



Work Session

1. Interviews for Sidewalk Snow Removal Committee

Council will be interviewing candidates for the newly formed sidewalk snow removal committee.

Health and Safety Committee

1. Parking Action Committee Recommendations for Erie and Gougler

The Parking Action Committee has made 2 recommendations for Council to consider changing the existing parking designations along the east side of Gougler Avenue and the east Side of Erie Street between S. Water Street and S. Depeyster Street. The proposed changes would allow current 2 hour parking spots to be used for 10 hour permit holders. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

The proposed parking changes were brought up in response to local business owner requests for more parking in the areas under consideration. City staff have been working on these items with the local business owners and I think they've reached a reasonable compromise for short and long term parking so I would support Council's authorization of the parking changes.

Council Action

Adopt the parking recommendations and authorize staff to put the changes into effect.

2. Parking Regulation Changes for College Court

The staff have been dealing with a number of complaints concerning the current parking restrictions on College Court. Bill Lillich advises that now that the full roadway has been dedicated to the City, it is time to update the parking regulations and he has provided a memo outlining the change. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

The recommended parking changes should reduce confusion on the street and I would encourage Council's adoption.

Council Action

Adopt the proposed changes to the parking regulations on College Court.

3. Handicap Ramp Request for the Phoenix Project

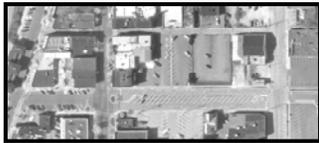
Ron Burbick and his architect have been working with our staff to provide handicap access to his renovated buildings. It appears that in order to meet the necessary requirements Mr. Burbick will need to extend a portion of the handicap ramp for his building into the public right of way.

Administrative Recommendation

The staff have reviewed Mr. Burbick's proposal and we are recommending Council's approval.

Council Action

Authorize Mr. Burbick's request to extend his handicap ramp into the public row.



Finance Committee Items

4. Equipment Grants from the US Army and Homeland Security

The City Fire and Police Departments applied for and received grants of equipment from the US Army and Homeland Security. The Police Department was awarded a mini-thermal monocular unit which helps in the detection of suspects or victims and the Fire Department was awarded a biosensor detector which provides portable instrumentation for detection of biological agents. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

I would recommend Council's acceptance of the items awarded to the Police and Fire Departments.

Council Action

Authorize acceptance of the grant supported equipment.

5. Health Care for Retirees

In prior employee contracts, the City provided reduced health and life insurance coverage to retirees. Due to recent changes in reporting requirements, Barb Rissland is asking for Council's consideration to extend an offer to the eligible retirees of a single pay-out rather than continuing the City's health and life insurance coverage. Barb will go into more details of the costs and reasons behind this recommendation during her presentation in Committee.

Administrative Recommendation

Barb indicates that the City is typically the 3rd carrier for our retirees so the health coverage is rarely needed or used, and in running the numbers she believes that in the long run it would be in both the City's and the retiree's best interest to consider the payout option. At this point the staff and I are just looking for Council's reaction to the concept, we are not asking for a final decision on this matter.

Council Action

Consider the concept proposal and provide staff guidance about whether to develop this option further or not.

Streets, Sidewalks and Utilities Committee Items

6. Cutter Oil Polack Well Proposal

The City has been approached by the Cutter Oil Company to consider authorizing Cutter Oil to perform oil and gas exploration on City property. In particular, Cutter representatives would like to locate a well on City property adjacent to the City's College Tower lift station. This site would involve agreements between Cutter Oil, the City of Kent, College Towers and Kent State University. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Gene Roberts has been negotiating terms with Cutter Oil and Gene estimates approximately \$10,000 a year in new revenues from this source. I would recommend Council's support for this proposal.

Council Action

Authorize staff to proceed with final negotiations and enter into a lease with Cutter Oil.



Streets, Sidewalks and Utilities Committee Items



7. Dedication of Right of Way for Stone Water Drive (Admore Drive)
Don Joseph Toyota is consolidating the lots on the east side of Stone Water Drive and dedicating the right-of-way for Stone Water (plus an additional 10') to the City of Kent. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

I would recommend Council's acceptance and dedication of Stone Water Drive right-of-way.

Council Action

Accept and dedicate Stone Water Drive public right-of-way.

8. SR 261 Bridges Over Plum Creek

Jim Bowling has provided a summary memo of ODOT's request for the City of Kent to approve consent legislation that would allow ODOT to repair the two existing bridges carrying SR 261 over Plum Creek. The bridges' hinge-joint assemblies have to be replaced and ODOT wishes to proceed with that work in spring of 2009. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

It is clear that the safety work needs to be done on the bridges and ODOT will manage and pay for the work without any cost to the City so I would recommend Council's support and passage of the consent legislation.

Council Action

Approve the consent legislation to repair the SR 261 bridges over Plum Creek.



Community Development Committee Items

9. Annual EDA Revolving Loan Fund Certification

Each year the City is required to submit an annual report of the activities performed with the revolving loan fund that were capitalized with EDA funds. The City's 2008 Annual Report was reviewed and approved by the City's Revolving Loan Fund Advisory Board and now City Council is being asked to pass a resolution in support of it as well. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

The City has effectively used EDA revolving loan funds to retain and attract new business investment in Kent. Council certification of the City's Loan Fund Plan is an annual procedure that is required by the Ohio EDA to maintain eligibility and I would urge Council's adoption.

Council Action

Approve and certify the EDA Revolving Loan Fund report for FY 2008.

10. Green Building Design Ordinance

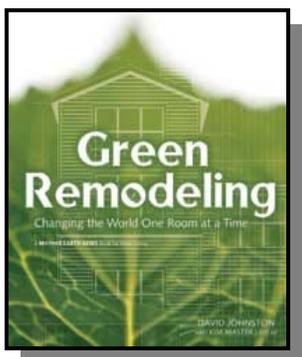
Gary Locke reports that the Environmental Commission has requested Council's consideration of a resolution endorsing a green building policy with regard to City projects and LEEDS certification. Gary and a representative from the Commission will provide greater details of the policy request in the Committee discussion.

Administrative Recommendation

City Council has identified environment protection and conservation as key policy objectives and adoption of this resolution would affirm the City's commitment and leadership for sustainable building practices.

Council Action

Discuss and approve a Green Building Design Ordinance for City buildings.



Information Items

1. Road Salt Contingency Funding Request

With our first dusting of snow this past week, Gene Roberts has forwarded to Council's attention a request to authorize the allocation of approximately \$120,000 in contingency and state highway funds to purchase additional road salt for the 2008-09 snow season. Gene notes that salt continues to be in short supply and prices have continued to rise so he is recommending prompt attention to this matter. I wanted to share this information and let you know that we will work with the City Clerk to get this appropriation request to City Council as soon as possible. (attachment)

2. NOPEC Gas Price Update

This was a tough summer for gas at the pumps but according to the latest dispatch from NOPEC (attached) the outlook for natural gas costs is better. As a NOPEC community, gas customers in Kent have a chance to buy gas in greater quantities and at discounted prices. Overall NOPEC has a good track for record beating retail gas prices by buying wholesale and it looks like they've been able to lock down very reasonable prices for this winter as well. (attachment)

3. City, Kent State and County Public Health Discussion

As you may recall from the last Bowman Breakfast, the new Kent State Provost has been tasked with a new University initiative to start a school of Public Health. Certainly our region could benefit from becoming a center for public health knowledge, services and expertise. John Ferlito advised me that he's been asked to join in discussions with Kent State and Portage County to see how the new University initiative could work in conjunction with the local health agencies. John said that the first meeting is next week and he and I will keep you posted on the outcome of those discussions.

4. Zoning Code Review Web Site at Kent360.com

I wanted to let you know that Gary, Linda and I have been working together to make sure that the information from the Zoning Code review process that Council is under-going with the Planning Commission is open and accessible to the public. To that end, we've added new web links that I wanted you to know about so that you could share with any of your constituents that have questions. The links are as follows:

www.kent360.com Link in the blue navigation bar titled Zoning Code Review
<http://www.kentohio.org/dep/Zoning%20Cde%20Review.asp> on our main City web site

5. New Business Opening on Main Street

I wanted to let you know that On November 7, Main Street's newest shop, Empire, will have its grand opening. Described as "an emporium of pleasurable necessities," Empire will offer artisan chocolates and pastries, handmade soaps and cosmetics, henna, and natural hair dyes. All of Empire's products are locally produced and assembled. Empire's staff includes general manager Gwynedd Jones, assistant managers Leah Tonon and Beth Sadowski, and chocolatier Todd Horvath. All visitors to the grand opening will receive a free sample of hand-crafted chocolate. For more info visit <http://www.empirekent.com>