

Public Hearing

We have scheduled a public hearing at the start of our Committee meeting to receive comments on the proposal to repeal section 1147.02(3)(a) of the Zoning Code.

Land Use Committee

1. West River Parking Lease Renewal With Kent City Schools

Gary Locke has requested Committee time for Council to consider the renewal of the lease with the Kent Board of Education for 30 parking spaces located in a school lot on North Mantua Street. The current lease was provided in conjunction with the West River Neighborhood revitalization project to help provide additional public parking in the area for local businesses. The current lease costs the City \$4,472 per year. Starting in February 2010 the City began sub-letting the parking lot to the Unitarian Universalist Church on Saturdays, Sundays and weekdays after 6 pm at a cost of \$100. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

The businesses in the West River Neighborhood continue to stress the importance of this public parking to their business activity and I would recommend Council's authorization to renew the lease as presented.

Council Action

Authorize the renewal of the parking lease with Kent City Schools.

2. Repeal of Zoning Section 1147.02(03)(a), University District

Gary Locke and Jen Barone have requested Committee time for Council to consider the recommendation of the Planning Commission to repeal the latest change to the Zoning Code that allowed residential property use in the University District. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

The staff is requesting Council's support of the Planning Commission recommendation to restore the original use of the University District.

Council Actions

Adopt the revision to the Zoning Code, Section 1147.02(03)(a), for the definition of uses allowed in the University District.

Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee

3. Proposed Vending, Peddling & Soliciting Regulations

Jim Silver has prepared a draft regulations that would allow for more equitable and efficient management of vehicle trailer food sales, hand cart food sales and door to door peddlers in Kent. Jim and I are requesting Committee time to present the proposed regulations for initial comment and discussion. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Discuss the proposed street vendor requirements and advise staff accordingly.

Council Action

Discuss the street vendor proposal and direct staff accordingly.





4. City/ODOT Project Agreement for Crain Avenue Paving

Jim Bowling has requested Committee time for Council to consider authorizing a Local Participation Agreement (LPA) with ODOT to use up to \$172,040 in federal funds to resurface Crain Avenue from North Willow Street to Elmwood Drive in 2011. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

I would recommend Council's support to approve the Agreement and authorize staff to proceed with the project planning.

Council Actions

Authorize staff to proceed with ODOT Local Participation Agreement to resurface Crain Avenue.



5. City/ODOT SR 261 Paving Project Agreement

Jim Bowling has requested Committee time to request Council's authorization to enter into a Participation Agreement with ODOT for a state paving project planned for SR261 within Kent City limits in 2015. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

I would recommend Council's support to approve the Agreement and authorize staff to proceed with the project planning.

Council Actions

Authorize staff to proceed with ODOT Local Participation Agreement to resurface SR 261 within Kent City limits.



6. Erie Street Land Acquisition

Jim Bowling has requested Committee time to request Council's authorization to purchase land (20' x 251' along Erie Street) from the Kent State Foundation that will become part of the expanded street right of way in conjunction with the construction of the PARTA facility and extension of the esplanade down the Erie Street Corridor. Pending Council's approval David Coffee is recommending utilizing \$81,120 in project bond funds to make the purchase. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

We had included adequate funding in the project bond estimate to cover the costs of this land acquisition and I would recommend Council's support to move forward with this purchase as presented.

Council Action

Authorize staff to proceed with the land acquisition from the KSU Foundation.



7. Staff Conditional Approval Authority

Jim Bowling has requested Committee time to request Council's consideration to authorize the staff to grant conditional approval of requests for a license to occupy the public right of way that arise in the downtown redevelopment projects similar to the recent Committee discussion for the Acorn Alley project. Gene and Jim believe that in order to support the development timelines it would be prudent to have Council grant staff authorization to negotiate and conditionally approve right of way issues that are likely to emerge in the subsequent phases of the Acorn Alley project, PARTA's project, mixed use project and the hotel conference center. The purpose would be to prevent the project from being held up by having to wait until the next Council meeting.

Administration Recommendation

I would recommend Council's support to grant staff conditional approval authority for matters dealing with public right of way requests.

Council Actions

Grant staff conditional approval authority for right of way requests.

Health and Safety Committee Items

8. Prescription Discount Plans



Liz Zorc has requested Committee time to review the findings of her research into the prescription discount plans that are available to assist City residents with saving money on their health prescriptions. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Receive the prescription discount information and direct staff accordingly.

Council Action

Receive the prescription discount information and direct staff accordingly.

9. 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.

Finance Committee

10. Engineering Position Upgrade Request



Gene and Jim have requested Committee time for Council to consider authorizing a request to upgrade a part time Engineer position to full time status in order to keep up with the heavy workload. As a result of the City's success in aggressive grant writing, we've received record levels of grant funds which has allowed us to add many new projects to our Capital Program. Unfortunately the workload has increased to the point where the Engineering Division has had to begin to delay critical non-grant funded projects in order to fulfill the terms of the grant projects. Concurrently with this change in the Engineer position, there is a request to reduce a current full time Engineering Aide position to part time, which should offset most of the cost impacts resulting from the status upgrade of the Engineer. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

While these position changes will not resolve all of the project workload issues, it will enable Engineering to sustain compliance with the grant project requirements and make some progress on reconciling project delays, with minimal budgetary impact, so I would encourage Council's support.

Council Actions

Authorize staff to proceed with the position changes and amend the position allocation ordinance accordingly.

11. FY 2011 Appropriations Ordinance Amendment

Dave Coffee has been working with the department heads to make the necessary amendments and transfers to close out the 2010 budget and begin the 2011 budget. Dave has compiled a list of the necessary budget changes and transfers, and he will review those recommendations with Council. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

With the closing of the 2010 budget we need to transfer and re-allocate those funds that will need to carry forward into 2011 and I would recommend Council's support.

Council Action

Adopt the proposed changes to the 2010 and 2011 Appropriations Amendment.



Information Items

1. Traffic Engineering & Safety Report

Bill Lillich has provided a copy of the summary notes from the December 14th Traffic Engineering & Safety Committee meeting. Two items were considered at the meeting: 1) The license to occupy space in the public right-of-way for the new building in the Acorn Alley II project; and 2) North Mantua (Crain Avenue Bridge project) traffic concerns. (attachment)

2. November 2010 Income Tax Report

Dave Coffee has provided a summary of income tax collections thru the end of November 2010. For the fifth straight month, City income tax collections improved over last year's collections for the same period. The year-to-date income tax collections are still slightly down -.85% (\$81,859) from 2009 but the positive trend over the last 5 months is encouraging. Kent State University's collections thru the end of May are up 4.28% (\$160,010). (attachment)

3. Kent Police Statistics

Chief Peach has provided a copy of the police statistics report for November 2010. In 2010 calls for service are down 5% (1,110 calls); traffic citations are down 10% (337 tickets); accident incidents are up 2% (16 incidents) and serious crimes are down 1% (11 cases). (attachment)

4. Kent Police Chief Succession

As I had mentioned in an email to City Council last week, Chief Peach is retiring effective January 23, 2011 and Captain Michelle Lee will be assuming the leadership position in the Kent Police Department. I have included a memo from Bill Lillich, Public Safety Director, reporting on this transition in the department for your information. (attachment)

5. Legal Research on Supreme Court Decisions Related to Livestock

Council had requested the Law Director to investigate any livestock decisions that were made by the United States and Ohio Supreme Courts. I have attached Jim's follow-up memo that indicates that he was unable to locate any court decisions dealing with livestock on a local level. (attachment)

6. City University Town Gown Dinner Reminder

You should be receiving an invitation from President Lefton inviting each of you, and the City senior staff, to join him and his cabinet members for our annual City University Town Gown Dinner. This year's event will be held at the Kent State Student Center (Room 306) on Monday, January 10th, 2011, beginning at 6 pm with a social and followed by dinner at 6:30.

7. Snow Event Statistical Report

Gene Roberts has shared the statistical report that he uses to manage winter storm related events for your information. As you'll see, the costs for City snow operations from 12/1 to 12/17 amounted to \$93,674 or approximately \$3,000 per inch of snowfall. (attachment)