

**CITY OF OBETZ
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**



REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 9, 2024

The regular meeting of December 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 – present; Mr. Mike Kimbler – present; Mr. Todd Gibbs – present. Also present were Gene Hollins, Esq., Law Director; Stacey Boumis, AICP, Clerk; Mike Confer, Police Chief; and, Rod Davisson, Esq. City Administrator.

MINUTES

Mayor Kirk called for a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting of November 18th and regular meeting of November 18th. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Varney. Voting as follows: Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES

First Readings

No first readings.

Second Readings

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 53 – 24: An Ordinance To Rezone Parcel Number 153-000673 From General Commercial To Planned Industrial District And To Approve A Preliminary Development Plan And Text.

Third Readings

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 46 – 24: An Ordinance To Approve The 2025 Permanent Appropriations Of All Funds For The Current Expenses And Other Expenditures Of The City Of Obetz. Mr. Davisson discussed the Ordinance. He stated the main fund in the City is the general fund. He discussed increased expenses in 2025. The majority of increased expenses relate to personnel, approximately \$1 million in payroll. Also, some staff were moved to different departments. The budget for leisure time activities increased. The budget for fireworks has doubled. Approximately \$2.5 million is allocated for capital improvements. This figure does not include the incubator building. This is \$1.75 million dollars higher than last year. Mr. Davisson then discussed the different funds. Many funds have restricted sources of income and limits on spending. He then stated water, sewer and trash rates will need to increase in the first quarter of 2025. A rate study is underway. The trash contract expires at the end of February. Columbus raises its utility rates between 7 to 9 percent a year. Obetz buys approximately 70% of its water from Columbus. Todd Garwick will be at the next Council meeting to discuss the new trash rates and contract options. Water rates have not increased for 13 years. The City loses money on

every gallon it purchases from Columbus. Mr. Kramer asked about the Zucchinifest budget. He asked about the revenue from the event. Mr. Davisson stated there is a revenue report. The majority of the increase in the budget each year relates to entertainment expenses. Mr. Davisson stated he will be undertaking a business segment analysis of for each department. Mr. Varney asked how many new employees will be hired. Mr. Davisson stated eleven. He then stated the City's income tax is up 12.4% over last year. Mr. Cramblit made the City approximately \$1.5 million in strategic investments. Mayor Kirk stated additional staff is needed to provide a high level of service to City residents. Council, Mayor Kirk, and Mr. Davisson discussed water rates. Mr. Davisson then stated the City's total budget for all funds is \$50,296,096. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 46 – 24. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Voting as follows: Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 47 – 24: An Ordinance To Amend The Toy Road Tax Increment Financing Incentive District And To Declare An Emergency. Mr. Hollins stated he is still working on this Ordinance and requests additional time to run the numbers. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to table Ordinance 47 – 24. Motion made by Mr. Flaherty; seconded by Mr. Gibbs. Voting as follows: Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Gibbs - yes. Motion carried.

Emergencies

No emergencies.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Kirk stated the Christmas Kick-Off went great. It was well attended. She then stated she wants to expand the parade next year. She thanked Leave a Mark Church for their partnership. She further stated she took a group of senior citizens to the Village of Lockbourne's Christmas event. Council will be going through the neighborhoods on the 16th for the annual Christmas lights judging. Food pantry pickup is December 18th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports.

ADMINISTRATION'S REPORT

Mike Confer, Police Chief – Chief Confer stated a gate to the City's property was destroyed near the roundabout. Corporal Ward caught someone that caused an accident and was attempting to flee. Detective Martin arrested individuals committing thefts at UPS. Since the last Council meeting, officers drove 5494 miles and responded to 1568 calls for service.

Eugene Hollins, Esq., Law Director – No report.

Rod Davisson, Esq., City Administrator – Mr. Davisson stated he is finishing his 20th year in Obez and the City is in the best position ever. Mayor Kirk stated she appreciates Mr. Davisson and the

staff. Mr. Davisson works effectively and efficiently to provide a high level of service to the businesses and residents.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

No remarks.

EXECUTIVE SESSION


Mayor Kirk called for a motion to go into executive session under Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(g)(8) to discuss economic development. Motion made by Mr. Flaherty; seconded by Mr. Gibbs. Voting as follows: Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes. Motion carried. Council went into executive session at 6:53 PM. Council returned from executive session at 8:14 PM with all six members present.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Mr. Gibbs; seconded by Mr. Richardson. All ayes. Council adjourned at 8:15 PM.



Mayor Angela M. Kirk



Stacey Boumis, Clerk of Council