



Committee of the Whole

1. Yard Beautification Awards (Dom)

Dom has requested Committee of the Whole time to present the monthly Yard Beautification awards to residents from different neighborhoods in Kent. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

This new awards program is part of an effort to improve neighborhoods in Kent by showcasing the best examples of property maintenance and landscaping.

Council Actions

Receive the staff report, no action is necessary.

2. KSU Town & Gown Initiatives Update from KSU (Dana)

Dr. Dana Lawless-Andric from KSU has asked for a few minutes to provide an update on the status of KSU town and gown initiatives for Council's information.

Administration Recommendation

Receive the informational update.

Council Actions

Receive the informational update, no action is required.

3. Staff Updates (Bridget, Gary)

Department Heads have requested a few minutes at the start of the Committee meeting to share brief comments about noteworthy topics in their departments.

Administration Recommendation

Receive the staff reports, no action is needed.

Council Actions

Receive the staff report, no action is necessary.

4. Discussion of Proposed New "Sustainability" Committee (Bridget, Hope)

Council referred a request to the Committee of the Whole time to discuss the idea of creating a new Council standing Committee titled "Sustainability Committee." Current Council standing Committees include Committee of the Whole, Community Development Committee, Finance Committee, Health & Public Safety Committee, Land Use Committee and Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee. Council Committees are all committees of the whole (meaning all council members sit on all committees) and the labels were created to organize the agenda topically for discussion. Currently sustainability topics are discussed in the Community Development Committee as Community Development is the department that supports the Sustainability Commission and is home to the city's Sustainability Coordinator. Kent is the only city in northeast Ohio that has a Sustainability Commission, consisting of volunteers who advise Council on matters pertaining to sustainability. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Discuss and advise staff accordingly.

Council Actions

Discuss and advise staff accordingly.



UPDATE

sustainability

Committee of the Whole (continued)

5. Proposed Charter Amendments Discussion (Council, Hope)

Council has requested Committee of the Whole time to consider possible Charter amendments that if passed would be submitted to the County Board of Elections for future voter consideration. Council referred to Committee the suggestion to more formally designate the Parks and Recreation Department as a city administrative department that reports to the City Manager; and a proposal to reduce the council vote required for emergency suspension and approval from three-quarters to two-thirds majority vote.

Administration Recommendation

Discuss the proposed amendments and direct staff accordingly.

Council Actions

Discuss the proposed amendments and direct staff accordingly.

Community Development Committee

1. Permanent Designation of October as Sustainability Month (Bridget)

Bridget has requested Community Development Committee time to present a recommendation from the Sustainability Commission to permanently designate October as "Sustainability Month" in Kent to align with the international designation of October as Sustainability Month. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Sustainability is a community strategic priority, and I recommend Council support the designation of October as Sustainability Month in Kent.

Council Actions

Authorize the permanent designation of October as Sustainability Month in Kent as presented, with the emergency clause.

2. Re-appointment of Eric Helmstedter to Kent C&VB (Bridget)

Bridget has requested Community Development Committee time to present a request to reappoint Eric Helmstedter to serve as the City's representative on the Board of the Kent Convention & Visitor Bureau (KCVB). The KCVB is composed of representatives from the City, Main Street Kent, Kent State Hotel, Kent State University, and the Kent Area Chamber of Commerce. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The KCVB is responsible for the promotion and marketing of Kent using hotel bed tax funds and I recommend the reappointment of Eric Helmstedter as the City's representative.

Council Actions

Authorize the reappointment of Eric Helmstedter to the KCVB as presented, with the emergency clause.





Finance Committee

1. Certify Tax Rates and Amounts to Portage County (Rhonda)

Rhonda has requested Council's authorization to submit the City projected 2026 tax rates and amounts to the Portage County Auditor. This is an annual process that is required by Ohio Revised Code, Sections 5705.34 & 5705.35 to be submitted to the County Auditor before October 1st of each year. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

There is no proposed change in the City's tax rates and I recommend Council authorize and certify the tax rates and amounts provided by Rhonda.

Council Action

Authorize and certify the tax rates and amounts for submission to the Portage County Auditor, with the Emergency Clause.

2. 2026 Budget Appropriations Amendment (Rhonda)

Rhonda has been working with the department heads to reconcile the approved 2026 budget line items, and she has prepared the necessary appropriations amendments to reflect the changes needed to balance those line items. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

I recommend Council's authorization of the 2026 appropriations amendments as presented.

Council Actions

Approve the 2026 budget appropriations amendments, with the emergency clause.



Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee

1. Proposed License Agreement for Klaben Dealership (Jim, Bridget)

Jim has requested Community Development Committee time to present a request to approve a new license agreement granting the Klaben Lincoln dealership approval to occupy a portion of city owned property for onsite stormwater management adjacent to the City's Area Q stormwater detention pond at 1238 West Main Street. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The staff advise that the City has no future plans for the use of the land adjacent to the Area Q stormwater detention pond and the use of the land as part of the management of stormwater at the new Klaben Lincoln dealership is a compatible use. I recommend Council's support of the proposed license agreement.

Council Actions

Authorize the proposed license agreement with Klaben as presented, with the emergency clause.



2. N. Mantua Street Improvement Project Easements & ROW Donation (Jim)

Jim has requested Committee time to present a request to accept the donation of temporary easements (2.4 acres), right of way (.04 acres), and shared use path easements (1.6 acres) from Kent City Schools/Board of Education as part of the N. Mantua Street improvement project. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The N. Mantua Improvement project is an important transportation project in the City and accepting the easements and right of way is another step towards project construction. I recommend Council accept the easements and right of way donations as presented.

Council Action

Authorize the acceptance of the 4 easements and right of way donations from Kent City Schools for the N. Mantua Street Improvement project as presented, with the emergency clause.



Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee (continued)

3. NOPEC Preferred Pricing Program (Melanie)

Melanie has asked for Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee time to request Council's authorization to allow NOPEC to include the City of Kent in a new municipal power purchase collective for power needs at City government buildings (not residential power). By grouping the municipalities into a collective NOPEC believes that they can negotiate better power rates for the government members. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The staff have met with NOPEC and discussed the proposed new buying collective, and they believe it may reduce rates for City power and save money, particularly at large power-consuming buildings like the sewer and water plants. I recommend Council authorize staff to provide a letter of exclusivity to NOPEC to include Kent in the new municipal power purchasing collective.

Council Actions

Authorize the staff to provide NOPEC with a letter of exclusivity to include Kent in the new municipal power purchasing collective as presented, with the emergency clause.

Information Items

There are no information items at this time.