

**THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO
WORK SESSION
WED., JANUARY 4, 2012**

This work session of Kent City Council was called to order on Wed., January 4, 2012 by Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor & President of Council. Mayor Fiala explained the purpose of this meeting was to conduct interviews for vacancies on various boards and commissions. He said applicants should explain their interest in the board. He said they will be voting during the regular Council meeting of Jan. 18, 2012.

PRESENT: MR. DELEONE, MR. FERRARA, MR. KUCHAR, MS. SHAFFER, MR. TURNER, 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. AMRHEIN

Robert Bossar, Incumbent, Civil Service Commission, explained he is an incumbent, and had served previously on this board. He said he enjoys his service on the board, adding that he has thirty years of experience with civil service laws. Mr. Bossar said he helped rewrite the State civil service laws previously in the 1980s. He said he enjoys the non partisanship of the Board, adding he did a lot of work with unions, on behalf of management, during his career.

There were no questions for Mr. Bossar, and Mayor Fiala thanked him for applying.

Deborah D. Miller, incumbent for the Shade Tree Commission, was not present.

Denise S. Mote, incumbent for the Income Tax Board of Review, was not present.

Susan Morris, who was applying for the Fair Housing Bd/Housing Appeals Board (1st Choice) and Income Tax Board of Review (2nd Choice), notified the Clerk she was unable to attend the interview.

Greg Balbierz, who was applying for the Fair Housing Bd/Housing Appeals Board (1st Choice) and Stormwater District Review Appeals Board (2nd Choice), was not present initially. (This meeting was reconvened later in the evening to interview Mr. Balbierz).

Erik Clarke, who was applying for Board of Building Appeals (1st Choice) and Income Tax Board of Review (2nd Choice), was not present.

Greg Seifert, who was applying for the Board of Building Appeals, explained he was an architect, and Vice President for Geis Construction in Streetsboro. He said he received his Architectural degree from Kent State, and was very familiar with Kent. Mr. Seifert said that while he was not a Kent resident, he does have a Kent mailing address and receives the Tree City Bulletin.

Mr. Seifert said he does code work and architectural stamping for all of Geis' project in Ohio, and has twenty years experience. He said he has appeared, previously, in front of appeals boards in many cities. He said he felt he was fairly qualified.

Mr. Seifert said as one who goes to Planning Commission and Architectural Review Board meetings, this gives him a chance to be on the other side of the microphone.

James Stewart, who was applying for Board of Building Appeals, notified the Clerk he was unable to attend the interview.

Robert A. Rummel, who applied for the Board of Building Appeals, was not present.

Scott Ridenour, who was applying for the Board of Building Appeals, said he and his brother, Todd Ridenour, were asked to serve on the board. He said they work at Kline and Kavali Plumbing. Mr. Ridenour said they were told they need a plumber and an electrician on the board, adding he has twenty-five years experience as a plumber.

Mr. Kuhar asked if they were both plumbers, and Mr. Ridenour said that was correct. Mr. Kuhar asked if either was an electrician, and Mr. Ridenour said that Mr. Rummel is an electrician. Mr. Kuhar noted they were in competition with each other, and Mr. Ridenour said they thought one could be a standby. He said they did not know what they were applying for.

Todd Ridenour, who was applying for the Board of Building Appeals, said that his brother said it all for him. He said he works at Kline and Kavali, adding he and his brother bought the business from their grandfather twelve years earlier. He said they were asked to serve, and thought they would like to help out. Mr. Ridenour said it would not hurt his feelings if they voted for his brother.

Mayor Fiala thanked all applicants for applying and reminded them that balloting would occur during the regular Council meeting of January 18, 2012.

Hearing no further business before this Council, Mayor Fiala recessed this work session at 7:07 p.m.

Mayor Fiala reconvened this work session at 8:55 p.m.

Greg Balbierz, who was applying for the Fair Housing Bd/Housing Appeals Board (1st Choice) and Stormwater District Review Appeals Board (2nd Choice), wished members of the Council a good quality year.

He explained he provided an application with some detail regarding the two positions. He said he has background in community, economic, and fund development. Mayor Fiala noted his second choice was the Stormwater District Review Appeals Board.

Ms. Wallach asked if he would be willing to sit on both boards, and Mr. DeLeone said they do not meet often. Mr. Silver said it would not be a conflict.

Ms. Shaffer said he had some degree of background in sustainability. She said she can see a good connection with the Stormwater Board. She asked if he saw any application with the Fair Housing Board, and Mr. Balbierz said he thought they were blurring the issue. Ms. Shaffer asked if his two choices were equal, or if he was leaning strongly toward the Fair Housing Board/Housing Appeals Board, and Mr. Balbierz said he has more experience with the housing portion. He said that while he has some experience in stormwater, it is not as much.

Mr. Kuhar asked how many times the Stormwater Board meetings, and Gene Roberts, Service Director, said they meet twice a year. Bridget Susel, Interim Director of Community Development, said the Fair Housing Board/Housing Appeals Board meets quarterly. Mr. Balbierz said this further clarifies it for him.

Mayor Fiala thanked him for applying. He said they would be voting on January 18 at the next regular Council meeting.

Hearing no further business before this Council, Mayor Fiala adjourned this meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Linda M. Copley, Clerk of Council

Jerry T. Fiala, Mayor & President of Council