

last year

PROPOSED CALENDAR OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WORK SESSIONS TO ADDRESS PRIORITY COUNCIL/STAFF ISSUES

May 19, 2004

>Financial and Economic Development (*from the March 31, 2004 Work Session*)

- Market community to attract new businesses, to help existing businesses to stay, to create jobs and to expand the economic base of the community
- Amend regulations to better encourage development of home businesses
- Develop policy on real estate redevelopment
- Address downtown revitalization and parking management

June 9, 2004

>Financial and Economic Development (*from the March 31, 2004 Work Session*)

- Consider increases in taxes and/or fees to raise additional revenues
- Reconsider special assessment policy
- Need more money for operations and capital improvements

July 14, 2004

>Infrastructure Deficiencies (*from the March 31, 2004 Work Session*)

>Comprehensive Plan (*suggestion from City Administration for further Council deliberation*)

August 11, 2004

>Five Year Capital Improvement Program (*presented annually in August by the Administration*)

>2005 Budget Considerations (*recommended annually by the Administration – usually in July*)

>West River Neighborhood Cost-Benefit Analysis and Project Financing Options (*from Administration*)

September 15, 2004

>Neighborhood Nuisance Issues (*from the March 31, 2004 Work Session*)

>Financing traffic calming measures/develop policy (*from the March 31, 2004 Work Session*)

>Code amendments to improve code enforcement and increase fines (*from the March 31, 2004 Work Session*)

November 3, 2004

>Community – University issues (*from the March 31, 2004 Work Session*)

- Traffic and parking structure and intermodal facility
- Hotel and conference center
- Entrepreneurial center – business incubator

December 1, 2004

>Organizational Issues (*from the March 31, 2004 Work Session*)

- Use of technology to improve efficiencies
- Televising City Council meetings
- Filing and retrieval system for Engineering

NOTE: Attached is another copy of the SUMMARY OF COUNCIL AND STAFF ISSUES (March 2004) that was passed out and discussed at the March 31, 2004 Committee of the Whole Work Session.

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL AND STAFF ISSUES
March 2004

Financial and Economic Development

- Market community to attract new businesses, help existing businesses to stay, to create new jobs and to expand the economic base of the community
- Amend regulations to better encourage development of home businesses
- Support development of business incubator-accelerator facility
- Consider increase in taxes and/or fees to raise additional revenues
- Reconsider existing special assessment policy
- Support industrial, commercial, retail and office development
- Redirect funds from low priority expenditures to police, fire/EMS and streets
- Develop policy on real estate redevelopment issue
- Address downtown revitalization and parking management issues
- Need more money for operations and capital improvements

Infrastructure Deficiencies

- Address need for street and sidewalk repairs throughout community
- Develop a traffic calming policy
- Address intersection safety concerns
- Reduce inflow and infiltration of surface water into sanitary sewer system
- Address stormwater management issues
- Develop secondary source of water for the community
- Adopt capital improvement programming beyond five years

Organization

- Televis Council meetings and improve communications with citizens
- Work on staff/Council relations
- Need more workforce development and employee skill training
- Need more investment in technology to improve efficiencies
- Need to organize records and files in Engineering
- Implement cost-saving measures by improving productivity and efficiency

Service Delivery- (Operational)

- Address non-social behavioral problems requiring services from safety forces

Community & Neighborhood

- Address nuisance issues (illegal boarding, noise, trash, exterior maintenance, weeds, front yard parking), particularly associated with rental properties
- Work on community-University issues (traffic, parking structure, hotel/conference center, intermodal facility, and entrepreneurial center)
- Strengthen municipal code to give staff better tools for code enforcement
- Maximize fines against lawbreakers
- Adopt Comprehensive Plan and implement its recommendations
- Address subsidized housing issues

3/17/04

KENT'S STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS
Administrative Staff Issues
(by category)

Council/Staff Relations

- Need for better trust and confidence from Council, in the administrative staff's expertise, credibility and recommendations
- Need for better appreciation of contribution of parks and recreational amenities in choices by private businesses for development, in favorable residential property values, and other quality of life attributes desired by residents
- Need for better understanding that economic development/redevelopment expenditures are an investment in the community's future and do not directly compete with the financial needs of police, fire, streets and sidewalks
- Need stronger leadership and direction from City Council
- Need to improve cooperation between Council and staff
- Need better appreciation of the amount of staff time involved in following up on administrative referrals from Council or requests from individual Council members (too reactive, not proactive enough)

Infrastructure Needs

- Need to undertake more preventative maintenance to extend and maximize the life of public infrastructure
- Need for a long-range prioritization ranking of capital improvements beyond the 5-Year CIP update
- Need for a secondary permanent source of potable water for the community
- Need to build storm sewer systems to address surface water drainage problems
- Need to address problems of inflow and infiltration of surface water into the municipal sanitary sewer system every time it rains
- Need more money for the street resurfacing program

Financial Considerations

- Need to stabilize funding for streets, sidewalks, traffic lights and similar deficiencies
- Monetarily improve the bottom line number for the 5-Year fund balance projection
- Increasing costs associated with City responses to state/federal/local statutory mandates
- Increase fees and reduce social services funding and other non-traditional spending to generate more funding for priority needs (police, fire, streets)
- Increase revenues with fees and taxes, and support economic development activities
- Need more money for the street resurfacing program

Organizational and Managerial Issues

- Need for more workforce development and skills training
- Need for automation and technology to improve efficiency of internal processes
- Need for time and resources to organize records and files of Engineering Division

Community Concerns

- Presence of an entitlement attitude (by young people) toward non-social behavior
- Attitudes that cause responses from public safety forces
- Increasing demands generated by informal community mandates
- Adopt the Comprehensive Plan and address community responsibilities in implementing the plan's recommendations
- Need to effectively address nuisance issues such as exterior maintenance, weeds, trash, conversion of owner-occupied to rental properties, greek housing, amend code provisions and educate landlords to improve character of neighborhoods
- Clean up downtown and improve appearance of buildings
- Need better control and more effective management over private trash haulers (Council needs to change code provisions)
- Need to more effectively control trash problems at rental properties, especially in August and May when renters arrive and leave town
- Disproportionately high concentrations of subsidized housing and federally assisted housing in town is having an adverse impact on the City's ability to provide services throughout the rest of the Kent community

Additionally, the following items were listed as the greatest strengths of the administrative staff attending the City Manager's cabinet retreat on March 11, 2004:

- ❖ Dedicated to public service with strong work ethic
- ❖ Uncompromising integrity
- ❖ Leadership, collaboration, insightful and professional
- ❖ Patient, unemotional and understanding (accepting)
- ❖ Diverse experience and strong work ethic
- ❖ Technical ability and integrity
- ❖ Knowledge in field of expertise
- ❖ Understanding of people and solving technical problems
- ❖ Offer good, sound, timely advice
- ❖ Work effectively with people

Common Themes – Good Work Ethic, Integrity, Technical Knowledge, Effective People Skills and Professional