

VILLAGE OF OBETZ
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 14, 2021

The meeting was held in Council Chambers at the Government Center, 4175 Alum Creek Drive, on Monday, June 14, 2021 at 6:00 PM with Mayor Angela M. Kirk presiding.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Boumis called the roll. Mr. Michael Flaherty – present; Mr. Robert Kramer – present; Mr. Guiles Richardson – present; Mrs. Bonnie Wiley – present; Mr. Derek Varney – present; Mr. Mike Kimbler – present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Kirk called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2021 meeting. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Voting as follows: Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mrs. Wiley – yes.

ORDINANCES

First Readings

Ms. Boumis read Ordinance 24 – 21: An Ordinance To Adopt The Tax Budget For The Village Of Obetz, Ohio For The Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2022 And To Submit The Same To The Franklin County Budget Commission And Declaring An Emergency.

Second Readings

No second readings.

Third Readings

No third readings.

Emergencies

Ms. Boumis read Ordinance 22 – 21: An Ordinance Setting Forth A Statement Of Municipal Services To Be Provided To The Area Contained In A Proposed Annexation Of 93.8 +/- Acres From Hamilton Township To The Village Of Obetz Such Land Being Located Along Lockbourne Road And Declaring An Emergency. Mayor Kirk stated the annexation of this area has already been discussed. This is the Wilburn farm. No questions. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 22 – 21. Motion made by Mrs. Wiley; seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Voting as follows: Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mrs. Wiley – yes. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 22 – 21. Motion made by Mr. Flaherty; seconded by Mr. Varney. Voting as follows: Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mrs. Wiley – yes.

Ms. Boumis read Ordinance 23 – 21: An Ordinance Awarding The Bid For The Bixby Road And Groveport Road Roadway Improvements Project To Strawser Paving Company And Authorizing The Village

Administrator To Enter Into A Contract With Strawser Paving Company, And To Declare An Emergency. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 23 – 21. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Voting as follows: Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mrs. Wiley – yes. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 23 – 21. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mrs. Wiley. Voting as follows: Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mrs. Wiley – yes.

Ms. Boumis read Ordinance 25 – 21: An Ordinance To Approve Changes To The 2021 Appropriations For The Current Expenses And Other Expenditures Of The Village Of Obetz. Mr. Davisson discussed the appropriations. Funds are being appropriated for security and cameras at the Fortress; rooftop HVAC units for the Administration Building; Stambaugh TIF payments; and revenue sharing with the Groveport Madison School District as a part of an incentive agreement. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 25 – 21. Motion made by Mr. Varney; seconded by Mr. Kimbler. Voting as follows: Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mrs. Wiley – yes. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 25 – 21. Motion made by Mr. Varney; seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Voting as follows: Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mrs. Wiley – yes.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Kirk stated there is a lot of development happening right now. She thanked the staff for filling in at the Fortress. She also stated the Village had a spotless audit and received an award for achieving the highest level of transparency in government.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Kimbler, Parks and Programming – Mr. Kimbler stated summer camp has started. Baseball and softball are almost over. Football and cheerleading registration is open. There have been complaints on social media recently regarding the splashpad. The Mayor stated staff can monitor the splashpad through a live video feed. Additionally, there are lockers at the splashpad that can be used to secure items. Mayor Kirk and Council discussed whether the splashpad should be manned. Mayor Kirk stated it is a public park and should not be manned. It should be open to everyone. Mr. Kimbler agreed. It hasn't been over capacity. People who are upset about issues at the splashpad should reach out to the police department and not use social media. Mr. Davisson stated he looked at the cameras during the times people reported large crowds and it was never at capacity. It would be approximately \$35,000 to \$40,000 per year to staff the splashpad. Mr. Kramer stated he agrees the splashpad does not need staffed based on what is happening. Mrs. Wiley asked if a capacity limit could be established. Mr. Hollins stated other communities don't staff splashpads. Mr. Varney stated it is a public park and should be kept open and free. Mr. Flaherty agreed and stated this issue could be revisited at any time if new issues arise. Mr. Benson (from the audience) stated he has only seen it crowded one day.

Mr. Varney, Fortress Obetz, Regional Recreation and Events – Mr. Varney stated Autocross was on Sunday and was well attended. The Browns youth football camp is next week; June 25th is the first drive-in movie; and, Bike Nights continue.

Mr. Richardson, Public Works and Safety – Mr. Richardson stated there will be a Public Works and Safety Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 22 at 5:30 PM in Council Chambers to discuss parking throughout the Village and a secondary entrance into Mulberry Grove.

Mr. Flaherty, Development – Mr. Flaherty stated a lot of planning for new development has been occurring.

Mr. Kramer, Intergovernmental Outreach – Mr. Kramer stated construction has started at Swisher and Saltzgaber and the Groveport Madison High School graduation was Friday.

Mrs. Wiley, Neighborhood Preservation and Beautification – Mrs. Wiley wished everyone a happy Flag Day. She also stated the grounds crew has been very busy.

ADMINISTRATION'S REPORT

Mike Confer, Police Chief — Chief Confer stated Sergeant Ellison returns on Wednesday. Since the last meeting there have been 1454 calls for service. There have been a lot of fireworks complaints lately. People will not receive a warning; they will be ticketed.

Martin Hafey, Chief, Hamilton Township Fire Department – Not in attendance.

Gene Hollins, Esq., Law Director – A resident on Dexter Court inquired about the status of the Freepoint project. Mr. Hollins stated he has not heard anything from them and he thinks they are not moving forward.

Stacey Boumis, Community Services Director – Ms. Boumis stated there was a Planning and Zoning Commission last week. Leave A Mark Church received approval for the next phase of their development.

E. Rod Davisson, Esq., Village Administrator – Mr. Davisson stated the first class of interns has started. He further stated Council needs to begin discussing water rate increases and how to handle delinquent accounts. He recommended giving individuals until December 31st to become current. Residents would need to sign up for a payment plan and make those payments or be shut-off. He also reported include tax receipts are up 38.99% year to date. Two million dollars has been moved to capital to get projects moving. He discussed the proposed capital improvements list. Council, Mayor Kirk and Mr. Davisson discussed the list. No modifications recommended by Council.

Mr. Kimbler stated Madison Christian School's baseball team made a big donation to the Obetz food pantry to thank the Village for allow the school to use Memorial Park for their baseball games. Food was purchased from K&M Market to support a local business.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Mr. Jerry Benson suggested purchasing a leaf blowing and offering leaf removal services for residents. Mr. Davisson stated this is not part of the short term plan. Mr. Benson then asked when construction would be completed at the Obetz Community Center. Mr. Davisson stated it should be done in approximately 30 days, but it will be bare bones and still need furnished.

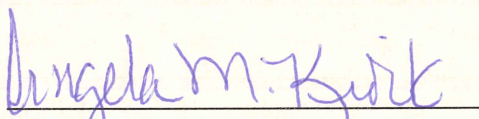
A resident on Orchard Lane (name not given) addressed Council. He stated he is worried about traffic on Orchard Lane due to events in the park. Cars are speeding down the street. He asked if a stop sign could be installed where Sedan Avenue intersects Orchard Lane to slow traffic. The resident then asked about mosquito spraying. Mr. Davisson stated spraying is done through the Franklin County Board of Health and is scheduled for tonight at 9:00 PM. The resident then complained about the number of cats roaming freely on Orchard Lane. He stated the cats are destroying mulched areas and flowerbeds. Mrs. Wiley stated she is working with a cat rescue organization to find homes for abandoned cats.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

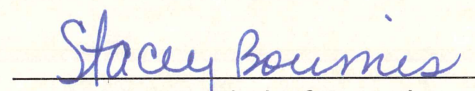
Mayor Kirk called for a motion to go into Executive Session under ORC 121.22(g)(8) to discuss economic development. Motion made by Mr. Flaherty; seconded by Mr. Kramer. Voting as follows: Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mrs. Wiley – yes. Council adjourned into Executive Session at 7:06 PM. Council returned from Executive Session at 8:46 PM with all six members present.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Mr. Flaherty; seconded by Mr. Kramer. All ayes. Council adjourned at 8:47 PM.



Mayor Angela M. Kirk



Stacey Boumis, Clerk of Council