New City Administration Building Work Session

Melanie has requested time with Council to continue conversations with the architectural firm, Branstetter Carroll Inc., to discuss Council’s expectations, requirements, and aspirations for the new City Hall building. The Clerk has arranged for the Work Session to begin at 6 pm in Council Chambers.

Committee of the Whole

1. Consideration of a Compassionate City Resolution

Staff has requested Committee time to propose a Resolution affirming Council’s support for the Compassionate City designation and declaring April “Compassionate Action” month. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

City Council has set a goal of achieving the Compassionate Cities designation and while the OneKent initiative continues to get started, the passage of this Resolution and declaration of April as “Compassionate Action” month represents a positive step towards the goal and I recommend Council’s support.

Council Action

Adopt the Resolution and declare April “Compassionate Action” month in Kent.

Community Development Committee

2. Proposed 2018 CDBG Action Plan

Dan and Bridget have requested Committee time to provide an overview of the proposed 2018 CDBG Action Plan. To date the City has not been advised of the exact allocation for HUD funding for Kent in 2018 but we anticipate receiving about the same amount as 2017 which was $248,000. Seven project funding applications were received requesting a total of $466,390. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The staff will provide an overview of the CDBG projects proposed for 2018 but we are not asking for Council’s motion for authorization until May after the final public hearings are held.

Council Action

Receive the staff report, no action at this time.
Land Use Committee

3. Designate SBR70 as Official State Bikeway in Kent

Jim Bowling has requested Committee time to present a request from ODOT for the City to officially designate the portion of the State Bikeway (SBR 70) that passes through Kent as the official State Bikeway. The State Bikeway includes a portion of the Portage Hike and Bike trail that traverses Kent and ODOT is seeking Council’s formal designation of that section of the trail as the “State Bikeway.” (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Designating the State Bikeway will help promote Kent’s hike and bike trails and I recommend Council’s support for the official State Bikeway designation for SBR 70 in Kent.

Council Action

Authorize the designation of SBR 70 as the official State Bikeway in Kent.

4. City of Kent, Kent State University East Main Street MOU

Jim Bowling has requested Committee time to present Council with a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that represents a joint commitment from the City and Kent State University to partner in planned improvements to the East Main Street corridor. The City and Kent State share a desire to improve traffic safety, enhance the corridor vitality, protect the adjacent City neighborhoods, and create a signature Main Street gateway to the Kent State University campus. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

The proposed MOU establishes general parameters for goals in the improvement of East Main Street and affirms each organizations commitment to work towards the achievement of those goals. I strongly recommend Council’s authorization of the MOU and the commitments contained within.

Council Actions

Approve the proposed East Main Street City of Kent/Kent State University Memorandum of Understanding as presented.

5. Sustainability Commission Climate Action Plan Update

Staff has requested Committee time to allow the members of the Climate Action Plan Ad-hoc Committee to provide Council with an update on the status of their work to develop a Climate Action Plan for the City of Kent. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

The Sustainability Commission has made progress in developing Kent’s Climate Action Plan and the staff recommended allowing the ad-hoc committee members to talk about what they have done so far and describe their next steps to make sure they are working in the direction that Council was anticipating.

Council Action

Receive the update and advise the Commission members accordingly.
6. Consideration of Funding Application for North Water Street Transportation Improvements

Jim Bowling has requested Committee time for Council’s consideration of a possible funding source for future transportation improvements on N. Water Street. North Water Street has been a point of discussion for long term pedestrian, traffic, bicycling and parking improvements, and Jim Bowling believes he has found a potential funding source that could be used to begin to implement those improvements. Jim is requesting Council’s authorization to submit a project funding request through the Ohio Highway Safety Program for up to $1.34 million. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
Jim believes that the City can submit a competitive funding application for a corridor that Council and the community has expressed strong interest in improving so I recommend Council’s support.

Council Action
Authorize the submission of a funding application for transportation improvements in the North Water Street corridor.

7. Review Citywide Trash Bids Received

Melanie Baker has requested Committee time for Council’s presentation of the bids received from the private trash hauling companies competing for the Citywide trash service contract.

Administrative Recommendation
Since there are a number of alternative bid options included in the bid packet, Melanie would like to present the various options to Council and receive your feedback before narrowing down to a final bid award so she is asking that you receive the staff report and advise staff accordingly.

Council Action
Receive the staff report, no action necessary at this meeting.

Finance Committee

8. 2018 Budget Appropriations Amendment

Dave Coffee has been working with the department heads to reconcile the approved 2018 budget line items and he has prepared the necessary appropriations amendments to reflect the changes needed to balance those line items. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
I recommend Council’s authorization of the appropriations amendments.

Council Actions
Approve the proposed 2018 appropriations amendments as presented.

Information Items

1. Income Tax Report

Dave Coffee has provided a summary of income tax collections thru the end of January 2018. Overall the City income tax collections are down 6.16% ($75,641) from January 2017. Kent State University’s collections thru the end of January are up 1.12% ($4,893). (attachment)