Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee Items

1. Rhodes Road, New Water Service Request

Council is being asked to authorize the extension of city water service to a single family residence at 5776 Rhodes Road. The Engineering Staff have reviewed the request and the water main is available adjacent to that property so they are recommending approval. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
Authorize the new water service connection.

Council Action
Authorize staff to make the new water service connection.

2. Dedication of Right of Way For the Middlebury Road Bridge

The Portage County Engineer is preparing for bridge repairs to the County bridge on Middlebury Road over the Cuyahoga River, and he has asked the City to dedicate existing City property and convert it to City Right of Way, which would then allow the County to modify the approaches to the County bridge by using the newly dedicated Right of Way. This modification will help straighten the approach in and off of the County bridge and thereby improve traffic safety. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
The City staff have worked with the County Engineer to prepare the legal documents enabling the Right of Way dedication in fee simple, and I recommend Council’s approval.

Council Action
Authorize the Right of Way dedication.

3. Shade Tree Ordinance Update and Modification

For the past year, staff have been working with the members of the Shade Tree Commission to update Chapter 169 of the City Code in order to better align with current urban forestry practices. For example, the old code was written before the City had an Arborist on staff so it assigns tree evaluation and tree care duties to the Shade Tree Commission, when in current practices the Arborist manages these duties. The changes recommended correct these types of inconsistencies and better define the roles of staff and the Commission. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
I recommend approval of the text modifications proposed by staff and the Shade Tree Commission.

Council Action
Approve the text modifications to Chapter 169.
4. Grant Application For Fishcreek Watershed Plan

Staff have been working with residents in the Fishcreek Watershed basin to develop a long term plan for addressing area flooding concerns while also preserving the aquatic resources in the basin that help filter and manage stormwater. In the course of community meetings, grants were identified from the Lake Erie Commission that are available to better educate the public on the importance of protecting water resources. Gene Roberts has provided a memo with attachments outlining the grant, and he is requesting Council’s approval to submit a grant application. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
Gene has sufficient funds in the stormwater budget to handle the 25% local match, so I would recommend Council’s approval to apply for the grant.

Council Action
Authorize staff to apply for the grant.

5. Update on Kent Bridges

Council requested information from the staff concerning the condition of bridges in Kent. The Engineering staff will provide an overview of the process used to inspect the bridges, the rating system used for bridges, and the latest condition inspection findings for Kent’s bridges.

Administration Recommendation
Receive the bridge information.

Council Action
Information purposes only, no action is requested.

6. Fairchild Bridge Progress Update

The Ohio Department of Transportation has authorized the Right of Way acquisition phase for the Fairchild bridge project to begin, so staff thought that this would be a good time to update Council on the project overall and to explain how the Right of Way phase will proceed.

Administration Recommendation
Receive the project information.

Council Action
Information purposes only, no action is requested.

Finance Committee Items

1. Rollover of City Notes

Barb Rissland has reviewed short and long term financing rates and she is recommending the rollover of $5,355,000 in various purpose notes. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
Interest rates are still favorable for the rollover strategy, so I recommend Council’s authorization of the notes rollover.

Council Actions
Approve the rollover of various City notes.
Finance Committee Items (continued)

2. Request to Amend New Incubator Tenant Lease

Mike Weddle has been working with one of the new tenants (Capelli Salon) in the Summit Street Incubator to complete leasehold improvements in preparation for opening for business. At the request of the new tenant, Mike is requesting Council’s approval to change the lease start date from August 1 to October 1. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Mike has advised me that the tenant is making fairly significant investments in leasehold improvements which has delayed her planned opening date. Mike indicated that the owner is making a good faith effort to get those improvements completed as soon as possible, and as a result I support Mike’s recommendation to change the lease start date to October.

Council Action

Authorize the change in the Capelli lease date from August 1 to October 1, 2007.

3. Budget Appropriations Amendment

Mike Weddle has worked with Barb to prepare a request for Council to authorize an appropriations amendment to allow for a loan to the Owner of Cor Property Enterprises for the purpose of buying a building to support his business in Kent. Mike reports that the loan has been approved by the Kent Revolving Loan Fund Advisory Committee.

Administration Recommendation

The loan fund was established to promote business activity in Kent, and this business meets the prerequisite qualifications, so I recommend Council’s support.

Council Action

Approve the appropriations amendment for the loan funds.

Information Items

1. St. Patrick’s Parking

I’ve attached a memo from Bill Lillich that notes that Council had approved parking permits for the St. Patrick’s School staff for the last school year (2006-07) at no charge, but with the start of the new school year we need to know whether Council wishes to extend that offer for 2007-08. Perhaps a motion could be made authorizing the continuation of this offer or the matter could be referred to Committee for more discussion. (attachment)

2. Summit Street Incubator Space

Mike Weddle is re-advertising vacant space in the incubator after the proposed Rock and River Bike tenant requested a deferral for opening until April 2008. (attachment)