

**THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO
HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 2010**

This meeting of the Health & Safety Committee of the Kent City Council was called to order at 8:11 p.m. on Wed., July 7, 2010 by Jack Amrhein, Vice Chair, in the absence of John Kuhar, Chair.

PRESENT: MR. AMRHEIN, MR. DELEONE, MR. FERRARA, MS. SHAFFER, MR. TURNER, MS. WALLACH, AND MR. WILSON

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

ABSENT: MR. KUCHAR AND MR. VALENTA

Dave Ruller, City Manager, explained that Main Street Kent is proposing a larger welcome back event for University students in August, and would like the opportunity to use Main Street itself. He asked **Mary Gilbert, Director**, to address the issue.

Ms. Gilbert said they wanted to make it a more festive atmosphere instead of just having hotdogs in the plaza. She said that since Kent State is paying for the trolleys, they are trying to make it more than what it has been. She said they are requesting permission to close Main Street from Depeyster Street to Water Street. She said the businesses will be invited to come over that are not in the closed area, and will have a booth.

Mr. Ferrara asked if they foresaw possible closure of Water Street, and Ms. Gilbert said she did not, at this point, adding it would be a good problem to have. She said they hoped to keep it a little smaller, adding the businesses on Water Street are welcome to join them. Mr. Ferrara asked if they planned to have some outside vendors, and Ms. Gilbert said that Chamber members, not in the closed area, can set up, such as banks and hair salons. Mr. Ferrara asked if they would be selling elephant ears, and Ms. Gilbert said they would not be selling them.

There were no further questions, or audience comments at this time.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE STREET CLOSURE FOR THE MAIN STREET EVENT IN AUGUST WELCOMING BACK THE STUDENTS.

Motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Ferrara, and carried by a voice vote of 6-0-1, with Mr. Amrhein abstaining.

Mr. Amrhein said the next issue was the status of the radio upgrade. Mr. Ruller said they have looked at a number of levels of analysis in various forms, even in the Capital Plan. He said that obviously for public safety reasons, the radios are important. He said in towns the size of Kent, they have connectivity and compatibility issues. Mr. Ruller said that **Gene Roberts, Service Director**, drew the short straw and is managing the process for the City. He said Mr. Roberts was present to give them a brief update.

Mr. Roberts said in December 2009, they presented the package to Council that consisted of two projects simultaneously, that would include upgrading the Service Department radios. He said the upgrade would have paid for itself in about four years, as it would be built around a telephone line system. He said the Safety Department said they had other issues, including the Jan. 1, 2013 deadline that all public service radio systems must go to narrow band. He said they found some issues that they would depend on if there was a major emergency in Kent, or with other communities. He said this led to a more detailed analysis of their equipment. He said the equipment was originally deemed compatible, but was not compatible based on the serial number series. He said that was the biggest reason for the increase. Mr. Roberts said that a vast majority of the Fire Department radios needs to be replaced. He said they are asking for authorization to spend an additional \$41,799, with \$32,000 for the Fire Department, and the

balance going into interoperability

Ms. Wallach asked when the system was last upgraded, and Mr. Roberts said it was upgraded around 1995 or 1996, the year they moved from 319 S. Water to 930 Overholt. He said at that time, when all departments and divisions were split apart, they put in a land line to connect the transmitter. He said in terms of the fire and police, they have probably upgraded their systems since that time. He said it is a big cost for the Service Department, as they have always used old equipment from the Police and Fire Department. He said they do not have narrow band equipment, and need to upgrade it.

There were no audience comments at this time.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE RADIO UPGRADE.

Motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Ferrara, and carried by a voice vote of 6-0-1, with Mr. Amrhein abstaining.

Hearing no further business before this Committee, Vice Chair Amrhein adjourned this meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Linda M. Copley, Clerk of Council

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

- 1) TO AUTHORIZE THE REQUESTED STREET CLOSURE FOR MAIN STREET KENT
- 2) TO AUTHORIZE THE RADIO UPGRADE