

CITY OF OBETZ
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS



REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 13, 2025

The regular meeting of January 13, 2025 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; Robert Rigby, Police Sergeant; and, Rod Davisson, Esq. City Administrator.

MINUTES

Mayor Kirk called for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2024 meeting. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Kramer. 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

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 05 – 25: An Ordinance To Amend Section 351.13 Of The Codified Ordinances And Declaring An Emergency. Mr. Davisson led a discussion of the Ordinance. He started with a review of the City’s existing snow parking ordinance. He then reviewed the recent website and social media posts by the City related to moving cars during snow emergencies. He stated 41 cars were towed during the recent snow emergency. He then discussed the questions received from residents prior to the meeting about the snow emergency ordinance. Residents asked what does “plowed” mean. Mr. Davisson stated this means curb to curb, not just one pass down the middle of the road. He then stated he took all the questions and feedback from residents and rebuilt the City’s snow emergency ordinance. Mr. Davisson reviewed the proposed changes; how plowing works; and why it is important to remove vehicles from the roadway. Mr. Varney asked what roads are impacted. Mr. Davisson stated the ordinance applies to all roadways. Mr. Gibbs stated he would like to move forward with the ordinance tonight. Mr. Richardson called for a motion to suspend the rules; 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. Mr. Richardson moved to adopt Ordinance 05 – 25; 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.

Mayor Kirk asked Council to waive the \$35 fee associated with the parking citation given to all vehicles that were towed. Mr. Flaherty asked if the same company did all the towing. Mayor Kirk responded “yes” and the City does not benefit from towing vehicles. Mr. Flaherty moved to

waive the \$35 fee associated with the parking citation and dismiss the citation for all vehicles towed; 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. Mayor Kirk stated she was not happy with the amount charged by the towing company to tow the vehicles and she is looking for additional towing companies. She then stated the City is putting together a call system for alerts. Mr. Davisson stated as part of the utility code, residents are required to keep their contact information up to date. A form will be attached to the next water bill as a way to update information. Mayor Kirk stated she is listening to concerns and trying to improve. She then stated she posted on 12 different sites regarding the snow emergency and to move vehicles.

James Simpson, resident of 2403 Bridlewood Boulevard, addressed Council. He stated he had two cars towed. He stated the towing company took over \$14,000 from residents. He stated the vehicles should have been towed during the day, not during the evening and residents were not given notice. Mayor Kirk stated the City gave sufficient notice. Mr. Simpson stated the towing rate was very high. Mr. Simpson asked how people were notified. Mayor Kirk reviewed the ways the City notified residents. Mr. Simpson stated he did not check any of the City's media outlets. Mr. Davisson stated the goal is not to tow cars. Mr. Simpson stated he is very disappointed in the City.

Traci Crabtree, owner of 2137 Brett Court, addressed Council. She stated her son and his girlfriend, who live in the house, both had their cars towed. She stated her son made no effort to move his car so she understands why it was towed but his girlfriend moved her car then moved it out after the street was initially plowed. She stated an Obetz police officer was in the court 30 minutes before the tow company arrived and could have knocked on doors warning residents to move their vehicles. Ms. Crabtree stated the old ordinance was not clear and she thanked Council for changing the ordinance and making it easier to understand.

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 01 – 25: An Ordinance To Rezone Parcel Numbers 150-000792 And 150-000794 (2695 And 2715 Bixby Road) From Exceptional Use To Planned Industrial District And To Approve A Preliminary Development Plan And Text.

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 02 – 25: An Ordinance To Modify Certain Sections Of Chapter 1181 Of The Zoning Code Related To Notification Of Public Hearings.

Second Readings

No second readings.

Third 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. Mayor Kirk opened the public hearing. Ms. Boumis presented the case. She reviewed the site plan and development text. The site is divided into two areas. The front three acres of the site is reserved for future use. She stated the applicant has made all modifications requested by staff. She further stated the Planning and Zoning Commission

recommended approval. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 53 – 24. 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.

Emergencies

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 03 – 25: An Ordinance To Correct A Spelling Error On The Final Plat For Section 1 Of The Buckstone Bend Subdivision By Renaming Wilurn Boulevard As Wilburn Boulevard, And Declaring An Emergency. Mayor Kirk stated the ordinance is self-explanatory. All the street signs are spelled correctly; this is just an error on the plat. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 03 – 25. Motion made by Mr. Gibbs; 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. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 03 – 25. 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 04 – 25: An Ordinance Of The City Of Obetz Supporting The Ohio Municipal League’s Challenge Of AT&T’s Tariff Application At The Public Utilities Commission Of Ohio And Declaring An Emergency. Mr. Hollins discussed the Ordinance. He stated AT&T is trying to sneak in a new rule that cities will have to pay companies like AT&T if the city needs utilities moved within the right of way. This could be very costly to cities. The Ohio Municipal League is fighting this. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 04 – 25. 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. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 04 – 25. 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.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Kirk stated the City was very busy last year. Staff worked hard. There is a lot of new development coming.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports.

Council elected Mr. Flaherty as the new Council President Pro-Tem. Mr. Gibbs nominated Mr. Flaherty; seconded by Mr. Richardson. There were no additional nominations, so nominations were closed.

ADMINISTRATION'S REPORT

Robert Rigby, Police Sergeant – Sergeant Rigby shared police statistics through January 1st. Since the last Council meeting, there have been 125 dispatched runs and 689 pick-up runs. Officers drove approximately 2888 miles.

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

Rod Davisson, Esq., City Administrator – Mr. Davisson stated he is working on the annual report.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

No remarks.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

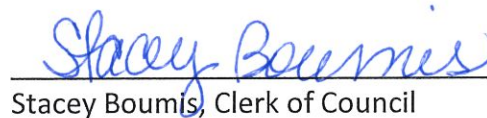
Mayor Kirk called for a motion to go into executive session under Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(g)(1) to consider compensation of a public employee and Section 121.22(g)(8) to discuss economic development. Motion made by Mr. Flaherty; seconded by Mr. Gibbs. Voting as follows: Mr. Richardson – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes. Motion carried. Council went into executive session at 6:55 PM. Council returned from executive session at 8:31 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 8:32 PM.



Mayor Angela M. Kirk



Stacey Boumis, Clerk of Council