

**THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO  
PUBLIC HEARING- Annual Tax Budget  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2020**

At 6:50 p.m., Mayor Jerry T. Fiala called the *Public Hearing to allow for public comment and questions regarding the City of Kent's Annual Tax Budget for the fiscal year December 31, 2021* to order. Roll call was taken.

**PRESENT:** Mr. Jack Amrhein; Mr. Michael DeLeone; Mr. Garret Ferrara; Mr. John Kuhar; Ms. Gwen Rosenberg; Ms. Heidi Shaffer; Mr. Roger Sidoti; Mr. Robin Turner, and 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; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Ms. Rhonda Hall, Budget and Finance Director; Ms. Melanie Baker, Service Administration Director; Mr. Gary Bishop, IT Manager; Ms. Joan Seidel, Health Commissioner; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Mr. Michael Lewis, Lieutenant; Mr. John Tosko, Fire Chief ;and Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council.

*On June 21, 2020 notice was given that the Kent City Council was conducting a Public Hearing to allow for public comment and questions regarding the City of Kent's Annual Tax Budget for the fiscal year December 31, 2021*

Ms. Rhonda Hall, Budget and Finance Director, introduced the hearing to allow the public to comment on the proposed Tax Budget.

Mayor Fiala asked for comments from the public and Clerk Wilkens stated that no one is present or submitted comments.

Hearing no further business, Mayor Fiala adjourned the Public Hearing at meeting at 6:53 p.m.

  
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Amy Wilkens  
Clerk of Council

  
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Jerry T. Fiala  
Mayor and President of Council

**THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO  
PUBLIC HEARING- CHIP Grant Allocation  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2020**

AT 7:00 p.m., Mayor Jerry Fiala called the Second *Public Hearing to allow for comment on the proposed amendment to the City's 2019 Community Housing Impact and Preservation (CHIP) grant allocation to allow for Emergency Housing Assistance in response to the COVID-19* to order. Roll call was taken.

**PRESENT:** Mr. Jack Amrhein; Mr. Michael DeLeone; Mr. Garret Ferrara; Mr. John Kuhar; Ms. Gwen Rosenberg; Ms. Heidi Shaffer; Mr. Roger Sidoti; Mr. Robin Turner, and 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; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Ms. Rhonda Hall, Budget and Finance Director; Ms. Melanie Baker, Service Administration Director; Mr. Gary Bishop, IT Manager; Ms. Joan Seidel, Health Commissioner; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Mr. Michael Lewis, Lieutenant; Mr. John Tosko, Fire Chief ;and Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council.

*On June 22, 2020 notice was given that the Kent City Council was conducting a Second Public Hearing to allow for comment on the proposed amendment to the City's 2019 Community Housing Impact and Preservation (CHIP) grant allocation to allow for Emergency Housing Assistance in response to the COVID-19.*

Ms. Bridget Susel, Community Development Director, introduced the hearing to allow the public to comment on the proposed CHIP grant allocation.

Mayor Fiala asked for comments from the audience and asked Clerk Wilkens if any public comment had been submitted.

Clerk Wilkens replied there were no public present or comments submitted.

Hearing no further business, Mayor Fiala adjourned the Public Hearing at meeting at 7:02 p.m.



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Amy Wilkens  
Clerk of Council



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Jerry T. Fiala  
Mayor and President of Council



**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**  
The City of Kent, Ohio  
Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Mayor Fiala called the Committee of the Whole of Kent City Council to order at 7:03 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mr. Jack Amrhein; Mr. Michael DeLeone; Mr. Garret Ferrara; Mr. John Kuhar; Ms. Gwen Rosenberg; Ms. Heidi Shaffer; Mr. Roger Sidoti; Mr. Robin Turner, and 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; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Ms. Rhonda Hall, Budget and Finance Director; Ms. Melanie Baker, Service Administration Director; Mr. Gary Bishop, IT Manager; Ms. Joan Seidel, Health Commissioner; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Mr. Michael Lewis, Lieutenant; Mr. John Tosko, Fire Chief ;and Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council.

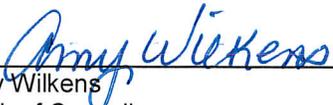
There was one (1) item on the Agenda.

1. Codified Ordinance Book Update

Ms. Hope Jones began by explaining that every year, the code book publisher Walter Drane (now American Legal) puts together a set of replacement pages to put in the Codified Ordinance books. State Law and the Ohio Constitution requires that when certain traffic and criminal laws are changed at the State level, they must be amended at the local level. This ordinance proposes to change six traffic ordinances and five criminal code sections.

**A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPLACEMENT CODIFIED ORDINANCES** was made by Mr. Kuhar **SECONDED** by Ms. Rosenberg and **CARRIED** by a vote of 9-0, with all Council members voting in favor.

Seeing no further business or questions for this committee, it adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

  
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Amy Wilkens  
Clerk of Council

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) Authorize the proposed updates of the City Ordinance pages.



## Public Health & Safety Meeting Minutes

The City of Kent, Ohio  
Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Mr. Amrhein called the Public Health and Safety Meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mr. Jack Amrhein; Mr. Michael DeLeone; Mr. Garret Ferrara; Mr. John Kuhar; Ms. Gwen Rosenberg; Ms. Heidi Shaffer; Mr. Roger Sidoti; Mr. Robin Turner, and 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; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Ms. Rhonda Hall, Budget and Finance Director; Ms. Melanie Baker, Service Administration Director; Mr. Gary Bishop, IT Manager; Ms. Joan Seidel, Health Commissioner; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Mr. Michael Lewis, Lieutenant; Mr. John Tosko, Fire Chief ;and Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council.

There was one (1) item on the agenda:

### 1. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Police Reporting Discussion

Mr. Ruller stated that Council referred this item into committee and would like to give an overview of standards laid out a number of years ago with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Report. **(Attachment #1)** This is a timely topic, even with Governor DeWine having new things coming out of his office. The good news is this is a topic Ohio has been dealing with and Kent has done its best to stay current on. Kent is proud of its success but always knows it can do better. There are so many conversations going on nationally right now so it is a good time to show what the local police are doing. Kent has a brand-new chief, Chief Shearer and along with Lieutenant Lewis are here to highlight what they do with their small staff. Chief Lee has made great progress with Community Policing and connecting with residents. The community is a really important piece of this and they are hoping to continue the engagement with Council and with the community and provide for public safety.

Chief Shearer opened by saying he and Lieutenant Mike Lewis were here to talk about some of the measures taken within the department to address issues related to the report of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing. President Obama created a task force to investigate police tactics and released a final report. This report identified six pillars to go by within their framework: building trust and legitimacy, policy and oversight, technology and social media, community policing and crime reduction, training and education and officer wellness and safety. The report has 28 recommendations for local police to follow and of all of the 28 recommendations, there are three they are not in compliance with: 1) gaging public trust 2) having a diverse police force and 3) Civilian oversight. Kent has one non-white officer out of forty-one sworn officers. The department has sixty-five total employees, and there are three non-white employees for a total of 3% of workforce being non-white. The community is about 20% non-white. He added that although they are not achieving that, they have undertaken a lot of measures to try to improve. It is something that they have been frustrated with City wide about the lack of diversity in the workforce. Things they have done to address this have been heavy recruiting efforts with Kent State, Akron, Tri-C, Youngstown State and Police academies.

Ms. Wallach asked what the diversity population is like at the local universities they are recruiting from and if there is a good pool of recruits.

Chief Shearer said they have seen a decent amount of diverse audiences from their recruiting. They have gone into classrooms at Kent State University and the police academy at the University of Akron,

with more interaction at Kent State because of its location. They have seen an uptick in the diversity in the testing stage, with a 10 % non-white diversity rate in applicants.

Ms. Wallach asked if the applicants are not testing high enough.

Chief Shearer said it is a mixture of things. They certainly do not want to jeopardize hiring practices as they have very high standards. Part of it is due to being bound by Civil Service law and sometimes the background investigation process has bumped some people out as well.

Ms. Wallach asked if now would be the time to discuss suggestions or if it should be done at the Council Meeting. She has a suggestion she would like to share with the Police Department to increase its diversity.

Mr. Amrhein suggested to propose these at the next Council meeting and to let Chief Shearer continue with his presentation.

Mr. Turner asked if the issue is simply a numbers game and asked if they could look at what other communities are doing that are successful with minority recruiting. He added there is also a dearth of minority employees throughout the City and should be focused on.

Chief Shearer said he appreciates the feedback as they are very open for suggestions and for community leaders to provide guidance and support.

Mr. Ferrara asked what percentage of females make up the police force.

Chief Shearer said there are currently six female employees out of 41 officers, at about 14.5 % females. There are thirteen employees working in dispatch, with only two males in that area.

Mr. Ferrara asked in terms of other police, how many officers are female.

Chief Shearer said if he had to guess, about 10 % of police officers overall are female but did not have any exact figures.

Chief Shearer continued by reviewing the last item- civilian oversight. The Police Department has a very strict policy on personnel complaints and a procedure that is followed. They are often asked how rigorously the police are investigated, adding that they believe in transparency. They will take any complaint that comes in any fashion and investigate it rigorously. They provide written feedback in result of the investigation to the person making the complaint. These files are reviewed by multiple people before coming to a final conclusion. Even though there is not a civilian response oversight committee, he feels they do a good job internally with dealing with these issues.

Mr. Kuhar asked about complaints and if an inquiry about something going on is considered a complaint or does it have to be something that is formally written.

Chief Shearer replied that it does not have to be formally written. When he says complaint, he is referring to officer conduct. No matter how it comes in it is investigated. It depends on the nature of the complaint and the resources available to look into it. If a formal complaint is given, then a formal, written response is given.

Ms. Wallach asked about officers in the news and the officers that were involved had many complaints filed against them and she would like to know what Kent's Police Department does if there is an officer that has multiple complaints.

Chief Shearer said they keep track of how many complaints a police officer has and the most important factor is if there is similar conduct related in the complaints. If there is similar conduct on multiple complaints on one officer, it's time to look more closely. The first thing looked at is to see if it is a pattern and if there are any training opportunities to correct this behavior. They will not allow inappropriate or disrespectful behavior to continue. The first step is to see if there is a pattern and seek training to try to correct.

Ms. Wallach asked what happens if the behavior is not corrected.

Chief Shearer stated they follow a progressive discipline system which is spelled out in their policies. After providing some type of remedial training and if it is not effective, and then move forward into the progressive discipline process. The seriousness of the accusation of the officer's conduct can put them into the system at different places with some conduct being subject to termination on the first offense.

Mr. Sidoti asked about Union contracts and if the City has a great working relationship between the police administration and police officers and if that helps.

Chief Shearer said absolutely. He takes a lot of pride in working with the Union and issues that need to be discussed. He tries to be very open and transparent inside and outside of the department.

Ms. Shaffer stated there is an issue of officer misconduct and then the issue of an officer acting within a policy that may not be working very well. Some complaints she has heard over the years were met with a response of "they were following policy". She asked if the Police Department has a systematic structure of looking at policy and changing it if it no longer works, or is it something that happens when the City gets a new Chief.

Chief Shearer said it is something that is looked at regularly and is spelled out in their policy that it is the Chief's responsibility. Chief Lee did a very, very good job of reviewing policies and updating them. Since taking the position three weeks ago, he has updated three policies.

Lieutenant Lewis stated that when looking at complaints against officers, they are evaluating if they conformed to policy and procedures and within the ninety rules of conduct. When investigating an officer complaint, it's not just necessarily if they are acting within policy, but it's also if they are performing and acting with appropriate rules of conduct. They are not entirely protected by policy and he does not want people to think that is some type of shield that will protect officers that are being rude, discourteous or acting in a manner not representing the police department well. Looking at the number of complaints received against police officers, it's important to note that some officers who are the most active in enforcement are going to get more complaints than the officer that's not pulling their load. They do not want to get into a situation where a police officer is hands off to avoid complaints. It is not purely numbers driven and the behavior of the officer is looked at.

Ms. Shaffer said there could be a policy that is no longer suitable and she would like to know the formal process where if citizen complaints coming in are policy related, how the policy will be looked at and revised. She is aware the Kent Police do not use choke holds, for instance and about other egregious policies people complain about.

Chief Shearer said whenever they get a complaint, part of the investigation is whether the policies related to the investigation are relevant and is part of the final findings. Additionally, it is the Chief's job to constantly review and update policies on a regular basis.

Mr. Kuhar asked how the Chief feels about the proposal Governor DeWine made in regards to licensing police officers similar to driver's licenses and a point structure.

Chief Shearer replied that to an extent, some of the measures proposed by the Governor, they have to wait and see what is being proposed. He would like to see what these ideas look like in practice and the measures of the licensing and what would cause a sanction and what wouldn't.

Mr. Kuhar said with the real estate licensing, if there are complaints, it is looked at by a board and if there is disciplinary action they are dealt with.

Chief Shearer continued discussing the police reform measures from Governor DeWine. They are broken down by things handled at the local level and things dealt with at the State level. The State is agreeing to fund six hours of training on three different topics: use of force, implicit bias and de-escalation.

Ms. Wallach asked if the training is ongoing every year or if it is a one and done type of thing.

Chief Shearer said some of it is done every year and some is done relatively continuously. The use of force policy requires that they train and test all officers on this topic every year. The topic of implicit bias was trained on in 2016. De-escalation has fifteen officers trained and Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) certified who specialize in mental illness and de-escalation. Upcoming training will be held this year for de-escalation in related to mental illness.

Ms. Wallach asked if increasing training from once a year to twice a year would be beneficial.

Chief Shearer said that was a good question that would require more thought. He does not think a reminder about use of force, racial profiling and de-escalation would hurt. Police officers have approximately a month of training over the course of their careers, and compared to mental health counselors and the amount of training they have, the police are not as equipped to deal with these issues. The police are willing to do whatever they can to help, but more training would be extremely beneficial in some of these areas.

Ms. Wallach asked about teaming up with people who are experienced in those matters, and not always immediately referring to police.

Chief Shearer said he could touch on this topic but it would require a much longer discussion. He thinks a team approach is possible and reasonable as long as everyone is on board and trains together and knows how everyone is going to respond and react. Simply referring some instances over to a mental health approach could be difficult from a safety standpoint and that there would need to be a lot of conversations and planning involved.

Mr. Ruller said that even though Kent is a relatively small department, there are counseling resources that a lot of other departments wouldn't have. It is impressive to have this recognition of need and having a staff person devoted to counseling. Mental health services have seen a decrease in funding which has affected services available. There are multiple crisis occurring at this time (opioid, meth, mental health, homelessness) and people may fall through the cracks. At the bottom of those cracks is the police officer who is tasked with challenges that are far bigger than public safety and that is why there is so much distress and they are being asked to solve issues that are way beyond both their training and capability. It is a really complex problem and cautions it is a long process and they are in it for the long haul. We are surrounded by epidemics and pandemics right now.

Chief Shearer said Governor DeWine has asked the General Assembly to pass a law that police departments are not allowed to investigate their own fatal uses of force. Kent has had two fatal uses of force in his career in Kent and they were both investigated independently outside of the department.

He continued with the Governor's report which asks for the banning of choke holds. These are banned in the City of Kent.

Lieutenant Lewis is proud to say they are following so many of these which is tremendous. Understanding that, they know they can always improve and are always looking for ways to improve. They welcome recommendations and suggestions from the public, looking at other police departments and examining their policies. It is such a complicated issue of police training and policies and is so different all over the State of Ohio. The variation is wide even within the state. He read an article recently that pointed out the number hours of training and that police require less hours of training for certification than barbers. Police are required just over 700 hours of training where barbers need 1500 hours. In the City of Kent, training does not stop when leave the police academy. When officers are onboarded, they are then required to go through an in-house training program which lasts for six months or longer. Training dollars and training time is very limited and if everything is a priority then nothing is a priority so it's always a challenge each year what to focus on.

Ms. Shaffer asked Lieutenant Lewis to talk about body camera usage as she has gotten a lot of requests from the public on this topic.

Lieutenant Lewis said this topic is definitely not a quick conversation. The Police Department started looking at body cameras in 2015. He did research and presented his findings around the City, seeking input and feedback from residents. He presented all of the facts, the good and the bad, to the Rotary, the Lion's Club, the Kent Area Chamber of Commerce and a number of other places. He asked residents if they believed they are necessary. Ultimately Kent is not paying for them, it's tax dollars. A lot of research is saying they do not have the impact that was hoped for. A study was done in Washington D.C. where 2600 police officers were equipped with body cameras and showed almost no effect on complaints against officers or the number of use of force incidences. That information needs to be reviewed before the Police Force makes a substantial investment in cameras. He added they welcome the use of body cameras and they always conduct themselves as though they are being recorded because a lot of times they are.

Mr. DeLeone asked if they have cameras in every cruiser that tape almost everything already.

Lieutenant Lewis responded the policy on cruiser cameras has become more stringent, now officers wear a microphone that is always with them to record incidents that happen outside of the camera view as best they can.

Chief Shearer said the last topic for the night is the Ohio Collaborative. This came out in 2015 by Governor Kasich task force of twenty-four members looking at relevant police reform. From that task force, a set of nine standards related to policy, training, oversight of police reform in community engagement, investigating misconduct, bias free policing, dispatch training standards, body camera standard compliance, use of force, recruiting and hiring and a pursuit policy. Kent is 100% in compliance with these standards.

Chief Shearer encouraged all to reach out to him for further discussion.

Ms. Wallach added that over the years, she has really noticed a change in culture. At first when she called an investigator in to investigate something, she was treated as a criminal herself (this was before Chief Lee). If there is a traffic stop in her Ward, she goes over to make sure everything is ok and the officers have always been courteous and respectful to the people they are working with.

Mayor Fiala said for the past five years Lieutenant Lewis offers a civilian police academy which he brings up at every Council meeting asking each to attend to know what the police department is doing.

Hearing no further business before this Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

  
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Amy Wilkens  
Clerk of Council

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) None



## Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Meeting Minutes

The City of Kent, Ohio  
Wednesday, July 1, 2020

**PRESENT:** Mr. Jack Amrhein; Mr. Michael DeLeone; Mr. Garret Ferrara; Mr. John Kuhar; Ms. Gwen Rosenberg; Ms. Heidi Shaffer; Mr. Roger Sidoti; Mr. Robin Turner and 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; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Ms. Rhonda Hall, Budget and Finance Director; Ms. Melanie Baker, Service Administration Director; Mr. Gary Bishop, IT Manager; Ms. Joan Seidel, Health Commissioner; Mr. Tom Wilke, Economic Development Director; and Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council.

Mr. Roger Sidoti called the Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee of Kent City Council to order at 7:10 p.m.

There was one (1) item on the Agenda:

### 1. Consideration of a Water Service Extension Request

Mr. Ruller prefaced Mr. Bowling's introduction by explaining that Jim (Bowling), Melanie (Baker) and Rhonda (Hall) are asking for approval for water service around Meloy Road and St. Rt. 43. The City would like to be able to expand development in this area and this extension would help with this.  
**(Attachment #1)**

Mr. Bowling said a developer came in 2018 to discuss details in this location. There is a twelve-inch water line that ends at the site and they have requested Kent to service their water. Per the JEDD agreement The City of Kent is required to provide utilities to anyone along this border. The developer is going to build on the northern end but at the south end there are issues with sanitary sewer and other issues that prevent expansion down that side of the road. Mr. Bowling added that instead of mandating the developer build a line that the City assess them the cost of building the line.

Ms. Shaffer asked if the nursing home operator will be joining the JEDD.

Jim Bowling said they would be joining the JEDD.

Mr. Kuhar asked if the water stub is on the south side of (Rt.) 261.

Mr. Bowling said yes, the water stub is on the south side of Meloy Road.

Mr. Kuhar asked if there would be any cost for the City.

Mr. Bowling said the cost would all be on the developer.

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE A WATER LINE EXTENSION ALONG SR 43 TO MELOY ROAD WITH AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE** made by Ms. Shaffer, *SECONDED* by Ms. Rosenberg and *CARRIED* by a voice vote of 9-0.

Ms. Shaffer said this is a win-win and would like this to start a domino effect as these properties have been for sale for a long time.

Hearing no further business before this Committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

*Amy Wilkens*

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Amy Wilkens  
Clerk of Council

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) **Authorize the requested waterline extension along SR 43 to Meloy Road.**



**Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**  
The City of Kent, Ohio  
Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Chair DeLeone called the Finance Committee of Kent City Council to order at 8:02 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mr. Jack Amrhein; Mr. Michael DeLeone; Mr. Garret Ferrara; Mr. John Kuhar; Ms. Gwen Rosenberg; Ms. Heidi Shaffer; Mr. Roger Sidoti; Mr. Robin Turner, and 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; Mr. Jim Bowling, City Engineer; Ms. Rhonda Hall, Budget and Finance Director; Ms. Melanie Baker, Service Administration Director; Mr. Gary Bishop, IT Manager; Ms. Joan Seidel, Health Commissioner; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Mr. Michael Lewis, Lieutenant; Mr. John Tosko, Fire Chief ;and Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council.

There were five (5) items on the Agenda.

1. Proposed 2021 Tax Budget

Mr. Ruller said this is a routine request and Council will get a more detailed budget in the September, October, November timeframe and that tonight's action is a procedural step.

Ms. Rhonda Hall added this is in compliance with the O.R.C. 5705 we have to pass the tax budget by the 15<sup>th</sup> of July so it can be submitted to the Auditor by July 20, 2020. **(Attachment #1)**

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE SUBMISSION OF THE CITY'S 2021 TAX BUDGET TO THE COUNTY WITH AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE** made by Mr. Kuhar **SECONDED** by Mr. Amrhein and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 9 -0.

2. Consideration of placing the renewal of the West Side Fire Levy on the Fall ballot

Ms. Rhonda Hall said this is an ordinance to proceed so that it can be put on the ballot for the November election. The levy expires in 2020 and we have until 2021 to continue to take back to the ballot to get it passed. This is the next step in the process before we can take it to the County Election Board for the ballot.

Chief Tosko added this levy is to help fund operations of the West Side Fire Station. The monies go towards the 101 Fund which is for personnel operating funds.

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY TO PROCEED WITH THE PROPOSED WEST SIDE FIRE LEVY RENEWAL AND REQUEST THE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS PLACE THE ISSUE ON THE FALL 2020 BALLOT** made by Mr. Sidoti **SECONDED** by Mr. Kuhar and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 9-0.

3. SW Sanitary Pump Station Project Easements

Mr. Ruller said work needs to be done that involves easements needed for work to be done on the SW Sanitary Pump Station.

Mr. Bowling said this project to replace the pump station on Middlebury Road and to run a sewer to Middlebury Rd. Easements are needed where they will be running the sewer. In total, eleven permanent and eleven temporary easements are needed from sixteen parcels. There have been public and private meetings with the owners and currently have four temporary easements that have been agreed to and are asking approval for those four. They are also asking approval if the remaining property owners agree on the values, to bring directly to Council without going into Committee discussion. **(Attachment #2)**

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE ALL OF THE PROPOSED EASEMENT AGREEMENTS REQUIRED OF THE SW SANITARY PUMP STATION PROJECT WITH AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE** made by Mr., Kuhar **SECONDED** by Mr. Amrhein and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 9-0.

4. Proposed 2020 Budget Amendment

Ms. Rhonda Hall is requesting approval of the amended appropriation submitted to the city manager in a memo dated June 23, 2020. **(Attachment #3)**

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE 2020 BUDGET APPROPRIATION AMENDMENTS WITH AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE** made by Mr. Ferrara **SECONDED** by Mr. Sidoti and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 9-0.

5. Proposed CARES Act Ordinance

Ms. Hope Jones introduced the ordinance, that if passed there will be a special meeting, is required by the State of Ohio in order for the City to get any funding from the Federal government under the CARES Act. If the ordinance is not approved which says we agree to abide by all of the rules regarding the distribution of funds received, we will not get the money. Once passed it will be presented to the fiscal officer in the Ohio Budget Management Office in order to prove we are complying. We will receive over \$900,000

Ms. Wallach asked if all of the money isn't spent if the remaining funds are sent back.

Ms. Jones said yes.

Ms. Wallach asked if these funds are specifically for the virus and if it includes paying salaries that are due to businesses closing.

Ms. Rhonda Hall said it does not. It does include any lost revenue that it is to cover any COVID-19 related expenditures. There is still discussion on what payroll amounts it will apply to and if someone was redirected to COVID-19 actions, that payroll will be covered, anyone who had to quarantine is covered. Unemployment expenditures and any material, supplies and equipment are covered as well.

Ms. Wallach asked if someone were to run a testing site if it would be covered.

Ms. Hall said there is potential for that to happen but she would need to look into that to be certain.

Mr. Kuhar said from day one City departments have had tracking sheets for Covid expenses.

Mr. Ruller replied that each week a log is submitted by staff committed to COVID to Harrison Wicks. It is then compiled for the entire city and given Ms. Rhonda Hall to make sure which are eligible under the rules.

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE CARES ACT ORDINANCE WITH AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE** made by Ms. Shaffer **SECONDED** by Ms. Wallach and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 9-0.

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

*Amy Wilkens*

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Amy Wilkens  
Clerk of Council

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) **Authorize submission of the City's 2021 Tax Budget to the County**
- 2) **Authorize the City to proceed with the proposed West Side Fire levy renewal and request the County Board of Elections place the issue on the Fall 2020 ballot**
- 3) **Authorize all easement agreements required for the SW Sanitary Pump Station Project**
- 4) **Approve the 2020 budget appropriations amendments**
- 5) **Approve the CARES Act Ordinance**