



Committee of the Whole

1. Boards and Commission Interviews (Amy)

The City Clerk has scheduled time for Council to consider the prospective candidates interested in filling vacancies on City Boards and Commissions.

2. Civic Clerk Management System (Amy, Patti)

The staff have been reviewing Civic Clerk -- an automated agenda management system -- that we believe would improve the efficiency of agenda preparation, topic tracking, transparency, and online access. The City's web platform provider, CivicPlus, offers Civic Clerk as an add-on, fee based service. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

A number of our staff members have used Civic Clerk in their previous cities and they speak highly of its value to staff, residents and Council members. Based on our internal review we plan to move forward with this new service unless Council has concerns.

Council Action

Receive the staff report.

Community Development Committee

1. Main Street Kent Year in Review Update (Heather)

Heather has requested an opportunity to provide City Council with an update of the efforts of Main Street in 2020 to fulfill their mission despite the limitations posed by the pandemic. Heather will also provide a preview of Main Street activities planned for 2021. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Main Street was an instrumental partner to keeping downtown Kent afloat during the pandemic with creative solutions to support businesses and public health. Receive the Main Street report.

Council Actions

Receive the Main Street Kent year in review update.

2. Proposed Zoning Code Update (Bridget)

Bridget has requested Committee time to present Council with the Zoning Code update recommendations resulting from 18 months of staff and public review. The recommendations provide clarification, corrections, and better administrative alignment with current legal standards and best practices. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

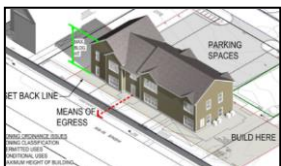
The Zoning Code update is a complicated and methodical process that has important ramifications for development and quality of life in the City. Bridget has done an exceptional job leading the members of the boards and commissions through the chapters of the Zoning Code and I recommend Council receive the report and approve the recommendations as presented.

Council Actions

Receive the Zoning Code update and approve the recommendations as presented with the emergency clause.



 CIVICPLUS



Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee



1. Proposed On-Street Parking Restriction on Middlebury Road (Jim)

Jim has requested Committee time to propose a change to the parking regulations that would prohibit on-street parking on a portion of Middlebury Road from Akron Boulevard to the City limit. With bike lanes, bridges, river access, road curvature and traffic volume, this section of the road presents safety risks for on-street parking so staff is following up on a suggestion of a resident in this section of the street to prohibit on-street parking. (attachment)

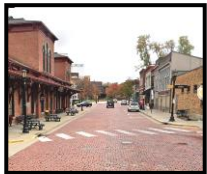
Administration Recommendation

This stretch of Middlebury Road is narrow and presents a safety hazard for on-street parking so I recommend Council's support to prohibit on-street parking as presented.

Council Actions

Authorize the proposed on-street parking restriction on Middlebury Road as presented with the emergency clause.

2. Proposed Extended Outdoor Seating on Franklin Avenue (Jim)



Jim has requested Committee time to present a recommendation of staff to resume the popular outdoor seating on Franklin Avenue (the block between Main Street and Erie Street) beginning on May 7th. The success of the street closure on Thursday thru Sunday in 2020 has led to the recommendation to close this block of the street for the full outdoor season (May 7th to October, weather permitting). In extending the duration of the street closure the City can save overtime costs resulting from set up and take down of the tables each week and we can upgrade the outdoor "experience" for patrons, e.g., more lighting, trash receptacles, etc. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

With the pandemic still looming, the outdoor seating provides much better safety for the public while still supporting the downtown businesses and I recommend Council's support for the extended street closure as presented.

Council Actions

Authorize the extended street closure for outdoor seating on Franklin Avenue as presented with the emergency clause.

3. Proposed Main Street Maintenance Agreement (Bridget, Melanie)



Bridget has requested Committee time for Council's authorization to extend the maintenance agreement with Main Street Kent that was used last year to employ part time workers to patrol the Franklin Avenue outdoor seating area for trash, spills, sanitation, etc. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

The Agreement with Main Street reduces City overtime and ensures the proper functioning and safety protocols for the extended outdoor dining season on Franklin Avenue at a cost not to exceed \$7,500. I recommend Council's support.

Council Actions

Authorize the maintenance Agreement with Main Street Kent to support the extended outdoor dining on Franklin Avenue as presented with the emergency clause.



Finance Committee

1. Council Salaries and OPERS Guidance (Hope, Rhonda)

Hope and Rhonda have been reviewing the guidance put out by OPERS related to Council salaries and Ohio retirement service credits. Council member salaries are currently slightly below the threshold for full service credit so staff is suggesting reforming the Council Salary Review Committee to consider increasing Council salaries to meet the minimum threshold for full service credit. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council receive the staff report and consider reconvening the Salary Review Committee to discuss the latest OPERS guidance and Council salaries.

Council Actions

Receive the staff report and reconvene the Salary Review Committee to consider the latest OPERS guidance.

2. City/Franklin Township Fire Service Contract Rate Extension (Hope, Chief Tosko, Rhonda)

Hope, Rhonda and John have been working with Franklin Township representatives to come up with terms for the next round of the City's multi-year contract with the Township to provide emergency fire and EMS services in the Township at a calculated per-call billing rate. The current contract is expiring and the staff is requesting Council's approval to extend the current billing rate for a period up to 5 months until we finalize the negotiations for the next multi-year contract billing rates. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council's authorization of the extension of the current fire/EMS contract rates for the Franklin Township for up to 5 months as presented.

Council Actions

Authorize the extension of the City's current fire service contract rates with Franklin Township as presented with the emergency clause.

3. 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 proposed 2021 appropriations amendments.

Council Actions

Approve the 2021 budget appropriations amendments as presented (emergency clause is automatic).

Information Items

1. Kent Police Statistics

Chief Shearer has provided a copy of the police statistics report for February 2021. In 2020 calls for service are down 32% (1411 calls); traffic citations are down 63% (359 tickets); accident incidents are down 52% (71 incidents) and serious crimes are up (by 3 cases). (attachment)

