to recommend taking advantage of the short term interest rates by rolling the notes over. Dave also indicates his intention to include an additional \$900,000 in short term debt to be used to support the downtown redevelopment project. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council's authorization of the notes rollover and the borrowing proposed for the downtown project at this time.

Council Actions

Approve the short term notes rollover and additional debt purchase.

5. 2010 Appropriations Amendments

Dave Coffee has been working with the department heads to reconcile the approved 2010 budget line items and he has prepared the necessary appropriations amendments to reflect the changes needed to balance those line items. I would note that the amendments include \$180,000 to demolish the old Hardware Store building (see Jim Bowling's memo). (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council's authorization of the appropriations amendments.

Council Actions

Approve the appropriations amendments as presented.

6. Regional Income Tax Authority (RITA) Update

At Council's request Dave Coffee has provided an analysis of the performance of the RITA contract for the first 18 months of service to the City. Given the timing of the City's contract with RITA we have not yet had a chance to fully implement and realize all of the proposed benefits of RITA's services so it is difficult to provide a thorough evaluation of RITA at this time but Dave Coffee has provided a summary overview. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

The staff is requesting Council's support to continue the service contract with RITA and I support that recommendation.

Council Actions

Receive the staff report and direct staff accordingly.

5. Annual Review of the 5 Year Capital Plan

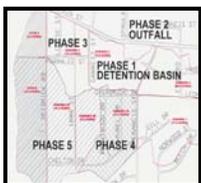
Staff has prepared the draft 2011 Capital Improvement Plan for Council review. The capital plan provides a schedule of projects and financing for 2011 through 2015 based on a prioritization of most critical needs. It is important to remember that the project list is constrained in order to stay within available funding levels. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Review and approve the 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan.

Council Action

Approve the Capital Improvement Plan.



Information Items

1. Income Tax Report

Dave Coffee has provided a summary of income tax collections thru the end of July 2010. Overall the City income tax collections are down \$255,380 (-4%) through the same month last year with Kent State's collections up 4.2% (\$101,263). (attachment)

2. Law Department Monthly Activity Report

Jim Silver has provided a summary of the activities of the Law Department during the month of July 2010. Jim's report notes a half-dozen of cases he and Eric worked on in July, including 79 prosecutions, 4 public meetings, and approximately 12 complaint actions. (attachment)

3. City Code Violation Annual Summary

Working with Community Development staff, Suzanne in the City Manager's Office has compiled a summary of Code Violations noted throughout the City in 2009. This is the 4th year that this information has been assembled and at this point the data reveals some interesting trends that we hope to use to modify our existing programs and better target solutions to specific problem areas. (attachment)

4. NOPEC Natural Gas Prices

I have attached a notice from NOPEC dated August 23rd 2010 that advises of continued favorable pricing for natural gas with NOPEC now having locked in prices for the winter at a 9 year low. (attachment)

5. Purchase of Necessary Equipment

I have included a memo from Chief Peach that explains the need to purchase equipment for the Police Department from a vendor who also happens to be a City employee. Jim Silver has reviewed the situation and he advised the Chief that this purchase is legal providing it is done at arms length and City Council is appropriately informed of the situation. (attachment)

6. Letter to ODOT re: Haymaker Parkway

For your information I have included a copy of a letter that Jim Bowling and I sent to ODOT requesting their consideration to un-designate Haymaker Parkway (from Water Street to Main Street) as a limited access highway. This is a matter that we have been working on with ODOT for the past 12 months which we think is critical to the plans for the extension of the esplanade and the downtown redevelopment project overall. (attachment)

7. New Entrepreneurial Collaborations

I have included in your packet a copy of a memo from Dan Smith that outlines 2 new initiatives that he has been working on with Kent State University and the Kent Regional Business Alliance (KRBA). In both cases Dan has allocated funds from his Economic Development budget (\$5,000 each) as seed money to expand the entrepreneurial resources available in the City of Kent. (attachment)

8. Worker's Compensation Savings

For your information I have included a copy of a memo from Liz Zorc that describes the results of her work with our worker compensation coverage rates. By participating in a group rating the City should be able to save between \$50,000 to \$60,000 in worker's compensation costs in 2011. (attachment)