

July 29, 2026



UPDATE

sustainability



Committee of the Whole

1. Yard Beautification Awards (Dom)

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

Administration Recommendation

This 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. Staff Updates (Melanie, Dom)

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.

3. 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 Committee titled "Sustainability Committee." Current Council 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.

4. Update the Pending List for 2026-27 (Dave)

The staff have updated the pending list items and we would like Committee time to review the status of those items and request Council's consideration to remove completed items where appropriate. (attachment)

Administrative Recommendation

Review the pending list items and authorize the modifications as presented.

Council Action

Authorize and amend the pending list as appropriate.



Community Development Committee

1. Proposed Amendment to Fair Housing Board Quorum (Bridget)

Bridget has requested Community Development Committee time to present a recommendation to amend the language for definition of a "quorum" for the Fair Housing Board from 5 of 7 members to 4 of 7 members. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

The proposed change to reduce the quorum count from 5 of 7 to 4 of 7 members will better ensure that sufficient board members will be available to hold a meeting and vote on action items. I recommend Council's support for the proposal.

Council Actions

Authorize the redefinition of a quorum from 5 to 4 of 7 members, as presented, with the emergency clause.

2. Economic Development Strategy Update (Bridget)

Bridget has requested Community Development Committee time to introduce the City's economic development consultant and provide an update on the status of the project and an outline of the scope of work, and timeline for the project. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Receive the staff report and discuss the consultant's planned approach to the economic development strategy update.

Council Actions

Receive the staff report and offer guidance as needed. No action is necessary at this time.

Finance Committee

1. Certified Liens to the County for Outstanding Payments (Rhonda)

Rhonda has requested Finance Committee time to present the annual list of addresses for certification and submission to Portage County to be added to property tax records as tax liens against the property due to lack of payment in three categories: utility delinquencies, non-utility delinquencies, and concrete program delinquencies. (attachments)

Administration Recommendation

The city annually submits a certified list of addresses that have failed to pay their city bills and have not agreed to an extended payment plan. I recommend Council certify the lists and authorize the staff to forward it to the County as presented.

Council Actions

Certify and authorize the submission of the proposed property tax liens as presented, with the emergency clause.

Health & Public Safety Committee

1. Renewal of the School Resource Officer Position (Gary)

Gary has requested Committee time to present a request to renew the City-Kent Schools agreement for the use and funding of a School Resource Officer position in the 2026-27 academic year. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

This is a popular safety program, it is included in the budget, and I urge Council's renewal of the updated agreement.

Council Actions

Authorize the renewal of the School Resource Officer as presented, with the emergency clause.

Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee

1. 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 (4.5 acres), right of way (1.28 acres), and shared use path easements (.26 acres) from Davey Tree 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 7 easements and right of way donations from Davey Tree for the N. Mantua Street Improvement project as presented, with the emergency clause.

2. Outside-City Limits New Water Service Request (Jim)



Jim has requested Committee time to present a request to authorize a new water service request for a property that is located outside of the city limits at 5085 SR 43 in Brimfield Township. (attachment)

Administration Recommendation

Jim reports that the City's water line is adjacent to the property and can be tapped (at a cost of \$11,668) to provide the new water service connection, adding a new city water customer. I recommend Council's support.

Council Action

Authorize the extension of city water service to the property located at 5085 SR43 in Brimfield Township as presented, with the emergency clause.

Information Items

1. Main Street Kent Quarterly Report

Heather Malarcik has shared a copy of the Quarterly Main Street Kent report for 2st Quarter of 2026. If you read through the reports you'll see information about events and operations. (attachment)

2. Sustainability Commission Quarterly Newsletter

Julie Morris has provided the SUMmer 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/>