



Special Council Meeting

The City Clerk has scheduled a Special Council meeting at 7 pm to consider the 2nd reading of items approved at the July 21, 2021 Regular Council Meeting.

Committee of the Whole

1. State Representative Gail Pavlika (Amy)

The 75th District State House Representative Gail Pavlika has asked for a few minutes to introduce herself to Council.

Administration Recommendation

No action is necessary.

Council Actions

No action is necessary.



Community Development Committee

1. Shared Sign Approval for Portage Hike & Bike Trail (Bridget)

Bridget has requested Committee time to present a public/private sign proposal for the Portage Hike & Bike trailhead and the ONUS water bottling plant on Gougler Avenue. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Since the sign is on public property, and will be a shared use sign for public and private purposes, the staff believes that the approval of the sign should come from City Council. This is a unique shared sign agreement that has been negotiated by the staff and I recommend Council authorize the sign as presented.

Council Actions

Receive the staff report and authorize the sign as presented, with the emergency clause.



Health and Safety Committee

1. Kent Police Department Update (Nick)

Nick has requested Committee time to provide an update on the status of the initiatives underway in the Kent Police Department to train, equip, and engage the members of the department with the Kent community.

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council receive the staff report.

Council Actions

Receive the staff report, no action is necessary.



Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee

1. Proposed County Recycling Service Changes (Melanie)



Melanie has requested Committee time to allow Bill Steiner from Portage County Recycling to present a County request for the City to convert from weekly collection of recycling to every other week collection. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The City/County Recycling contract for weekly curbside recycling is good through 2024 but the County is asking the City to amend that contract to allow the County to transition to every other week curbside collection. In case Council does not wish to move to every other week recycling, the staff has begun to talk to local haulers to see if they would be able to provide weekly curbside recycling and replace Portage County as the City's recycling service provider. I recommend Council receive the request from Bill and discuss the options with staff.

Council Actions

Receive the County request to change from weekly to every other week recycling service and direct staff accordingly.

2. Oktoberfest Road Closure Request (Tom)



Tom has requested Committee time to present a request from Main Street Kent to shift the approved street closure north on Franklin Avenue to include the closure of the portion of Main Street that fronts Hometown Plaza. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Main Street Kent events are critical to the recovery of downtown businesses and the adjusted street closure has been approved by the Kent Police and Service Department so I recommend Council's authorization.

Council Actions

Authorize the amended street closure plan for Main Street Kent's Oktoberfest event as presented, with the emergency clause.

3. Oktoberfest DORA Suspension Request (Tom)



Tom has requested Committee time to present a request from Main Street Kent to suspend the DORA on the day of the Oktoberfest event (September 25th) in order to best manage the beer sales offered by the Oktoberfest sponsors. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Main Street Kent events are critical to the recovery of downtown businesses and Tom has discussed the one-day suspension of DORA with downtown businesses and they support Main Street's request. I recommend Council's authorization of the proposed DORA suspension on September 25, 2021.

Council Actions

Authorize the suspension of the DORA on September 25, 2021 in support of Main Street Kent's Oktoberfest event as presented, with the emergency clause.

4. Updates to City Trash and Recycling Accounts (Melanie)



Melanie has requested Committee time to present updated numbers and service clarifications (including the removal of multifamily recycling service from the City's recycling contract) for the accounts served by Republic Trash Service and Portage County Recycling in the City. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

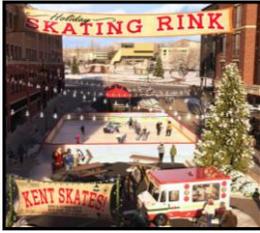
Receive the staff report and authorize the updates and clarifications for the trash and recycling accounts served in the City of Kent as presented.

Council Actions

Receive the staff report, and authorize the updates and clarifications for City trash and recycling accounts as presented with the emergency clause.

Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee (continued)

5. Proposed City/KSU MOU for Community Ice Rink Project (Melanie)



Melanie and Jim have requested Committee time to present the proposed City/KSU memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the shared participation in planning, constructing, and operating the first inaugural outdoor community ice rink planned to be open on Erie Street from Thanksgiving through February. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The City is assisting in the planning and sharing in a portion of the initial set up costs, (and may provide some in kind services), to help support the rink operations while Kent State University is hiring and managing the rink contractor for rink operations. The staff and I strongly recommend your support for the MOU as a way to provide additional recreational opportunities to City residents and help attract people to downtown Kent businesses.

Council Actions

Authorize the proposed City/KSU MOU for the community ice rink project as presented, with the emergency clause.

Finance Committee

1. Council Review of Neighborhood Grant Funding (Bridget, Rhonda)

Bridget, Hope and Rhonda will be available for Council questions in Committee for the discussion requested by Council regarding the possible use of City funding to support neighborhood block parties. (attachment)



Administration Recommendation

The City is an advocate for strong neighborhoods which is supported through various neighborhood programs. The staff can speak to the existing use of City neighborhood funding as Council seeks to determine how to best use City funds to enhance City neighborhoods.

Council Actions

Lead the discussion and direct staff accordingly.

2. Renewal of the School Resource Officer Position (Nick)

Nick has requested Finance Committee time to present a request to renew the City-Kent Schools agreement for the use and funding of a School Resource Officer position in the 2021-22 academic year. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

This is a popular safety program and I urge Council's renewal of the agreement.

Council Actions

Authorize the renewal of the School Resource Officer as presented, with the emergency clause.





Finance Committee (continued)

3. Certified Liens to the County for Outstanding Payments (Rhonda)

Rhonda has requested Finance Committee time to present the annual list of addresses for certification and submission to Portage County to be added to property tax records as tax liens against the property due to lack of payment. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

The City annually submits a certified list of addresses that have failed to pay their City bills and have not agreed to an extended payment plan. I recommend Council certify the list and authorize the staff to forward it to the County as presented.

Council Actions

Certify and authorize the submission of the proposed property tax liens as presented, with the Emergency clause.

4. Request for the Release of Federal Interest in the City's Revolving Loan Fund (Tom)

Tom has requested Committee time for Council to consider the staff request to authorize the release of federal interest in the City's Revolving Loan Fund. (attachments)



Administration Recommendation

A recent change in Federal guidelines allows the City to reallocate the federal interest in the revolving loan fund and I recommend Council's authorization of the release and repurposing of those funds as presented.

Council Actions

Authorize the release and repurposing of the Federal interest in the City's revolving loan fund as presented, with the emergency clause.

5. Proposed Amendments to City RLF Plan (Tom)

Tom has requested Committee time to present staff recommendations for updating the City's RLF Plan that was approved by Council in 2019. (attachments)



Administration Recommendation

The proposed amendments reflect recent changes in Federal RLF guidelines and should improve the City's ability to support local business recovery efforts so I recommend Council's authorization of the RLF Plan amendments as presented.

Council Actions

Approve the proposed RLF Plan amendments as presented, with the emergency clause.

6. 2021 Budget Appropriations Amendment

Rhonda has been working with the department heads to reconcile the approved 2021 budget line items and she has prepared the necessary appropriations amendments to reflect the changes needed to balance those line items. (attachments)



Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council's authorization of the appropriations amendments.

Council Actions

Approve the 2021 budget appropriations amendments as presented, with the emergency clause.

Information Items

1. Monthly Permit and Zoning Reports

Bridget Susel has enclosed copies of the monthly zoning and permit violations report for May 2021. Permit revenues were \$61,530.18 for May with the most permits being issued for Commercial Plumbing (76 permits). There were 7 code enforcement items in May. (attachment)

2. Kent Police Statistics

Chief Shearer has provided a copy of the police statistics report for June 2021. In 2021 calls for service are up 8% (133 calls); traffic citations are up 46% (59 tickets); accident incidents are up by 17% (6 incidents) and serious crimes are the down from one to zero incidents compared to June of 2020. (attachment)

3. Income Tax Report

Rhonda Hall has provided a summary of income tax collections for the June of 2021. Overall the City income tax collections YTD are up 1.2% (\$87,076) compared with 2020. For the month of June the City income tax collections are up 40.6% (\$428,085) compared to Jun 2020. (attachment)

4. Backyard Chicken Variance Request Approved

For your information Bridget Susel has submitted a variance request that was approved by the staff in accordance with the "Backyard Chickens" ordinance Section 505.22(a)(4)A regarding placement of the coop. The approved variance allowed the coop to be relocated outside of the FEMA floodway. (attachment)