



Finance Committee

1. Proposed Text Changes to City Tax Code

Jim Silver and Dave Coffee have requested Committee time to consider a few modifications to the City's Tax Code. Dave Coffee reports that there is some existing language in our Tax Code that is less clear than he would prefer, particularly related to tax collections and late payments and penalties. The staff reviewed the language used by other cities and have come up with a few text changes that they believe will make the City's Tax Code more effective. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

I recommend Council's support for the proposed Tax Code changes.

Council Action

Authorize the proposed modifications to the City's Tax Code as presented.

2. Police Facility Architectural Contract

Jim Silver and Gene Roberts have requested Committee time for Council to authorize the contract between the City and Dave Sommers and Associates for architectural services related to the new Police Facility. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

The contract cost is within the City's project budget, Jim and Gene have finalized the terms of the contract, and I recommend Council's support.

Council Action

Authorize the acceptance and execution of the proposed architectural services contract with Dave Sommers and Associates.

3. Ohio Public Works Commission Pre-Application Request

Jim Bowling has requested Committee time for Council to consider approving submission the City's capital project pre-application request for Ohio Public Works Commission grant funding (\$700,000). These funds would enable the City to continue to make progress on street repairs (Rockwell/Woodard). (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Given the City's current financial constraints I have encouraged staff to pursue all possible grant sources and Jim has put together a competitive proposal that I recommend for Council's support.

Council Action

Approve the submission of the proposed project for OPWC funding.

4. 2014 Appropriations Amendments

Dave Coffee has been working with the department heads to reconcile the approved 2014 budget line items and he 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 appropriations amendments as presented.



Community Development Committee

5. Modification to the City's Facade Improvement Program

Bridget Susel has requested Committee time to propose modifications to the City's Facade Improvement Program that is funded through CDBG. Bridget has evaluated the program and based on the extremely low participation from local property owners over the last 10 years, she is proposing to increase the funding cap (currently \$10,000) in order to improve the attractiveness of the program and generate more participation. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The goal of the facade program is to incentivize building restoration and I believe that Bridget's modifications will improve the value of this funding option to private property owners so I recommend Council's support.

Council Action

Authorize the proposed modifications to the City's Facade Improvement Program.

6. Semi-Annual EDA Revolving Loan Fund Certification

Each year the City is required to submit a semi-annual report of the activities performed with the revolving loan fund that were capitalized with EDA funds. City Council is being asked to pass a resolution certifying the current report. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

The City has effectively used EDA revolving loan funds to retain and attract new business investment in Kent. Council certification of the City's Loan Fund Plan is a semi-annual procedure that is required by the Ohio EDA to maintain eligibility and I would urge Council's adoption.

Council Action

Approve and certify the EDA Revolving Loan Fund report for FY 2014.

7. Housing Appeals Board Discussion

Jeff Neistadt has requested Committee time to discuss the possible transfer of the authority of the Housing Appeals Board to the Kent Board of Health. Jeff notes that there is a fair amount of overlap in the functions of the respective Boards and in the last 10 years the Housing Appeals Board has only met once so he is recommending consolidating the Housing Appeals Board function under the Board of Health that he staffs. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

I recommend that Council accept Jeff's recommendation and consolidate the functions under the Kent Board of Health.

Council Action

Authorize the consolidation of the Housing Appeals Board under the Board of Health.

Streets, Safety & Sidewalks Committee

8. New Special Event Street Closure, October Fest

Suzanne Stemnock has requested Committee time to request Council's approval of a new special event street closure. Main Street Kent has proposed a new event, "Oktoberfest" for October 4, 2014 that will include live entertainment, games and a beer garden. Main Street has asked to close Franklin Avenue from W. Main Street to W. Erie Street from 10 am to 10 pm. Sponsor organizations include the Kent Jaycees, Pufferbelly, Taco Tonto's, and Ray's Place. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The staff and I recommend Council's support for the proposed new street closure.

Council Actions

Authorize the street closure for the new Main Street Kent "Oktoberfest" event.





Streets, Safety & Sidewalks Committee (continued)

9. Right of Way Acceptance for Project at University Plaza

Jen Barone has requested Committee time to present Council with a request to accept the dedication of right of way that currently fronts University Plaza along Water Street. The request comes as a result of the planned construction of the new O'Reilly Auto Enterprises business on an outparcel at University Plaza. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council's support to accept the dedicated right of way as proposed.

Council Actions

Authorize the acceptance of the proposed right of way dedication.

Information Items

1. Monthly Permit and Zoning Reports

Bridget Susel has enclosed copies of the monthly zoning and permit violations report for April 2014. Permit revenues were \$6,393 for the month with the most permits being issued for residential plumbing (22 permits). The Code Enforcement Officer position is currently vacant so issues are addressed on a complaint basis. There were no code enforcement items in April. (attachment)

2. Architectural Review Board Meeting

Heather Phile from Community Development has provided a copy of the agenda for the February Architectural Review Board meeting scheduled for June 3, 2014. There is one item on the agenda: George Isocki/EuroGyro, 107 S. Depeyster St., review of new signage. (attachment)