



Committee of the Whole

1. Kent Area Chamber of Commerce Update (Dennis Campbell)

Dennis Campbell, the Executive Director of the Kent Area Chamber of Commerce has asked for Committee time to share an update on the status of the Chamber and Chamber activities in 2024.

Administrative Recommendation

Receive the staff update, no action is necessary.

Council Action

Receive the staff update.



2. Update on the City Hall Construction Project (Melanie)

Melanie has asked for Committee time to share an update on the status of the construction of the new City Administration building.

Administrative Recommendation

Receive the staff update, no action is necessary.

Council Action

Receive the staff update.



3. KSU Town & Gown Initiatives Update from KSU (Dana)

Dana Lawless Andric from KSU has asked for a few minutes to provide an update on the status of KSU town and gown initiatives for Council's information.

Administration Recommendation

Receive the informational update.

Council Actions

Receive the informational update, no action is required.



Community Development Committee

1. Proposed Modifications to City Rental Licensing Fee Collection (Bridget)

Bridget has requested Committee time to present a recommendation to amend our City rental licensing fee collection methods based on recent court findings. Bridget and Hope have proposed a change in methods by which the City collects unpaid rental licensing fees and they will present proposed language to implement that change. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

The Courts have upheld the constitutionality of the City's rental licensing program, but they have directed the City to amend the methods used to collect outstanding rental licensing related payments. I recommend Council's approval of the proposed text changes as presented.

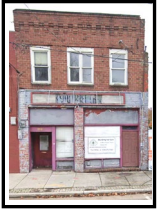
Council Action

Receive the staff report and approve the proposed text changes to amend the City's procedures to collect outstanding rental fees, fines, etc., with the emergency clause.



Community Development Committee (continued)

2. Proposed Exterior Modifications to 252 N. Water Street (Bridget)



Bridget has requested Committee time to present a recommendation to consider a request by the new property owner at 252 N. Water Street to modify the exterior façade of the building (new Maddalena's restaurant). Until Council has completed integrating the design guideline elements into the Zoning Code, the Architectural Review Board is dormant and Council will need to consider ARB cases during the transition. (attachment)

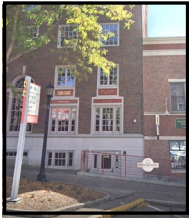
Administrative Recommendation

Staff reports that the façade improvements are beneficial and align with the design guidelines passed in December 2023. Bridget and I recommend Council approve the exterior façade changes as presented.

Council Action

Receive the staff report and approve the proposed facade changes at 252 N. Water Street as presented, with the emergency clause.

3. Proposed New TRES Liquor License Agreement (Bridget)



Bridget has requested Committee time to present a request for a new TRES liquor license for the basement space at 176 E. Main Street (the former Secret Cellar/Franklin Hotel bar). The applicant is negotiating a lease to open a new bar (Beware of the Leopard) with limited food service and has requested TRES approval for alcohol sales. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Bridget has reviewed the eligibility criteria that Council established for TRES licenses and she recommends Council's approval. I also recommend Council's authorization.

Council Actions

Authorize the TRES development agreement with Beware of the Leopard as presented, with the emergency clause.

Finance Committee

1. 911 Fund Appropriation Request (Chief Shearer)



Chief Shearer has requested Committee time to ask for Council's authorization of a Budget Appropriation Amendment that would allow the Police Department to allocate funds from the City's 991 Fund to be used to purchase a new recorder for 911 lines, new microphones for dispatch, and to purchase the IntelliComm systems which allows dispatch to integrate emergency medical information with dispatch data. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

The Wireless 911 Funds are restricted to use in support of dispatch 911 improvements and I recommend Council's support for the Chief's budget amendment as presented.

Council Action

Approve the 911 Wireless Funds budget amendment and allocation for the purpose of upgrading the City's dispatch technology as presented, with the emergency clause.

2. Certify Tax Rates and Amounts to Portage County (Rhonda)



Rhonda has requested Council's authorization to submit the City projected 2025 tax rates and amounts to the Portage County Auditor. This is an annual process that is required by Ohio Revised Code, Sections 5705.34 & 5705.35 to be submitted to the County Auditor before October 1st of each year. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

There is no proposed change in the City's tax rates and I recommend Council authorize and certify the tax rates and amounts provided by Rhonda.

Council Action

Authorize and certify the tax rates and amounts for submission to the Portage County Auditor, with the Emergency Clause.

Health & Public Safety Committee

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



Nick has requested 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 2024-25 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.

Streets, Sidewalks, & Utilities Committee

1. Safe Routes to School, School Travel Plan (Jim)



Jim has been working with the Service Department, Kent City Schools and community members to develop a School Travel Plan. The School Travel Plan includes a list of recommendations to improve the safety of students traveling to school. Examples of the recommendations include adding new crosswalks, intersection improvements, the new Lake Rockwell Trail construction, Safety Town, safety enforcement, etc. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

In approving the School Travel Plan, the City would then become eligible to apply for Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) funding up to \$500,000 in infrastructure improvements and up to \$60,000 for non-infrastructure programs. I recommend Council's approval of the School Travel Plan as presented.

Council Actions

Approve the new Safe Routes to School, School Travel Plan as presented, with the emergency clause.

2. New Water Planning Study Agreement with Portage County (Jim)



Jim has requested Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee time to ask for Council's approval to execute a new Water Planning Study Agreement with Portage County. The Agreement provides a framework for the City and County to jointly study the supply of public water in the area generally bounded by Mogadore Road, SR43, and Howe Avenue. The study costs would be split 50-50 with the County, with the City's contribution capped at \$50,000. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

The funds for this planning study are in the approved 2024 budget and the study may expand the City's future water sales, so I recommend Council's approval for the Agreement as presented.

Council Action

Authorize the new water planning study agreement to be executed with Portage County Water Resources as presented, with the emergency clause.

Streets, Sidewalks, & Utilities Committee (continued)

3. Lion's Club Car Show Street Closure Request (Eric H.)



Eric has requested Committee time to present a street closure request on behalf of the Lion's Club for a new Lion's Club Car Show. The Event is scheduled for October 5th, 2024. The applicant requested the closure of Franklin Avenue between Summit Street and the Haymaker Bridge Overpass (area around the Farmer's Market) from 2 pm to 8 pm. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council support the proposed street closure request as presented.

Council Actions

Authorize the new street closure request for the Lion's Club Car Show as presented, with the emergency clause.

4. Update the City Parking Code for Pioneer Avenue (Jim/Hope)



Jim and Hope have requested Committee time to request Council's consideration to update the City's Parking Code to address a parking issue on Pioneer Avenue. The proposed amendment seeks to change the language in the Code for Pioneer Avenue from "dead end" to "T Intersection." This amendment will make the code match the current condition at both ends of Pioneer Avenue that are T-intersections, not dead ends. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council support the proposed change in the City's Parking Code, redefining Pioneer Avenue from a "dead end" to a "T intersection" as presented.

Council Actions

Authorize the revised language for the Parking Code related to the designation of Pioneer Avenue as a T-intersection, with the emergency clause.

Information Items

1. Fire Incident Reports

Chief Samels has provided a copy of the fire and emergency medical services reports for July 2024. The MTD calls for fire service are down 4.8% (6 calls) compared with 2023. Calls for fire mutual aid assistance received MTD is unchanged at 1 call in 2024 as compared to 2023; and EMS responses are down 4.7% (by 15 calls) for 2024, compared to YTD 2023. (attachment)

2. Income Tax Report

Rhonda Hall has provided a summary of income tax collections for July of 2024. Overall, the City income tax collections YTD are up 2.4% (\$257,298) compared with YTD of 2023. For the month of July, the City income tax collections are up 6.5% (\$90,068) compared to 2023. (attachment)