



Public Hearing

1. The City Clerk has scheduled a public hearing on the proposed text changes to the City's Zoning Code.

Committee of the Whole

1. 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.



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 Revisions (Bridget)

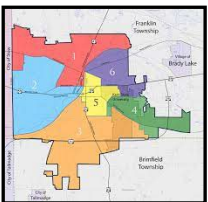
Bridget has requested Committee time for Council's consideration of the proposed changes to the Ward maps based on the latest census data population counts and the City's Charter requirements. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Due to changes in reported population by census track, the staff had to make some modifications to the Ward maps to ensure the required balance in population across the different Wards where population counts have changed (per the City Charter). The changes are relatively minor and I recommend Council's approval.

Council Action

Receive the staff report and authorize the proposed Ward revisions as presented, with the emergency clause.



Health & Public Safety Committee

1. Proposed Vape Store Density and Moratorium Options (Hope, Joan)

Joan has requested Committee time to ask for Council's consideration of legislation proposed by the Kent Health Board to limit the number of retail stores selling tobacco and vape products in order to provide some limits on access given the known health risks associated with these products. Hope has also requested Committee time to present her findings into the Council referral to explore the legal viability of a moratorium on vape stores in Kent. A number of cities in Northeast Ohio have adopted temporary moratoriums, e.g., 6 months, 12 months, based on a desire to ensure the stores are properly Zoned and regulated. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Receive and discuss the staff reports and direct staff accordingly.

Council Action

Receive the staff report and direct staff accordingly.

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

Nick has requested Finance 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 2023-24 academic year. The dates have been updated and the K9 dog assigned with the SRO was also added to the agreement. (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.

3. DORA Exception Request (Nick)

Nick has requested Committee time to present a request to temporarily allow non-DORA containers to be used in the DORA during the planned visit of the Budweiser Clydesdales to downtown Kent on August 16th. The event organizers have asked if people of legal drinking age would be allowed to take photos with the Clydesdales while holding Budweiser products during the event. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The staff have reviewed the exception request and given the popularity of the Clydesdale horse we recommend Council approve the temporary exception request as presented.

Council Actions

Authorize the temporary exception request for the Clydesdale visit as presented, with the emergency clause.

Land Use Committee

1. Zoning Code Text Amendments (Bridget)

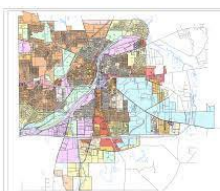
Bridget has requested Committee time to present the staff recommendations to amend the Zoning Code and add new language to improve the management of light pollution by adjusting lighting limitations for business establishments. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Receive and discuss the staff report; and authorize the proposed Zoning text amendments as proposed.

Council Action

Receive the staff report and authorize the proposed Zoning Text amendments as proposed, with the emergency clause.



Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee

1. New KSU "Flashes First" Downtown Street Closure (Eric H.)



Eric has requested Committee time to ask for Council's approval of a new street closure request from Kent State University for their "flashes first" downtown event planned for Thursday, August 24th from 5-8 pm (street closure from 2 pm to 9:30 pm). This new event is jointly sponsored by KSU, the Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Kent. It's a welcome event for Kent State Students and provides a way for them to get to know the downtown Kent businesses. The event sponsors are asking for approval to close a portion of N. Water Street (between East Main and Columbus Street) which requires Council's approval. (attachment)

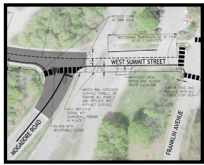
Administration Recommendation

This event used to be held on campus and moving it downtown should have many positive benefits for the downtown business vitality and I recommend Council's approval of the proposed N. Water Street closure.

Council Actions

Authorize the new street closure for the "Flashes First" student welcome event on August 24th as presented, with the emergency clause.

2. City/Portage County Bridge/Pedestrian Improvement Agreement (Jim)



Jim has requested Committee time to ask for Council's approval of the Stow/Summit Street Bridge and Pedestrian Improvement Project Agreement between the City and Portage County. The Agreement formally establishes the partnership for the pursuit of external funding for this shared bridge project. If funded, the project will include enhanced pedestrian safety as well as routine bridge maintenance. (attachment)

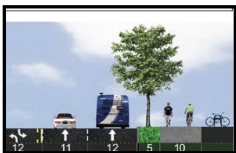
Administration Recommendation

The \$25,000 City contribution to the project was approved in the 2023 Capital Plan and I recommend Council's approval of the proposed project agreement.

Council Actions

Approve the proposed City/County project agreement for the Stow/Summit Street Bridge & Pedestrian Improvement project as presented, with the emergency clause.

3. SR59 Alternative Transportation Improvement Project (Jim)



Jim has requested Committee time to ask for Council's authorization to accept and allocate an ODOT grant in the amount of \$666,000 for the design of the SR59 Alternative Transportation Project and to enter into a new Local Public Agency Agreement with ODOT for the administration of the grant. The staff also needs Council's approval to enter into an Agreement with PARTA and Franklin Township for the new project design work. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The City local match contribution to the project was approved in the 2023 Capital Plan and I recommend Council's authorization to accept and allocate the grant funds and enter into the necessary Agreements to administer and manage the project.

Council Actions

Authorize the acceptance and allocation of the ODOT grant funds and approve the necessary Agreements to administer and manage the SR59 Alternative Transportation Improvement Project as presented, with the emergency clause.

Finance Committee

1. Tobacco Use and Project Dawn Stipend Grant for 2024 (Joan)

Joan has asked for Committee time to request Council's approval to accept \$117,000 in from the Tobacco Use Grant for 2024. The funds are used for tobacco prevention and cessation. Joan has also asked for Council to accept and allocate \$2,000 to be used for marketing and education related to the State drug overdose prevention programs. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council approve the tobacco use and Project Dawn grant submissions, and if approved authorize the acceptance and allocation of the grant funds as presented.

Council Actions

Authorize the submission of the tobacco use grant and if approved, authorize acceptance and allocation of the grant funds as presented, with the emergency clause.

2. Fire Department Ohio Ambulance Service Transportation Grant Request (Jamie)

Jamie has requested Committee time to ask for Council's approval to submit an Ohio Ambulance Service Transportation grant request. The State of Ohio has allocated ARPA funds to be distributed to local fire departments and used as "premium pay." Jamie is applying for grant funds up to \$20,000 for Fire/EMS runs in the City and another \$20,000 for Fire/EMS runs in the Franklin Township. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Authorize the submission of the grant, and if approved accept and allocate the funds, as presented, with the emergency clause.

Council Action

Authorize the submission of the Ohio Ambulance Service Transportation grant request, and if approved, authorize acceptance and allocation of the grant funds as presented, with the emergency clause.

3. Certified Liens to the County for Outstanding Payments (Rhonda)

Rhonda has requested Finance Committee time to present the annual list of addresses for certification and submission to Portage County to be added to property tax records as tax liens against the property due to lack of payment. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

The City annually submits a certified list of addresses that have failed to pay their City bills and have not agreed to an extended payment plan. I recommend Council certify the list and authorize the staff to forward it to the County as presented.

Council Actions

Certify and authorize the submission of the proposed property tax liens as presented, with the emergency clause.

Information Items

1. Kent Police Statistics

Chief Shearer has provided a copy of the police statistics report for June 2023. In 2023, calls for service are down 17.5% for the month (by 373 calls); traffic citations are down 46.8% (109 tickets); accident incidents are up by one incident at 51 incidents for the month and serious crimes are down by one from 2 to 1 incident. (attachment)

2. Main Street Kent Quarterly Report

Heather Malarcik has shared a copy of the Quarterly Main Street Kent report for 2nd Quarter of 2023. If you read through the reports you'll see YTD budget information, as well as an update on the Main Street community events. (attachment)

