



Public Hearing

Bridget has asked the City Clerk to schedule a public hearing at 7 pm for the proposed zoning text amendment for adult use marijuana and vape retail sales locations in the Industrial District.

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. 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.

Community Development Committee

1. Proposed Modifications to Street Closure Request Criteria (Bridget)

Bridget has requested Committee time to present options developed by staff to optimize the closure of City streets for special events downtown. Based on experience managing traffic on special events in downtown Kent, the staff believe revisions can be made to the street closure request process and the criteria used to evaluate street closure requests to better balance the safety of event attendees, the success of the special events for vendors, and access for permanent businesses in the downtown. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

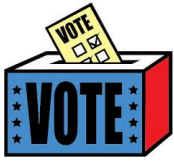
Receive the staff report and direct the staff accordingly.

Council Actions

Receive the staff report, direct staff accordingly.



Finance Committee



1. 2025 General Operating Levy Renewal, Notice to Proceed (Rhonda)

After authorizing the Renewal General Operating Levy for voter consideration in May, Council needs to pass an official "Notice to Proceed" which is the next administrative step for the formal placement of the City's 2025 General Operating Levy on the ballot for renewal at the November 2024 election. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council's approve the "Notice to Proceed" for the placement of the City's 2025 General Operating Levy on the ballot in November 2024.

Council Action

Authorize the "Notice to Proceed" for the placement of the renewal of the 2025 General Operating Levy (1.16 mils) on the November 2024 ballot, with the emergency clause.

2. Health Department Grant Applications and Awards (Joan)

Joan is requesting Committee time to present a request for Council's authorization to apply for grant funds, and if awarded to appropriate the funds to the Health Department budget as presented. The grant funds include: \$100,000 in a Creating Healthy Communities (CLC) grant, \$74,237 in an Emergency Operations grant, and \$25,000 in an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council authorize the application for these grant funds and approve the appropriation of those funds if awarded.

Council Action

Authorize the application for grant funds by the Health Department, and if approved, authorize appropriation of those funds, with the emergency clause.

3. Proposed Bond Refunding (Rhonda)

Rhonda has been working with the City's Professional Financial Advisor and she is requesting Committee time to present a proposal to refund the Safety Center debt (2013) and Alley 4 bond issue debt (2014) in the amount of \$7,150,000 for a projected savings of \$469,000. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council authorize the refunding of the City's debt as presented.

Council Action

Authorize the bond refunding as presented, with the emergency clause.

4. 2024 Budget Appropriations Amendment (Rhonda)

Rhonda has been working with the department heads to reconcile the approved 2024 budget line items and he 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 2024 appropriations amendments as presented.

Council Actions

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





Health & Public Safety Committee

1. Police Department Ohio Collaborative Certification (Chief Shearer)

Chief Shearer has requested Committee time to provide an update on the Police Department's Ohio Collaborative certification efforts. The Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory board was established in 2015 to oversee implementation of recommendations from the Ohio Task Force for best practices in Community-Police Relations. The Advisory board created state standards and a certification process to guide law enforcement agencies in Ohio. Kent has completed that certification process and Chief Shearer will report on the progress of the Department in meeting those standards for excellence in community policing.

Administration Recommendation

Receive the staff report, no action is necessary.

Council Action

Receive the staff report, no action is necessary.

2. Health Department Produce Prescription Program (Joan)

Joan has requested Committee time to present information on a new "Produce Prescription Program" that provides eligible customers that live or work in the City of Kent with \$120 worth of coupons, for free, that can be used at the Haymaker's Farmers Market. The program runs from June 2024 through the end of September 2024. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Receive the staff report, no action is needed.

Council Action

Receive the staff report, no action is needed.



Land Use Committee

1. Proposed Text Amendment for Adult Use Cannabis Sales (Bridget)

Bridget has asked for Committee time to present the recommendation of the staff and Planning Commission for the addition of adult use cannabis stores to the City's Industrial zoning district as an approved use. Bridget notes that Kent's industrial zones already include successful retail businesses and utilize the types of set-backs and proximity restrictions that are anticipated to be included in the State guidelines once they are issued. In addition, based on the concerns for the proliferation of vape stores that led Council to adopt legislation limiting the number of vape stores allowed in Kent, Bridget is suggesting moving the approved land use for vape stores to the Industrial district as well. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Kent's small geographic size and relatively light industrial uses makes the Industrial districts easy to access for customers, and in close proximity to a mix of uses including retail sales, while providing a buffer for nearby residential neighborhoods, schools, treatment facilities, etc., and I recommend Council's support for the proposed addition of adult use cannabis, -- and retail vape stores -- to the City's Industrial district as presented. The Industrial district provides an immediate retail option while allowing more time to evaluate possible future changes to the zoning code, e.g., commercial zoning, operational licensing, etc.,

Council Action

Authorize the addition of adult use cannabis, and vape retail stores, to the City's industrial district as presented, with the emergency clause.



Land Use Committee (continued)

2. Haymaker Farmer's Market License to Occupy Revision (Jim)



Jim has requested Committee time to present a request from the Haymaker Farmers Market to install a new mural beneath the Haymaker Parkway bridge. City staff are coordinating the approvals required from ODOT and the City in support of the new mural. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Public art has proven to be an attractive amenity downtown and I recommend Council's approval of the proposed installation of the new mural for the Haymaker Farmers market.

Council Action

Authorize the installation of the new mural for the Haymaker Farmers market beneath the Haymaker Parkway bridge as presented, with the emergency clause.

Information Items

1. Monthly Permit and Zoning Reports

Bridget Susel has enclosed copies of the monthly zoning and permit violations report for April 2024. Permit revenues were \$13,270.08 for the month with the most permits being issued for Residential Plumbing (32 permits each). There were 17 code enforcement items for the month. (attachment)

2. Kent Police Statistics

Chief Shearer has provided a copy of the police statistics report for April 2024. In 2024, MTD calls for service are down 9.2% (by 161 calls); traffic citations are down 11.6% (by 16 tickets); accident incidents are down 10.3% (by 13 incidents) for the month and serious crimes are up, at 4 incidents, compared to 0 in April of 2023. (attachment)