

**CITY OF OBETZ
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**



REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 27, 2022

The regular meeting was held in Council Chambers at the Government Center, 4175 Alum Creek Drive, on Monday, June 27, 2022 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; Mr. Todd Gibbs – present; Mr. Derek Varney – present; Mr. Mike Kimbler – present. Also present were Rod Davisson, Administrator; Gene Hollins, Law Director; Stacey Boumis, Community Services Director; Mike Confer, Police Chief.

MINUTES

Mayor Kirk called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2022 and June 16, 2022 meetings. Motion made Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Gibbs. Voting as follows: Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes. Motion carried.

STATE OF THE CITY

Mr. Davisson discussed post-COVID economic conditions and the Obetz budget. He stated Obetz saved \$8.3 million for "Rainy Days"; Obetz' expenses are increasing because of inflation; Obetz' income is declining compared to last year because companies are scaling back employees; Obetz has no plans to lay off employees; and, hired a new police officer today; Obetz has no plans to reduce resident services; Obetz offered severance packages to anyone who wanted to voluntarily leave and 12 people accepted—same amount of work, fewer people; Obetz is cutting expenses and raising capital; Obetz has applied for police retention grant funding; Obetz has not raised and will not raise property nor income taxes; Obetz cannot and will not stop unionization.

He discussed basic economic principles such as supply and demand and inflation. Inflation is the highest it has been in 40 years and consumer confidence is the lowest in history. He shared the Ohio Revised Code's definition of a political subdivision. He discussed how governments in Ohio are funded. The largest income source for cities and villages is income tax; the largest income source for counties and the State is sales tax; the largest income source for school districts is State funds. He shared an example of property tax distribution from a local home in the community.

He then discussed the budget process and strategies. Council controls spending. The Mayor and Administration must spend within the budget approved by Council. He then discussed the two budgets prepared by Obetz – an operating budget and a tax budget. The operating budget is completed at the end of the year for the next year and serves as the map for revenue and spending. The tax budget is completed during the summer and submitted to the County for the purpose of distributing inside millage.

The process of budgeting was discussed. The Finance Department assembles the skeleton of the budget and fills in data from earlier years; staff estimates needs for the upcoming year and fills in the appropriate budget lines; the City Administrator reduces or expands budget line items based on input from elected officials and directors; the Mayor reviews and approves submitting budget to Council; Council reviews, may adjust, and adopts the official budget. Mr. Davisson discussed the parts of the budget – revenue and expenses. He also discussed fund accounting. Fund accounting is the process of sorting revenue, expenses, and carryovers into categories by purpose or legal requirement. There are three types of funds – governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary. He discussed the Obetz' fund list. The largest fund is the General Fund.

Mr. Davisson discussed the national economy. A recession is two consecutive quarters of no growth in the U.S. Gross Domestic Product. There is no foolproof way to predict a recession. Numerous sources are predicting a recession.

There are several metrics that are helpful—but not definitive—in predicting a recession including real GDP; inflation; consumer spending; yield curve; unemployment; consumer confidence; and interest rates. Mr. Davisson discussed each of these.

Mr. Davisson showed charts of Obetz' income tax collections. Income tax collections have declined. Currently actual revenue is less than actual expenditures. He discussed his plan for balancing Obetz' budget including selling excess land in Obetz' inventory. He stated Obetz is resilient and well positioned to make it through whatever is coming.

Mr. Andy Borders, a resident, asked if Obetz was checking on abated companies to make sure they were meeting their minimum employee requirements. Mr. Davisson stated they are audited yearly and reports are sent to the State.

Mr. Borders stated Obetz could cut or scale back events and facilities. Mr. Davisson stated Fortress Obetz makes money. He then stated there will be a parking fee at ZucchiniFest this year to increase revenue. Rather than shut down facilities, fees would be increased. Mr. Davisson stated residents can have all amenities and still keep services if the excess properties are sold.

Ms. Becci Thacker, a resident, asked about the police levy passed in 2015. Mr. Davisson stated this was a 0.5% income tax increase dedicated to the police department. The levy generates approximately \$2 million dollars a year. The police spend approximately \$3.5 million. Mr. Davisson stated there would need to be an additional 10 mill levy to cover costs. Ms. Thacker and Mr. Davisson discussed the work done by the Police Department. Ms. Thacker stated the Picktown Palooza charges \$5 per day admission to their event. Mr. Davisson discussed the properties purchased by the City over the last several years and the reasons why these properties were purchased.

A resident, name not given, stated the stop signs on Orchard Lane are useless. He also asked questions regarding lay offs. Mayor Kirk stated the City offered severance packages and twelve people took them. They were voluntary. He then stated the dog park is a waste of money. It doesn't get used. He then

stated there is a lot of speeding on Bridlewood Boulevard. There is a lot of talk at the Obetz Athletic Club regarding City issues.

Brian Toft, representing the Obetz Police Officers (FOP) stated the collective bargaining is about more than pay; it is about safety and how to keep officers gainfully employees. Officers are historically overworked and underpaid. The officers employed love Obetz and many are from the area. He thanked the Mayor and Council for not laying anyone off. He then stated the FOP wants to work with Council and the Mayor to bargain – give a little; take a little. The officers need to know Obetz has their back. Mayor Kirk stated the elected officials have always supported the police department but their needs to be a mutual respect. The elected officials are not a part of the collective bargaining process. What is discussed in those meetings needs to be private. Brian Toft stated this is about working conditions and safety. Mr. Davisson stated the Obetz Police Department is not the lowest paid department in Franklin County; rather, it is the third highest paid per capita. He then stated the elected officials were not going to negotiate in public. The department has good equipment and has gotten everything they ever requested.

Mayor Kirk stated Joe Kimener with CBRE was in attendance should Council have any questions on selling property along Williams Road. Mr. Kimener stated now is the time to sell before the market shifts. Mr. Andy Borders, from the audience, stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission was not interested in a trucking facility at the Varga property on Williams Road. Obetz' property is closer. Mr. Davisson stated the Commission can get overturned by Council and the Commission may not understand the need for the money. Mr. Flaherty stated Obetz' original plans did not include the railroad getting shut down.

ORDINANCES

First Readings

No first readings.

Second Readings

Ms. Boumis read Ordinance 30 – 22: An Ordinance To Adopt The Tax Budget For The City Of Obetz, Ohio For The Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2023 And To Submit The Same To The Franklin County Budget Commission And Declaring An Emergency.

Ms. Boumis read Ordinance 31 – 22: An Ordinance To Rezone Parcel Number 153-000673 From General Commercial To Planned Industrial District And To Approve The Preliminary Development Plan And Development Text.

Third Readings

No third readings.

Emergencies

Ms. Boumis read Ordinance 37 – 22: An Ordinance Enacting Section 549.08, Relating To Fireworks Sale Or Discharge, To Authorize The Discharge Of 1.4G Fireworks On Private Property During Specified Days, And Amending Section 955.20, Relating To Fireworks And Explosives, And Declaring An Emergency. Mr. Davisson discussed the Ordinance. He stated the days are the same days as permitted by the State of

Ohio and the times align with the City's noise ordinance. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 37 – 22. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Varney. Voting as follows: Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes. Motion carried. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Varney. Voting as follows: Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports.

ADMINISTRATION'S REPORT

No reports.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

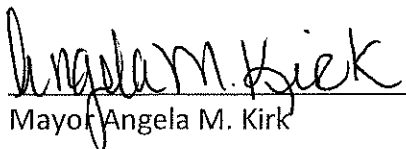
No new business.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

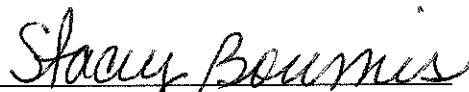
A member of the audience, name not given, who did not come to the microphone, stated the cops were told they were getting laid off two weeks ago. Mr. Davisson stated they were never told that. He then stated in a declining economy, lay offs are always a possibility. The resident then stated the Zucchini-fest and fireworks should be cut in order to keep officers.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Mr. Gibbs; seconded by Mr. Flaherty. All ayes. Council adjourned at 7:47 PM.



Mayor Angela M. Kirk



Stacey Boumis, Clerk of Council