

KIRTLAND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

June 6, 2022 – Work Session

The work session meeting of Kirtland City Council commenced at 6:49 p.m. Council members present were: Ronald Fenstermaker, Scott Haymer, Richard Lowery, Jeffrey Ruple, Matthew Schulz and Joseph Smolic. Eric Ziegler was absent.

Mayor Kevin Potter, Finance Director Louis Slapnicker, City Engineer Douglas Courtney, Service Director Joseph Fornaro, Fire Chief Anthony Hutton, and Senior Center Coordinator Teresa Szary were also in attendance.

Finance Director Louis Slapnicker noted that he sent a memo earlier today regarding the tax budget legislation. Noting that this is done every year, Mr. Slapnicker said it does not need to be passed tonight.; it is due to the County in July. He stated these are 2023 estimates for property tax revenue for next year, noting that failure to pass the tax budget would result in zero dollars of property tax funds. Mr. Slapnicker noted that two years ago the County had a six percent reduction, and the triennial update last year will result in a 9.5 percent increase in the General Fund. He stated an additional 2 percent increase in property taxes is estimated into 2023 based on new builds. Mr. Slapnicker stated the tax budget sets forth the City's request in millage to receive property tax revenue. He advised a public hearing is required and will be held at the next Council meeting; if the legislation is passed at the next meeting he can submit it to the County earlier, but it can receive three readings if necessary.

Councilman Schulz inquired about the dollar amount related to the 9.5 percent increase. Mr. Slapnicker said he would have to look up the amount, but he believes it is approximately \$45,000.

Referring to the information Mr. Slapnicker provided relating to operating revenues and expenses through 2020, Councilman Schulz inquired about 2021 income taxes. Mr. Slapnicker noted those reports were previously prepared by Mary Kovalchik and provided to Council in September or October last year. He stated that the 2021 numbers are available on the City website. Mr. Slapnicker said the December 2021 report would have the year-to-date history.

Councilman Schulz noted there are some funds in the Road Levy 205 fund, but he was under the impression that all those funds were exhausted. Mr. Slapnicker said there is an outstanding encumbrance to Ronyak that needs to be closed out.

With regard to the legislation for the Charter amendment to be placed on the ballot, Council President Ruple stated that Council may wish to amend the percentage, no later than the next Council meeting. Mayor Potter noted that Council can discuss this tonight and in a Finance Committee meeting to be scheduled, and he requested that Council members advise of any feedback they receive from the public before the next meeting.

Mayor Potter advised that the legislation relating to fireworks is on First Reading tonight, noting that Council should vote on the legislation at the next meeting, because of the upcoming July 4 holiday. The Mayor noted that the new law allows for discharge of fireworks on 13 days throughout the year in the State of Ohio; the City has the opportunity to opt out, as set forth in the proposed legislation. Mayor Potter said the legislation reflects what surrounding communities have done, noting he has spoken with other Mayors and the Police Chief and Fire Chief. The Mayor said he would like to see Council move forward with the legislation, but that he would also like to hear reasons, if any exist, why the City should not move forward.

Council President Ruple noted that Willoughby Hills passed legislation opting out, and it is his understanding that most of the communities in the area have passed or will pass similar legislation opting out of the State's legislation.

Regarding the Statement of Fund Activity, Councilman Schulz inquired if the figures reflect the reevaluation of properties. Mr. Slapnicker stated that due to COVID, the County requested that for 2021 the estimate be reduced by 6 percent. He said the 6 percent reduction and the triennial update for 9.5 percent make up the difference.

There was no further discussion, and the work session meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m. upon the unanimous consent of Council.

President of Council

Clerk of Council