Manager's Communication
August 30, 2017

Council Work Session

1. Senior Center Discussion
Councilmember Long has requested work-session time for Council to hear presentations and receive information from representatives of senior centers in our region.

Administration Recommendation
Receive the information.

Council Action
No action required.

Special Council Meeting

2. Smoke Detector Grant Acceptance and Authorization
The Fire Chief has requested Council's consideration to authorize and accept a $8,499 (includes $404 in local match) grant for the purchase of 527 smoke detectors that will be made available to the community. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
The Chief can pay the local match out of his operating budget and I recommend authorization and acceptance of the smoke detection grant.

Council Action
Authorize and accept the smoke detection grant funds.

3. City Commission and Boards Vacancies Discussion
The City Clerk has asked for Committee time to review the applicant pool for vacancies on various City Boards and Committees.

Administration Recommendation
Receive the information and discuss the candidates.

Council Action
Direct staff accordingly.

Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee

4. Renewal of the Sidewalk Snow Clearing Services for 2017-18
Melanie and John Idone have requested Committee time for Council to consider the renewal of the sidewalk snow removal services agreement for the 2017-18 snow season. The sidewalk snow removal program began as a pilot in the 2015-16 season and Council renewed it for the 2016-17 season. Snowfall in the last 2 seasons has not been particularly heavy but the service has successfully been used to keep sidewalks clear on SR43 and SR59.

Administration Recommendation
The staff is recommending renewing the service at a cost of $16,500 (same as 2016-17) and I recommend Council’s support for the renewal.

Council Action
Authorize the renewal of the sidewalks snow removal service for SR43 and SR59.
Community Development Committee

5. Downtown Parking Report
Jim Bowling and Tom Wilke have requested Committee time to present an update on downtown parking. Staff will share figures for parking usage and parking supply, as well as recommendations for parking enhancements and expansion. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
Receive the staff report. No action is necessary.
Council Action
Receive the staff report.

6. Parking Ordinance Change to Allow Meters on N. Depeyster Street
Bridget has requested Committee time for Council’s consideration of a request to install parking meters on N. Depeyster Street from Columbus Street to Main Street. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
Business owners along a section of N. Depeyster Street have reported problems with long term parking preventing their business customers from securing adequate parking. The Parking Action Committee (PAC) reviewed the request and they recommend Council’s support to amend the City’s parking ordinance to reflect this change in from 2 hour parking to metered parking.

Council Action
Authorize the proposed change in the parking ordinance to allow the installation of meters along the portion of N. Depeyster Street between Columbus and Main Street as presented.

7. Request for Temporary Use of City Downtown Parking Lot
The members of the City Sustainability Commission have requested Council’s consideration to allow them to use a portion of the downtown City parking lot (behind Panini’s along SR59) to display environmentally friendly vehicles for 3 hours on October 1st as part of the KSU sustainability tour in Kent that day. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
The Sustainability Commission is asking to use 2 rows (approximately 35 spaces out of 125) to be reserved for 3 hours for electric and other environmentally friendly vehicles during the planned Sustainability Tour in downtown Kent. I recommend Council’s support.

Council Action
Authorize the temporary use of a portion of the downtown parking lot for the display of environmentally friendly vehicles as presented.
Finance Committee

8. SR43 Traffic Signal Project, Resolution of Necessity and Intent
Jim Bowling and Jim Silver have requested Committee time for Council's consideration of a “Resolution of Necessity and Intent” as the first step in moving towards a court action to resolve price disputes between the City and property owners for easements required to complete the signal project. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
Jim has a few outstanding parcels that have not agreed to the appraised values of the easements required for the project and in order to meet the ODOT project timeline, he is asking Council to start the legal process to allow the courts to set the price in case continued efforts to reach price agreements prove unsuccessful. Any court action is a multi-step process and I recommend Council’s support to take the first step.

Council Action
Authorize the resolution of Necessity and Intent for the SR43 Traffic Signal Project

9. SR43 Traffic Signal Easement Price Approval
Jim Bowling has requested Committee time to ask for Council’s approval to settle a dispute in the purchase an easement that is required for the project at an additional cost to the City of $675. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
The $675 is above the parameters established by Council for unauthorized approval of the easement purchases but there are adequate project funds to purchase the easement at the settlement price so I recommend Council’s approval.

Council Action
Authorize the purchase of the easement at the settlement price as presented.

10. SR43 Traffic Signal Easement Price Approval
Jim Bowling has requested Committee time to ask for Council’s approval to settle a dispute in the purchase an easement that is required for the project at an additional cost to the City of $430. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
The $430 is above the parameters established by Council for unauthorized approval of the easement purchases but there are adequate project funds to purchase the easement at the settlement price so I recommend Council’s approval.

Council Action
Authorize the purchase of the easement at the settlement price as presented.

11. 2017 Budget Appropriations Amendment
Dave Coffee has requested Committee time for Council’s consideration of proposed budget appropriations amendments to the 2017 budget. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
I recommend Council’s support of the proposed budget appropriations amendments.

Council Action
Authorize the proposed budget appropriations amendments as presented.
Finance Committee (continued)

12. Acceptance of City Tax Amounts and Rates

Dave Coffee has requested Committee time for Council’s authorization of a resolution accepting the tax amounts and rates as determined from the City’s Tax Budget. In turn, Council will need to authorize and certify the respective tax levies to the County Auditor. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
I recommend Council’s authorization of the tax rates and amounts for 2018.

Council Action
Authorize acceptance of the amounts, rates, and tax levies to the County Auditor for 2018.

Information Items

1. Main Street Monthly Reports

Heather Malarcik has shared copies of the quarterly Main Street Kent report for April thru June 2017. If you read through the reports you’ll see budget information, as well as a listing of the community events sponsored by Main Street during the second quarter of 2017. (attachment)

2. Kent Police Statistics

Chief Lee has provided a copy of the police statistics report for July 2017. In 2017 calls for service are down 7% (1,163 calls); traffic citations are down 15% (336 tickets); accident incidents are down 34% (210 incidents) and serious crimes are up 2% (8 cases). (attachment)

3. Income Tax Report

Dave Coffee has provided a summary of income tax collections thru the end of July 2017. Overall the City income tax collections are up 3.52% ($295,013) from July 2016. Kent State University’s collections thru the end of July are up $466,190. (attachment)