Life outside the lines.

Committee of the Whole

1. Staff Updates (Jim, Bridget)

UPDATE

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.

Community Development Committee

1. Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) Appointments (Bridget)

Kent/Franklin
Kent/Brimfield
JEDDs

Bridget has requested Committee time to request Council's consideration to fill the vacancies on the next slate of representatives to the City's JEDD districts in Franklin and Brimfield Townships. The JEDD membership is delineated in the Ohio Revised Code and Bridget is requesting her re-appointment for a final term on the Brimfield-Kent JEDD Board and the re-appointment of Hope Jones and Bahman Taheri (business owner representative) for their final terms on the Franklin JEDD Board. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
Receive the staff reports and make the JEDD appointments as presented.

Council Actions
Receive the staff report, and make the JEDD appointments as presented, with the emergency clause.

Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee

1. Approval of a New Surface Easement with First Energy (Bridget)

FirstEnergy

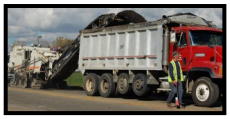
Bridget has requested Committee time for Council's consideration of a new surface easement with First Energy for the maintenance of three new power poles located in the city's surface parking lot on Columbus Street. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
I recommend Council approve the new surface easement with First Energy as presented.

Council Action
Approve the new surface easement with First Energy as presented, with the emergency clause.

Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee (continued)

2. Update on the City's 2026 Capital Projects (Jim)



Jim Bowling has requested Committee time to provide Council with an overview of the progress of the City's capital improvement projects in 2026.

Administration Recommendation
I recommend Council receive the staff report.

Council Action
No action is necessary.

Finance Committee

1. Proposed 2027-31 Capital Plan Update (Rhonda, Jim)

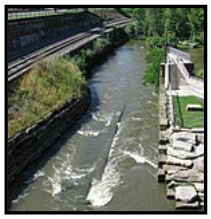


Staff has prepared the draft 2027-31 Capital Improvement Plan for Council review. The capital plan provides a schedule of projects and financing for 2027 through 2031 based on a prioritization of the most critical needs. The CIP project list is constrained in order to stay within available funding levels. (attachments: Capital Projects "book" is available for pick up at your mailbox or left at your chair the night of the meeting – it's too big to mail)

Administrative Recommendation
Review and approve the 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan as presented.

Council Action
Approve the proposed 2027-2031 Capital Improvement Plan, with the emergency clause.

2. Discussion of Utility Rate Options to Finance the Downtown Sewer Relocation Project in 2031 (Jim, Rhonda)



The staff have requested Committee time for Council's consideration of a recommendation to add a "supplemental" 1%, 2% or 3% rate increase to the planned 3% sewer utility rate for 2027. The proposal creates a means to begin to set aside capital funds to be available in 2031 to finance the downtown sewer relocation project. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
Starting to amortize construction financing 5 years before the start of the project will avoid a rate spike, preserve the solvency of emergency reserve funds, and ensure the resolution of an environmental risk. I recommend Council support a supplemental rate increase of at least 1% to be repeated for the next 5 years.

Council Action
Consider the rate options to finance the downtown sewer relocation project and direct staff accordingly.

3. Resolution Requesting Transfer of Taxes from Portage County (Rhonda)

Rhonda has requested Committee time for Council's consideration of a resolution requesting the County Auditor to transfer the tax proceeds for 2026 in advance of the normal settlement date (February 2027). (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
Council must adopt an ordinance authorizing the transfer to be made from the County and I recommend Council's support for the proposed resolution.

Council Action
Adopt the resolution authorizing the transfer of County tax proceeds as presented.

Finance Committee (continued)

4. 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 appropriations amendments.

Council Actions
Approve the 2026 budget appropriations amendments as presented, with the emergency clause.

Health & Public Safety Committee

1. Deer Overpopulation Intervention Follow-up Discussion (Melanie)



Council has requested further Committee time to discuss the intervention suggestions made by the ODNR representative at the October Committee meeting to reduce the impacts of the overpopulation of deer in residential neighborhoods. Staff will work with Council to evaluate the efficacy and costs of local options for reducing the deer population in Kent.

Administration Recommendation
Review the deer intervention options and direct staff accordingly.

Council Action
Consider deer interventions options and direct the staff accordingly.

2. Amending the Wildlife Feeding Ordinance (Hope)



Hope has requested Committee time to review the recently passed wildlife feeding ordinance to update and amend the section related to feeding feral cats. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation
Receive the staff report, and amend the Ordinance related to feral cats as presented.

Council Action
Receive the staff report, and authorize the amendment to the Ordinance prohibiting wildlife feeding related to feral cats as presented, with the emergency clause.

Information Items

1. Sustainability Commission Quarterly Newsletter

Julie Morris has provided the Fall 2026 Sustainable Kent Newsletter, per Council request. In addition to Climate Action Plan updates, there will be a variety of sustainability related information in each issue. To sign up for the newsletter, go to the City of Kent website. https://www.kentohio.gov/business-building-developemtn-sustainabiltiy-overview/sustainable-kent-e-newsletter/

2. Income Tax Report

Rhonda Hall has provided a summary of income tax collections for August of 2026. Overall, the City income tax collections YTD are down 2.9% ($407,473) compared with YTD of 2025. For the month of August, the City income tax collections are up 19.9% ($264,959) compared to 2025.