

**CITY OF OBETZ
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**



REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 26, 2023

The regular meeting was held in Council Chambers at the Government Center, 4175 Alum Creek Drive, on Monday, June 26, 2023 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. Derek Varney – present; Mr. Mike Kimbler – present; Mr. Todd Gibbs – present. Also present were Michael Confer, Police Chief; Gene Hollins, Esq., Law Director; Stacey Boumis, Community Services Director, and Rod Davisson, Esq., Administrator.

MINUTES

Mayor Kirk called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2023 meeting. Motion made by Mr. Gibbs; seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Voting as follows: Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Varney - yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mickie Stiers, Manager of the South High Street Branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library (Library) addressed Council. She stated the Library is celebrating 150 years of existence. She discussed programs offered by the South High Street Branch. She also discussed the large community activities that will occur throughout the rest of the year. She also stated there will be a 1.5 mil levy on the November ballot for the Library. A member of the audience stated levies are a hard ask in this economy. Mr. Kramer thanked Ms. Stiers for her work. He stated his kids enjoy the South High Street Library and they use it often.

ORDINANCES

First Reading

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 19 – 23: An Ordinance To Adopt The Tax Budget For The City Of Obetz, Ohio For The Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2024 And To Submit The Same To The Franklin County Budget Commission And Declaring An Emergency.

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 20 – 23: An Ordinance To Amend The Financial Management Policies Of The City Of Obetz, Ohio, By Authorizing Department Directors To Approve Purchase Orders Up To A Limit Of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) And Establishing Measures To Ensure The Proper Use Of Public Funds.

Second Reading

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 13 – 23: An Ordinance To Rezone Parcel Number 186-000027 From Suburban Office And Institution To Planned Commercial District And To Approve The Preliminary Development Plan. Mayor Kirk opened the public hearing. Ms. Boumis presented the case. She stated the traffic study has been accepted by the City Engineer. All changes requested by the Administration

were incorporated into the Preliminary Development Plan. The Madison Township Fire Department has okayed one curb cut. There won't be a curb cut onto Groveport Road; the only access will be from Bixby Road. Richard Hartley, a resident, stated he was concerned about traffic on Bixby Road. He stated no one stops. He asked if the business was getting tax breaks. Mr. Davisson stated there are no incentives. Mayor Kirk stated the business wants to be here. There are no daycares in the area and there is a need for this business. Mr. Hartley then asked if bussing would be provided for the kids. Mayor Kirk stated bussing will be provided by the school district. Mr. Kramer stated the buses would already be in the area and that the daycare won't increase bus traffic. Mayor Kirk stated the business will pay property tax and the employees will pay income tax. Rick Lemmons, owner's representative, was present. He stated Pastor David Abu, pastor at King's Court Bible Church, has already purchased the property for the daycare. He then stated Pastor Abu recognized the need for a daycare in the area. Garret Baker, project engineer, was also present. Mr. Lemmons stated twenty new jobs will be created. Mayor Kirk asked if the daycare accepts Title 20. Pastor Dave responded yes. Mr. Varney asked about the process to enroll. Pastor Dave stated there is already a waiting list for the facility. Mayor Kirk closed the public hearing.

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 14 – 23: An Ordinance Increasing The Salary Of All Elected Officials. Mr. Davisson discussed the Ordinance. He stated the Charter allows an 8% increase in the salary of the elected officials every odd numbered year. It has been over a decade since the last increase. The elected officials should be paid for doing a good job. Currently they don't make enough to qualify for a full year of OPERS service credit. Mr. Davisson then stated the raises aren't for the current officials unless they are re-elected. The Ordinance needs to be approved tonight to meet the deadline established by the Charter. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 14 – 23. Motion made by Mr. Flaherty; seconded by Mr. Gibbs. Voting as follows: Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Varney - yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes. Motion carried. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 14 – 23. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Voting as follows: Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Varney - yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 15 – 23: An Ordinance Approving The City Of Obetz Annual Conversion Plan Which Allows Employees To Convert Vacation And Sick Time To Cash In Accordance With The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) Specifications.

Third Reading

No third readings.

Emergencies

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 21 – 23: An Ordinance To Provide For A Contracting Procedure For Construction Of Waterline Improvements And Miscellaneous Infrastructure Improvements, And Declaring An Emergency. Mr. Davisson discussed the Ordinance. He stated this is for repairs to the Groveport Road waterline. Waterline breaks affect multiple businesses in the area including Shasta. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 21 – 23. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Gibbs. Voting as follows: Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Varney - yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes. Motion carried. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 21 – 23. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr.

Flaherty. Voting as follows: Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Varney - yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 22 – 23: An Ordinance To Approve Changes To The 2023 Appropriations For The Current Expenses And Other Expenditures Of The City Of Obetz. Mr. Davisson discussed the Ordinance. Ten Thousand dollars of repairs are needed to police vehicles. Mr. Davisson, Chief Confer, Mayor Kirk, and Council discussed police vehicles. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 22 – 23. Motion made by Mr. Kramer; seconded by Mr. Gibbs. Voting as follows: Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Varney - yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes. Motion carried. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 22 – 23. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Voting as follows: Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Varney - yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 23 – 23: An Ordinance To Waive Competitive Bidding And Enter Into A Contract For Replacement Of The Roof At The Government Center, And Declaring An Emergency. Mr. Davisson stated the roof is past its useful life. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 23 – 23. Motion made by Mr. Varney; seconded by Mr. Gibbs. Voting as follows: Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 23 – 23. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Varney. Voting as follows: Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Kirk discussed the July 3rd fireworks. She then stated she posted a video on social media about Zucchnifest. She introduced Joey Enders, an intern, and stated how proud she was of the internship program. Joey is a second-year intern.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No committee meetings were held. No reports. Mr. Varney provided an update of activities at Fortress Obetz. Richard Hartley, a resident, asked if there were going to be metal detectors at the Fortress during Zucchinifest. Mr. Davisson stated cities cannot prohibit guns on public property since everyone can carry them. Mayor Kirk stated it is open carry anywhere.

ADMINISTRATION'S REPORT

Chief Michael Confer, Police Department – Chief Confer stated there were 911 calls for service since the last meeting. Officers patrolled 3861 miles.

Chief Ralph Shillingburg, Hamilton Township Fire Department – Chief Shillingburg stated there were 74 EMS runs and 21 fire runs in Obetz in May.

Rod Davisson, Esq., Administrator – Mr. Davisson stated a community swimming pool will cost about %4 million dollars. He recommended taking it through to schematic design which would cost approximately \$160,000. Design of the Mulberry Grove cut through has started. He asked Council if they want to keep

both sets of streetlights in the older part of town. When the City installed the decorative streetlights, the AEP lights were never removed. The AEP lights cost approximately \$13,000/year. Council agreed that the AEP streetlights should be removed if the Obetz lights are upgraded to LED. Mr. Davisson showed the proposed upgrades to Lancaster Park. The upgrades will occur in two phases. Phase 1 is approximately \$1 million dollars; Phase 2 is between 2 to 3 million because it is expensive to underground utilities. Council discussed the proposed upgrades. Mr. Kramer stated concerns about parking during the Christmas Kick-Off. Mr. Davisson stated attendees can utilize the public parking north of Lancaster Park. Andy Borders, a resident, asked if parking should be in the middle. Mr. Davisson stated that the proposed location of parking allows the improvements to take advantage of the current restroom facilities. The upgrades are a huge benefit to residents. Mr. Kramer asked how participants will get equipment. Mr. Davisson stated Ms. Duffy is looking into vending machines for equipment. Mr. Davisson stated the police contract is done. He discussed the contract.

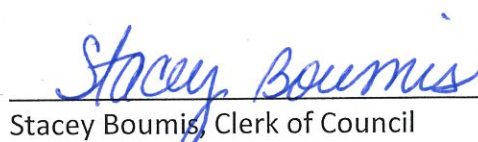
REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Collin White, a resident of the Walnut Run subdivision, addressed Council. He discussed the HOA and fence restrictions. Mr. Davisson stated the developer controls the HOA. Ms. Boumis stated residents of Walnut Run want to modify the deed restrictions. She then stated she will work with the HOA and developer since the deed restrictions were part of the zoning. The Planning and Zoning Commission will need to review proposed modifications.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Mr. Flaherty; seconded by Mr. Gibbs. All ayes. Council adjourned at 8:13 PM.


Mayor Angela M. Kirk


Stacey Boumis, Clerk of Council