

KIRTLAND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 21, 2023 – Work Session

The work session meeting of Kirtland City Council commenced at 6:36 p.m. Council members present were: Ronald Fenstermaker, Scott Haymer, Richard Lowery, Matthew Schulz, Joseph Smolic and Eric Ziegler. Absent: Suzanne Grazia.

Mayor Kevin Potter, Law Director Matthew Lallo, Finance Director Louis Slapnicker, City Engineer Douglas Courtney, Service Director Joseph Fornaro and Fire Chief Anthony Hutton were also in attendance.

Finance Director Louis Slapnicker said he sent Council an email this morning outlining the three changes for the amended appropriation on tonight's agenda. He advised there is a \$60,000 increase in the General Fund for a fire vehicle at the request of the Fire Chief, and there is an additional \$60,000 for a new excavator. He noted that in the past amendment there was an increase of \$10,000 to fix the excavator, but repairs were never done. The new excavator is approximately \$70,000, and the \$10,000 previously budgeted for repairs will be used with the additional \$60,000 for the new excavator.

Mr. Slapnicker advised that the previous excavator was sold on GovDeals; it was originally purchased out of Road Levy Fund 205, so those proceeds are being reappropriated in the amount of \$71,000. Mr. Slapnicker said the total change is \$191,000, including the amount for road improvements. He requested that the legislation be passed tonight, noting there will be legislation in front of Council for purchase of the vehicles.

Answering Councilman Fenstermaker, Mr. Fornaro said the previous excavator was sold for \$71,000 and a new excavator is being purchased for \$70,000. He noted that the trade-in value of the previous excavator was \$43,000. Mr. Fornaro noted they are scaling down from a big excavator to a mini excavator.

Mayor Potter clarified that the proceeds from the sale of the excavator will go back into the road program fund for road repairs.

Councilman Lowery inquired about the fire vehicle. Chief Hutton advised it is a pick-up truck to replace the 2015 Tahoe. He said they have tried to downsize the fleet, noting that a 2011 Explorer was taken out of service. They had a new trailer in the budget this year, and they are able to put more equipment in the trailer and move equipment from an old pick-up truck. Chief Hutton said the new pick-up truck will replace the shift commander vehicle; it will also serve as an initial temporary rescue vehicle. He noted that the 2015 vehicle is beginning to show a lot of wear and tear.

Answering Councilman Lowery regarding the Old Town sewer project, Mr. Courtney said there is legislation on the agenda that OPWC needs in order to release funds to the contractor. Mr. Courtney said it was described to him as an IRS requirement for OPWC, and it was flagged as being needed when the second part of the application was submitted. He said it would be helpful to have this adopted tonight. Mr. Slapnicker noted that the \$150,000 was budgeted in 2022 for a transfer into that fund, which was already made.

Answering Councilman Fenstermaker regarding the fire vehicle, Chief Hutton said at this point it would likely be a Chevy 2500. He noted there are some on State bid; the best deals they have found are local through Serpentine at the State bid.

Councilman Schulz inquired if the price includes decals, light bar and everything that is needed on the vehicle. Chief Hutton said the \$60,000 should cover it, noting the vehicle itself is \$51,000.

Referring to legislation on tonight's agenda relating to engine brakes, Mayor Potter said this was brought to the City by a resident in the Eisenhower area, along with another community member. Councilman Haymer has also had discussion with a resident in this regard. Mayor Potter said he brought this up with the Police Chief, who pulled other local ordinances to review. Councilman Schulz noted that several years ago, it was noted there were signs posted, but no ordinance to back it, so the signs were removed. Mayor Potter noted that the legislation can go to second reading.

Chief Hutton noted that their vehicles have engine brakes, but they are not as loud as those on a semi-truck.

With regard to the legislation for pavement striping, Mr. Fornaro requested that it be passed tonight. He noted the legislation is for \$25,000, and the quote for the streets to be done is \$19,711; that will allow flexibility to possibly add Route 306. Mr. Fornaro said the streets include Booth, Sperry end-to-end, Kirtland Chardon end-to-end, and Eagle from Route 306 to Kirtland Chardon.

Mayor Potter advised that the City received proposals from three entities – AT&T, Ohio Gig, and Lit Communities – related to the broadband fiber RFP. The Mayor requested that Councilman Haymer work with Mr. Gibbs and schedule a Utilities Standing Committee meeting to review those proposals.

Mayor Potter noted that Resolution 23-R-59 relates to partial depth repairs on the following streets: Regency Woods, Hobart, Crary, Far Bar, Hillcrest and Highland. The work will be done by Specialized Construction through the ODOT State bid. Mr. Lallo stated that the City does not need to bid this work because it is part of the State bid. He said that the City technically does not need to pass this legislation, noting that the City previously gave Mr. Fornaro the authority to make these transactions on behalf of the City as long as it is within the road plan and properly appropriated in the budget. For audit purposes and for transparency, Mr. Lallo said he was asked to draw up the legislation.

Mr. Slapnicker explained that for the road improvement and maintenance program there are three funding sources – the General Fund, Road Levy Fund, and additional ARPA dollars that were carried over from the prior year.

Mayor Potter requested that Resolution 23-R-59 be adopted tonight.

There was discussion regarding the proposed legislation relating to engine brakes and the City's safety forces vehicles. Mr. Lallo suggested that the legislation can be amended at tonight's regular meeting to provide an exemption for those vehicles.

Kveodosia Faber, 8807 Kirtland Road, said the trucks cause her windows to make noise, and she inquired who is responsible if they break. Council President Smolic explained there has not been an ordinance on the books prohibiting the engine brakes; it is now being proposed. Mr. Lallo said it would be a civil issue with the operator of the vehicle.

There was no further discussion, and the work session meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m. upon the consensus of Council.

President of Council

Clerk of Council