

**THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
WED., FEB. 17, 2010**

This regular meeting of Kent City Council was called to order on Wed., Feb. 17, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. by Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor & President of Council.

**PRESENT:** MR. AMRHEIN, MR. DELEONE, MR. FERRARA, MR. KUCHAR, MS. SHAFFER, MR. VALENTA, MS. WALLACH, AND MR. WILSON

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

**ABSENT:** MR. TURNER

**MOTION TO EXCUSE MR. TURNER.**

Motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Shaffer, and carried by a voice vote of 8-0.

Mayor Fiala called upon Mr. DeLeone for his opening remarks at this time.

Mr. DeLeone said the City received good news earlier in the day, but he was not going to steal the City Manager's thunder. He thanked all who were involved with the grant received.

Following his opening remarks, Mr. DeLeone led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS OF DEC. 16, 2009 AND JAN. 20, 2010; SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF FEB. 3, 2010; AND TWO (2) PUBLIC HEARINGS OF FEB. 3, 2010.**

Motion made by Mr. DeLeone, seconded by Mr. Wilson, and carried by a voice vote of 8-0.

Mayor Fiala called for audience comment at this time. He reminded those wishing to address Council to sign up with the Clerk of Council who would call them forward.

**Aubrey & Rachel:** Rachel explained that the US Census funds would be sent to households in April, and was the shortest form ever with only ten questions. Aubrey explained that the census information determines \$400 billion in government funding annually. She said it generates thousands of jobs, and impacts voices in Congress.

Aubrey explained they are from Kent State University, and are involved in a national competition. She said their client is the 2010 Census. She said their goal was to create awareness throughout the community. Rachel said Kent has been identified as a "hard to count" area, and those are defined as areas that have a lack of awareness and motivation, consisting of those who are uninformed or misinformed.

Aubrey said with the help of the City Manager and the Mayor, next week will be "Census Awareness Week," and asked for their help to educate the community. She said their contact information was on the table in the hallway. She said they wanted to make sure Kent is not part of the "hard to count area."

**Beth and Sadie Oswitch:** Ms. Oswitch explained her daughter is in the fifth grade at Walls Elementary. She said her class had to do a persuasive letter, and her daughter wrote one to the Mayor. She said that Sadie's teacher felt she should read it to Mayor Fiala.

Sadie read her letter at this time. In her letter she asked for more businesses downtown with the types of stores teenagers and the elderly like.

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

The Clerk reported that proposed amendments to the Charter were hand-delivered to the Council office by David Kessler and were distributed to members of Council earlier in the evening.

The Clerk reported that the minutes of the January meeting of the Standing Rock Cemetery Board were placed on file by Council's representative, Mr. DeLeone, earlier in the evening.

### **City Manager's Report**

#### **MOTION TO APPROVE ITEMS #1 THRU #8**

Motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. DeLeone, and carried by a voice vote of 8-0.

#### **THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE APPROVED BY THE AFOREMENTIONED MOTION:**

- 1) Authorization of Draft No. 10-24, donation to Kent Fire Department
- 2) Authorization of Draft No. 10-17, renewal of the Kent-Sugar Bush Knolls fire service contract
- 3) Authorization of Draft No. 10-18, AMATS grant application for downtown multi-modal facility (Clerk's note: This draft ordinance was removed from the agenda after the award of \$20 million for the facility)
- 4) Authorization of Draft No. 10-21, 2010 budget
- 5) Health & Safety Committee time, update on regional fire services study
- 6) Community Development Committee to discuss a potential new tenant for Summit Street Incubator
- 7) Streets, Sidewalks, and Utilities Committee, to discuss Phase V of the Area Q Storm water Drainage project
- 8) Community Development time, to discuss CDBG program

Mr. Ruller said he wished to follow up on Mr. DeLeone's comments. He said the media was present from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. He said earlier in the day, the City received a call from Congressman Ryan, who is a great advocate for Kent. He said they had previously put in a request for federal stimulus dollars for the multi-modal facility, which will be the launching pad for everything they aspire to do downtown. He said it has a place for parking, pedestrians, buses, and bikes.

Mr. Ruller said they felt they had a great plan, but there was stiff competition. He said the Congressman dragged it out, telling them how fierce the competition was, adding he felt like he was on American Idol.

Mr. Ruller said they received \$20 million for the multi-modal facility, which was beyond words. He said this makes it possible to do almost everything they ever hoped for in the planning project. He said they owe Congressman Ryan an enormous debt. He said they should send some thank you notes. He said when he told Dan Smith about the grant, his response was "Game On." He said Mr. Smith is right, adding they are ready to roll, and put it together.

Mr. Ruller said it was a great day in Kent, despite the snow and the clouds. He said it was very warm inside. Mr. Ruller said they do not get a lot of opportunities to celebrate great news, adding that today was a great day.

Mayor Fiala noted there was only \$50 million available. Mr. Ruller said the total requests from Ohio were about \$500 million. He said the feds funded \$50 million for Ohio, and Kent is receiving \$20 million. Mr. Ruller said if they look at the population percentage they represent, they received more than was warranted by their population.

Mr. Ruller said he spoke with Sherrod Brown's office, thanking them for their advocacy role. He said they told him that the project stood on its own merit and met all of the criteria. He said they are enjoying today, and will get busy tomorrow.

Mayor Fiala recessed this meeting at 7:41 p.m., for a previously scheduled Finance Committee meeting.

Mayor Fiala reconvened this meeting at 9:25 p.m.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

#### **MOTION TO APPROVE THE WRITTEN REPORT OF JAN. 6, 2010 AND FEB. 3, 2010.**

Motion made by Mr. Valenta, seconded by Mr. DeLeone, and carried by a voice vote of 8-0.

#### **MOTION TO APPROVE THE ACTIONS OF THE FEB. 3, 2010 MEETING.**

Motion made by Mr. Valenta, seconded by Mr. Ferrara, and carried by a voice vote of 8-0.

The following actions were approved by the aforementioned motion:

1. TO APPROVE THE MAIN STREET PROPOSAL FOR ADOPT-A-SPOT
1. TO AUTHORIZE THE DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROJECT DECLARATION OF COLLECTIVE INTENT
2. TO AUTHORIZE THE KSU ESPLANADE-ERIE STREET EXTENSION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Mayor asked the Clerk to read Draft No. 10-22 by title only at this time.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN THE CITY OF KENT AND KENT STATE UNIVERSITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTINUING THEIR JOINT EFFORTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ERIE STREET GENERALLY LOCATED FROM LINCOLN STREET TO WATER STREET, 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. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Valenta, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Wilson, 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. DeLeone.

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

**2010-17: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN THE CITY OF KENT AND KENT STATE UNIVERSITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTINUING THEIR JOINT EFFORTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ERIE STREET GENERALLY LOCATED FROM LINCOLN STREET TO WATER STREET, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

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Linda M. Copley, Clerk of Council

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Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor & President of Council

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE WRITTEN REPORT OF JAN. 6, 2010, WRITTEN REPORT OF FEB. 3, 2010; THE ORAL REPORT OF FEB. 17, 2010; AND THE RECOMMENDED ACTION OF FEB. 17, 2010, AUTHORIZING THE 2010 BUDGET.**

Motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by DeLeone, and carried by a voice vote of 8-0.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to read Draft No. 10-21 by title only at this time.

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2009-129 (2010 TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS), PASSED DECEMBER 2, 2009, SO AS TO APPROPRIATE FROM THE VARIOUS FUNDS OF THE CITY OF KENT TO INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2010.**

**MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS.**

Motion made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mr. Wilson.

Roll call was taken on the motion. Voting aye: Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Valenta, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Amrhein, and Mr. DeLeone. Ms. Wallach dissented. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 7-1.

**MOTION TO ADOPT THE DRAFT ORDINANCE.**

Motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Ferrara.

Ms. Wallach said she was not voting for the emergency clause because she felt this was an important piece of legislation that should go through three readings so citizens could look it over. She said they were urged to pass it, and fix it later. Ms. Wallach said she would like to fix it first, and pass it later. Ms. Wallach said she would like to give the citizens a chance to look at the budget and see what it is about before Council passes it.

Mr. Kuhar said he is not voting for it either. He said they need to make government smaller in Kent on that end. He said on the other end, by the end of the year, they will have spent far more than what was represented by the budget. He said it is a snapshot that does not give a good picture of where they are going financially in 2010.

Mr. Valenta said he did look at the numbers. He said in 2010 they are budgeted to have \$7,757,230 above the 2009 figure. He said it is a difference of about \$5 million between last year and this year's federal aid received. He said if they take that out of the expenditures they are going to have, they will end up with approximately \$162,821 less than where they were in 2009 as compared to 2010. He said the \$45 million in the expenses is the result of the additional \$5 million they are getting in aid from the federal government. He said he felt there was some confusion. Mr. Valenta said if they do not spend it, someone else will spend it. He said it is important that they pass the budget.

Mr. Wilson asked the Clerk if they passed suspension, and she said it passed.

Mr. Wilson said this is a good clean budget. He said he has sat through it for nineteen years, adding that no one on the staff has a crystal ball to tell them what they are going to spend daily. He said they have to make assumptions, adding that they hopefully will eat less into the carryover funds. He said it will work out, as it does every year. He said they are conservative on the revenue side, and liberal on the expense side.

Mr. Wilson said that the staff has worked hard on putting together a clean budget. He said if they want to knock out \$5 million to satisfy their feelings, they have to knock out some programs. He said the Council put the programs in, not the staff. He said they can tell them no more plowing or water transportation. He said the staff has done what they gave them to work with. He said it is a clean budget and they need to pass it.

Roll call was taken on the motion. Voting aye: Mr. Ferrara, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Valenta, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Amrhein, and Mr. DeLeone. Mr. Kuhar and Ms. Wallach dissented. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 6-2.

**2010-18: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2009-129 (2010 TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS), PASSED DECEMBER 2, 2009, SO AS TO APPROPRIATE FROM THE VARIOUS FUNDS OF THE CITY OF KENT TO INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2010.**

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Linda M. Copley, Clerk of Council

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Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor & President of Council

The Mayor asked the Clerk to read Draft No. 10-24 by title only at this time.

**AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200.00 TO THE CITY OF KENT FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM FRAN VASIL FOR THE PURPOSE OF MEDICAL AND FIRE EQUIPMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS.**

Motion made by Mr. Kuhar, seconded by Mr. Ferrara.

Roll call was taken on the motion. Voting aye: Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Valenta, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Wilson, 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. Wilson, seconded by Mr. DeLeone.

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

**2010-19: AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200.00 TO THE CITY OF KENT FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM FRAN VASIL FOR THE PURPOSE OF MEDICAL AND FIRE EQUIPMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.  
HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

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Linda M. Copley, Clerk of Council

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Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor & President of Council

**HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE WRITTEN REPORT OF JAN. 6, 2010.**

Motion made by Mr. Kuhar, seconded by Mr. Wilson, and carried by a voice vote of 8-0.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to read Draft No. 10-17 by title only at this time.

**AN ORDINANCE REPLACING ORDINANCE NO. 2004- 81, PASSED JUNE 9, 2004, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A NEW FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE OF SUGAR BUSH KNOLLS, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY" FOR PURPOSES OF TEMPORARILY EXTENDING A CONTRACT FOR FIRE EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND RESCUE SERVICES BY THE CITY FOR THE VILLAGE FOR THE PERIOD OF JUNE 1, 2009 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**MOTION TO SUSPEND THE THREE READINGS.**

Motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Kuhar.

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

**MOTION TO ADOPT THE DRAFT ORDINANCE.**

Motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. DeLeone.

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

**2010-20: AN ORDINANCE REPLACING ORDINANCE NO. 2004- 81, PASSED JUNE 9, 2004, ENTITLED” AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A NEW FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE OF SUGAR BUSH KNOLLS, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY” FOR PURPOSES OF TEMPORARILY EXTENDING A CONTRACT FOR FIRE EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND RESCUE SERVICES BY THE CITY FOR THE VILLAGE FOR THE PERIOD OF JUNE 1, 2009 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

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Linda M. Copley, Clerk of Council

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Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor & President of Council

**LAND USE COMMITTEE**

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE WRITTEN REPORT OF FEB. 3, 2010 AND THE RECOMMENDED ACTION, AUTHORIZING THE ZONING AMENDMENT TO §1171.01.**

Motion made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mr. Wilson, and carried by a voice vote of 8-0.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to read Draft No. 10-23 by title only at this time.

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1171.01 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF KENT, ENTITLED “REQUIREMENTS FOR CONDITIONALLY PERMITTED USES,” SO AS TO REQUIRE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SCHOOLS AS A CONDITIONALLY PERMITTED USE TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN A COMMERCIAL BUILDING MEETING ALL APPLICABLE BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS, 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. Valenta, Ms. Wallach, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, and Ms. Shaffer. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 8-0.

**MOTION TO ADOPT THE DRAFT ORDINANCE.**

Motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Valenta.

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

**2010-21: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1171.01 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF KENT, ENTITLED “REQUIREMENTS FOR CONDITIONALLY PERMITTED USES,” SO AS TO REQUIRE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SCHOOLS AS A CONDITIONALLY PERMITTED USE TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN A COMMERCIAL BUILDING MEETING ALL APPLICABLE BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

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Linda M. Copley, Clerk of Council

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Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor & President of Council

**STREETS, SIDEWALKS & UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE WRITTEN REPORT OF FEB. 3, 2010 AND RECOMMENDED ACTION, APPROVING THE APPLICATION TO AMATS, WITH THE THREE PROJECTS PRESENTED, WITH THE INCLUSION OF THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE.**

Motion made by Mr .DeLeone, seconded by Mr. Valenta, and carried by a voice vote of 8-0.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to read Draft No. 10-19 by title only at this time.

**A RESOLUTION ALLOWING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (TEP) FUNDS, PROGRAMMED BY THE AKRON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (AMATS) TO CONSTRUCT THE PORTAGE HIKE & BIKE TRAIL – KSU GATEWAY SEGMENT PROJECT, 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: Ms. Wallach, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Shaffer, and Mr. Valenta. 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. Wallach, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Shaffer, and Mr. Valenta. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 8-0.

**2010-22: A RESOLUTION ALLOWING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (TEP) FUNDS, PROGRAMMED BY THE AKRON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (AMATS) TO CONSTRUCT THE PORTAGE HIKE & BIKE TRAIL – KSU GATEWAY SEGMENT PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

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Linda M. Copley, Clerk of Council

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Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor & President of Council

The Mayor asked the Clerk to read Draft No. 10-20 by title only at this time.

**A RESOLUTION ALLOWING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM, (STP) FUNDS PROGRAMMED BY THE AKRON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (AMATS) TO RESURFACE EAST SUMMIT STREET AND CRAIN AVENUE, 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: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Valenta, and Ms. Wallach. 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. Wilson.

Roll call was taken on the motion. Voting aye: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Amrhein, Mr. DeLeone, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Kuhar, Ms. Shaffer, Mr. Valenta, and Ms. Wallach. The motion carried by a roll call vote of 9-0.

**2010-23: A RESOLUTION ALLOWING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM, (STP) FUNDS PROGRAMMED BY THE**

**AKRON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (AMATS) TO RESURFACE EAST SUMMIT STREET AND CRAIN AVENUE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

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Linda M. Copley, Clerk of Council

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Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor & President of Council

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS** - None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION TO REFER TO THE ADMINISTRATION THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME TYPE OF SIDEWALK CLEARING EQUIPMENT THAT CAN DO AN ADEQUATE JOB AT A REASONABLE COST.**

Motion made by Mr. Kuhar, seconded by Ms. Wallach.

Mr. Kuhar said they will eventually have to do something about clearing the sidewalks. He said it may not be all of the sidewalks or all of the time. He said they will have money sooner or later. Mr. Kuhar said they can spend millions on hike and bike trails and bus garages, but their citizens have a hard time walking down the sidewalk.

Mr. DeLeone suggested they include the cost of someone running the equipment also. He said there is no one there now to do it.

Mr. Ferrara said they just voted "no" on a budget because of the spending. He questioned how many countless hours they spent the previous year on snow removal on the sidewalks. He said staff spent hundreds of hours, and Council allocated \$50,000. He said they now want to explore the possibility of doing this all over again. He said he is voting against the motion, as it is ridiculous.

Mr. Wilson said Mr. Ferrara is exactly right that this is what they started out with last year. He said they got prices then, and they have not gone down since that time. Mr. Wilson said it is a waste of staff's time, adding they have other things to do as opposed to rehashing this every six months.

Ms. Shaffer said it is a critical issue, but the budget does not sustain it at this time. She said they have to keep it in the back of their minds, as it is an important issue, particularly SR 43 and the bus stops. She said people have a different time clearing them themselves. Ms. Shaffer said they looked that the issue thoroughly, and felt it was not in the budget. She said she wants to revisit it, but not at this time.

The motion failed by a voice vote of 1-7, with Mr. Kuhar as the only person supporting the motion.

Mr. Wilson said he wanted to thank the Manager and all of the staff for the fantastic job they did getting the P.A.R.T.A. money. He said he is so pleased. He said he was happy all day, and even coming to this meeting. Mr. Wilson thanked all of the staff at this time.

Ms. Shaffer said she has been very happy, also, adding she was very high all day. Ms. Shaffer said that with respect to the budget and the ways to possibly enhance the revenues, it would be worth exploring how to lower the fuel costs and the cost of the utilities throughout the year. She said in the absence of the R.I.T.A. tapes, they need to look at some type of process to track contractors, either through Kent State or the ones hired by the City. She said they need to be sure they are getting the tax dollars from contractors working in Kent.

Ms. Wallach reminded them that the Chinese New Year began this past weekend, and it was the Year of the Tiger.

Mr. Valenta seconded Mr. Wilson's comments, but said he would also like to thank their partners. He

said he did not believe this project would have come to fruition without Dr. Lefton, Kent State University, and P.A.R.T.A. He said it is a true symbolism how they can all work together to make Kent better. He said this is a great outcome. He thanked Mr. Bowling and Ms. Susel. He said without their grant writing expertise, they may not be celebrating.

Mr. Amrhein echoed the previous comments. He said it is so nice to turn on the news and see Kent portrayed in a positive light. He spoke of how fortunate they are as cities are struggling to survive and Kent is expanding. He thanked everyone on the staff.

Mr. Ferrara said he hated to belabor it, but this was such a huge event. He said they have passed from saying "Why doesn't Kent have..." or "Why can't we do...". to the period of "We are going to do this" and "We are able to do that". He said that is a huge step. He said they are past the tipping point and into an opportunity of real growth and city building. He said it is a great thing, and staff is to be commended.

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Fiala said he had to echo all of the comments, adding they should have been in the room when the announcement was made earlier in the day. He said everyone from P.A.R.T.A., KSU, and the City just roared. He said that is the best feeling he has had in years. Mayor Fiala said he has sat at the Council table before, adding they had a direction but were working in 102 different ways. He said this is the first time everyone is working in the same direction. He said it is for the betterment of Kent as a whole.

#### **MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

Motion made by Mr. Ferrara, seconded by Mr. DeLeone, and carried by a voice vote of 8-0.

Hearing no further business before this Council, Mayor Fiala adjourned this meeting at 9:50 p.m.

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Linda M. Copley, Clerk of Council

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Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor & President of Council