

CITY OF OBETZ
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2024

The regular meeting of February 26, 2024 was held at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers at the Government Center, 4175 Alum Creek Drive, 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, AICP, Clerk, and Rod Davisson, Esq., City Administrator.

MINUTES

Mayor Kirk called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12th meeting. 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.

STATE OF THE CITY PRESENTATION

Mr. Davisson, Esq., City Administrator, was the first presenter. He shared financial statistics. He stated total revenue and income tax revenue is down from last year. The City has a \$9,794,976 carryover from last year. The good news is the number of business in Obetz has increased to 697.

Michael Corbitt, PE, Deputy Administrator and City Engineer, presented engineering and building department statistics. Lancaster Park construction is starting soon. The park should be open in July. Construction on the Rathmell Road roundabout will start this year and finish in 2025. He shared additional statistics from the 2023 Annual Report (Report).

Jordan Doll presented for Todd Garwick. He discussed the City's utility assets. In 2023, there were numerous capital projects that improved the utility infrastructure including the Orchard Lane water tank altitude valve replacement; 20 fire hydrant replacements; and water line improvements along McGaw Road, Sedan Avenue, Maureen Blvd, and Broehm Road. The City was in full compliance with all OEPA and USEPA regulations. He then shared data from the Report.

Matt Cramblit, Finance Director, presented financial information. In 2023, the Finance Department was awarded the Auditor of State Award with Distinction and the GFOA Financial Reporting Award for its 2022 financial reporting. In 2022, the Finance Department spearheaded the upgrade of the servers and firewalls for the City. The project was finished in 2023 with the upgrade of the Utility Department database. Obetz was issued a clean 2022 audit through an independent auditor and cleared desk review by the Auditor of State without revision.

Mr. Davisson discussed trends in the City's annual income tax returns from 1999 to 2023. He then stated moves made by the Ohio Legislature that are dangerous to cities. Obetz refunded over \$1 million dollars to companies last year.

Derek Duncan, Human Resources Director, stated the City and Division of Police executed a Collective Bargaining Agreement that extends to the end of 2025. He then discussed the City's training plan, employee fitness challenge, and the improved employee health markers.

Stacey Boumis, AICP, Community Services Director, discussed community services and planning. She stated the City's planning efforts focus on sustainable and efficient growth that balances economic development with environmental preservation. In 2023, Obetz engaged The Edge Group to begin planning the Buckstone area. That planning continues today. Development is diversifying. In 2023, the City had a 44% increase in the number of code compliance cases reported through see.click.fix and all but a few cases have been closed. She then stated the 2023 Zfest was the biggest yet and the City brought in more money in 2023 than any previous year. Planning for 2024 is well underway.

Steve Adams, Economic Development and Promotions Director and discussed economic development. In 2023, he completed business review and expansion meetings with notable companies, including HomeGoods.com, Bowflex/Nautilus, ODW Dist-Trans Logistics, and more. He stated he focused on relationship building and maintaining open communication with businesses. He then discussed new business in Obetz and businesses that left. He stated he will continue to focus on community amenities, including restaurants, hotels, and healthcare facilities.

Mike Confer, Police Chief, discussed police operations. The police policies were recertified through the Ohio Collaborative. Four police cars were added to the fleet. A new marksman rifle program was created to improve critical incident response. The first Collective Bargaining Agreement was signed. Flock cameras were installed, and a new advanced reporting system was deployed.

Kerri Doddroe, Director of Parks and Recreation, discussed parks and recreation operations. She stated her time is comprised of 5 full-time staff, seasonal interns, and part time support. She discussed the facilities her staff manages as well as the programs administered through parks and recreation. In 2023 a new software system was implemented that streamlined operations. This software enhances facility rental processes, integrates with the Obetz Athletic Club's access system, and supports the Obetz Black Card program. She stated the ice rink was very busy in 2023.

Ben Swauger, Obetz Athletic Club Operations Manager, stated there were 117 participants in the 2023 Golf Club. The golf simulators are used year-round. He then stated he conducted 468 personalized personal training sessions. New equipment was added in 2023 including updated bikes and ellipticals. Equipment was expanded as well.

Melanie Ross, Obetz Community Center Manager, presented. She discussed the programming offered at the Community Center as well as the critical services including senior transportation services and delivery of hot meals to shut-ins. The food pantry at the Community Center is a crucial resource. Ms. Ross then stated her staff is responsible for the cleaning and scheduling of the Community Center as well as Dixon Quarry.

Jacob Gifford, Youth Sports Coordinator, discussed the sports offered in Obetz. He stated there is a great sense of community in Obetz. 2023 was a great year and the number of kids enrolled in the programs increased to 548. He stated he is committed to making sure all participants and their families have an excellent time when they are a part of Obetz' programs.

Steve Adams presented activities at Fortress Obetz and Memorial Park. He stated Fortress Obetz and Memorial Park host events approximately 40 of the 52 weeks a year. He reviewed the various events in 2023. Most of those events are returning in 2024. In 2024, additional events will be added.

Leanna Moore, Multimedia Communications Specialist, stated the goal of the communications team is to build bridges with the community through a creative blend of innovative and engaging content across diverse platforms, ensuring that every resident stays informed and connected. She discussed the various platforms the City uses to maximize outreach. In 2023 the City launched TikTok accounts and introduced the Buckstone.com website.

Stacey Boumis stated shared data related to public records and legal compliance. She stated the most important thing to know about 2023 is that the City was 100% in compliance with all public records laws. In addition, in 2023, she completed the ordinance archival project. All ordinances are now digital.

Jess Griffith, Grounds Superintendent, stated the City's collaboration with Davey Tree Landscape Maintenance has gone very well. The contract was renewed for two years with no price increase. The City's green infrastructure was improved; 200 trees were planted. The City also received a \$100,000 grant from the USDA Forest Service to use in 2024 for additional trees. He then discussed other grants he has submitted.

Tim Ross, Facilities Superintendent, discussed the projects his team completed including the replacement of 100 paper towel dispensers in the City. Other large projects included the installation of an access control system and new overhead door operators on the sallyport doors. Facilities assisted in the construction of new office cubicles, management of the roofing contracts, and upgrades to the lighting system at the football concession stand.

Kyle Inland, Service Superintendent, stated his department plays a crucial role in the success of the City's holiday celebrations and scheduled events. He then stated he is particularly proud of the Halloween event. That event has grown tremendously over the years. He stated the team

takes pride in how the City looks and works hard to keep it clean. He then shared data from the Report.

Bill Baker, Research and Development Superintendent, stated he is a department of one and works hard to save the City money by completing numerous projects in-house including the construction of new office spaces and renovations to the conference room including the addition of video conferencing capabilities. He then stated he managed two roof projects and provided hand-on training in numerous areas.

Mr. Davisson stated the City has a skilled and talented staff who care about the City.

ORDINANCES

First Readings

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 05-24: An Ordinance To Adopt The Solid Waste Management Plan For The Solid Waste Authority Of Central Ohio.

Second Readings

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 03-24: An Ordinance Approving The Recodification, Editing And Inclusion Of Certain Ordinances As Parts Of The Various Component Codes Of The Codified Ordinances Of Obetz And Declaring An Emergency.

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 04-24: An Ordinance To Accept The Annexation Of 8.938 +/- Acres From Hamilton Township To The City Of Obetz.

Third Readings

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 02-24: An Ordinance Authorizing The Mayor Or Administrator To Enter Into Various Recurring Contracts Necessary For The Continuous Operation Of The City And Declaring An Emergency. Mr. Hollins reviewed the list of contracts and discussed each one. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 02 – 24. 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.

Emergencies

No emergencies.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Kirk stated she attended the Daddy Daughter Dance. This is a fun event that the community loves. It is always well attended. She then stated the City will have a table at the March 21st event at Hamilton Township High School.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports.

ADMINISTRATION'S REPORT

Mike Confer, Police Chief – Chief Confer stated there were 965 calls for service since the last meeting. Officers drove 3532 miles. He then discussed the Flock camera system and how it has been used since its deployment.

Eugene Hollins, Esq., Law Director – Mr. Hollins commended the Police Department on their work today. The Department’s response to the incident today is an example of fine police work.

Rod Davisson, Esq., City Administrator – Mr. Davisson stated there is a lot of economic development activity. He then stated he is now serving on the Ohio Municipal League’s Board of Directors. He is preparing a white paper for the Ohio Senate Select Committee to solve the housing crisis. Mayor Kirk stated she and Mr. Davisson met with Senator Reynolds. Mr. Davisson then stated Hamilton Township Trustee Todd Blackstone was present and asked him if he had any comments.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

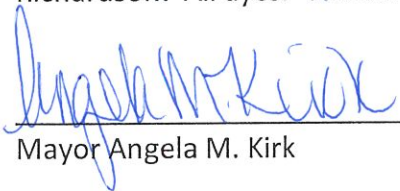
No remarks.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

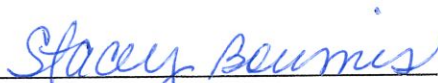
Mayor Kirk called for a motion to go into executive session under ORC 121.22(g)(8) to discuss economic development. Motion made by Mr. Gibbs; seconded by Mr. Kramer. Council went into executive session at 7:40 PM. All six members of Council returned from executive session at 9:34 PM and the meeting was called back to order.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Mr. Gibbs; seconded by Mr. Richardson. All ayes. Council adjourned at 9:35 PM.



Mayor Angela M. Kirk



Stacey Boumis, Clerk of Council