

KIRTLAND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 18, 2023 – Work Session

The work session meeting of Kirtland City Council commenced at 6:35 p.m. Council members present were: Ronald Fenstermaker, Scott Haymer, Richard Lowery, Jeffrey Ruple, Matthew Schulz and Joseph Smolic. Absent: Eric Ziegler.

Mayor Kevin Potter, Finance Director Louis Slapnick, Service Director Joseph Fornaro and Police Chief Brian McCallister were also in attendance.

Mayor Potter advised that Economic Development Director Eddy Eckart will be addressing Council with an update during the work session, and he will also stay for the combined meeting with Planning and Zoning following the regular Council meeting.

With regard to Ordinance 23-O-3 on tonight's agenda, amending Section 618.02, Police Chief McCallister stated that there are ongoing issues involving some residents with dogs and one resident with livestock; the animals are getting into the roadway. He said the current ordinance classifies this offense as a minor misdemeanor in perpetuity, so if it continues, the offense does not escalate. Chief McCallister said they looked into other cities' ordinances and modeled the changes after the other cities in order to increase the penalty for the violations so they will escalate; it will be more of a criminal issue. He noted their first course of action is always to make the resident aware with a warning about the issue in hopes they will correct the problem. The amendment will allow the Department to move forward as needed, with a stiffer penalty as these violations increase. Chief McCallister said the violations are per year, from the time of the first offense, so if it continues throughout the year, then there will be escalation of the penalty. There was discussion regarding the dollar amount of the penalty.

With regard to Resolution 23-R-2 on tonight's agenda, relating to the bridge on Route 306 (bottom of the hill), Mr. Fornaro explained that the resolution is for upgrades to the bridge. It was noted that the upgrades are color coating of the railings rather than galvanized, and the sides with the brick look. Mayor Potter said these upgrades are strictly for aesthetics, for a more decorative entrance into the City. Answering questions from Council, Mr. Fornaro said that ODOT will be replacing the bridge; he was not sure about the schedule for the replacement of the Route 6 bridge in Willoughby Hills. Council members expressed concern about traffic issues for residents if both bridges are closed at the same time. Mr. Fornaro said he will look into the time frame for the Route 6 bridge. Mayor Potter said the Route 306 bridge will be done this year, noting that the Resolution should be adopted tonight if Council wants the upgrades. The Mayor explained that the Resolution would allow ODOT to bid the upgrade; the City is not required to do the upgrade if the cost to the City is higher than expected.

With regard to Resolution 23-R-1 relating to the internet auction, Mayor Potter said this resolution is passed every year, and the City cannot put anything out for auction without this resolution being passed.

Economic Development Director Eddy Eckart provided an update to Council, mentioning that the City secured \$820,000 in Federal funding for the Old Town sewer project. He noted that Congressman Joyce's office was extremely helpful in keeping this in the budget bill. Mayor Potter said that Mr. Eckart was very instrumental in the City receiving this funding, noting that the language of the request and the partnerships are very important. The Mayor thanked Mr. Eckart for his efforts in securing this funding.

Mr. Eckart said he is working on several matters related to the comprehensive plan, including finding solutions with partnerships, leveraging of resources, and providing a pedestrian friendly streetscape. He said he met with the Port Authority and other individuals to determine how to best leverage local resources to move the comprehensive plan forward and tie future development into that plan.

Noting that he has mentioned discussions with a developer regarding their interest in the City, Mr. Eckart said he expects to have something to share soon. He noted that the Mayor also mentioned a possible gas station at Circle K.

Councilman Schulz mentioned that Mr. Eckart had previously discussed meeting with NOACA. Mr. Eckart advised he has not yet met with NOACA, but with the comprehensive plan wrapping up, he should be able to seek more input soon.

There was no further discussion, and the work session meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. upon the unanimous consent of Council.

President of Council

Clerk of Council