

Work Session

1. Boards and Commission Interviews

Council will have an opportunity to interview applicants for vacancies on City Boards and Commissions.



2. Update the Pending List

The staff has reviewed the pending list items and we would like Committee time to review the status of those items and request Council's consideration to remove completed items where appropriate. (attachment)



Administrative Recommendation

Review the pending list items and authorize the modifications to the list as presented by staff.

Council Action

Authorize and amend the pending list as appropriate.

Land Use Committee

3. Overlay District

Pursuant to the previous request by Edwards Communities Development Company to postpone action on the R-4 rezoning request until the April 6, 2011 committee and special Council meeting, this item will be on the agenda for further discussion.

On a separate but related note, Gary has been working on a draft for a new Residential Redevelopment Overlay District which was discussed conceptually with the members of Council and the various Boards and Commissions attending a meeting on March 15, 2011. At that time, the Planning Commission adopted a motion to initiate a zoning amendment to consider the Overlay District. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on this amendment at their meeting on April 5, 2011. A copy of the draft text and map are being included with the attachments to this communication and have been emailed out separately to the various Board and Commission members through Gary's office. Gary can answer questions about the draft materials, however, Council cannot take formal action to approve the Overlay draft and map change until Planning Commission completes its review and forwards a recommendation to Council. Council then must advertise its public hearing, discuss and then consider action on the proposed amendments. Depending on the Planning Commission's timing, Council's review could take place at the May meetings. (attachments)

Administrative Recommendation

Given the various meetings and discussions that have taken place to this point, the Overlay concept represents a reasonable compromise solution to the R-4 request.

Council Action

Take the appropriate action on the R-4 District if requested by Edwards Communities or postpone in lieu of the Overlay District outcome.



Land Use Committee/Special Council Meeting

4. Edwards Project Rezoning Request

If Council moves forward with the R-4 request at the developer's request, Council will need to hold a Special Council meeting to vote on the Committee action item.

Administrative Recommendation

Take the appropriate action on the R-4 District if requested by Edwards Communities.

Council Action

Take the appropriate action on the R-4 District if requested by Edwards Communities.

Finance Committee

5. City-PARTA Operating Agreement, Lease, and Financing

Jim Bowling has requested Committee time to review the draft agreements between the City of Kent and PARTA for the new multi-modal facility. The Operating Agreement outlines the components of the new facility and assigns the organizational responsibilities related to the maintenance and operation of the independent and shared space planned for the new facility. The Agreement also defines the terms of the City's lease for the public parking decks and indicates the financial arrangement for handling parking revenues and costs on an annual basis.

Administration Recommendation

Jim and I have been working closely with PARTA to develop terms for this critical project agreement that we believe are fair and appropriate for all parties involved in the project and I would request Council's support.

Council Actions

Approve the terms of the draft Agreement and authorize staff to proceed with finalizing the document for signature.

6. Fire Department Grant Acceptance

Bill Lillich and Chief Williams have requested Committee time to provide an overview of the recently announced Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) awards. The Fire Department received an AFG grant in the amount of \$186,789 to upgrade our emergency medical services capabilities. The Chief plans to purchase 4 new heart monitors, 12 Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) and 5 automatic Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) machines with the grant funds. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Receive the report and authorize staff to accept the grant funds.

Council Actions

Authorize staff to accept the grant funds.





7. Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant (SAFER)

Bill Lillich has requested Committee time to present a FEMA SAFER grant opportunity that could result in funding sufficient for adding 4 firefighters. Bill and Chief Williams have evaluated the financial impacts from participating in the grant and they will present their findings with a recommendation to Council. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Receive the staff report and direct staff accordingly.

Council Actions

Receive the staff report and direct staff accordingly.

8. Land O'Lakes Enterprise Zone Agreement

Dan Smith has requested Committee time to obtain Council's approval of a request from Land O'Lakes, Inc. to terminate their Enterprise Zone Agreement. Due to changes in the Ohio tax law that eliminated the Ohio personal property tax the Agreement is no longer relevant. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The City's Enterprise Zone Agreement with Land O'Lakes has been pre-empted by the elimination of state personal property tax and I recommend Council's approval to terminate the agreement.

Council Actions

Authorize staff to terminate the Land O'Lakes Enterprise Zone Agreement.

9. Water and Sewer Ordinance Amendments

Gene Roberts has requested Committee time to present his recommendations to update and amend Kent City Code Section 919: Utilization Charges for Connections. Gene indicates that portions of the old City Code need to be modified to reflect changes in the State Code and he has prepared additional text changes to better handle the attraction and retention of prospective large water and sewer users. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

I would strongly recommend Council's support for water and sewer ordinance changes.

Council Actions

Authorize the modifications to the water and sewer ordinance as presented.



Community Development Committee

10. Property Transfer For Redevelopment

Bridget Susel has requested Committee time to ask for Council's approval to transfer the property located at 527 Fairchild Avenue to Family and Community Services for the construction of a new home on the site consistent with the goals of the Neighborhood Stabilization program that funded the original acquisition and demolition of the former dilapidated unit previously located on the site. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

I would recommend Council's support for the property transfer.

Council Actions

Authorize staff to proceed with the property transfer.



Health and Public Safety Committee



11. Modification of City Code For Hen-Raising

Members of City Council requested Committee time to allow the representatives from ClucKent to present their request for the City Council to amend the City Code so as to allow hen-raising in Kent. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Receive the information, discuss and direct staff accordingly.

Council Actions

Receive the information, discuss and direct staff accordingly.

Information Items

1. Social Service Funding For 2011

Bridget Susel and Gary Locke have completed the annual review of City Social Service Funding requests and I have included a copy of their memo that outlines the \$100,000 funding allocation for 2011. You will note that the City received applications for from 7 nonprofit organizations seeking support for 11 different service programs adding up to a total request of \$112,099. (attachment)

2. February Income Tax Report

Dave Coffee has provided a summary of income tax collections thru the end of February 2011. Overall the City income tax collections are up 4.48% (\$77,814) from February 2010. Kent State University's collections thru the end of February are slightly down -1.03% (\$7,709). (attachment)

3. Fire Incident Report Through February

Jim Williams has provided a copy of the fire and emergency medical services report for February 2011. In 2011 calls for fire service are down 10% (13 calls); fire mutual aid assistance is up by 2 events in 2011; and EMS responses are down by 9% (63 calls). (attachment)

4. Kent Police Statistics

Chief Lee has provided a copy of the police statistics report for February 2011. In 2011 calls for service are down 16% (130 calls); traffic citations are down 14% (89 tickets); accident incidents are up 9% (15 incidents) and serious crimes are the same (106 cases) as 2010. (attachment)