

KIRTLAND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

October 21, 2024

The meeting of Kirtland City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Joseph Smolic. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by prayer led by Mr. Schulz. The members of Council present were Suzanne Grazia, Matthew Schulz, Joseph Smolic, Julie Symonds, Ronald Fenstermaker and Scott Haymer. Absent: Eric Ziegler.

Administrative personnel present were Mayor Kevin Potter, Finance Director Louis Slapnickner, Public Works Director Joe Fornaro, City Engineer Douglas Courtney, Police Chief Brian McCallister, Law Director Matt Lallo, and Senior Center Coordinator Teresa Szary.

Minutes of the October 7, 2024 Work Session:

Mr. Fenstermaker moved to approve the Minutes as presented, with the second by Ms. Symonds. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 5/0 (VOTING YEA: GRAZIA, SMOLIC, SYMONDS, FENSTERMAKER AND HAYMER; ABSTAIN: SCHULZ; VOTING NAY: None)**

Minutes of the October 7, 2024 Council Meeting:

Mr. Fenstermaker moved to approve the Minutes as presented, with the second by Ms. Symonds. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 5/0 (VOTING YEA: GRAZIA, SMOLIC, SYMONDS, FENSTERMAKER AND HAYMER; ABSTAIN: SCHULZ; VOTING NAY: None)**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Police Chief McCallister is working on an emergency preparedness checklist to be posted online and distributed to residents. Chief reported that National Coffee with a Cop last week was successful. The Police Department will also be participating in the city-wide Trunk or Treat on Wednesday, October 23 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. On Thursday, October 24, the Police Department will host a Teen Driver Safety talk at City Hall at 6:30. They also invite the children of the community to a book nook event on Wednesday, October 30, featuring the reading of “It’s a Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown,” as well as viewing the movie. Mr. Schulz asked if the officers have noticed a change in enforcement when it comes to texting and driving. Chief McCallister said that it is too early to tell. They are generating traffic stops, but not a significant number of citations. If they feel like there is a productive and corrective conversation, the preferred course of action is not to cite until a second violation.

Public Works Director Mr. Fornaro reminded everyone that the annual Fall brush pick-up begins next week in Wards 1 and 4. There will be a Route 306 bridge update meeting this week. The Booth Road bridge should be done shortly.

City Engineer Mr. Courtney provided updates on the road program. Basic repairs have been marked on all streets. They will next finish final asphalt and berms. They are about three weeks away from completion. The Community Center parking lot paving project has been completed, except for the curbs. Regarding the Old Town sewer project, restoration work is complete, and the County is negotiating the final change order.

Finance Director Mr. Slapnicker reported that the September end-of-month reports have been distributed and posted online. The City has received new healthcare rates for 2025 from the County, with an increase of 6.5%. These will result in an increase of about \$45,000 for 2025. For the 2024 renewal, we did receive a January holiday credit, and it does not appear that will be the case for 2025. Property and casualty renewal will be before Council soon. The audit is nearing conclusion and should be wrapped up in the next few weeks.

Law Director Mr. Lallo informed everyone that the Ohio Supreme Court declined to accept jurisdiction on the Lance Nosse appeal. There are no further issues to adjudicate, and this matter is closed. Mr. Lallo received an email from the City's legal council today that he is closing the file. Concluding that it has been approximately four years, and the City has won every appeal filed.

Community Center Director Ms. Szary reminded everyone again about Trunk or Treat on Wednesday, October 23 and invited all to the American Legion's Veterans Day Ceremony on Monday, November 11 at 11:00 am.

Mayor Potter reminded Council that tonight's legislation applies only to City buildings, and he asks that Council passes it tonight to lock in pricing. Economic Development Director Edy Eckart will be present at the Council meeting on Wednesday, November 6. A resident contacted the Mayor and informed him that he was going to the Board of Elections to file for the creation of a committee as a final effort to advocate for upcoming Road Issue 2. If anyone is interested, see the Mayor following the meeting for further information. Regarding the road program: overall bids came in lower than originally budgeted, and it was discussed in the work session to schedule a Special Meeting of Council to discuss the remaining funds. These funds would allow for work on Kelsey Court to be done as well. A meeting was then scheduled for 6:30 pm on Monday, October 28. The Utilities Commission will schedule a date in the beginning to middle of December at 10:00 a.m. on a Saturday. Mr. Schulz followed up on a previous request for an update on the 2024 capital budget items. Mr. Slapnicker walked through the original list, with assistance from Mr. Fornaro. He will get a full and completed list to Council, and noted that the uncompleted work is minimal.

Standing Committee Reports:

The Public Utilities Commission will try to schedule meeting for middle of December. Mr. Haymer would like to schedule a Recreation Committee meeting in regard to the park behind the school.

Special Committee Reports:

None.

Correspondence:

Mr. Lallo presented correspondence from the Division of Liquor Control regarding the transfer of the liquor permit from Just One More transferring to Crowley's. If Council has concerns, they can present them. If not, they will send it into the state. Chief McCallister also informed everyone that all background checks came through clean and that there have been no issues since Crowley's opened.

Public Comments on Matters not on the Agenda:

Sharon Vyskocil, 8415 Locust Drive, inquired as to the funding source of the Community Center parking lot paving project. Mr. Slapnicker and Mayor Potter explained that most of the funding came through the Lake County Senior Services Levy, which can only be used for seniors. She also wanted to remind everyone that Sub Zero will be at the Community Center on Monday, October 28 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Jason Bridges, 7199 Berkshire Hills Drive, moved to the community recently, and wanted to publicly acknowledge both the Police and Fire Departments. He had a medical emergency recently, and they were there within moments. He complimented their balance of professionalism, while recognizing the serious nature of the situation, and helping his family to remain calm.

OLD BUSINESS:**Public comments on old business.**

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Comments on Agenda Items of New Business

24-R-75 **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF KIRTLAND TO SIGN
(Mayor Potter) CONTRACTS WITH NOPEC FOR PREFERRED PRICING AS IT
RELATES TO THE CITY'S ELECTRIC SERVICE, SMALL
COMMUNITY AGGREGATION CONVERSION, AND NATURAL GAS,
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

A motion to Amend Exhibit A to 24-R-75 to incorporate new pricing was made by Ms. Symonds and seconded by Ms. Grazia. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 5/0 (VOTING YEA: GRAZIA, SCHULZ, SMOLIC, SYMONDS, FENSTERMAKER AND HAYMER. VOTING NAY: None)**

A motion to Waive the Three Readings of 24-R-75 was made by Ms. Symonds and seconded by Ms. Grazia. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 5/0 (VOTING YEA: GRAZIA, SCHULZ, SMOLIC, SYMONDS, FENSTERMAKER AND HAYMER. VOTING NAY: None)**

A motion to Declare an Emergency and Adopt 24-R-75 was made by Mr. Schulz and seconded by Mr. Fenstermaker. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 5/0 (VOTING YEA: GRAZIA, SCHULZ, SMOLIC, SYMONDS, FENSTERMAKER AND HAYMER. VOTING NAY: None)**

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

None.

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Schulz moved to adjourn, with the second by Mr. Fenstermaker. The motion of Council passed by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

President of Council

Clerk of Council, Interim