

**CITY OF OBETZ
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**



REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 11, 2025

The regular meeting of August 11, 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

Mr. Collin Adams called the roll. Mr. Michael Flaherty – present; Mr. Robert Kramer – present; Mr. Guiles Richardson – absent; 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; E. Rod Davisson, Esq., City Administrator, Collin Adams, Planning Intern, and Joseph Endres, Administrative Intern.

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

MINUTES

Mayor Kirk called for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2025 Council Meeting. Motion made by Mr. Gibbs; seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES

First Readings

Mr. Adams read the title of Ordinance 43 – 25: An Ordinance To Amend Section 905.12 Of The Codified Ordinances Of The City Of Obetz To Prohibit Placing Trash And Junk In The Public Right-Of-Way, To Require Owners And Occupants To Keep The Right-Of-Way Adjacent To Their Property Free Of Trash And Junk, And To Establish A Procedure By Which The City May Remove Or Cause Removal Of Trash, Junk, Or Other Items Obstructing The Right-Of-Way.

No discussion.

Second Readings

No second readings.

Third Readings

No third readings.

Emergencies

Mr. Adams read the title of Ordinance 42 – 25: An Ordinance To Extend The Moratorium On The Issuance And Processing Of Permits Allowing Retail Dispensaries, Cultivators, Or Processors Of Adult Use Marijuana Within The City Of Obetz, And Declaring An Emergency. Mr. Endres

explained that this is an extension of the current moratorium, extending to March of 2026. This moratorium is needed while the City waits for the State to settle the matter regarding dispensaries and taxes. After this explanation, Mr. Kramer asked how long the City believes they can continue to do moratoriums, and is it justified as long as the State hasn't settled on the issue. Mr. Hollins noted this is an unprecedented cause of delay because it's a citizen initiated law that can be changed by the legislature. Mr. Hollins believes the City still has good legal ground to continue the moratoriums until the matter is settled. Mr. Kramer then asked if the State could repeal the statute and Mr. Hollins confirmed that they could. Finally, Mr. Kramer asked if the City could ban the sale of marijuana within City limits or is regulation the only option. Mr. Hollins discussed how the zoning code prohibits the selling of marijuana as a land use in specific zones, and the moratorium only applies to the zones where the selling of marijuana would be allowed as a land use. Andy Borders, resident, addressed the Council and asked if marijuana dispensaries could eventually be allowed. Mayor Kirk explained that this is a temporary hold on dispensaries until the State settles the tax issue. Mr. Hollins clarified that the City could still choose to continue to prohibit the selling of marijuana as a land use through the zoning. Mr. Borders then asked if the City would continue to prohibit it even with financial incentives. Mayor Kirk explained that it might not make sense financially to put up with extraneous factors that are attached to dispensaries for a low financial return because of the current issues. Mr. Kramer added that there isn't a financial incentive yet because the State hasn't clarified what that incentive is. Mr. Borders then asked if the City would get some sort of tax revenue and Mr. Kramer confirmed that the State had said municipalities will but they have yet to deliver on that promise. Mayor Kirk added it's better to continue the moratoriums and wait instead of rushing into a decision. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 42 – 25. Motion made by Mr. Varney; seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes. Motion carried. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 42 – 25. Motion made by Mr. Flaherty; seconded by Mr. Kramer. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Adams read the title of Ordinance 44 – 25: An Ordinance To Approve Changes To The 2025 Appropriations For The Current Expenses And Other Expenditures Of The City Of Obetz. Mr. Endres explained that this Ordinance is for two appropriation requests. The first is for \$100,000 to the street fund account for Rathmell Road and Alum Creek Drive repairs, road and storm water repairs at Maureen Boulevard, and catch basin repairs on Brett Court. The second is for \$15,000 for the water operating fund for contractual services and supplies. Bill Steele, resident, asked about Brett Court storm sewer and told the Council it didn't drain last year. Mr. Steele informed the Council that 2017 road repairs might have been the reason and Mayor Kirk confirmed that the City is looking at it and that it will be fixed. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 44 – 25. Motion made by Mr. Flaherty; seconded by Mr. Kramer. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes. Motion carried. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 44 – 25. Motion made by Mr. Varney; seconded by Mr. Kramer. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Adams read the title of Ordinance 45-25: An Ordinance Authorizing The Director Of Finance To Make Payment On A Contract With Treasurer State Of Ohio, And Declaring An Emergency. Mr. Endres explained that the City doesn't like having to pass a then-and-now ordinance however a mistake was made by Chief Confer. A purchase order wasn't processed for the yearly subscription to the software that allows the Police to run license plates. This ordinance will allow the City to pay the \$3000 payment for the subscription. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of Ordinance 45 – 25. Motion made by Mr. Flaherty; seconded by Mr. Gibbs. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes. Motion carried. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 45 – 25. Motion made by Mr. Flaherty; seconded by Mr. Kramer. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Kirks report covered several topics like Zucchini-fest. During the festival, Honor Flight will be coming on Saturday night to honor Obetz veterans, Lima Company, and Chris Dixon. Senior Day at Junction Park is on Tuesday, August 12th. Enchanted Acres has their own chair volleyball team and has beaten every other chair volleyball team around the City. Any senior citizen in joining should reach out for more details. Donuts and Coffee with police officers will be happening every 2-3 months for senior citizens as well. Football has officially started. Finally, the incubator building is making great progress.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No questions for Mr. Flaherty.

ADMINISTRATION'S REPORTS

Chief Michael Confer – Chief Confer stated that school starts on August 14th at Hamilton High School and everybody should tell the High School students to slow down and look for kids while driving.

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

Collin Adams – Mr. Adams announced that his fellowship with the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission is completed and thanked the Council, City of Obetz, and the residents for the opportunity to work with the City.

Joseph Endres – Mr. Endres informed Council that Mr. Adams won his presentation competition with the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Endres announced that he will be done with his internship after August the 13th. He thanked Council and the City for another wonderful experience and expressed his gratitude. Mr. Endres then presented a spreadsheet that compared Police Safety Costs between 18 cities including Obetz. The data came from public sources and was from 2022 to 2024. The cities included Dublin, Upper Arlington, Grove City, Westerville, New Albany, Worthington, Hilliard, Whitehall, Reynoldsburg, Groveport, Bexley, Grandview Heights, Powell, Pickerington, Obetz, Canal Winchester, and Ashville. The first column was total

population – Dublin was the largest and Obetz was 16th. The next column was land area in square miles – Dublin was the largest and Obetz was 13th. Next was population per square mile - Grandview Heights was first, Obetz was 16th. Next was total general fund revenue - Dublin was the largest at \$89,848,326, Obetz was 16th at \$14,931,101. Next was general fund revenue from 2020 - Dublin was largest at \$75,737,934, Obetz was 14th at \$13,145,150. Next was total general fund expenses in the last year reported - Dublin was highest at \$66,180,357, Obetz was 12th at \$17,321,031. Next was general fund difference in revenue and expenses in the last year reported - Dublin was the highest at a gain of \$23,667,969, Obetz was 17th at negative \$2,389,930. Next was expenses for Security of Persons and Property (SPP) - the highest was Westerville at \$20,062,840, Obetz was 16th at \$3,402,824. Next was police expenses - first was Dublin at \$19,016,337, Obetz was 16th at \$3,330,709. Next was residents per police officer - the highest was Ashville at 925.2 people per officer, Obetz was 16th at 331.2 residents per officer. Next was how much residents spend per officer - the highest was Groveport at \$987.62 per resident, Obetz was 4th at \$529.27 per resident. Next was general fund revenue per resident - the highest was New Albany at \$3,820.49 per resident, Obetz was 5th at \$2,372.65 per resident. Finally, the last column covered police spending as a percentage of the general fund. The largest was Reynoldsburg at 53.4%, Obetz was 15th at 19.2%. Mr. Endres noted It's important to note that Pickerington pays SPP and police out of a police fund; Canal Winchester does not have its own police department; Hilliard doesn't break their SPP into categories; Bexley's police expenses only include their payroll; Upper Arlington doesn't report their SPP in a cash basis accounting system; Dublin's police department isn't funded just by the general fund; and, Ashville and Canal Winchester don't break out police expenses so this report used their SPP.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Mr. Steele remarked that there are trees growing out of an AEP transformer at 2177 Brett Court. He then informed the Council that there are trees and bushes obstructing the view at the 4-way stop at Ethel Road and Maureen Boulevard.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Mr. Flaherty; seconded by Mr. Kramer. All ayes. Council adjourned at 6:41 PM.



Mayor Angela M. Kirk



Stacey Boumis, Clerk of Council