

**CITY OF OBETZ
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**



REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 11, 2023

The regular meeting was held in Council Chambers at the Government Center, 4175 Alum Creek Drive, on Monday, December 11, 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 Mike Confer, Police Chief; Gene Hollins, Esq., Law Director; Stacey Boumis, Community Services Director, and Rod Davisson, Esq., City Administrator.

MINUTES

Mayor Kirk called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 13th meeting. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Kimbler. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Varney – yes. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES

First Reading

No first readings.

Second Reading

Ms. Boumis read Ordinance 50 – 23: An Ordinance To Approve The 2024 Permanent Appropriations Of All Funds For The Current Expenses And Other Expenditures Of The City Of Obetz. Mr. Davisson discussed the Ordinance. Mr. Davisson stated there are 679 individual line items in the budget. He discussed appropriations versus expenses. He reviewed various parts of the budget. Cities need to appropriate as if everything is going to happen. There is a \$9 million dollar carryover from 2023. Approximately \$19.9 million dollars has been appropriated. The budget includes several new positions. The number one position on Mr. Davisson's list is a public information officer. Other positions include one to two new police officers; part time help at the Community Center; another employee in Grounds to replace Jess Griffith since he is transitioning to the grants work; and a replacement in the finance department once Mark Daubenmier retires. In January, Council will need to decide what capital projects it wants to undertake. Utility fund adjustments are also needed this year. Rates have not increased in 13 years. Mr. Davisson showed how he tracks the budget over time. He stated Council has access to his spreadsheet. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 50 – 23. Motion made by Mr. Gibbs; seconded by Mr. Kimbler. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Varney – yes. Motion carried. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 50 – 23. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Kramer. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Varney – yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Boumis read Ordinance 51 – 23: An Ordinance To Amend Chapter 182 Of The Obetz Codified Ordinances To Update The City's Municipal Income Tax Code As Required By State Law, And To Declare An Emergency. Mr. Hollins discussed the Ordinance. He stated the State of Ohio has mandated changes to the City's income tax code. He reviewed the changes. Individuals under 18 are excluded from paying State income tax. There is now a cap on late filing penalties. The deadline for business filings has also been changed. Council discussed the changes and the impact to the City of Obetz. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 51 – 23. Motion made by Mr. Flaherty; seconded by Mr. Kramer. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Varney – yes. Motion carried. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 51 – 23. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Varney – yes. Motion carried.

Third Reading

Mr. Davisson read Ordinance 42 – 23: An Ordinance Authorizing The City Administrator To Execute A Two-Year Extension To The Existing Contract With The Davey Tree Expert Company. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 42 – 23. Motion made by Mr. Varney; seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Varney – yes. Motion carried.

Emergencies

Ms. Boumis read Ordinance 53 – 23: An Ordinance Setting Forth A Statement Of Municipal Services To Be Provided To The Area Contained In A Proposed Annexation Of 8.938 +/- Acres From Hamilton Township To The City Of Obetz Such Land Being Located Along Bixby Road And Declaring An Emergency. Mr. Hollins discussed the Ordinance. He stated this area is east of the new Molto building. This ordinance is a part of the annexation process. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 53 – 23. Motion made by Mr. Gibbs; seconded by Mr. Kramer. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Varney – yes. Motion carried. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 53 – 23. Motion made by Mr. Kimbler; seconded by Mr. Kramer. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Varney – yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Boumis read Ordinance 54 – 23: An Ordinance To Modify Section 305.06 Of The Codified Ordinances Related To Speed Limits And Declaring An Emergency. Ms. Boumis stated the County Engineer did a speed study on Rohr Road and based on the study, the speed limit should be reduced from 55 mph to 45 mph. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 54 – 23. Motion made by Mr. Varney; seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Varney – yes. Motion carried. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt

Ordinance 54 – 23. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Gibbs. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Varney – yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Boumis read Ordinance 55 – 23: An Ordinance To Approve Changes To The 2023 Appropriations For The Current Expenses And Other Expenditures Of The City Of Obetz. Mr. Matt Cramblit, Finance Director, reviewed the Ordinance. He stated that additional funds are needed for outside legal work; planning related to Buckstone; and payouts/benefits/salaries. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 55 – 23. Motion made by Mr. Kimbler; seconded by Mr. Varney. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Varney – yes. Motion carried. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 55 – 23. Motion made by Mr. Varney; seconded by Mr. Gibbs. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Varney – yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Boumis read Ordinance 56 – 23: An Ordinance Authorizing The Adoption Of The 2023/2024 Franklin County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update And Declaring An Emergency. Ms. Boumis discussed the Hazard Mitigation Plan. She stated she participated in the update. Adoption of the Plan is required by law. It opens the City up to grants related to the mitigation of hazards. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 56 – 23. Motion made by Mr. Gibbs; seconded by Mr. Kimbler. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Varney – yes. Motion carried. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 56 – 23. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Kramer. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Varney – yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Boumis read Ordinance 37 – 23: An Ordinance To Enact Section 149.03 Of The Codified Ordinances To Establish The Personnel Board Of Review. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to remove the Ordinance from the table. Motion made by Mr. Flaherty; seconded by Mr. Richardson. Mayor Kirk reviewed her appointments. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 37 – 23. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Kimbler. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Varney – yes. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Kirk stated the Christmas Kick-Off went well. Staff worked hard on the event. She thanked Mr. Varney for playing the role of Santa. The event had great turn-out. The Santa ride through the neighborhoods is Saturday. Holiday lights judging is tomorrow.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No committee meetings were held. No reports.

ADMINISTRATION'S REPORT

Mike Confer, Police Chief – Chief Confer stated there was a speed box installed on Greenup Drive. It recorded speeds for 880 cars. The highest speed was 29 mph. The speed box was then installed on Lauren Fields Drive. It recorded 2311 cars. There were 13 speeders.

Eugene Hollins, Esq., Law Director – Mr. Hollins discussed the Sheetz liquor permit. He stated there is a request for a C-2 at the new location. It is for wine and wine coolers. Council had no objection to that. The Toy Road location is for a D-1 permit to allow spiked slushies. Gene explained that there are a limited number of licenses available in Obetz. There is 1 – D-1; 3 – D-2s; and 2 – D-3s. Council stated they wanted to preserve licenses for bars and restaurants.

Rod Davisson, Esq., City Administrator – Mr. Davisson stated he is excited about next year and getting to do some cool projects. He is happy with the directors and the current employees. He stated he has a meeting coming up with ODOT. He then discussed the Zulily closure and utility upgrades.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Mr. Borders asked when Rathmell Road would be cleaned up.

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 Mr. Gibbs. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Varney – yes. Motion carried. Council went into executive session at 7:11 pm. All six members of Council returned from executive session at 9:38 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Mr. Flaherty; seconded by Mr. Gibbs. All ayes. Council adjourned at 9:39 PM.



Mayor Angela M. Kirk



Stacey Boumis, Clerk of Council