



Committee of the Whole

1. 2020 Council Committee Assignments

Council will have an opportunity to review the Committee chair and vice chair assignments for 2020. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

Discuss and authorize the Council Committee assignments for 2020.

Council Actions

Authorize the 2020 Council Committee assignments.

Community Development Committee

1. Architecture Review Board Recommendation and Request

Bridget has requested Committee time to present a recommendation made by the Architectural Review Board (ARB) to expand the boundaries of the area in the downtown district that is subject to their review. This request is specifically related to the property at the corner of Franklin, Summit and Mogadore Road (proposed new hotel site). The ARB's current project review authority in the downtown district ends on the north side of Summit/Stow Street. As a result, the ARB comments on the proposed new hotel property were not considered by the Planning Commission in the project site plan review process. The ARB has asked to expand their authority to include the proposed hotel parcel in the event that the hotel project does not proceed and another project is proposed for the site. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The staff believe that this ARB recommendation to expand their boundary is best considered in the overall context of the Zoning Code update so rather than making the change requested by the ARB independent of the Zoning Code update, Bridget and Hope are recommending Council grant the ARB review "temporary" review authority only for the parcel in question and only if the hotel project does not proceed as an interim measure. I recommend Council's support for the staff recommendation.

Council Action

Receive the staff report and authorize conditional review authority for the ARB only at the parcel in question as presented.

2. Economic Development Projects Update

Tom has requested Committee time to present an overview of the various economic development activities underway in Kent during 2019. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Receive the staff report. No action is necessary.

Council Action

Receive the staff report, no action is necessary.



Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee

1. Consideration of a Request for Water Line Tie-in



Jim has requested Committee time to present a request from the OLIO Development Group to connect to Kent City water for the new Arby's fast-food restaurant which will be relocating from 1630 E. Main Street to 1821 E. Main Street. The new location is outside Kent City limits; inside the Franklin JEDD area. The City Engineering Division have determined that the water lines in-place are adequate to meet the needs of the new restaurant. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Adding water service outside the City requires Council authorization and I recommend Council's approval.

Council Actions

Authorize the water extension and tie-in for the new Arby's as presented.

2. Proposed License Agreement for Outdoor Patio at 101 Crain Ave.



Jim has requested Committee time to present a request from the owners of a new brew pub – “North Water Brewing Company” -- that is planned to be located at 101 Crain Avenue (former auto collision repair shop) to allow the new business to include an outdoor patio that would extend into a portion of City right of way for outdoor seating. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Jim reports that the expanded patio is similar to requests from other downtown businesses that Council has approved and it should not impede walkability in the area. I recommend Council's support of this new business license agreement as presented.

Council Action

Authorize the proposed right of way license agreement to allow an outdoor patio at 101 Crain Avenue as presented.

3. Request to Submit a “Bike Friendly Community” Designation Application



Jim and Harrison have requested Committee time to ask for Council's approval to submit an application on behalf of the City of Kent for the national “Bike Friendly Community” designation through the League of American Bicyclists. The Bike Friendly designation has been awarded to nearly 500 communities nationwide since its inception in 1995. Kent State University received the Bike Friendly University designation in 2016. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

Jim and Harrison have been preparing the application materials and in light of Council's support for bicycling and pedestrian activity in Kent, I recommend Council's support to authorize staff to submit the application as presented.

Council Actions

Authorize the submission of the proposed “Bike Friendly Community” designation as presented.

Finance Committee

1. Request for Kent Parks & Recreation Master Plan Contract Award

Kevin has requested Committee time to present the Parks Board recommendation to award a contract with Brandstetter for a comprehensive Parks Master Plan. Kevin reports that Brandstetter is one of the leading firms for Parks Master Plans in the region and given their specific experience in Portage County and the City of Kent he is also asking for Council's authorization to award this contract to Brandstetter without going through a formal bidding process. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

Hope advises that Council has the authority to waive the bidding requirement for this project and given Brandstetter's involvement in other Kent projects, waiving the bidding requirement is justifiable. Since the funding for the project is part of the Kent Parks and Recreation budget and does not include City General Funds, I recommend Council's support for the Parks and Recreation Board recommendation.

Council Actions

Authorize the proposed bid waiver and bid award for a new Kent Parks Master Plan study to Brandstetter as presented.



Land Use Committee

1. Consideration of a Request to Vacate City Street Right of Way

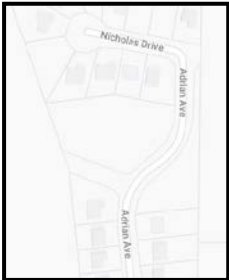
Hope has requested Committee time to review a request from a resident to purchase land adjacent to the Forest Lakes Nature Preserve a portion of which he would dedicate to Kent Parks & Recreation in exchange for the right to use an existing City roadway easement as a driveway to build a new home.

Administration Recommendation

The City staff do not foresee the need to maintain the street roadway right of way so we are forwarding this request for Council's consideration and approval.

Council Actions

Authorize the proposed land swap as presented.



Information Items

1. Income Tax Report

Dave Coffee has provided a summary of income tax collections thru the end of November 2019. Overall the City income tax collections are up 3.31% (\$429,039) from November 2018. Kent State University's collections thru the end of November are down 0.04% (\$2,008). (attachment)

2. Kent Police Statistics

Chief Lee has provided a copy of the police statistics report for November 2019. In 2019 calls for service are up 11% (2,839 calls); traffic citations are up 6% (182 tickets); accident incidents are up 1% (4 incidents) and serious crimes are down 1.5% (8 cases). (attachment)

3. Fire Incident Reports

Chief Tosko has provided a copy of the fire and emergency medical services report for October 2019. In 2019 calls for fire service are up 17% (173 calls); fire mutual aid assistance is down 3 events as compared to 2018; and EMS responses are down 4.5% (136 calls). (attachment)

Chief Tosko has provided a copy of the fire and emergency medical services report for November 2019. In 2019 calls for fire service are up 17% (171 calls); fire mutual aid assistance is down 2 events as compared to 2018; and EMS responses are down 4.5% (145 calls). (attachment)