



City of Kent
Wednesday, January 5, 2022
City Council Committee Meetings
320 S. Depeyster Street, Kent, OH 44240

MINUTES

6:55 P.M. BOARD OF CONTROL

7:00 P.M. Council Committee Meetings

1. Call to Order

At 07:00 PM, Mayor Jerry T. Fiala called the City Council Committee Meetings to order.

2. Committee of the Whole

Present: Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach

Also Present: Mr. Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor and President of Council; Mr. Dave Ruller, City Manager; Ms. Hope Jones, Law Director; Ms. Joan Seidel, Health Commissioner; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Mr. Bill Myers, Fire Chief

Absent: Gwen Rosenberg, Council At Large; Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council

Mayor Fiala opened the Committee of the Whole meeting at 7:00 p.m.

2.1. Boards and Commission Interviews

Mayor Fiala started off by stating there were a couple of applicants present and a couple that were not able to make it due to illness. He said they will be listening to those present as to why they want to be on the board and voting will take place on January 19, 2022.

Kathleen Endres was called to the podium to introduce herself to Council. Ms. Endres stated her name and address for the record. She has been a resident of Kent for twenty years and, prior to that, a resident of Shalersville in the Old Stone House on Infirmary Road. Her family bought the house to restore it which

was a fifteen-year adventure. This illustrates her passion for preservation, but she also wanted to share her academic qualifications for being on the Design and Preservation Committee. She worked with the University of Maryland who developed the earliest techniques for studying CBD. She worked with the City Directories, Census Records to understand the settlement of Cleveland in the 19th Century and to truly understand how women's organizations function. She chartered the residential patterns of women activists in the City of Akron. She is not an architect but brings an appreciation of its role in the history of the city, but also a historian's understanding that many different kinds of people add to a city's life and its history. Their stories and their homes should be preserved as well. She covers the Kent City Council for the League of Women Voters, which helped her realize how important committees like these are. At the last meeting, Heidi Shaffer Bish talked about housing in the city and got her thinking, not only about Kent's mansions but also its bungalows, the great grain silo on N. Water Street and the churches that are still being used and repurposed today. She decided she could add a little something to this committee.

Mayor Fiala asked if there were questions from Council. There were no questions and Mayor Fiala thanked Ms. Endres for her application and that they will vote in two weeks.

Mayor Fiala introduced Alan Orashan next to interview before Council. Mr. Orashan approached the microphone and asked if there was only one vacancy on the committee. Several council members replied there were three.

Mr. Orashan said he thought there was only one vacancy he would defer to the previous applicant, as she seemed to have the passion. Mr. Orashan introduced himself to Council as a previous member of the Architecture Review Board. He is involved with the Main Street Design Committee and their sub committee of preservation and continues his interest in downtown Kent. If he could be helpful he would like to join.

Ms. Shaffer Bish asked Mr. Orashan to list some of his accomplishments in the downtown renovations.

Mr. Orashan said in the past 40 years he has contributed to everything from signage to painting buildings to the design and renovation of various store fronts, such as Ray's Place, and Dominick's.

Ms. Wallach asked if he was involved in the Kent Wells Sherman project. He said "Yes, I was, thank you." It was recently sold and the committee recently met about funds remaining from the sale that will be directed to the Kent Historical Society. The non-profit, Kent Wells-Sherman Inc, is due to be terminated on July 1, 2022.

Mayor Fiala thanked the applicant.

2.2. Organization of Council- 2022 Committee Assignments (Mayor Fiala)

Mayor Fiala stated that, historically, during the organization of council, we go through each committee. He said since there hasn't been a change in councilmembers, he asked if anyone had any objections or preference to vote on the committee structure currently in place.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON APPOINTMENTS AS THEY CURRENTLY EXIST FROM 2020 made by Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Roger Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

2.3. Clerk of Council Performance Review Process Revision (Mayor Fiala)

Mayor Fiala stated that Mr. Turner brought this item forward to be discussed in committee and asked him to provide insight on this item.

Mr. Turner said the issue for him is that a lot of the members of council don't have the opportunity to observe some of the duties listed in the evaluation. The Mayor's position interacts with the clerk on a much more continual basis and the issue is perhaps the Mayor should have a much greater influence. He added he thinks the Mayor is the direct supervisor and that it would be appropriate to redesign the evaluation form and the Mayor has a bigger role in that evaluation.

Mr. DeLeone added at the last meeting he talked with Clerk Wilkens about him, Mayor Fiala and her getting together and discussing the process. A lot of the questions on the evaluations were left empty by Council if they do not observe what she does on a daily basis. Mr. DeLeone said we should sit down and talk to her, and Clerk Wilkens was open to doing that. He added that Mayor Fiala sees her more than Council and she has greater interaction with Mr. Ruller and Ms. Jones and Council see her when needed. He added there are questions in the evaluation that Council does not have the knowledge to answer.

Mayor Flala said part of the reason for the discussion this evening was to get an idea of the direction they would like to take.

Mr. Sidoti said that valid points have been brought up and the issue in his mind is that the Clerk works for City Council but she has administrative duties that go on that are not in their view. She has day to day duties and also Clerk of Council duties while working with them. Mr. Sidoti said a simple fix would be to sit down with the Clerk and determine what are the things they can evaluate the position on. Things such as running meetings, being organized, public feedback. The mayor has day to day observation of the administrative side and then there is Council. His suggestion is to sit down and decide what are the things Council can evaluate, not only the Mayor. Any administrative feedback can be provided to the Mayor.

Mr. Kuhar said he agrees with the comments that have been made and that perhaps there are a couple of categories that can be separated. Organizational skills can be seen by the end result presented to Council. The progression of her education is as simple as just separating the questions we can't answer. The end result is what we are after.

Ms. Shaffer Bish added that at her place of employment she did a self evaluation. This starts the process and is something to respond to. That could be something that could be asked by the Clerk to do and ask what her challenges are, successes, learning, etc. She agrees there are people that have a closer observation. Input from Council is helpful, but she doesn't feel comfortable answering some questions, which is unfair.

Mr. Turner said the math is simply the average. He wants to make it a much more relevant and effective tool. He thinks they should sit down and determine what questions they are able to answer.

Mayor Fiala clarified that council feels uncomfortable filling out the current evaluation form. Mr. Turner said yes, the current form. He thinks elements need to be reorganized and deciding whether some questions are even effective in the evaluation process.

Mayor Fiala said, as elected officials of Kent City Council, there are two employees we are responsible for; one is the City Manager and one is the Clerk. With that said, Mayor Fiala said the Clerk was sending out updates every six weeks to Council and she is very educated on what she needs to do. He added previously there was a subcommittee of Mayor Fiala, Mr. Amrhein, Ms. Rosenberg and Mr. Sidoti, who was responsible for the Clerk. He asked where they wanted to go next with this.

Mr. Sidoti asked if we could set up a time to go line by line over the evaluation form regarding what they feel they are able to evaluate, and then they would have a way. He said perhaps the small committee could get together.

Mr. DeLeone said you can look through how people answered during the most recent evaluation and it will be easy to identify the questions that are more administrative. It shouldn't be that hard to change wording or remove some questions.

Mr. Kuhar said we should label some questions that only the Mayor reviews.

Ms. Shaffer Bish appreciates the updates received from the Clerk but it is a little different than a self evaluation.

Mr. DeLeone said that a self evaluation could also be helpful from the Clerk.

Mayor Fiala asked Council to remember your thoughts and that they will meet again regarding this.

2.4. Pending List Update (Dave Ruller)

Mayor Fiala introduced Mr. Ruller to speak on the Pending List update and he began distributing a copy of the list along with his recommendations. There are

items on the list that were referred to the Administration and items referred to a Council Committee. Typically, the chair of the committee is to weigh in when they are ready to go to Council.

The first item, the study of pedestrian vehicles downtown, remained on the list until the N. Water Street project was finished. He said he knows it is a priority, but technically, the main objective of the motion has been met with many improvements, which included the N. Water Street project. A lot was done with the crossings and ways to improve safety. He recommends removing it from the list, but understands if they want it kept on the list.

Mayor Fiala asked if there is a motion to either keep it on the list or remove it if they feel it is satisfied.

MOTION TO REMOVE FOUR WAY STOP SIGNS/PEDESTRIAN SAFETY FROM PENDING LIST made by John Kuhar, **SECONDED** by Roger Sidoti and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said she could support this but feels there are still a couple areas downtown that are confusing to pedestrians and to those driving, such as at Depeyster and Erie Streets. The point of leaving it on was to evaluate it, but we are always evaluating it. It seems like an appropriate time to take it off and perhaps put it back on at some point if we have better ideas.

Mr. Kuhar joked that his \$50 bucket of white crossing paint was good as far as the government goes and we spent a million dollars and have a safer N. Water Street.

Mr. DeLeon said the only thing he is concerned about is the parking recommendations that came before Council a couple of weeks ago, but he sees they are on tonight's agenda.

Mr. Ruller moved on to the next item on the pending list; Sustainability Commission; Report on Climate Change. Council was just updated by the Sustainability Commission but the Climate Action Plan is still in the works. His recommendation is to retain it on the list until the Action Plan is completed. There was no objection to this and it will be kept on the list.

Mr. Ruller said the Senior Advisory Committee dates back a little to when Melissa Long was on Council. He reminded Council of the meetings with residents in the area. The outstanding piece is a discussion at some point of a Master Plan update with Parks and Recreation which would have some elements of a senior center. He said until that is done, his recommendation would be to keep it on the list until the Master Plan is completed. There was no objection and it will remain on the list.

Mr. Ruller said the next item, Conflict of Interest on Boards and Commissions, was a one person request that was referred to the Law Department and has not been resolved. It will remain on the list and will be addressed this year.

Mr. Ruller said the next item of Unattended Idling Vehicles was left on the pending list last year, and nothing has been accomplished on this item, so it would be up to Council whether they would like to keep it on the list. Ms. Wallach made a motion to remove it from the pending list. There was no second, so the motion died.

Mr. Ruller reminded Council that the next item came about due to a resident wishing the City to sell her a portion of a parcel of land. They reviewed the issue of subdividing the parcel and, instead of selling the parcel, leasing it to a resident. She was not interested in leasing, but the Community Development Director said she could follow up with the residents.

MOTION TO REMOVE LEASING A PARCEL OF LAND TO A RESIDENT FROM THE PENDING LIST made by John Kuhar, **SECONDED** by Roger Sidoti and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

Mr. Ruller said the seventh item on the list has been a topic of conversation as of late. The zoning code has been updated and the next step is a review of the ARB Design Guidelines. A bid has been made and he hopes to award a contract at the end of February. Mr. Ruller recommended keeping this on the list as it is a work in progress.

Next was the noise ordinance review that was brought up due to a resident to resident complaint, which is always tricky. Typically, the request is to tighten up the noise ordinance, but in this case the resident was upset due to being reported on by a neighbor for tuning their guitar and was cited. This was reviewed by the Law Department and said there are no obvious changes that could be made. It is a work in progress and will be looked at this year by the Law Department. There was no objection to keeping it on the pending list.

The next session is the Committee portion of the pending list, with the first item being Senior Housing. At this point, Mr. Ruller said he would remove this item from the pending list.

Mr. Turner said while the focus was on the Intergenerational Village, whether the Senior Housing items were specific to that or a general discussion. Mr. Ruller stated the administration did not understand how it was. The Administration has talked to dozens of senior housing developers who have worked with cities that have more green space and have tried to encourage developers to do a project in Kent. Unless Council has land that can be developed, the market doesn't seem to be there in Kent at this time.

Mr. Turner said he has talked to residents who are very concerned about the lack of available housing. He thinks removing it would take it off the list of priorities. If it can be included in the Senior Advisory Committee, then he is comfortable removing it.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said there seems to be some confusion between Council's

pending list and its priorities. If it is taken off the pending list, it can still remain a priority. She still sees housing as a top priority at this time in the community.

Mr. Sidoti says he understands Mr. Turner's point of view, but says the City's hands are tied if we don't have land to donate to a developer and if we can't give them tax incentives, then that is all we have. He said it is very frustrating that we don't have the power to do certain things, but maybe Ms. Shaffer Bish had a good idea of having a list of our priorities.

MOTION TO REMOVE SENIOR HOUSING FROM THE PENDING LIST made by Mr. Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Mr. Kuhar and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

The next item is the Sidewalk Upkeep Discussion, which is another item that is on the list of the City's priorities that Council can review.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said we did come up and discuss items listed but we have a program in place. It can be brought back if it needs to. It is a priority but there is no current action needed other than maintaining the program.

Mr. DeLeone said the Engineering Department is doing a good job with making this a priority and it should be removed from the list.

Mr. Sidoti agrees with Mr. DeLeone and added that pre-pandemic we were moving excess dollars into sidewalks on a regular basis. He mentioned Mr. Bowling said he needs \$12 million to replace every sidewalk in the community and if he hits the lottery he would write Mr. Bowling a check.

MOTION TO REMOVE SENIOR HOUSING FROM THE PENDING LIST made by Roger Sidoti, SECONDED by Garret Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

The next item of Developing Parameters for Low Frequency Noises was brought forward by a resident in Ms. Wallach's ward. The administration attempted to work on this and was unable to get any information on it. It would be up to Council if they wish to keep it on the list. Ms. Wallach said she would like to keep it on the list, as she has received more complaints, most recently from a hot tub motor.

Mr. Sidoti asked if it could be combined with the noise ordinance work Ms. Jones would be working on. They are both a nuisance.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said she would support combining them but does not want to get rid of it. Ms. Wallach said it could be put into the noise ordinance, but the frequencies are different.

Mr. Turner asked if we even have the authority to enforce it or to establish the frequency that is permitted. He asked if the State of Ohio would do this.

Mr. Sidoti said we were talking about apples and oranges. He said decibels is the loudness and megahertz is the frequency. Loudness is what our ordinance addresses and if it disturbs the neighbors. Low frequency humming could be loud or soft. He said maybe combine them and write them in such a way to address both issues.

Mr. Kuhar agreed with Mr. Sidoti. He said there is a federal organization that controls this and there are already laws in effect.

Mr. Turner asked if this would be considered a health issue handled by the Health Department. Mayor Fiala said generally it would go to the Police Department. Mr. Turner said this is different, and the megahertz could cause a health hazard.

Ms. Wallach said since there is such a discussion on this, it should remain on the list.

Mr. Ruller addressed the Feral Cat issue on the pending list and said it is generally handled between the Police, Community Development and the Law Department. He said in discussions with other City managers it is a common problem.

Mr. Ferrara said this is typically a case by case basis between neighbors and if there isn't going to be a policy that solves the problem, he thinks it should be removed.

Ms. Shaffer Bish asked if there is a law that states you are not allowed to feed feral cats. Mr. Nick Shearer said if the person is taking responsibility for the cat by feeding it, you are accepting ownership. The issue is definitively proving the person is feeding it and catching them in the act.

MOTION TO REMOVE FERAL CAT DISCUSSION FROM THE PENDING LIST made by Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Mike DeLeone and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

The next item- Addressing Racism and Diversity in Kent-is on the agenda for next month, so it should remain on the list.

The next item of the City Flag was requested to be discussed by Council. Mayor Fiala said he got a few emails but can keep it on the list. He would like to see a new City flag created by the time we have a new City Hall.

Mr. Ferrara said Council wanted more resident input and they received none, so he moved to accept the one that was presented. There was no second to this motion.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said we need to do more of a campaign regarding the flag design and provide opportunities for the public to comment on it. The public didn't know we were in a comment period on the flag. She asked to put

something in the Tree City Bulletin and thinks we should keep it on.

Mr. DeLeone said he thinks they all agree we need a new city flag and the one presented wasn't bad, it just needed tweaking. Mayor Fiala said he tried going through the schools and that didn't work out and so he put a committee together to make a design. It was brought to Council who said they wanted more public input.

Mr. Kuhar asked if we could put an article in the Record Courier to get input.

Mr. Ferrara said for the sake of action to bring the design that was presented to committee and it could be voted up or down.

MOTION TO SEND TO COMMITTEE THE FLAG DESIGN THAT WAS PRESENTED made by Garret Ferrara, **SECONDED** by Jack Amrhein and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

The next item on the pending list was the City Clerk Review Process, which was completed and can be removed from the list.

That concluded the Committee of the Whole meeting at 8:02 p.m.

3. Health and Public Safety

Present: Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach

Also Present: Mr. Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor and President of Council; Mr. Dave Ruller, City Manager; Ms. Hope Jones, Law Director; Ms. Joan Seidel, Health Commissioner; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Mr. Bill Myers, Fire Chief

Absent: Gwen Rosenberg, Council At Large; Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council

Chair Amrhein opened the Health and Public Safety Committee Meeting at 8:02, with the first item on the agenda being the Certification of the Petition for the Sensible Kent Ballot Initiative.

3.1. Certification of the Petition for the Sensible Kent Ballot Initiative (Hope Jones)

Ms. Hope Jones began by explaining there was a petition circulated to add a section to Kent's codified ordinances making the possession of marijuana of less than ten grams have no fines or court costs. She added Council could either direct the Law Director and City Manager to put it on the next agenda and vote on it, or, you could send it to the voters to see if they would like to have this law exist in the City of Kent. It is her understanding that two other communities in

Portage County have these laws. Her recommendation to Council is to send it to the voters.

Ms. Tracy Wallach asked if it would go on the November ballot. Ms. Hope Jones said it would. Mr. Ruller added he thought the objective of putting it on the January Committee schedule could go to the ballot in May. Ms. Wallach asked if it could be left until November and Ms. Jones replied, "as long as it's within the year" we could.

MOTION TO SEND TO THE VOTERS THE SENSIBLE KENT BALLOT INITIATIVE IN NOVEMBER made by Tracy Wallach, **SECONDED** by Heidi Shaffer Bish and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

Ms. Tracy Wallach added in her comments that she thinks it is a good way to get young people to vote.

There were no other comments from Council or from the public.

3.2. Food Truck Permit Process (Hope Jones)

Ms. Hope Jones said the administration has been working on this for many months, with the Health Department, Law Department, City Manager and Community Development working on this ordinance. It is being proposed that any mobile food unit that serves food has to get a permit in the city. They are not allowed to operate on residential property, but any other property located in the city would be allowed. Residents and businesses that have one-time food tables would be exempt from this, as we don't want to interfere with private parties. The Health Department and Fire Department would do the inspection and they would have to comply with the Ohio Fire Code, the Ohio Health Code and any City ordinances. There would be a list of items that would need to be inspected and have proof of insurance. There would be a \$50 inspection fee and if it passes they would be provided a permit they would have to post on their vehicles. Each permit would be good for two months. There is a non-compete section and should not be set up fifty feet from a business that sells food, except during a City authorized event. No food truck can go into a park unless approved by Parks and Rec. They can only operate and park for eight hours and should be exempt during special events.

Ms. Jones continued by stating that mobile food trucks are going to be prohibited from selling alcoholic beverages but she is not aware of any special events where you could get food and alcohol. They should be exempt as well. She reviewed several exemptions that were included in the document.

Mr. Kuhar asked when people have pig roasts with beer trucks how this would be handled. Ms. Hope Jones said if it was on private property, it wouldn't apply. She added beer trucks do not fall under this permitting process.

Mr. DeLeone asked about ice cream trucks. Ms. Hope Jones said they go through a licensing process, but Ms. Jones said she would double check on this.

Mr. Sidoti asked if this process is one that is similar in other communities, so you are aware of the issues. Ms. Jones said there is a section in Kent's code on solicitation where the city sets aside areas downtown, but it was weak.

Ms. Shaffer Bish asked about the Farmer's Market and how that would be handled. Ms. Jones said the Farmer's Market would have to make sure the food trucks are compliant with the ordinance. Ms. Shaffer Bish asked about getting the owner's permission, and the market leases the land. Ms. Jones said she could change it to say "owner/occupant". She said the ordinance does not allow food trucks to be in the public right of way, unless it's a special event.

Mayor Fiala asked if someone had a block party and a road closure if they could have a food truck on the road. Mr. Ruller replied there is an exemption for a one-day event.

Mr. Turner asked if someone started renting space on a business property that is in the area of other businesses that sell food, if it is the actual building or the entrance where they get into the non-compete. Ms. Jones said it was the entrance. Mr. Turner said there is a situation on Water Street where a food truck is near a business permanently. Ms. Jones said it does not include the apron going up to the business, but the doorway going into the business. There needs to be at least fifty feet between the two.

An unidentified member of the audience came to the microphone and said that Bottles 101 has a food truck and there are food establishments to the right and left of it that are not fifty feet away. Mr. DeLeone asked if it would be exempt because it would be private property. Mr. Ruller said the audience member was right, as this is a plaza situation. Ms. Jones said they wanted the brick and mortar businesses, who pay higher rent, to not be impacted by food trucks and if they feel it could be an issue, she could add that if they get the business to sign off on that, it would be permitted.

Mr. Ruller said that Franklin Square Deli came in in the past and was very concerned it would impact his business, and that was where the idea came from. Mr. Ruller said if changes need to be made, it can be modified.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said she likes the idea of the sign off. It gives them the opportunity to make the choice.

Mr. Sidoti asked if Ms. Jones would be providing the new ordinance with all of the changes before a vote is made. She replied she absolutely would, and if they do get the revisions and don't like what they see, it could be brought back to committee in February.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOOD TRUCK APPROVAL PROCESS made by John Kuhar, **SECONDED** by Michael DeLeone and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

There were no further items on the agenda for this committee. It adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

4. Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee

Present: Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach

Also Present: Mr. Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor and President of Council; Mr. Dave Ruller, City Manager; Ms. Hope Jones, Law Director; Ms. Joan Seidel, Health Commissioner; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Mr. Bill Myers, Fire Chief

Absent: Gwen Rosenberg, Council At Large; Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council

Chair Sidoti opened the Streets, Sidewalks and Utilities Committee at 8:25 p.m., mentioning that the first presenter, Mr. Jim Bowling was not in attendance this evening.

4.1. East Main Street Project - Public Meeting Update (Jim Bowling)

Mr. Ruller stated the Mr. Bowling respectfully asked to delay tonight's topic as it was not time sensitive and he is dealing with Covid.

4.2. N. Water Street TES Parking Recommendation (Jim Bowling)

Mr. Ruller said there was an internal meeting with the Chief of Police, City Manager and Community Development Director, where they discussed that when this was first changed, the residents were offered the ability to park on Portage Street. They could park overnight and have ten hours of parking during the day. At that time, they said they would just like to park on N. Water Street and move their cars. They are now saying that moving their car every two hours is getting tiresome. The recommendation is to revert to what was offered to them in the beginning. They are offered to park on the street on Portage and not be ticketed. He said this was a fair compromise.

There were no questions from Council or the audience.

MOTION TO APPROVE N. Water Street TES Parking Recommendation made by Heidi Shaffer Bish, SECONDED by Garret Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-1 with Mr. Kuhar abstaining.

Ms. Shaffer Bish thanked the staff for the work that was done on this and thinks it was a fair compromise.

Mr. Ferrara said this is another issue of the city being asked to come between neighbors and, in this case, it is landlord and tenants. He thinks it is the responsibility of the landlord to communicate to its tenants what the parking situation is and also the responsibility of the tenant to know. This is more than accommodating. If we allow street parking in front of every rental property, it would be a dangerous slippery slope in the city.

Ms. Hope Jones said that due to Mr. Kuhar being the property owner, he is not able to speak on this topic.

The Streets, Sidewalks and Utilities Committee adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

5. Finance Committee

Present: Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach

Also Present: Mr. Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor and President of Council; Mr. Dave Ruller, City Manager; Ms. Hope Jones, Law Director; Ms. Joan Seidel, Health Commissioner; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Mr. Bill Myers, Fire Chief

Absent: Gwen Rosenberg, Council At Large; Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council

Chair DeLeone opened the Finance Committee meeting at 8:30 p.m. and introduced the one item on the agenda.

5.1. Franklin Fire Service Contract Update (Hope Jones, Chief Myers, Rhonda Hall)

Mr. Ruller introduced Fire Chief, Bill Myers to speak on the Franklin Fire Service Contract, that is brought before Council on a routine basis. He added there were enough material changes in the contract to warrant a short discussion. This new contract updates the rates which have been being discussed for the past two years.

Chief Myers said this had started with Chief Tosko and he appreciated all of his efforts. He is glad to provide services to the Franklin Twp community. The contract looks at incidences over the past seven years and averages the responses, instead of just the previous year. Another item is going from \$35 to \$40 per incident in the maximum increase. The City will notify the Twp. of the changes on March 1st instead of February 1st and will inherit the Township equipment and we will take care of the maintenance. The Township will refurbish the med unit with CARES Act funding, which is well needed. The last item is that the City is going to report on its runs ever 120 days instead of every 30 days.

Mayor Fiala asked about the equipment we are taking ownership of and who would replace it when needed. Chief Myers said Kent would be responsible for that. When the rate is determined, it is part of this process.

Mr. Ruller added that we are looking to build some of the replacement value into their annual fee. He asked what the current rate per run was and Chief Myers replied " \$1433".

Mayor Fiala asked about the ladder truck and if it is financed by Kent State and if that would change. Mr. Ruller said there would be further discussion with both Franklin Twp. and Kent State on this topic.

There were no questions from the audience and no further questions from Council.

MOTION TO APPROVE Franklin Fire Service Contract made by Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Jack Amrhein and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

The Finance Committee adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

6. Executive Session

Present: Jack Amrhein, Michael DeLeone, Garret Ferrara, John Kuhar, Heidi Shaffer Bish, Roger Sidoti, Robin Turner, Tracy Wallach

Absent: Gwen Rosenberg, Council At Large

MOTION TO Enter Executive Session made by Jack Amrhein, SECONDED by Garret Ferrara and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0-0.

6.1. Board & Commission Appointments

6.2. Employee Evaluations

7. Adjourn

City Council returned to the meeting from the Executive Session at 8:54 p.m.

MOTION TO APPROVE A 5% RAISE FOR THE CITY MANAGER WITH A 2% BONUS EFFECTIVE JUNE 15, 2021 made by Garret Ferrara, SECONDED by Roger Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-1-0, with Mr. Kuhar voting 'No'.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Amy Wilkens

Amy Wilkens
Clerk of Council

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City Council Committee
Meetings
January 5, 2022