

Community Development Committee

1. 2010 Celebrate Kent Grant Awards

The grant submission deadline is May 20th. Dan Smith will review the applications received and make an allocation recommendation for Council's consideration at the June Committee meeting.

Administration Recommendation

I would recommend Council's support for this year's funding proposals as presented by Dan.

Council Action

Authorize the 2011 Celebrate Kent funds as presented.



2. Community Gardens in Kent

Bridget Susel and Gary Locke have been performing some preliminary investigations into the opportunities to expand community gardens within the City of Kent. Staff will present their information for Council discussion and further direction.

Administration Recommendation

Receive the initial staff report and direct staff accordingly.

Council Action

No action required at this time.



3. NSP Grant Funds Land Acquisition, Phase 2

Bridget Susel and Gary Locke have requested Committee time for Council to consider authorizing the use of NSP Grant Funds that the City has received to purchase vacant, uninhabitable and blighted residential property (3 parcels under consideration are located at 350 Harris Street) for the purposes of construction of new residential units. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The City accepted the NSP Grant Funds for the purpose of stabilizing neighborhoods and the acquisition of this property meets the criteria established by the program so I would recommend Council's support.

Council Action

Authorize the use of NSP Grant Funds for the property acquisition as presented.



Health & Safety Committee

4. Franklin Township Fire Services Contract

The Fire Services Agreement between the City of Kent and the Franklin Township was due to expire 20 months ago but it had been extended on a year to year basis pending the completion of the PAFERS joint fire study. With that study complete, the City and the Township have updated the Agreement, with a few minor modifications, and staff is recommending Council's approval to renew the contract through 12/31/20. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council's authorization to renew the fire contract as proposed.

Council Action

Authorize the renewal of the Franklin/Kent Fire Services contract as proposed.



Health & Safety Committee (continued)

5. Pine Street Parking Evaluation Request

Staff has received a request for Council to consider restricting parking to one side of the street on Pine Street. Per Council's policy, in order for this request to be considered a petition must be received with 70% of the residents on the street agreeing to the parking restriction. To date, no petition has been received so this item will only be brought to Council in June if the required number of petitions are filed.

Administration Recommendation

If the petition is received, review and consider this parking restriction for approval.

Council Action

If the petition is received, review and consider this parking restriction for approval.



Land Use Committee

6. Vacant Property Ordinance / Interior Maintenance Code

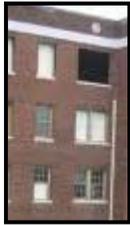
As requested by City Council, staff has scheduled additional Committee time for further discussions on possible ordinance changes that would be intended to create a dis-incentive for property owners to allow properties to sit vacant and become blighted. The original Council referral asked staff to consider an ordinance similar to the one passed in East Cleveland that assesses annual registration fees to properties that are vacant and deteriorated. This Committee discussion will continue that review with the additional consideration of the opportunity to use the interior maintenance code as another possible method for addressing blighted, vacant properties.

Administration Recommendation

The removal of blighted properties has been one of the City's top priorities and is one of the motivations behind the City's significant property acquisition and investment in downtown Kent over the last 5 years. In order to protect that investment, and the significant investment made by private property owners in the central business district, I urge Council's support to consider mechanisms available to discourage property owners from allowing properties to decline and become blighted.

Council Action

Receive the staff report, discuss and make recommendations for next steps.



Finance Committee

7. Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) Abatement Proposal

Gary Locke has been working with the Record Courier Publishing to facilitate a CRA tax abatement for their planned facility renovation and expansion at 1050 West Main Street. As required under the provisions of the CRA, Gary has notified all of the appropriate parties (Stow and Ravenna) of the planned relocation for Record Courier. The CRA informational documents were distributed to you in your May 13 Communication.

Administration Recommendation

I would encourage Council to support the CRA abatement as proposed.

Council Action

Authorize the CRA Abatement as proposed.



Finance Committee (continued)

8. Central Maintenance Personnel Changes



With the impending retirement of the current Maintenance Manager, Jack Hogue, effective July 1, 2011, Gene Roberts has requested Committee time for Council to consider his proposal to reassign the supervisory duties of the Central Maintenance Division. I've attached Gene's memo where he outlines his proposal to split the duties of the current Maintenance Manager into 2 supervisory positions, Facilities Manager and Utilities Manager. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Gene makes a compelling case for the benefits resulting from the reassigned supervisory duties, with no new costs, and I would recommend Council's support for the proposal.

Council Action

Authorize Gene to proceed with his proposed duty reassignments as presented.

9. 2012 Budget Preparation Information



Dave Coffee has requested Committee time to update City Council on the schedule and general parameters that he and I have issued to the staff for the development of the 2012 budget.

Administration Recommendation

Receive the staff report and offer guidance on Council's expectations heading into the 2012 budget season.

Council Action

Offer guidance and direction as appropriate.

10. City Budget Appropriations Amendments



Dave Coffee, in consultation with Jim Bowling, has prepared a budget appropriations amendment for Council's authorization. The amendment includes an additional \$50,000 appropriation for the remediation of soils located beneath an underground tank found in the redevelopment block. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

The orphan tank discovered in the redevelopment block has been removed but the staff is recommending cleaning up the soils that were located around the tank. There is no order to remediate or any other action issued by the State related to this clean up but the staff and I feel that best practices dictate voluntary clean up of the soils which will require an additional \$50,000 allocation from undesignated fund balance.

Council Action

Authorize the staff to amend the 2011 Budget Appropriations to reflect the proposed change presented by staff.

Special Council Meeting

Following the completion of the Committee meetings, Council is being asked to hold a Special Council meeting to vote on the CRA request for a tax abatement for Record Courier Publishing.

Information Items

1. Income Tax Report

Dave Coffee has provided a summary of income tax collections thru the end of April 2011. Overall the City income tax collections are up 3.42% (\$122,331) from April 2010. Kent State University's collections thru the end of March are up .78% (\$11,385). Over the first 4 months of 2011, income tax collections exceed our budgetary projections for income tax revenues for this period and hopefully this trend will continue following 8 months of incremental income tax gains that began in mid-2010. (attachment)