

CITY OF OBETZ  
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



**REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2024**

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The regular meeting of September 9, 2024 was held at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers at the Government Center, 4175 Alum Creek Drive, with Mayor Angela Kirk presiding.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Kirk called the roll. Mr. Michael Flaherty – present; Mr. Robert Kramer – present; Mr. Guiles Richardson – present; Mr. Derek Varney – absent; Mr. Mike Kimbler – present; Mr. Todd Gibbs – present. Also present were Gene Hollins, Esq., Law Director; Stacey Boumis, AICP, Clerk; Doug Ellison, Police Sergeant; and, Michael Corbitt, PE, Deputy City Administrator.

Mayor Kirk called for a motion to excuse Mr. Varney. Motion made by Mr. Gibbs; seconded by Mr. Richardson. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes. Motion carried.

**MINUTES**

Mayor Kirk called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Gibbs. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCES**

*First Readings*

No first readings.

*Second Readings*

No second readings.

*Third Readings*

Ms. Boumis read Ordinance 33 – 24: An Ordinance Authorizing The Mayor To Modify The Employment Agreement With E. Rod Davisson, And Enter Into Employment Agreements With Michael Corbitt And Stacey Boumis. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to table. Motion made by Mr. Flaherty; seconded by Mr. Kramer. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes.

*Emergencies*

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 37 – 24: An Ordinance To Accept The Amounts And Rates As Determined By The Budget Commission And Authorizing The Necessary Tax Levies And Certifying Them To The County Auditor And Declaring An Emergency. Mr. Corbitt stated this is done every year in order for the City to collect its inside millage of 1.7 mills. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 37 – 24. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson –

yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes. Motion carried. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 37 – 24. Motion made by Mr. Kramer; seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 38 – 24: An Ordinance Authorizing The Director Of Finance To Make Payment On A Contract With Artesian Of Pioneer, Inc. And Declaring An Emergency. Mr. Corbitt discussed the Ordinance. He stated that a purchase order was opened under the wrong fund for salt for the water plant. Money was appropriated for this expense. The Ordinance is needed for the Finance Director to make a correction and take the money from the correct fund and pay an outstanding invoice. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 38 – 24. Motion made by Mr. Flaherty; seconded by Mr. Gibbs. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes. Motion carried. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 38 – 24. Motion made by Mr. Kramer; seconded by Mr. Gibbs. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 39 – 24: An Ordinance To Approve Changes To The 2024 Appropriations For The Current Expenses And Other Expenditures Of The City Of Obetz. Mr. Corbitt stated this covers overtime for the police department due to officers on leave; increased fees for dispatching services; staffing for Junction Park and new employees at the Fortress. It also covers overtime for the water department. They have been fixing numerous main breaks. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 39 – 24. Motion made by Mr. Gibbs; seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes. Motion carried. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 39 – 24. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 40 – 24: An Ordinance Authorizing Annexation Of County Owned Property Contiguous To The Existing Corporation Limits, Pursuant To The Ohio Revised Code Chapter 709 And Authorizing The Director Of Law To Prosecute The Proceedings Necessary To Effect It And Declaring An Emergency. Mr. Corbitt stated this is for the right of way under the control of the Franklin County Engineer at the intersection of Rathmell and Lockbourne Roads. The County recommended this annexation. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 40 – 24. Motion made by Mr. Flaherty; seconded by Mr. Gibbs. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes. Motion carried. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 40 – 24. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Kramer. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 41 – 24: An Ordinance Authorizing The Director Of Finance To Make Payment On A Contract With M.P. Dory, Co. And Declaring An Emergency. Mr. Corbitt stated during construction of the Sheetz, a dump truck tore down a traffic signal. Mr.

Hollins stated the City went after the trucking company responsible. The company's payment was \$13,000 short. Sheetz agreed to pay the difference. The City has an invoice from M.P. Dory for the repairs that they made and they have been patiently waiting until this issue was settled. It has been a year and a half. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 41 – 24. Motion made by Mr. Gibbs; seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes. Motion carried. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 41 – 24. Motion made by Mr. Kramer; seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes. Motion carried.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Kirk stated it was a successful ZucchiniFest. This is no small task to pull this off, especially in the heat leading up to the event as well as the first two days. She thanked the community for volunteering and Council for all their support. Mr. Kramer stated a vendor at ZucchiniFest gave the City praises for being so organized.

Mayor Kirk stated Junction Park has been packed. It's a huge success. Now on to Halloween. She then stated over 3,000 black cards were digitally sent. The process for getting the black cards has been simplified. Continue to check the website for new programming.

Mr. Flaherty stated he talked to Jacob Gifford to see why youth football games were not streaming. He was told the system was messed up. A resident in the audience, name not given, said she was told there was no one there to work the equipment.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No reports.

### **ADMINISTRATION'S REPORT**

Doug Ellison, Police Sergeant – Sergeant Ellison thanked everyone for a successful ZucchiniFest. From August 26<sup>th</sup> through September 8<sup>th</sup>, officers had 175 dispatched runs and 635 pick up runs. Officers patrolled 6235 miles.

Andy Borders, a resident, expressed concern over the Rathmell Road closing. There are no "detour" or warning signs posted through the industrial park. Cars and trucks are going down Grebus Road and trying to turn around. More signs are needed. Mr. Corbitt stated he would discuss this issue with the County Engineer. This is not an Obetz project.

A resident, name not given, asked about vendors in neighborhoods and if they needed permits. Mayor Kirk stated they do need permits and credentials are required. She then advised the resident to call the police non-emergency number if she had questions. Council discussed this matter. Mr. Kramer stated residents can be put on the "do not knock" list. Sergeant Ellison stated this list is given to all vendors that get permits.

Eugene Hollins, Esq., Law Director – Mr. Hollins stated he will have an ordinance ready for the next Council meeting to extend the marijuana dispensary moratorium. Mr. Kramer asked when will the State of Ohio act. Mr. Hollins responded that the legislators are not pleased with the language in the law so he is not sure. Mayor Kirk stated she wants to keep the moratorium going until the State acts.

Michael Corbitt, PE, Deputy City Administrator – Mr. Corbitt stated the design of the new commercial building is wrapping up. Asbestos abatement at the existing building on the site has been completed. The roundabout at Rathmell and Lockbourne Roads is in the design phase. Shane Yocum passed the test to become a level 1 water operator. Mr. Flaherty asked if the City would still be able to break ground on the commercial building this fall. Mr. Corbitt said yes.

### **REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Jerry Benson, a resident, stated he supports the renaming of Lancaster Park to Junction Park. He then stated when the truck spraying for mosquitos went down his street, it went way too fast. He then asked if the City was trying to bust its contract with Mr. Davisson. She stated no, the intention is to extend his contract to his retirement. Mr. Benson then stated the OCC has not been publishing the lunch menu and that it needs published so he and other residents know what is being served and they can decide if they want to go for lunch. Mayor Kirk stated she will talk to the staff and get the menu published.

Valerie Fritz, a resident, stated she was denied a permit to hold a yard sale Labor Day weekend. She was told no permits are issued that weekend due to ZucchiniFest. Mr. Hollins stated the ordinance requiring a yard sale permit was adopted in 2009. The Administrator has discretion on issuing permits. It has been the Administrator's policy that permits are not issued on Labor Day weekend. There is a tremendous amount of traffic that comes into the community during ZucchiniFest and it is important to keep the roadways clear of obstructions. It's an all or nothing thing. Ms. Fritz then stated that the City's yard sale permit needs updated on the website. She further stated that since Sheetz has opened, traffic on her street has tripled. People speed down her street daily, at all hours. There is also a lot more foot traffic which means a lot more trash.

Rob Wilson addressed Council. He stated he would like to offer free pickleball lessons in Obetz. He is from the area. He discussed his proposal with Council. Mr. Flaherty asked if a pickleball court would fit in the gym. Mr. Wilson offered to take a look and see. He then stated he is a professional photographer, and he also has a drone. He offered his services to Obetz. He stated he would put together a proposal. Mayor Kirk stated she is interested in the pickleball lessons and she will take a look at the proposal.

### **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. Kimbler. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes. Motion carried. Council adjourned into executive session at 7:02 pm. All five members of Council returned from executive session at 7:59 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Mr. Kimbler; seconded by Mr. Flaherty. All ayes. Council adjourned at 8:01 PM.

  
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Mayor Angela M. Kirk

  
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Stacey Boumis, Clerk of Council