



**City Council Regular Meeting Minutes  
Public Hearing**

The City of Kent, Ohio  
Wednesday, March 3, 2021

At 6:55 p.m., Mayor Jerry T. Fiala called the **Public Hearing for Zoning Code Amendments Chapters 1101-1106** to order. Roll call 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

**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; Ms. Joan Seidel, Health Commissioner; Mr. John Tosko, Fire Chief; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Mr. Michael Anguilano, Accreditation Coordinator, and Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council.

**ABSENT:** Mr. Garret Ferrara; Ms. Tracy Wallach


MOTION to excuse Ms. Tracy Wallach from the hearing made by Mr. Sidoti **SECONDED** by Ms. Heidi Shaffer Bish and **CARRIED** with a voice vote of 7-0.

Mr. Susel announced this is the 1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing for Zoning Code Amendments for Chapters 1101-1106 which will be presented to Council on April 7, 2021.

Mayor Fiala asked for comments from the audience.

Clerk Wilkens stated there was no one signed in.

Hearing no further business, Mayor Fiala adjourned the Public Hearing at 6:56 p.m.

  
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Amy Wilkens  
Clerk of Council

  
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Jerry T. Fiala  
Mayor and President of Council



**Community Development Meeting Minutes**  
The City of Kent, Ohio  
Wednesday, March 3, 2021

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

Chair Kuhar called the Community Development Committee of Kent City Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

**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; Ms. Joan Seidel, Health Commissioner; Mr. John Tosko, Fire Chief; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Mr. Michael Anguilano, Accreditation Coordinator, and Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council.

**ABSENT:** Ms. Tracy Wallach

**GUEST PRESENT:** Mr. Andrew Rome, Director of Haymaker Farmer's Market

There was one (1) item on the Agenda.

1. Proposed 2021 CDBG Funded Projects

Mr. Kuhar introduced Community Development Director, Ms. Bridget Susel to speak on this topic.

Ms. Bridget Susel introduced the memo in the City Manager Packet that listed the CDBG projects planned in 2021. They have not yet received notification of the allocation amount and are basing funding decisions based on last year's numbers (\$303,720). The following projects will be allocated pending notification of funding:

- 1) City of Kent Engineering- Walnut Street Reconstruction
- 2) City of Kent Police Department- Neighborhood Policing Program
- 3) Community Action Council (CAC) of Portage County- Furnace Inspection/Targeted Replacement Program
- 4) Family and Community Services- Homeless Shelter Services
- 5) Family and Community Services- HVAC Replacements at Safe Path and Currie Hall
- 6) Ohio Small Business Development Center- Small Business Counseling

- 7) City of Kent Community Development- Administration
- 8) Fair Housing Consultant- Fair Housing Services

As in prior years, they are not asking for a motion on the preceding projects, as there will be a second public hearing and a 30-day review process. These items will be coming back to Council for legislative approval in May 2021.

Mr. Sidoti asked Ms. Susel how the Federal Government defines low and moderate income and if there is a financial threshold.

Ms. Susel answered in the affirmative stating the low to moderate income includes anyone from 0-80% of the area median income. Each year HUD provides a breakdown of the income and income caps. They are grouped into three categories: Extremely Low to Moderate is at 30% and below the median income; Low income is at 50% or below; Moderate Income is at 80% of the median income. Typically, it does not shift much from year to year, however, Kent is included in the Akron Metropolitan Municipal area due to not being large enough to have its own. This tends to skew the numbers a bit.

Seeing no further business, the Community Development Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.



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Amy Wilkens  
Clerk of Council

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) N/A



## Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

The City of Kent, Ohio  
Wednesday, March 3, 2021

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

Mr. Amrhein called the Health and Safety Committee Meeting of Kent City Council to order at 7:12 p.m.

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

**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; Ms. Joan Seidel, Health Commissioner; Mr. John Tosko, Fire Chief; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Mr. Michael Anguilano, Accreditation Coordinator, and Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council.

**ABSENT:** Ms. Tracy Wallach

There was one (1) item on the Agenda.

### 1. Proposed Amendments to the City's Tobacco 21 Ordinance

Ms. Joan Seidel introduced her colleague, Michael Anguilano, who is the Accreditation Specialist for the Kent Health department. Michael also produces all of the health education materials and is also maintaining a straight A average in his Master's Program in the College of Public Health at Kent State University. Mr. Anguilano came before Council in 2018 with the group from the Kent State Health Department for the Tobacco 21 initiative to reduce smoking over a ten-year period. He continues to work on this grant and is providing an update and proposal request.

Mr. Anguilano said in 2018 Tobacco 21 was passed and an update to the policy was provided after the first year. There was a 74% compliance during the first year and the second year had 87% compliance and added he believes the policy is effective. The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown a wrench into quitting smoking for many with stress levels running high due to finances, worrying about illness, loss of loved ones, etc. there has been an uptick in traditional cigarette use. The proposed amendment to this policy would be to require the Ohio Quit Line to be posted at every point of sale in the city. It would be signage that would be created by the Health Department and the Ohio Department of Health through this grant. With Ohio 21, establishments are required to have signage at the point of sale regarding the improper sale and penalties to selling to

those under 21, so this would be in addition to that signage. There would be no fine, but is rather a do-good policy for many of these businesses, many of which want to help people quit. The grant would help pay for the signage to be reprinted and distributed. He shared stats from the Quit Line, with only 3 calls being received last October, November, December. This time of year is usually a busy time of year, so it is concerning that only three people in Portage County called the Ohio Quit line during the three most stressful times of this pandemic. This policy would allow the word to be spread about its services.

Ms. Shaffer Bish asked if the Quit Line is national, state or county based.

Mr. Anguilano replied the Ohio Quit Line is run through the Ohio Department of Health. If someone calls the quit line, they are paired with someone at ODH to work with and be counseled by. They can also get nicotine replacement therapy if they qualify up to a certain amount of time.

Ms. Shaffer Bish added she has written grants for tobacco cessation for behavioral health and had not heard of this and thinks this is a good resource that everyone should know about.

Mr. Kuhar asked if there is a need for an ordinance for this policy or if it is more of a public relations item to consider.

Mr. Anguilano replied that because the Quit Line will be attached to a Tobacco 21 sign, which is required, and is fined if not up at the point of sale, it would have to be up. There would be a fine of \$500 if a business does not comply with the T21 signage. The number will be posted on the redone Tobacco 21 sign, which is required.

Mr. Kuhar asked if they have the Tobacco 21 sign posted without this, they have met the requirements.

Mr. Anguilano replied “yes” but the ordinance would state they are required to have the new signage posted which will have the quit line on it. This request is to amend the T21 ordinance adding this Quit Line requirement.

Ms. Rosenberg asked if businesses downtown are required to have no smoking signs with a phone number on it, is that to report a complaint of someone smoking in or around businesses and if this is something different.

Mr. Anguilano replied “Yes, that would be different”.

Ms. Rosenberg stated if she does not have that sign up in her business, it would be a health code violation. She asked if not having this sign with the Quit Line would be considered a health code violation.

Mr. Anguilano stated it would only be for licensed tobacco handlers in the database and would only apply to these places.

Ms. Rosenberg asked if it would be a health code violation if the businesses selling tobacco didn't have the sign.

Mr. Anguilano said that would be a health code violation because it would be a violation of the T21 ordinance.

MOTION to approve the amendments to the Tobacco 21 ordinance made by Mr. Turner, SECONDED by Ms. Rosenberg and CARRIED with a voice vote of 8-0-0.

Seeing no further business or questions for this committee, it adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

*Amy Wilkens*

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Amy Wilkens  
Clerk of Council

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) Authorize the proposed amendments to the City's Tobacco 21 Ordinance.**



**Land Use Committee Meeting Minutes**  
The City of Kent, Ohio  
Wednesday, March 3, 2021

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

Chair Ferrara called the Land Use Committee of Kent City Council to order at 7:07 p.m.

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

**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; Ms. Joan Seidel, Health Commissioner; Mr. John Tosko, Fire Chief; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Mr. Michael Anguilano, Accreditation Coordinator, and Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council.

**ABSENT:** Ms. Tracy Wallach

**GUEST PRESENT:** Mr. Andrew Rome, Director of Haymaker Farmer's Market

There was one (1) item on the Agenda.

1. Lease Renewal for Haymaker Farmer's Market

Ms. Susel introduced the annual renewal of the Haymaker Farmer's Market Lease that the City has a long-term lease with the railroad. This year's request is earlier, typically run from May to October but is now run April to the end of November due to COVID-19. The closing of the area on Franklin Avenue will be included in this request because of anticipated space being needed for social distancing. She mentioned Mr. Andrew Rome being on the call who is available to assist with any questions from Council members.

Ms. Shaffer Bish asked how the market will be arranged this year as compared to last year with a one-way walking system.

Mr. Rome answered they do not yet have a vendor map but is guessing they will adjust practices as the season goes on, with a similar set up as 2020. They are planning on a more targeted approach in 2021 to help relieve the burden on the vendors, returning to having music, community organizations and arts present. They will have the music area separate from customers to ensure social distancing. In order to accommodate all of the


vendors and to have enough space, they are asking to setup on Franklin Ave. to be able to do this.

Mr. Sidoti asked if the market lost any vendors or if they are anticipating having more vendors in 2021.

Mr. Rome said they did lose vendors last year due to safety concerns and natural attrition. There was more (attrition) last year than normal with some people choosing to retire. This year there is a great crop of new vendor applicants which enables the Market to be selective in choosing the best fit for the community. The Board will be meeting on the following Monday to work out the vendor list for 2021.

MOTION to accept the renewal of the sublease for the Haymaker Farmer's Market made by Ms. Shaffer Bish SECONDED by Mr. Kuhar and CARRIED with a voice vote of 8-0-0.

Seeing no further business or questions for this committee, it adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

  
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Amy Wilkens  
Clerk of Council

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) Authorize the renewal of the sublease for the Farmer's Market and partial closure of Franklin Avenue.**





## Streets and Sidewalks Committee Meeting Minutes

The City of Kent, Ohio  
Wednesday, March 3, 2021

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

Chair Sidoti called the Streets and Sidewalks Committee of Kent City Council to order at 7:26 p.m.

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

**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; Ms. Joan Seidel, Health Commissioner; Mr. John Tosko, Fire Chief; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Mr. Michael Anguilano, Accreditation Coordinator, and Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council.

**ABSENT:** Ms. Tracy Wallach

There were two (2) items on the Agenda.

1. Extension of Staff Authorization for the Use of City Right of Way

Chair Sidoti introduced City Engineer Jim Bowling to speak on this matter.

Mr. Bowling reminded of Council's agreement last year to allow temporary licensing agreements to last through December 31, 2020. These allowed businesses to safely provide services during the Covid 19 pandemic. They are asking for an extension for this year as the pandemic is lasting longer than expected. There are two businesses looking to utilize this agreement.

Mr. Ferrara asked who were the businesses looking into this.

Mr. Bowling said Ray's Place and Barflyy.

MOTION to approve authorization for the use of the city right of way, with an emergency clause, made by Mr. Ferrara, SECONDED by Ms. Shaffer Bish and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

2. Consideration of a Request for Water Line Tie-In

Mr. Bowling reminded Council of the request for a water tie in for a car wash in Franklin Township that was presented at last month's Council Meeting. This new request is for another car wash across the street. They are required to come to Council and seek approval. Unfortunately, they are declining to participate in the JEDD and will be paying 50% surcharge on their water usage. On a side note, he mentioned the first car wash has been put on hold since they are behind the request of this car wash and there is no desire to have two car washes across the street from each other.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said she noticed the water line is on the north side of the street so they would have to tunnel under the street to connect to the water line. She asked if this would be supervised by Mr. Bowling.

Mr. Bowling said this one is a little different, as the main water line is across the street but there is an 8-inch line that crosses just to the west that could potentially be used. This will be up to the owners who will be in charge and will have to cover all costs. Kent will oversee the construction of the water line and ODOT also is required to give a permit due to maintaining the State Rt. They will get double supervision on this project.

Mr. Kuhar asked what size water line and what method is going to be used to connect.

Mr. Bowling said he has not seen any plans yet so he would not be able to comment on their means and methods to getting connected. Future plans will be reviewed once approved.

MOTION to approve the consideration for a water line tie-in made by Mr. Kuhar, SECONDED by Mr. Turner and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

Seeing no further business or questions for this committee, it adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

*Amy Wilkens*

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Amy Wilkens  
Clerk of Council

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) **Authorize the staff authority to negotiate the private use of City right of way for 2021.**
- 2) **Authorize the water extension and tie-in for the new car wash.**



**Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**  
The City of Kent, Ohio  
Wednesday, March 3, 2021

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

Chair DeLeone called the Finance Committee of Kent City Council to order at 7:31 p.m.

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

**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; Ms. Joan Seidel, Health Commissioner; Mr. John Tosko, Fire Chief; Mr. Nick Shearer, Chief of Police; Mr. Michael Anguilano, Accreditation Coordinator, and Ms. Amy Wilkens, Clerk of Council.

**ABSENT:** Ms. Tracy Wallach

There were five (5) items on the Agenda.

1. Proposed Ohio EPA Loan Agreement

Mr. Bowling referred to the 2018 Council approval of a loan agreement with the Ohio EPA to construct the Southwest Sanitary Pump Stations. Due to acquiring right of way issues, Covid-19 and being early coming to Council, the requested amount needs to be modified. Before, the amount asked for was \$2 million, even though the project was \$2.2 million. Now there are better lending rates, they are requesting up to \$2.5 million to cover all costs. The project is out to bid and if approved will be submitted to the EPA.

MOTION was made by Mr. Sidoti to authorize the proposed Ohio EPA Loan Agreement, with an emergency clause, **SECONDED** by Ms. Rosenberg and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 8-0.

2. Proposed Kent Parks and Recreation MOU

Mr. Bowling informed Council that due to Parks and Recreation having a short fall (because they did not get a grant they were planning on for the construction of the bike trail), a memorandum of understanding was put together detailing how the loan would be paid back.

The basic terms of the agreement stipulate the money would be returned over five (5) years and the capital fund would also contribute a portion of it.

Melanie Baker, Interim Parks and Recreation Director, added this was taken to the Park Board on February 18, 2021 who approved the Memorandum of Understanding and are okay with the parameters set forth. They will be looking at any parks fees from now until it is paid applying to the paydown as well. They have been taking a look at the overall Capital plan to find any other ways to establish a greater paydown when the project is complete. The MOU will also be adjusted at the end of the project as they will only be given a loan for what is needed at the completion of the project.

Mr. Sidoti asked about the exact location and the timeline.

Mr. Bowling said it is the project off of the bridge downtown and construction starts April 1, 2021 and should be completed by October.

### **Council Discussion:**

Mr. Kuhar stated he is going to support the motion, but that in all the time he has been on Council, Parks and Recreation is always having a shortfall financially. He added they need “better eyes”. He added this money is money that belongs to the City of Kent and is wondering why they are always on the short end of projects.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said it is disappointing we did not receive a grant and may be finding themselves in competition with other cities. She wants to support this because it is important for this project to move forward, as it has been a long time in the making and people are eager to see it happen. It is an economic development tool to bring bicyclists into the City and is a decent plan that will hopefully be paid off in a relatively short amount of time.

Mr. Sidoti is in support of the project and also hears what Mr. Kuhar is saying. He thinks there is a bigger conversation in terms of Council’s role in Parks and Recreation and is aware the Charter drives that but at some point, should be discussed. He said perhaps the City should have a bit of more of an oversight as Mr. Kuhar is suggesting. He stated this project has been in the works for a long time. Having this project completed does in fact signify a commitment to a City that is committed to walkability and the river edge park.

**MOTION** to approve the proposed Kent Parks and Recreation Memorandum of Understanding, with an emergency clause, made by Ms. Shaffer Bish, **SECONDED** by Ms. Rosenberg and **CARRIED** by a voice vote of 8-0.

3. Consideration of Final Easement for Sanitary Sewer Station

Mr. Bowling promised this would be his last item presenting this evening. This is the last easement that is needed for the Pump Station and are seeking approval to exercise this easement agreement for the Pump Station Project.

MOTION to approve the final easement for the Sanitary Sewer Station with an emergency clause made by Mr. Ferrara, SECONDED by Mr. Sidoti and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

4. Proposed Amendment to the Health Department Lease Agreement with PARTA

Mr. Ruller introduced the topic of amending the lease agreement with PARTA, stating we have been working on it for a while and things were amplified as the COVID 19 pandemic progressed. He said Ms. Seidel is a hardworking, visionary leader and one of her visions is to have a clinic on the ground floor of the PARTA building. With the Cutler space opening up on the ground floor, this opened up the possibility of locating a vaccination clinic in that area. The terms of the existing lease of the second floor has been amended and is being brought forth to Council. He added Ms. Seidel is working closely with the County on the shot clinic. One factor that has complicated things a bit is the terms of the lease held by Phoenix Properties. They have worked with them on the terms of the lease and he does not believe they are actively looking to put another business in this space.

Ms. Seidel said they have been in the Central Gateway for a little over six months and it has been working out nicely. They have been looking at getting a street level spot, so when Cutler moved out it provided this opportunity. The contract tracers are currently taking up space of a potential clinic on the second floor at this moment and all space has been maximized.

Ms. Shaffer Bish asked if additional signage would be put up.

Ms. Seidel said she thinks they would need additional signage for the clinic so that people can find it.

Ms. Shaffer Bish asked if there would be a need for special parking.

Ms. Seidel said the parking deck could be used and there is street level parking available.

Mr. Ferrara asked what other type of treatments would be offered at the clinic.

Ms. Seidel replied short term it could also be available for COVID testing. She said “down the road”, options become wider and more diverse such as blood pressure screenings, blood sugar screenings, health education programs such as possibly working with chefs in the downtown area on healthy cooking programs. She added the WIC program could be run out of there one day of the week, removing the barrier of having to go to Ravenna. She said further down the line, occupational health would be great to provide vaccines to City employees. She said drug testing for potential employees could also be done here.

Mr. Ferrara asked if the drug screening would be a fee for service and if it would be a revenue source for the City.

Ms. Seidel said there would be more potential of revenue with the occupational health options.

Mr. Ferrara said there is a stigma with bus stations and public and government entities and we it may not be something that would be wanted in downtown Kent. He said we would need to make sure to define what the clinic does. He added it may not be politically correct to say this but it is the fact of the matter.

Mr. Sidoti asked if the amount of money expended to rent the house off of Kent State University versus current rent, what kind of pressure is this putting on the resources of the City to expand.

Mr. Ruller said the lease agreement with Kent State University dated back to rates that were really low and have been slowly increasing due to a on campus space shortage. The City is not insensitive the cost of all of this, and the costs incurred by COVID 19 have been bridged temporarily by Covid funding. They have reviewed all options to keep costs down and the deal is below market value.

Ms. Rhonda Hall said the cost has increased but they are looking at the effect of receiving Covid funding and where they will be in the future.

Mr. Sidoti asked if they would be duplicating any services offered by Townhall II.

Ms. Seidel said she does not want to duplicate services but wants to make sure people have access to care. She said when health care and preventative care increases everyone does a little better. She would not want to pull clientele away from established services but does not feel there would be a lot of overlap.

Mr. Kuhar asked if anyone has ever considered the Save-A-Lot location.

Mr. Ruller said it was on the list when they were looking for alternative sites for City Hall and the Health Department but it would not be inexpensive to rehab. It is

owned by a real estate company in Texas and the pitch to them regarding helping the community did not work.

Ms. Seidel stated it targets a population that has a low socioeconomic status but she feels that is part of the beauty of their current location being on the bus line and can easily bring people right to their door. Being downtown is really helpful with the other services the Kent City Health Department offers. They are not looking to becoming solely a clinic, they will still have the food service organization, the tattoo and body art and housing inspections as well as all of the other services they provide.

MOTION to authorize the amendment to the Health Department Lease, with an emergency clause, made by Mr. Sidoti, SECONDED by Ms. Shaffer Bish and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7-0-1, with Mr. Amrhein abstaining.

**Council Comments:**

Mr. Sidoti said Ms. Seidel has demonstrated unbelievable thoughtfulness and due diligence during the crisis and her leadership is deeply appreciated by the people that she serves. This is a great opportunity to expand services to residents and is in favor of it.

Ms. Shaffer Bish said she applauds the effort to make the health department even more visible and it is a point of pride. She likes the central location and sees no downside to this great idea.

5. **Authorization to Accept and Escrow NOPEC Grant Funds**

Ms. Melanie Baker said this the annual acceptance of funds provided from NOPEC. This year we will be receiving \$49,978. She asks approval to accept the grant and to put it in escrow until we have a project that meets their requirements.

MOTION to accept and escrow NOPEC Grant Funds, with an emergency clause, made by Mr. Kuhar, SECONDED by Mr. Turner and CARRIED by a voice vote of 8-0.

Seeing no further business or questions for this committee, it adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

*Amy Wilkens*

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Amy Wilkens  
Clerk of Council

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) Authorize the Ohio EPA Loan Agreement.**
- 2) Authorize the MOU for a \$460,000 Parks and Recreation Loan.**
- 3) Authorize the easement agreement for the Southwest Sanitary Sewer Pump Station project.**
- 4) Authorize the proposed PARTA lease amendment.**
- 5) Authorize and appropriate the NOPEC NEC Grant funds.**