



Committee of the Whole

1. Codified Ordinance Book Update (Hope)

Hope has asked for Committee time to ask for Council's approval to update the City's Ordinance book to reflect the necessary changes in law that need to be integrated into the City Code. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Receive the staff update and adopt the Ordinance book updates as presented.

Council Action

Receive the staff report and approve the proposed updates to the City's Ordinance book as presented, with the emergency clause.

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. Proposed Ward Boundaries Revisions (Bridget)

Bridget has requested Committee to review the proposed Ward Map changes that would enable the City to meet the 10% population Charter requirement using the 2020 Census data. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

I recommend Council receive the staff report, discuss and adopt the proposed map changes.

Council Action

Receive the staff report, discuss, and adopt the proposed map changes as presented, with the emergency clause.

Community Development Committee

1. ARB Future Roles and Responsibilities (Bridget)

Bridget has requested Committee time to discuss the impacts of the recent changes to the City's Design Guidelines on the role of the Architectural Review Board (ARB). The updated Design Guidelines removed the statutory authority of the ARB to issue "certificates of appropriateness" for projects in the overlay district so Council needs to clarify whether the ARB will continue to operate as an advisory board or whether it will be disbanded. Whatever Council decides will then need to be updated in the Zoning Code.(attachments)

Administration Recommendation

Receive the staff report, discuss, and direct staff accordingly.

Council Actions

Receive the staff report, discuss, and direct staff accordingly.



Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee



1. Change in Street Closure for JC's Craft Beer Festival (Bridget, Eric)

Staff have requested Committee time to request Council's authorization for a modification to the street closure for the JC's Craft Beer Festival in May. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The staff have reviewed the proposed changes for the JC's Craft Beer Festival, and we recommend Council's authorization of the new street closures as presented.

Council Action

Authorize the changes proposed changes in the street closure for the JC's Craft Beer Festival as presented, with the emergency clause.

2. Kent/Akron Lake Rockwell Trail Agreement (Jim)



Jim and Angela have requested Committee time to present a draft agreement between the cities of Kent and Akron that would permit the City to pursue the construction of a shared use trail on the City of Akron's water easement that runs through Kent from Lake Rockwell towards Akron. The City agrees to provide for trail maintenance (within the City limits) under the terms of the agreement. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

This trail connection has been under discussion for years and given the location of the water line, once constructed it will improve trail connectivity between Kent neighborhoods, schools, parks, etc. I recommend Council's support for the Agreement.

Council Actions

Approve the proposed Kent/Akron Lake Rockwell Trail agreement as presented, with the emergency clause.

3. East Main Street Project Right of Way (ROW) Acquisition (Jim)



Jim has requested Committee time to begin the Right of Way acquisition for the East Main Street Transportation Improvement Project. Since a project of this size will have numerous temporary and permanent acquisitions (32), Jim is requesting Council's authorization to execute the ROW purchases administratively as long as the purchases conform to the Federal Uniform Relocation Act. This process was successfully used with the ROW purchases in the Summit Street Transportation Improvement Project. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

Processing 32 ROW purchases through the conventional Council process would be time consuming for items that have proven to be manageable administratively and I recommend Council authorize Jim's request to process the ROW purchases administratively as was done with the Summit Street Transportation Improvement Project.

Council Actions

Authorize the staff to manage the East Main Street Project Right of Way purchases administratively as presented, with the emergency clause.

Finance Committee

1. Portage County Landbank Subrecipient Grant Agreement (Bridget)

Bridget has requested Committee time to ask Council to authorize the staff to enter into a subrecipient grant agreement with the Portage County Landbank that would enable grant funds to be used to demo the City owned building at 266 N. Water Street that is unusable/unsellable in its current condition. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

The City has tried to sell 3 parcels (2 buildings) on N. Water Street for the past 3 years. The City has an agreement to sell the vacant parcel and 1 building to a local restaurant group, but the final parcel (266 N. Water) and building are too far in disrepair to be sold or functional. Bridget has partnered with the Portage County Landbank to seek grant funds to remove the structure from the property in hopes of making the parcel more likely to sell without the building on it. I recommend Council's support.

Council Actions

Approve the proposed subrecipient grant agreement and if the grant is approved, authorize the demo of the outdated building located at 266 N. Water Street as presented, with the emergency clause.

2. 2024 Budget Appropriations Amendment (Rhonda)

Rhonda has been working with the department heads to reconcile the approved 2024 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 appropriations amendments.

Council Actions

Approve the 2024 budget appropriations amendments as presented, with the emergency clause.

Information Items

1. Kent Police Statistics

Chief Shearer has provided a copy of the police statistics report for December 2023. In 2023 calls for service are down 11.5% (by 131 calls); traffic citations are up by 6 tickets (109 tickets); accident incidents are down by 9 to 33 incidents for the month and serious crimes are down, at 2 incidents, compared to 3 in December of 2022. (attachment)

2. Main Street Kent Annual Report

Heather Malarcik has shared a copy of the Annual Main Street Kent report for 2023. If you read through the reports you'll see budget information for the year, as well as a listing of the community events sponsored by Main Street Kent during 2023. (attachment)

