



Special City Council Meeting Minutes
The City of Kent, Ohio
Wednesday, June 2, 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held virtually using the Zoom platform and livestreamed on the City of Kent YouTube Channel.

At 9:00 p.m., Mayor Jerry T. Fiala called the **Special Meeting of Kent City Council** to order. Roll was taken.

PRESENT: Mr. Jack Amrhein; Mr. Michael DeLeone; Mr. John Kuhar; Ms. Gwen Rosenberg; Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish; Mr. Roger Sidoti; Mr. Robin Turner; Ms. Tracy Wallach

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor and President of Council; Mr. Dave Ruller, City Manager; Ms. Hope Jones, Law Director; Ms. Bridget Susel, Community Development Director; Ms. Melanie Baker, Service Administration Director; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Ms. Rhonda Hall, Budget and Finance Director; Mr. Gary Bishop, IT Manager; Mr. John Tosko, Fire Chief; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Ms. Angela Manley, Parks and Recreation Director; and Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council.

ABSENT: Mr. Garret Ferrara

MOTION TO EXCUSE MR. FERRARA FROM THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING made by Ms. Shaffer Bish, **SECONDED** by Mr. Kuhar and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE DRAFT 2021-051 made by Mr. Sidoti **SECONDED** by Mr. Amrhein and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE DRAFT 2021-052 made by Mr. Kuhar **SECONDED** by Ms. Rosenberg and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 7-1-0 with Ms. Wallach voting "NO".

Draft No. 2021-051 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2020-97, PASSED OCTOBER 7, 2020, WHICH PROHIBITED MASS GATHERINGS OF MORE THAN TEN (10) NON-HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala's request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS made by Mr. Kuhar and **SECONDED** by Mr. DeLeone. On roll call, voting "Yes": Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg. The Motion **CARRIED** by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT No. 2021-051 made by Mr. Kuhar and SECONDED by Mr. DeLeone. On roll call, voting “Yes”: Ms. Shaffer Bish, Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 8-0.

ORDINANCE 2021- 051 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

Draft No. 2021- 052 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2020-62, PASSED JULY 15, 2020, WHICH ORDERED THAT ALL PERSONS IN PUBLIC PLACES WITHIN THE CITY OF KENT WEAR FACIAL COVERINGS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read by title only by Clerk Wilkens per Mayor Fiala’s request.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS made by Mr. Kuhar, SECONDED by Ms. Shaffer Bish. On roll call, voting “Yes”: Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Turner, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish. Voting “No” Ms. Wallach. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-1.

MOTION TO ADOPT DRAFT NO. 2021-052 made by Mr. Kuhar, SECONDED by Ms. Shaffer Bish. On roll call, voting “Yes”: Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Turner, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Shaffer Bish. Voting “No” Ms. Wallach. The Motion CARRIED by a roll call vote of 7-1.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said this will provide further clarification for the citizens of Kent ending some confusion and ensuring people who want to continue to mask can do so. It’s not to say you can’t wear a mask, its to say you don’t have to and that businesses can create their own conditions. We are giving people more freedom which is a good thing at this point in the pandemic.

Mr. Kuhar said he feels that common sense should be the thing that leads you to wear a mask and that healthy people shouldn’t be punished. He added government shouldn’t control health in certain situations.

Ms. Shaffer Bish added she thought that prior to the past couple of days, the mask ordinance was very well adhered to and she is very proud of the citizens who are honoring the safety of themselves and others.

ORDINANCE 2021-052 PASSED as stated by Clerk Wilkens.

MOTION made by Mr. Amrhein to move into Executive Session, in accordance with ORC §121.22 Section G, Item (1): “To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official.” SECONDED by Mr. Kuhar. On roll call voting “Yes”: Mr. Amrhein; Mr. DeLeone; Mr. Kuhar; Ms. Rosenberg; Ms. Shaffer Bish; Mr. Sidoti; Mr. Turner and Ms. Wallach.

MOTION to excuse Mr. Ferrara from the Executive Session made by Mr. Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. Kuhar and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

MOTION made by Mr. Kuhar to return to Special Council Meeting, SECONDED by Ms. Wallach and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:11 P.M.

Amy Wilkens
Clerk of Council

Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council