

**CITY OF OBETZ  
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**



**REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 25, 2025**

The regular meeting of August 25, 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**

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 Gene Hollins, Esq., Law Director; Stacey Boumis, AICP, Clerk; Mike Confer, Police Chief; and E. Rod Davisson, Esq., City Administrator.

**MINUTES**

Mayor Kirk called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2025 and August 11, 2025 Council Meetings. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Gibbs. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes. Motion carried.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Senator Michele Reynolds addressed Council. She stated she is in the third year of her term. She provided a legislative update. She stated a lot of things are in the news about what is happening at the Statehouse. It is hard to know what is true and false. Currently the General Assembly is working on the FY2026-2027 budget. The income tax structure was flattened to one bracket. Anyone earning over \$26,050 pays 2.75% flat income tax; those earning less than that pays no income tax. It is important that people can take home more of their money. Also, this makes the State more attractive for economic development. Investments in K-12 is at a record high. She discussed the fair school funding formula and options to make sure schools are appropriately funded. She then stated there is a lot of growth and development across the State of Ohio. People may not want to see that change. Obetz has done an incredible job of being good trustees and stewards over what Obetz has and managing the growth. Obetz has experts in the room. She then stated she does not see a lot of communities as prepared as Obetz is for growth and development. She stated she is the housing chair for the Senate and prior to her coming on there was no housing committee in the Senate or House. In the budget there is \$125 million dollars to support predevelopment and infrastructure to help cities and rural communities prepare for the growth that is coming. There is a \$25 million-dollar residential economic development grant program - REDD. The program creates a 20-mile red zone around major economic development sites defined as a site where at least 700 jobs are created, or \$700 million dollars is invested. Workforce housing is needed in these areas. The grant program allows communities to tap into these funds if a community wants to develop workforce housing. Communities need to develop pro-housing policies – completely up to the community. Increased density is desired so people can live close to their jobs. She shared ideas about what can be done to help solve the housing crisis. The cities that want to do this will thrive. People need to live close to their jobs. There is

\$100 million-dollar low interest revolving loan fund to help with infrastructure in rural counties. She then discussed other things in the budget that support families including increased childcare vouchers. She then discussed property taxes. Ohio's property taxes have increased more than the national average. People, especially seniors, cannot afford these increases. She stated there is a group putting a ballot initiative together to eliminate property taxes. She stated she does not want to see property taxes eliminated but she wants to see property taxes come down. Doing nothing in the General Assembly is not an option. State income taxes are going to increase and sales taxes will also increase.

Mayor Kirk asked about the Homestead Exemption. Senator Reynolds stated there are several things working its way through committee. Mr. Kramer asked about school carryover – what is a reasonable number? Senator Reynolds stated the Senate discussed 50%; the House discussed 30% so 40% was approved in the budget but vetoed by the Governor so there is no carryover cap right now. This was discussed. Senator Reynolds stated she wants to understand all suggestions. Mr. Varney asked about the Homestead Exemption for veterans. Senator Reynolds stated there is a veterans committee in the Senate. She stated she is having a roundtable discussion for all veterans.

Mayor Kirk stated she appreciates Senator Reynolds coming down and she appreciates her thoroughness. She then stated Obetz is a huge supporter of the school districts. Senator Reynolds stated that the General Assembly is not anti-school just because they are considering changes to property taxes – things need to be balanced.

## **ORDINANCES**

### *First Readings*

No first readings.

### *Second Readings*

Ms. Boumis 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.

### *Third Readings*

No third readings.

### *Emergencies*

Ms. Boumis read the title of Ordinance 47 – 25: An Ordinance To Approve Changes To The 2025 Appropriations For The Current Expenses And Other Expenditures Of The City Of Obetz. Mr. Davisson discussed the Ordinance. He stated the changes are for cash outs and the retirement of Ms. Frederick. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to suspend the rules regarding the adoption of

Ordinance 47 – 25. Motion made by Mr. Richardson; seconded by Mr. Flaherty. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes. Motion carried. Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 47 – 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; Mr. Richardson – yes. Motion carried.

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Kirk stated this is ZucchiniFest week. She discussed the Festival.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No questions for Mr. Flaherty.

#### **ADMINISTRATION'S REPORTS**

Chief Michael Confer – Chief Confer asked if there was special parking for golf carts driven by the public to the Festival. Mayor Kirk stated golf carts should park in a regular parking spot. Chief Confer stated 13 speeding tickets have been issued in school zones.

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

Stacey Boumis, AICP – Ms. Boumis stated everyone has their appearance schedule. Direct questions should be directed to her or Ms. Doddroe. We are excited for the Festival.

Rod Davisson, Esq. – No report.

#### **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. Flaherty; seconded by Mr. Kimbler. Voting as follows: Mr. Flaherty – yes; Mr. Kimbler – yes; Mr. Varney – yes; Mr. Kramer – yes; Mr. Gibbs – yes; Mr. Richardson – yes. Motion carried. Council went into executive session at 6:45 PM. Council returned from executive session at 7:48 PM with all six members present.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Kirk called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Mr. Flaherty; seconded by Mr. Richardson. All ayes. Council adjourned at 7:49 PM.

  
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Mayor Angela M. Kirk

  
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Stacey Boumis, Clerk of Council