Committee of the Whole

1. City-KSU Collaboration Commitment

Staff has requested Committee time to present a draft City-KSU “collaboration commitment” that was requested by City Council. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
In 2013 the City issued a joint Centennial Collaboration Commitment with Kent State University and 5 years later City and KSU staff are recommending updating and renewing that town-gown commitment. I recommend Council’s support.

Council Action
Authorize the renewal of the town-gown Collaboration Commitment as presented.

2. Public Records Refresher Training

Based on questions that arose in the April Committee meeting, Hope has offered to provide Council a brief review of the major requirements of state law related to managing public records. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
It’s been close to 10 years since Jim Silver and Linda provided Council with the last round of training on public records law and I recommend Council receive the staff update.

Council Action
Receive the staff report, no action is necessary.

Community Development Committee

3. Klaben Property Utility Fee Waiver Request

Bridget and Melanie have requested Committee time to review a request from Mr. Klaben asking for fee relief normally required for the disconnection of the public utilities at a property at 1171 W. Main Street. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
The staff have reviewed Mr. Klaben’s request and they believe that the public improvement resulting from eliminating the nuisance property warrants Council’s consideration of the fee waiver request.

Council Action
Receive the staff report and direct staff accordingly.
Community Development Committee (continued)

4. Property Maintenance Code Amendment for “PODS”

Bridget Susel has requested Committee time for Council’s consideration of proposed changes to the City’s Property Maintenance Code to ensure the proper regulation of portable on demand storage units or PODS. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

As a relatively new container type, PODS doesn’t readily fit into the City’s existing Property Maintenance Code and I recommend Council’s authorization of the proposed Property Maintenance amendments to provide a better fit.

Council Actions

Authorize the proposed property maintenance text amendments as presented.

Health & Safety Committee

5. GIS Mapping of Public Health Infrastructure

Jeff Neistadt has requested Committee time to share information on the progress of a local public health initiative that includes using geographic information services (GIS) to map the public health resources in our area.

Administrative Recommendation

Leveraging the mapping capabilities in the GIS platform should enhance the ability of local public health practitioners to anticipate, manage and respond to matters of public health. I recommend Council receive the staff report.

Council Action

Receive the staff report, no action is necessary.

6. City of Kent, Kent City Schools Safety Resolution

The City and Kent City Schools are partners in school safety, sharing responsibility for a number of safety education, training and in-school safety services. In light of mounting attention to school safety in the news media, the respective City and School Administration staff drafted a joint resolution affirming our mutual commitment to keeping Kent schools safe and advocating for State and National leadership and funding to improve school safety and reduce gun violence. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The proposed joint resolution re-affirms the safety statements made in Council’s recent letter to State and National representatives on gun violence, and it provides a public demonstration of the City and school system’s commitment to school safety. I recommend Council’s adoption of the joint resolution.

Council Actions

Authorize the proposed joint City-School System safety resolution as presented.
Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee

7. License Agreement, Bike Path Easement with Akron Water

Jim Bowling has requested Committee time to present Council with a draft license Agreement between the City of Kent and the Akron Water Department that if approved would allow the possibility of a future bike trail along the Akron Water easement that runs through the neighborhoods along Akron Boulevard. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Jim and John Idone have identified the Akron Water easement as an opportunity for future expansion of the City’s hike and bike trail network that would provide an excellent connection to the regional trail system. I recommend Council’s support.

Council Action

Receive the staff report and authorize the bike path license Agreement.

8. Citywide Trash Bids Award Recommendation

Melanie Baker has requested Committee time for Council’s final award of the citywide trash hauling services and recycling contract. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Melanie has finalized the bid negotiations and is requesting Council’s authorization to award the contract to the lowest and most responsive bidder, Republic Waste Services as presented in April. The bid includes continuing Recycling with Portage County. I recommend Council’s support.

Council Action

Authorize the citywide trash services contract to Republic Waste Services as presented.

Information Items

1. Income Tax Report

Dave Coffee has provided a summary of income tax collections thru the end of March 2018. Overall the City income tax collections are down 4.88% ($167,515) from March 2017. Kent State University’s collections thru the end of March are up 1.09% ($13,850). (attachment)

2. Fire Incident Report

Chief Tosko has provided a copy of the fire and emergency medical services report for March 2018. In 2018 calls for fire service are up 1.5% (3 calls); fire mutual aid assistance is up 1 event from 2017; and EMS responses are up 0.25% (2 calls). (attachment)

3. Health Department Statistics

Jeff Neistadt has provided a copy of the statistical report for March 2018. Health Department revenues are up 4% ($8,662.28) and permits are down 3% (7 permits) in 2018 from 2017. (attachment)