

October 28, 2015



Life outside the lines.

Finance Committee

1. 2015 Budget Appropriations Amendment

Dave Coffee has been working with the department heads to reconcile the approved 2015 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 appropriations amendments.

Council Actions

Approve the appropriations amendments as presented.

2. SR43 AMATS Sidewalk Funding Request

Jim Bowling has requested additional Committee time to present Council with the results of the neighborhood meeting for the proposed sidewalk improvements along SR43 in conjunction with the SR43 traffic signal project. Jim reports that the window of opportunity to leverage AMATS grant funds in conjunction with the SR43 Traffic Signal Upgrade project is closing. Jim advises that AMATS is requiring grant requests to be submitted in November so if the City wishes to pursue any of the various sidewalk improvement options that have been discussed a decision needs to be made at Council's November Committee meeting. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

The Water Street corridor has been identified as one of the City's busier pedestrian corridors yet the pedestrian infrastructure is outdated and not up to current expectations for a safe walking environment. In recognition of that, I recommend Council's authorization for staff to submit an AMATS funding request that would make some needed pedestrian improvements at the least expense to the City.

Council Actions

Authorize the staff to submit for AMATS funding.

3. Replacement Income Tax Ordinance

Dave Coffee and Jim Silver have requested Committee time to seek Council's authorization to amend and replace the City's income tax ordinance to match the tax law changes passed by the State of Ohio in December 2014 (HB 5). House Bill 5 goes into effect on January 1, 2016 and cities across Ohio are revising and replacing their income tax ordinances to conform to the new ORC Chapter 718. In conjunction with RITA, Jim and Dave have updated our tax code to meet the requirements of Chapter 718 for Council's consideration. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

Dave Coffee is not projecting any significant change (either up or down) in City income taxes resulting from the changes to the City's tax code and I recommend Council's support.

Council Action

Authorize the replacement of City income tax ordinance.



Finance Committee (continued)



4. Authorization to Apply for AMATS Funding for Hike & Bike Trail

Jim Bowling has requested Committee time to obtain Council's authorization to allow the staff to submit an AMATS funding request in the amount of \$1,238,700 (with the local share of \$538,700 to be paid by Parks and Recreation) to construct the "Brady's Leap" segment of the Portage Hike & Bike Trail through downtown Kent. The project is proposed to connect the end of the Hike & Bike trail at Brady's Leap to Main Street and Tannery Park. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Parks and Recreation have local match and the project would complete the Portage Hike & Bike trail through Kent so I recommend Council's support.

Council Actions

Authorize the application for AMATS funding for the Brady's Leap segment of the Portage Hike & Bike trail.



5. Authorization to Apply for AMATS Funding for Street Resurfacing

Jim Bowling has requested Committee time to obtain Council's authorization to allow the staff to submit an AMATS funding request in the amount of \$1,200,000 (with the local share of \$400,000 to be paid by out of the City's annual street paving capital budget) to resurface Mogadore Road from SR 261 to Stow Street. If approved, the funding would be distributed in 2020. (attachment)

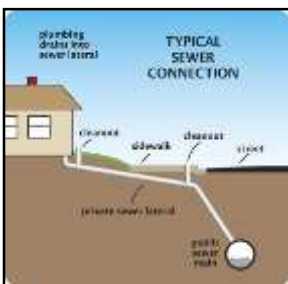
Administration Recommendation

Jim reports that we have adequate funding in our street paving capital budget to provide the local match and I would encourage Council's support to leverage the grant funding to get more pavement repair work completed in 2020.

Council Actions

Authorize the application for AMATS funding for the resurfacing of Mogadore Road.

6. Sewer Financial Assistance Request



Gene Roberts has requested Committee time for Council to re-consider the City's Sewer Ordinance in regards to the designation of the repair responsibilities between the City and the property owner. You may recall that staff presented this issue in August as a result of Council's referral of a request from a resident to receive financial assistance from the City to repair a portion of a broken sewer lateral which lies beneath the City street and makes the private repairs costly. Gene has prepared some City cost estimates associated with the possible Ordinance changes that Council discussed in August. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Gene, Dave Coffee and I support amending the Ordinance in order to provide some financial relief Kent homeowners with the understanding (and approval by Council) that this is a pilot program, the cost impacts of which will be re-evaluated in a year.

Council Action

Receive the staff report and authorize a pilot program of shared sewer maintenance costs as presented.

Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee

7. Sidewalk Snow Removal Options



Council requested additional Committee time to further evaluate sidewalk snow removal options heading into the 2015-16 winter season. By the time of the Committee meeting Gene will have evaluated the bids received for the possible sidewalk snow removal contract. Gene will review the bids and compare those costs with his cost estimates for having the City crews clear the walks. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The staff is recommending to continue the efforts underway for education and enforcement, and experiment with a pilot sidewalk snow removal program (either by contract or in-house on overtime) for testing in 2016 in order to see what works, how much money was required, and what was less effective than anticipated as we look to refine our plans and services heading into 2017.

Council Actions

Discuss sidewalk snow removal options and direct staff accordingly

8. Consent Legislation for ODOT Crack Seal Project on SR261

Jim Bowling has requested Committee time to obtain Council's authorization to allow ODOT (thru the passage of City "consent" legislation) to proceed with their plans to perform crack seal work on SR261 in the summer of 2016. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

There is no cost to the City for the crack seal work and I recommend Council's support.

Council Actions

Authorize the consent legislation in support of ODOT's crack seal project for SR261.

9. Consent Legislation for ODOT Bridge Repair Project on SR261

Jim Bowling has requested Committee time to obtain Council's authorization to allow ODOT (thru the passage of City "consent" legislation) to proceed with their plans to perform bridge repair work on the SR261 bridge over Plum Creek in 2017. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

There is no cost to the City for the bridge work and I recommend Council's support.

Council Actions

Authorize the consent legislation in support of ODOT's bridge repair project for SR261.

Health & Safety Committee

10. Process for New Administration Building Project

Staff requested Committee time to review with Council the public processes used in previous City projects as a basis to develop a public process for the new Administration offices. The staff will present a proposal that would use a committee to work with the staff to prepare the proposed site options matrix and establish recommendations for the project objectives that would be the basis of the future public discussions. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Receive the staff report and direct staff accordingly.

Council Actions

Receive the staff report and direct staff accordingly.



Health & Safety Committee

11. Beryl Drive Parking Petition

Council referred a petition from residents on Beryl Drive to the Traffic Engineering and Safety Committee for review. The petition requested Council to allow parking on the north side of Beryl Drive from Chadwick Street to Lincoln Street. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The Traffic Engineering and Safety Committee considered the request and found no reason to deny or amend the request.

Council Action

Authorize the parking petition request for Beryl Drive.



Community Development Committee

12. CHIP Loan Program Modifications

Bridget Susel has requested Committee time to seek Council's authorization to modify the City's Community Housing Impact and Preservation (CHIP) loan program as required to comply with recent State CHIP program changes. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council's support for the proposed CHIP program changes that are necessary to conform to the updated State program requirements.

Council Actions

Authorize the proposed modifications to the City's CHIP program as presented.



Information Items

1. American Legion Bingo Operations

John Idone has notified the American Legion that Parks & Recreation will no longer be able to staff the bingo operations at the American Legion. The department has had difficulty finding volunteers to staff the operations over the last six months. Parks & Recreation received \$25,000 in donations over the last two year from the bingo program.

2. Monthly Permit and Zoning Reports

Bridget Susel has enclosed copies of the monthly zoning and permit violations reports for September 2015. Permit revenues were \$15,439 for the month of September with the most permits being issued for residential engineering (29 permits). There were 74 code enforcement items in September, most of which were related to property maintenance and unsheltered storage. (attachment)

3. Income Tax Report

Dave Coffee has provided a summary of income tax collections thru the end of September 2015. Overall the City income tax collections are up 14.03% (\$1,347,167) from September 2014. Kent State University's collections thru the end of September are up 3.50% (\$122,322). (attachment)

4. Fire Incident Report

Chief Tosko has provided a copy of the fire and emergency medical services report for September 2015. In 2015 calls for fire service are up 4% (26 calls); fire mutual aid assistance is up 7 events in 2015; and EMS responses are up 2% (54 calls). (attachment)