

KIRTLAND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

November 21, 2022

The meeting of Kirtland City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Jeffrey Ruple. Mr. Schulz led the prayer which followed the Pledge of Allegiance. The members of Council present were: Ronald Fenstermaker, Scott Haymer, Richard Lowery, Jeffrey Ruple, Matthew Schulz, Joseph Smolic and Eric Ziegler.

Administrative personnel present were: Mayor Kevin Potter, City Engineer Douglas Courtney, Service Director Joseph Fornaro, Police Chief Brian McCallister, Fire Chief Anthony Hutton and Senior Center Coordinator Teresa Szary.

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 9, 2022 FINANCE / POLICE & FIRE STANDING COMMITTEE:

Mr. Smolic moved to waive the reading of the minutes, with the second by Mr. Lowery. The motion of Council passed by unanimous vote. Mr. Schulz requested that the Finance Director send the spreadsheet utilized during the meeting discussion, to be attached to the Minutes. Mr. Smolic moved to approve the Minutes, with the second by Mr. Lowery. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, ZIEGLER, FENSTERMAKER, HAYMER, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE).**

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 9, 2022 COUNCIL MEETING:

Mr. Lowery moved to waive the reading of the minutes, with the second by Mr. Fenstermaker. The motion of Council passed by unanimous vote. Mr. Lowery moved to approve the Minutes, as presented, with the second by Mr. Fenstermaker. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, ZIEGLER, FENSTERMAKER, HAYMER, LOWERY, RUPLE, AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE).**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Chief Anthony Hutton expressed the Fire Department's deep condolences to the Cleveland Fire Department and the family of Firefighter Johnny Tetrick of the Cleveland Fire Department, who was killed in the line of duty on November 19, 2022 when he was struck by a vehicle. Firefighter Tetrick was a Kirtland resident.

Chief Hutton reminded everyone that these types of accidents do happen, but can be avoided. He asked that all drivers please pay attention when approaching accident scenes, slow down, and move over.

Chief Hutton noted that Resolution 22-R-69 is on Third Reading this evening. He said there has been a lot of work done, and he thanked the Mayor, the Finance Director, and Council for their hard work on this Resolution. Chief Hutton is hopeful Council will pass the Resolution tonight so three firefighters can be hired.

Police Chief Brian McCallister announced that a promotion will be on the 9th for the sergeants. He also announced Jamey Fisher was accepted into CLEEP (Certified Law Enforcement Executive Program), which is a program put on by the Ohio Law Enforcement Foundation. The program will begin in December and will be offered at periodic times throughout next year.

Last Thursday the Police Department attended the AAA Traffic Safety Awards in Independence, Ohio. The City of Kirtland was awarded the Platinum Award for Traffic Safety. This is the highest award offered for traffic safety.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS (continued):

Service Director Joseph Fornaro expressed his appreciation to the Public Works team for the long hours they worked this past Sunday. The crews came in at midnight on Sunday and left at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. The work was challenging, but they did a great job. Mr. Fornaro estimates upwards to a foot of snowfall during that time, and approximately 120 tons of salt was used during the storm.

Mr. Fornaro also expressed his appreciation to the residents for their patience, noting it takes a little while to get the job done when the snow is falling that heavily.

Answering Councilman Smolic, Mr. Fornaro said that approximately 160 tons of salt was used so far this season.

City Engineer Douglas Courtney updated Council on the 2022 Street Rehabilitation Project. The repair work on Kirtland Chardon Road, between Chillicothe Road and Woods Way Drive, was completed on November 9. Final quantities for the project were sent to the contractor today and are under review. There will be a final change order prepared on that job shortly.

Mr. Courtney reported that the County Commissioners authorized the advertisement of the Old Town sewer project at a meeting held on the 17th. A formal bid date has not yet been set. The final documents are being prepared and will be sent to the County.

Mr. Courtney advised that the contracts have been executed by both the contractor and the City for the Fox Hill drainage improvements. The project is expected to begin in early March.

Once funding is released from Lake County Stormwater Management, the design work on the Rockwood area stormwater basin can continue.

Mr. Courtney expects to have a concept plan and concept cost estimate for the Parkwood area drainage improvements completed by the end of next week.

Councilman Fenstermaker referenced a demonstration by Mr. Courtney of a video evaluation system for the roads (PCR) and asked if that program had been initiated. Mr. Courtney said it has not yet been initiated, but there are hopes to do so in the upcoming year.

Senior Center Coordinator Teresa Szary said the 2023 membership for the Senior Center was opened at the end of September, and there are over 200 members already signed up for year 2023. Ms. Szary thanked everyone who signed up to take a random act of kindness in the month of December. If anyone else is interested in sponsoring something please contact Ms. Szary.

There will be two bus trips in December. The annual Christmas party is coming up, with 125 already expected. Ms. Szary said that anyone interested in attending should contact her.

MAYOR'S REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Potter announced that the Ecumenical Service will be held tomorrow evening at Divine Word at 7:00 p.m. This is an event where area faiths come together for a Thanksgiving service. Mayor Potter said the event is a multi-denominational opportunity for the community to give thanks. There will also be Patterson donuts after the service.

MAYOR'S REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued):

Mayor Potter expressed his appreciation to Councilman Fenstermaker, Councilman Smolic, and Mr. Fornaro for their assistance at Coffee with Council held on Saturday morning. Mayor Potter thanked all the residents who attended, saying it is always good to have that interaction. He enjoys answering any questions that are posed and hearing ideas from the residents.

Mayor Potter expressed his condolences to the family of Cleveland Firefighter Johnny Tetrick. Mayor Potter said he worked with Firefighter Tetrick many years ago, commenting on his commitment to his profession, faith, and family. This is a tragic loss for the Cleveland Fire Department, his community, and his family. He said that thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time.

The Mayor stated that Mr. Lallo notified Council members that the Eleventh District Court of Appeals agreed with the City of Kirtland's decision in the termination of former Police Chief Nosse.

Mayor Potter is looking forward to working on the 2023 road program. The efforts to amend the City Charter to include financing for a long-term road program did not pass when put before the voters. Mayor Potter applauded the hard work put in over the past couple years by Mr. Fornaro, Mr. Courtney, and Mr. Slapnickner in building the program. As the ballot issue was not approved, the City will need to look at carryover balances when planning the 2023 budget.

Another topic of discussion in the upcoming budget meetings will be the PMG program. Mayor Potter suggested the City revisit the PCR report and the video demonstration.

Mayor Potter thanked everyone who was involved in the discussion relating to the Fire Department grant from the State of Ohio. First and foremost, a thank you to Governor DeWine's office for making the grants available. Another thank you to Chief Hutton for his hard work in obtaining the grant.

There have been many discussions over the past 18 months concerning the reduction of applications in paramedic and firefighter schools. With those numbers down the part-time applicants for the City of Kirtland Fire Department have reduced, which has prompted conversations regarding the budget and what can be done without affecting safety. Changes were discussed, including overtime reduction, retirements, and eliminating an administrative assistant position and offering that employee shift roles. Over the course of ten years, these changes, along with the grant funding, will be a net positive to the City's budget at a minimum \$115,000 (savings). With all the work that has been done to bring a balance to the situation, Mayor Potter thanked Council for their diligence, and said his hope is that Council will pass the Resolution so that three full-time firefighters can be hired. The Mayor thanked Chief Hutton and Mr. Slapnickner for their work in this regard.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Council President Ruple noted that a combined meeting of the Police and Fire Standing Committee and the Finance Committee was held before the Council meeting. He noted that a Service Department Standing Committee meeting will be held after the Council meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Council President Ruple noted that an invitation was received for an open house being held this Sunday, November 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Historic Kirtland Visitors Center.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Sterling Coleman, 7636 Markell Road, commented that the Burger King at the top of the hill has closed. On a positive note, he said that the interchange is now open.

Walter Tornstrom, 8735 Palomino Trail, asked if there is any money coming in from the Federal government on grants. Mayor Potter said this past year \$700,000 of the road program was from ARPA funding. The Mayor said he is in regular contact with the County Commissioner's office and has a great relationship with Mr. Regovich. Dave Joyce's office committed a sizable amount to the Old Town sewer project, which was paramount for those residents. He added that the City is expecting approximately \$600,000 for a project on Kirtland Chardon Road in the next couple of years; those funds will not be continuous. Mr. Tornstrom mentioned there are several holes on Palomino Trail and Bridlehurst Trail. If the City would like to have them patched, Mr. Tornstrom said he knows someone who can do it at \$3,000 a ton for cold patch.

OLD BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:

None.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-R-69 - **(Third Reading) – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE STATE OF OHIO FROM THE SECOND ROUND OF THE OHIO FIRST RESPONDER RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, AND RESILIENCE PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**
(Mayor Potter)

The legislation was read by title only. Mr. Schulz moved to declare an emergency and adopt, with the second by Mr. Smolic. **ROLL CALL: ADOPTED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, ZIEGLER, FENSTERMAKER, HAYMER, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE.)**

NEW BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:

None.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-R-72 - **A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO MAKE ADVANCE PAYMENTS OF TAXES PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 321.34, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**
(Mayor Potter)

The legislation was read by title only. Mr. Schulz moved to waive the three readings, with the second by Mr. Fenstermaker. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, ZIEGLER, FENSTERMAKER, HAYMER, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE.)** Mr. Smolic moved to declare an emergency and adopt, with the second by Mr. Ziegler. **ROLL CALL: ADOPTED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, ZIEGLER, FENSTERMAKER, HAYMER, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE.)**

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Haymer verified with Ms. Roelle that all Council members are receiving their packets electronically.

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

It was noted that this is an opportunity for the public to address Council about any continuing concerns. There were no comments from the public.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Smolic moved to adjourn, with the second by Mr. Fenstermaker. The motion of Council passed by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

President of Council

Clerk of Council