



Life outside the lines.



UPDATE



Committee of the Whole

1. Boards and Commission Candidate Interviews (Mayor, Clerk)

The City Clerk has invited the candidates for vacant City Boards and Commission positions to interview with Council. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Interview the prospective Board and Commission candidates.

Council Action

Interview the prospective Board and Commission candidates.

2. Council Organization for 2026 (Jack)

The Mayor has asked for Committee time for Council to consider the Council Committee Chairs and Vice Chair assignments for 2026.

3. Staff Updates (Eric, Jim)

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. Main Street Kent "March for Art" Project (Dom, Main Street Kent)

Dom is requesting Committee time to announce a new community art project sponsored by Main Street Kent called "March for Art." During the month of March, Main Street will be working with downtown businesses to display Kent school student artwork in participating downtown businesses. Main Street has asked to use the City Hall lobby area to hold the ceremony to kick off this new event. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

This is a new Main Street project that does not require a vote by Council, but Main Street and City staff wanted to share the news of the event and welcome Council's input and participation in the kickoff event.

Council Action

Receive the Main Street "March for Art" announcement and advise staff accordingly.

Committee of the Whole (continued)

5. Adoption of Cybersecurity Plan (Nick)

In December Committee, Nick shared with Council the draft Cybersecurity policy document and he has now finalized the elements of the plan for consideration of adoption by City Council.

Administrative Recommendation

New State law requires the City to have an adopted Cybersecurity plan document and Nick has completed that work in accordance with the law. I recommend Council's approval.

Council Action

Consider and adopt the Cybersecurity plan document as presented, with the emergency clause.

6. Civil Service Updates (Hope)

Hope has been working with Human Resources and the Civil Service Coordinator to modify the language in portions of the position description and eligibility requirements for the hiring of the next Police Chief. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

The Civil Service Commission approved the proposed Civil Service update and I recommend Council's approval.

Council Action

Consider and authorize the proposed changes to the Civil Service rules as presented, with the emergency clause.

Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee

1. Stow Street Bridge City/County Design Study Agreement (Jim)



Jim has requested Committee time to ask for Council's approval of an agreement between the City and Portage County to perform a joint design study of pedestrian and bike connectivity in conjunction with the repair and replacement of the Stow Street bridge. (attachment)

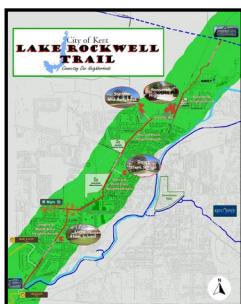
Administrative Recommendation

City Engineering and Legal staff have reviewed the study agreement and I believe the design study will help optimize pedestrian and bike safety and connectivity with the portion of the Portage County Hike and Bike Trail in Tannery Park. I recommend Council's support.

Council Action

Authorize the staff to execute the design agreement for the Stow Street Bridget repair project as presented, with the emergency clause.

2. City School/City MOU for Campus Connectivity Plan (Jim)



Jim has requested Committee time to ask for Council's approval of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the City and Kent City Schools to perform a joint study of pedestrian and bike connectivity through the High School campus that would include the Lake Rockwell trail extension project. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

City Engineering and Legal staff have developed the MOU in cooperation with Kent City Schools. The projected costs are \$5,000 for each organization, and the trail project would complement the work planned for the addition of a traffic circle at the Davey Tree and High School campus. I recommend Council's support.

Council Action

Authorize the staff to execute the MOU and proceed with the planning work as presented, with the emergency clause.

Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee (continued)

3. East Grant Street Proposed Parking Change (Jim)



Jim has requested Committee time to ask for Council's consideration of a request from residents on East Grant Street to revise the on-street parking restrictions from "no parking on the south side and no restrictions on the north side" to "no parking on the south side and no parking on the north side from N. Mantua Street to 70' east of N. Mantua." (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

14 of the 16 residents on East Grant Street signed and submitted the petition asking for this change in parking restrictions. The staff Traffic Engineering and Safety Committee (T&ES) met, and they had no objections to the requested change.

Council Action

Authorize the change in the on-street parking restrictions on East Grant Street as presented, with the emergency clause.

Information Items

There are no information items to share at this time.