

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with MKSK according to law, for professional services to complete the Downtown Area Circulation Plan, and declaring an emergency.

Proponent testimony was offered by Planning Director Fred Guerra. Mr. Guerra stated that MKSK will be hired to investigate opening up the downtown pedestrian walkway from Broad to Oakwood, and the reconfiguration of Front and Second Streets from one-way to two-way traffic. Associated changes to the Route 8 interchange will also be considered. An oversight committee of public and private individuals will be created. Historical and existing conditions such as traffic counts will be used. A public open house will be held, probably in September. A thorough traffic analysis will be conducted. After this is done, concept alternatives will be prepared, including consideration of parking, sidewalks and traffic lanes. Another public open house will be held to review the alternatives. Then cost estimates for the proposals will be prepared. MKSK was selected in response to an RFP that was sent to 16 firms. Six proposals were received. The successful proposal was selected by a committee of the Mayor, Service Director, City Engineer, Development Director and Planning Director. EMH&T will be the subconsultant to MKSK for the engineering work. These firms have experience reopening downtown pedestrian malls and one-way to two-way conversion projects. This project should be done by the end of the year. The Front Street Mall and Front/Second one-way conversions were built in the 1970's. A traffic study in 1990 questioned the one-way conversion and recommended restoring two-way traffic, and there have been several proposals since to change the traffic configuration in the downtown area.

The Chair asked what the cost of the study would be. Mr. Guerra stated that the cost is \$73,975. The Chair asked if the amount is budgeted. Mr. Guerra stated that it is.

The Chair recognized Mrs. Pyke, who asked where MKSK is headquartered. Mr. Guerra stated they are in Columbus. Mrs. Pyke asked if the resulting reconfiguration project might cost more than \$800,000. Mr. Guerra stated the project would exceed that amount.

The Chair recognized Mr. DeRemer, who asked if the Front Street exit off Route 8 is part of the study area. Mr. Guerra stated that it is.

There was no opponent testimony. There was no public comment.

Motion by Mr. Pallotta to release Temp. Ord. B-62 with a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Mr. Colavecchio. Motion adopted by acclamation.

Temp. Ord. B-63

An ordinance authorizing the City to accept the donation of property on [sic] 1659 Front Street from the Community Improvement Corporation, and declaring an emergency.

Proponent testimony was offered by Community Development Director Dianne Sheridan. Ms. Sheridan stated that the ordinance authorizes the City to accept the donation of Parcel No. 02-08875 aka 1659 Front Street from the Community Improvement Corporation for the purpose of construction of a public parking lot. The administration requests approval of this ordinance.

There was no opponent testimony. There was no public comment.

Motion by Mr. Pallotta to release Temp. Ord. B-63 with a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Mr. Colavecchio. Motion adopted by acclamation.

Temp. Ord. B-64

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a lease agreement or agreements with Arkay Properties, LLC and Metro Parks, Serving Summit County, [sic] Board of Commissioners, [sic] and declaring an emergency.

Proponent testimony was offered by Deputy Law Director Janet Ciotola. Ms. Ciotola stated that under the proposed lease agreement, the City will construct a parking lot, trailhead and other improvements related to access to the Cuyahoga Falls/Chestnut Trailhead. Arkay Properties will use a portion of the parking lot for its employees at 1701 Front Street. MetroParks will use the parking lot for public access to its trailhead. The term of the lease is 75 years and there is no rent payment to the City.

The Chair recognized Mrs. Pyke, who stated that parking in this area is of critical concern and it is the responsibility of the City to invest in projects like this.

The Chair recognized Mr. James, who asked if the Chair would move an amendment by way of substitution provided by the administration at the rail. The Chair stated that as of his 2:00 p.m. meeting with the administration that day, no mention was made of an amendment. The Chair stated it is not possible to consider the amendment on such short notice. Ms. Ciotola stated that the amendment corrects the name of one of the parties to the lease, and attaches an exhibit. The Chair asked if these are the only changes. Ms. Ciotola stated there is also a change to a description of the parcel to be improved. Ms. Ciotola stated there are changes to Lines 10, 15, 33, 34 and 35.

The Chair recognized Mrs. Pyke, who stated that the amendment could be moved on the floor of Council after referral.

There was no opponent testimony. There was no public comment.

Motion by Mr. Pallotta to release Temp. Ord. B-64 with a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Mr. Colavecchio. Motion adopted by acclamation.

Temp. Ord. B-65

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the Chestnut Trailhead Parking Lot & Trail Improvements Phase I, and declaring an emergency.

The Chair stated that a proposed amendment provided by the administration at the rail would be considered at the next Council meeting.

Proponent testimony was offered by City Engineer Tony Demasi. Mr. Demasi stated that the ordinance authorizes the construction of a public parking lot and trailhead on Front Street at Chestnut. It has been designed by the joint effort of the Engineering and Community Development departments. This new asphalt parking lot will include curbs and storm sewers, and will contain 40 parking spaces. Provisions for future lighting of the parking lot have

been included. Bids for the project have been opened. The project will begin in August subject to passage of this ordinance, and will be completed in two to three months.

The Chair asked what changes to the ordinance are made in the proposed amendment. Ms. Ciotola stated that the amendment changes the funding source and increases appropriations. Mr. Hoffman stated the changes are at Lines 20-23.

There was no opponent testimony. There was no public comment.

The Chair recognized Mrs. Pyke who asked if there will be any safety barrier between the parking lot and the river. Mr. Demasi stated there will be a curb.

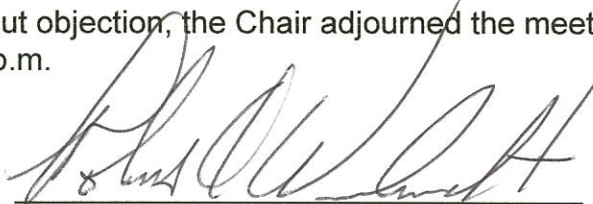
Motion by Mr. Pallotta to release Temp. Ord. B-65 with a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Mr. Colavecchio. Motion adopted by acclamation.

Non-Agenda Items


(None.)

Adjournment

Without objection, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.



Robert Weinhardt, Chair



Paul A. Janis, Clerk of Council