This regular meeting of Kent City Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Wed, Feb. 17, 2016, by Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor & President of Council.

PRESENT:  MR. AMRHEIN, MR. DeLEONE, MR. FERRARA, MS. LONG, MS. SHAFFER, MR. SIDOTI, MR. TURNER, AND MS. WALLACH

ALSO PRESENT: J. FIALA, MAYOR & PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL; D. RULLER, CITY MANAGER; J. SILVER, LAW DIRECTOR; AND L. JORDAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL

ABSENT: MR. KUHAR

MOTION TO EXCUSE MR. KUHAR
Motion made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mr. Amrhein, and carried by a voice vote of 8-0.

Mayor Fiala called upon Mr. Ferrara for his opening remarks.

Mr. Ferrara said that many have noticed the new single source recycling cans delivered by the Portage County Solid Waste District. He said this is another step forward for Kent being the vanguard for recycling. Mr. Ferrara said this benefits the city and the environment, adding he is has more recycling than trash, so the size of the bins will be a good thing. He encouraged everyone to use them, as it is good for the environment.

Mr. Ferrara introduced Alex Swanson. He said Mr. Swanson is earning a merit badge, and will be leading the Pledge of Allegiance at this time.

Alex Swanson explained he was present from Troop 252. He led the Pledge of Allegiance at this time. Mayor Fiala presented him with a City pin.

Motion made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mr. DeLeon, and carried by a voice vote of 6-0-2, with Mr. Amrhein and Ms. Wallach abstaining.

Mayor Fiala called for audience communications at this time.

Ann Ward, 474 Longmere: Ms. Ward said she was not present to complain about the sidewalks. She complimented the City for cleaning the walks they are responsible for, adding they are doing a very good
job. Ms. Ward said she cannot say the same about the businesses, adding they may have not got the memo.

Ms. Ward personally invited Council and City employees to the KEC's annual meeting on February 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. She said the Executive Director of the Oberlin Project will speak about what they do for sustainability issues. Ms. Ward said Oberlin is another progressive college town, and suggested they may learn from each other. Ms. Ward said she hoped to see some Council at that meeting.

Hearing no audience communications, Mayor Fiala called upon the Clerk for the written correspondence.

The Clerk reported the following:
1) Minutes of the January 2016 Standing Rock Cemetery Board meeting were placed on file prior to the start of this meeting by Council's representative, Mr. DeLeone.

2) The annual report of the Kent Police Department was placed on file in Council's office on Feb. 16, 2016, with copies distributed to the Mayor & Council.

Hearing no further written correspondence, Mayor Fiala called upon the City Manager for his report.

MOTION TO APPROVE ITEMS #1 THROUGH #12
Motion made by Mr. Amrhein, seconded by Ms. Shaffer, and carried by a voice vote of 8-0.

The following items were approved by the aforementioned motion:
1) Authorization of a donation from Betty Lang for $2950 and future donation from Rotary Foundation for $2950: Walter Lang Trailhead of the Portage Bike and Hike Trail
2) Authorization for firefighter Scott Simmons to be paid as a contractor to provide CPR training.
3) Agenda time, Community Development Committee, update on status of new police facility.
4) Agenda time, Community Development Committee, letter of intent for a possible sale/lease of City owned land.
5) Agenda time, Kent-Brimfield Convention and Visitor's Bureau.
6) Agenda time, status of anti-discriminatory housing regulations.
7) Agenda time, review 2015 Kent Police Department Annual Report.
8) Agenda time, Community Development Committee, proposed 2016 CDBG projects.
9) Agenda time, City Code updates by Law Director.
11) Agenda time, stormwater management utility rate.
12) Agenda time, Finance Committee, amendment to 2016 appropriations.

MOTION TO RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION, PRIOR TO ADJOURNMENT, FOR POTENTIAL LITIGATION AND TWO POSSIBLE LAND SALES.
Motion made by Mr. DeLeone, seconded by Mr. Sidoti.

Roll call was taken on the motion. Voting aye: Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Ms. Long, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Turner, and Ms. Wallach. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 8-0.

STANDING COMMITTEES

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MOTION TO APPROVE THE WRITTEN REPORT OF FEB. 3, 2016.
Motion made by Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. DeLeone, and carried by a voice vote of 6-0-2, with Mr. Amrhein and Ms. Wallach abstaining.

MOTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDED ACTION #1, TO AUTHORIZE THE LOCAL HISTORIC DESIGNATION FOR 315 GOUGLER AVE WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE.
Motion made by Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Ferrara, and carried by a voice vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDED ACTION #2, TO AUTHORIZE THE UPDATE OF THE PENDING LIST.
Motion made by Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Ferrara, and carried by a voice vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDED ACTION #3, TO AUTHORIZE THE CHIP RLF AGREEMENT WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE.
Motion made by Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Ferrara, and carried by a voice vote of 8-0.

Mr. Turner reported the Committee received a report on economic impact, and no action was needed.

MOTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDED ACTION #4, TO AUTHORIZE THE ADMINISTRATION TO COLLABORATE WITH ROOTSTOWN ON A POSSIBLE JEDD AGREEMENT.
Motion made by Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Ferrara, and carried by a voice vote of 8-0.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to read Draft No. 16-11 by title only at this time.

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 315 GOUGLER AVENUE, ALSO KNOWN AS THE “L. N. GROSS BUILDING” AS A LOCAL HISTORIC PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF KENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS.
Motion made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mr. Sidoti.

Roll call was taken on the motion. Voting aye: Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Ms. Long, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach, and Mr. Amrhein. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE DRAFT ORDINANCE.
Motion made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mr. Sidoti.

Roll call was taken on the motion. Voting aye: Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Ms. Long, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach, and Mr. Amrhein. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 8-0.

2016-11: AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 315 GOUGLER AVENUE, ALSO KNOWN AS THE "L. N. GROSS BUILDING" AS A LOCAL HISTORIC PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF KENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor & President of Council

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MOTION TO APPROVE THE WRITTEN REPORT OF FEB. 3, 2016.
Motion made by Mr. DeLeone, seconded by Mr. Ferrara, and carried by a voice vote of 6-0-2, with Mr. Amrhein and Ms. Wallach abstaining.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS OF FEB. 3, 2016.
Motion made by Mr. DeLeone, seconded by Mr. Ferrara, and carried by a voice vote of 8-0.

The following actions were approved by the aforementioned motion:
1) TO AUTHORIZE AN INCREASE IN THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DUES TO $15,000 ANNUALLY
2) TO AUTHORIZE THE POSITION OF IT MANAGER, AMENDING THE GENERAL COMPENSATION PLAN AND THE POSITION ALLOCATION ORDINANCE, WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE.
3) UPDATE RECEIVED ON NEW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING; NO ACTION NEEDED
4) TO AUTHORIZE THE AMENDMENTS TO THE 2016 APPROPRIATIONS
5) TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF THE BETKOWSKI PROPERTY (SEVEN ACRES) FOR $170,000.
6) TO AUTHORIZE THE PROCESS OF EMINENT DOMAIN FOR A SMALL PARCEL OF GARY ROBERTS' PROPERTY FOR THE TONKIN CT. ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

The Mayor asked the Clerk to read Draft No. 16-13 by title only at this time.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2015-158 (THE POSITION ALLOCATION ORDINANCE), PASSED DEC. 2, 2015, SO AS TO ADD THE POSITION OF A FULL TIME IT MANAGER, SO AS TO OPTIMIZE THE CITY’S TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS.
Motion made by Mr. DeLeone, seconded by Mr. Ferrara.

Roll call was taken on the motion. Voting aye: Ms. Long, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, and Mr. Ferrara. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE DRAFT ORDINANCE.
Motion made by Ms. Shaffer, seconded by Mr. DeLeone.

Roll call was taken on the motion. Voting aye: Ms. Long, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, and Mr. Ferrara. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 8-0.

2016-13: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2015-158 (THE POSITION ALLOCATION ORDINANCE), PASSED DEC. 2, 2015, SO AS TO ADD THE POSITION OF A FULL TIME IT MANAGER, SO AS TO OPTIMIZE THE CITY’S TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor & President of Council

The Mayor asked the Clerk to read Draft No. 16-14 by title only at this time.


MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS.
Motion made by Mr. DeLeone, seconded by Mr. Sidoti.

Roll call was taken on the motion. Voting aye: Ms. Long, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, and Mr. Kuhar. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE DRAFT ORDINANCE.
Motion made by Mr. DeLeone, seconded by Mr. Ferrara.

Roll call was taken on the motion. Voting aye: Ms. Long, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, and Ms. Long. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 8-0.

2016-14: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE GENERAL COMPENSATION PLAN FOR ALL UNCLASSIFIED AND VARIOUS CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF KENT, EXCEPT THE CITY MANAGER, FROM JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2017 AS ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 2015-157, THE CURRENT APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, PASSED DECEMBER 2, 2015, SO AS TO INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS IN FUND 001, GENERAL; FUND 201, WATER; FUND 202, SEWER; FUND 208, STORM WATER; FUND 301, CAPITAL; AND FUND 302, MUNICIPAL PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT TAX INCREMENT EQUIVALENT (MPITIE); AND SO AS TO INCREASE OPERATING TRANSFERS FROM FUND 001, GENERAL TO FUND 106, PARKS AND RECREATION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS.
Motion made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mr. Sidoti.

Roll call was taken on the motion. Voting aye: Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, and Ms. Long. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE DRAFT ORDINANCE.
Motion made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mr. Sidoti.

Roll call was taken on the motion. Voting aye: Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, and Ms. Long. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 8-0.
2016-15: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2015-157, THE CURRENT APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, PASSED DECEMBER 2, 2015, SO AS TO INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS IN FUND 001, GENERAL; FUND 201, WATER; FUND 202, SEWER; FUND 208, STORM WATER; FUND 301, CAPITAL; AND FUND 302, MUNICIPAL PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT TAX INCREMENT EQUIVALENT (MPITIE); AND SO AS TO INCREASE OPERATING TRANSFERS FROM FUND 001, GENERAL TO FUND 106, PARKS AND RECREATION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Linda M. Jordan, Clerk of Council
Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor & President of Council

The Mayor asked the Clerk to read Draft No. 16-16 by title only at this time.

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF $2,950.00 TO THE CITY OF KENT PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT FROM BETTY LANG FOR THE WALTER LANG TRAILHEAD OF THE PORTAGE HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL AND A MATCHING DONATION OF $2,950.00 TO BE RECEIVED LATER THIS SPRING FROM THE ROTARY FOUNDATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS.
Motion made by Ms. Shaffer, seconded by Mr. DeLeone.

Roll call was taken on the motion. Voting aye: Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Ms. Long, and Ms. Shaffer. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE DRAFT ORDINANCE.
Motion made by Ms. Shaffer, seconded by Mr. Ferrara.

Roll call was taken on the motion. Voting aye: Mr. Sidoti, Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Ms. Long, and Ms. Shaffer. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 8-0.

2016-16: AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF $2,950.00 TO THE CITY OF KENT PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT FROM BETTY LANG FOR THE WALTER LANG TRAILHEAD OF THE PORTAGE HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL AND A MATCHING DONATION OF $2,950.00 TO BE RECEIVED LATER THIS SPRING FROM THE ROTARY FOUNDATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to read Draft No. 16-17 by title only at this time.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN SHIRLEY A. AND JOSEPH A. BETKOSKI AND THE CITY OF KENT TO PURCHASE 7.0679 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY, KNOWN AS 745 LONGCOY AVENUE, KENT, OHIO FOR $170,000.00 FOR THE CITY OF KENT PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT USE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS.
Motion made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mr. DeLeone.

Roll call was taken on the motion. Voting aye: Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Ms. Long, Ms. Shaffer, and Mr. Sidoti. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 8-0.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE DRAFT ORDINANCE.
Motion made by Mr. DeLeone, seconded by Ms. Shaffer.

Roll call was taken on the motion. Voting aye: Mr. Turner, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Ms. Long, Ms. Shaffer, and Mr. Sidoti. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 8-0.

2016-17: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN SHIRLEY A. AND JOSEPH A. BETKOSKI AND THE CITY OF KENT TO PURCHASE 7.0679 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY, KNOWN AS 745 LONGCOY AVENUE, KENT, OHIO FOR $170,000.00 FOR THE CITY OF KENT PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT USE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Long said she wished to report on the Park Board meeting. She distributed the agenda from their last meeting, adding they usually never see the agenda. She said this is from the meeting of Jan. 28, 2016. Ms. Long said the agenda will no longer be filed with Council's Clerk, and will be available in Mr.
She asked if that was not funny because she would not ask a question of an agenda she never saw. She said she is pleased that Mr. Ruller provides them with the zoning and planning agendas, thanking him at this time. She said she knew nothing about the Parks Board and went to her first meeting. She said Mr. Idone does a marvelous job as the Director. Ms. Long said Council reappointed two of the old members with no recommendation or input from Mr. Idone. She said they should look more closely at the people they appoint, after attending her first meeting.

Mayor Fiala asked her for clarification, and Ms. Long said they should look more closely at the people they appoint to the boards. She suggested they see her later if they want more information.

Ms. Long said they received an email from the Law Director about the elimination of some of the boards and committees from the Park Board. Ms. Long asked Mr. Ruller which committee he said did not exist, and the Clerk told Ms. Long she was the one who said one did not exist anymore. She said in the Codified Ordinances, it says the Park Board would provide a liaison to the City Council Parks and Recreation Committee, which no longer exists. She said those are the types of clean up issues Mr. Silver is trying to do.

Ms. Long said she took offense with one of them, which was a senior citizen or aging group that no longer existed. She asked the Clerk if that was correct, and the Clerk said that COPS is no longer in existence.

Ms. Long said they should resurrect that, and keep that in the eye of the Parks Dept. She said they are trying and working very hard under Nancy Pizzino to put together a program for seniors through the Parks and Recreation board. Ms. Long said the senior population is neglected, adding it is not because of the Parks Department who is trying, but because Council does not see seniors’ needs as a priority. Ms. Long said Bridget Susel is putting some figures together for her from another report, and she will have that information at the next meeting.

Ms. Long said as they can see from the agenda, the Parks Board has a wide and varied program. She thanked the director for the many programs undertaken during the year. She suggested they all look at the calendars they received recently, as it shows how busy they stay all year.

Ms. Long said a new program was added to the Recreation Center and Fitness, adding she is sure they will all sign up, as they are now offering fencing lessons. Ms. Long said it is excited that there is enough interest in the community for this type of program.

Ms. Long said their next meeting is Feb. 18, 2016.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION TO REFER TO THE ADMINISTRATION THE PARKING ISSUE ON ADRIAN DRIVE.
Motion made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mr. DeLeone.

Mr. Ferrara said there have been ongoing questions about parking on this street, as evidenced by the large number of emails received.

The motion carried by a voice vote of 8-0.

Mr. Turner said he wanted to piggyback on Ms. Long's comments, as to whether or not they have the ability to get as much information from the seniors. He asked if it is possible to set up a committee or commission to interact with them on some concerns raised by Ms. Long. Mr. Turner said this is a major issue for them, and they have to put something together that will deal with it more proactively. Mr. Turner said they, as a Council, need to keep that as a priority to get a better understanding of the senior issues in Kent, providing as much help as possible, so they know how they can deal with it in the future.

Mayor Fiala said there is a Silver Sneakers Program that he attends, as well as an annual Halloween party every year. He suggested they may not be informed.

Mr. Turner suggested a more organized group, having them interact, to address these issues. Mr. Turner said he hopes they would keep that in their mind, and try to address issues before the people have to come in Mr. Sidoti said he heard that Ms. Susel would be giving them data, adding if it is demographic data that would be a good place to start. He said they need a better handle on the percentage of the population, as that would help them in terms of the types of services that are offered. Mr. Sidoti said a lot of things are available to them, adding he would like to wait to see Ms. Susel's data.

Mr. Turner agreed. He said there are activities and organizations. Mr. Turner said the City could be the organizing mechanism, and better understand the issue of seniors. Mr. Turner said he knew there were some, adding it is not coordinated enough. He said Mr. Idone and others are doing some things, but Council needs more clarity.

Ms. Long said Ms. Susel did give them the figures previously as to the demographics and percentage of seniors in Kent. She asked what defines a senior, and questioned if they are over 50, 55, 60, or 67. She asked which age group they want to look at. Ms. Long said she lectures in three different counties on things affecting seniors with respect to state and federal laws, with respect to the Affordable Health Care Act as well as changes in social security and Medicare. Ms. Long said she had four years of being able to go throughout the state of Ohio, giving lectures on senior problems and their concerns. She said she is
not talking about bingo or a pot luck dinner, as those are "feel good" things that do not provide information to the seniors. Ms. Long said they are not telling them what is going on in Kent, or on the state or federal levels. She said they let them flounder and join an exercise program. Ms. Long said they can provide recreation and information on a scheduled basis for the seniors.

Ms. Long said since she moved to Kent, she found some people in certain sections of Kent do not want to associate with those in other sections. Ms. Long said that age does not pull them together, as it seems to be a social issue, and they do not want to cross that line. Ms. Long said when she heard that, she thought it was crazy. She said when people reach this age, they are dependent on pension plans, social security plans, hospitalization plans, and have something in common. She said they all have children, grandkids, and possibly a home they are thinking of getting rid of because it is too big. Ms. Long said people may be single or together, trying to get by on a limited income. She said they all have the same problems, and need to bring people together as a community. She said that once people get past a certain age, they all have the same ideas and things they need to discuss. Ms. Long said it is up to the community to make those things happen.

Mayor Fiala said Ms. Long eluded to an appointment on the Park Board that seems to be a problem. He asked her to put her concerns in writing, since they all vote for the members of the various boards.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fiala had no report at this time.

Mayor Fiala recessed this meeting for the previously authorized Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.

Mayor Fiala reconvened the public portion of this meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Hearing no further business before this Council, Mayor Fiala adjourned this meeting at 8:55 p.m.