

## **KIRTLAND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

### **May 6, 2024 – Work Session**

The work session meeting of Kirtland City Council commenced at 6:52 p.m. Council members present were: Ronald Fenstermaker, Suzanne Grazia, Scott Haymer, Matthew Schulz, Joseph Smolic, Julie Symonds and Eric Ziegler.

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

Mayor Potter welcomed Willoughby Mayor Fiala, noting that he would like to address Council regarding the Ohio Legislature's advocating for consolidation of dispatch throughout the State of Ohio. Mayor Fiala said that Lake County has engaged the Next Gen 911 Committee; there will be representatives from the townships, villages and cities, along with an appointment from the county. Mayor Fiala presented Council members with information outlining the City of Willoughby's position on the selection process, along with a copy of Ohio Revised Code Section 128.06 which states that a member of the legislative body of a municipal corporation must elect one member of a legislative body of a municipal corporation to send to this committee. Mayor Fiala said that one councilperson from the eight cities in Lake County can sit on this committee. He noted that the narrow definition essentially eliminates the mayors of cities, most of whom also act as safety directors, to sit on the committee; this is a disadvantage to the voice of the cities, and they will continue to fight this battle with the state and the county.

In the meantime, Mayor Fiala said they are moving forward and are asking Kirtland City Council to consider Willoughby's Council President, Robert Carr, to sit on the committee. This will take a vote of Kirtland City Council, and at least five other City Councils, to allow him to sit on this committee. Mayor Fiala noted he is visiting all of the cities in Lake County to ask their Councils to allow Willoughby Council President Robert Carr to sit on this committee. He requested that legislation be adopted at the next Council meeting for this purpose.

Noting that Willoughby handles Kirtland dispatch, Mayor Fiala said they want to make sure they have the best and most advanced equipment; he noted the equipment has been purchased and will be installed in the next year. He said they do not want the Next Gen 911 Committee to make a recommendation without all of the cities having a voice.

Answering Councilwoman Symonds regarding the selection of Council President Carr, Mayor Fiala said that Mr. Carr played a pivotal role in the Willoughby safety levy passed last year. He is currently involved in the city's safety services; he is a very good negotiator and will be a good representative for the cities. Mayor Fiala said if Council wishes to consider this further, he will provide Council with a copy of Mr. Carr's resume.

Council President Smolic inquired about the new building for the police station. Mayor Fiala said it is moving forward, and in June they will have the final design development estimates in place. He noted the new building will quadruple the size of their dispatch capabilities. He noted that when the building is complete and the new dispatch equipment is installed, they will have the newest and most advanced dispatch equipment in Lake County.

Councilman Schulz inquired if this would result in much higher costs to Kirtland for the new contract. Mayor Fiala said that Willoughby values the relationship with Kirtland, and he does not

see that there would be increased costs. He noted they are increasing their service capabilities and the size of their dispatch center, but they believe every city should have the right to determine the future of their dispatch centers; it should not be a county or state decision. If some cities elect to not have their own dispatch, they would like to become the western Lake County dispatch center. If they can pick up some additional cities, their hope is that costs would be reduced. Mayor Fiala said the dispatch capital costs are not connected with the contract with Kirtland. They passed a safety levy and had been planning to upgrade the facilities. He said any service cost increase would be solely based on call volume and the basis of the last negotiation.

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

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President of Council

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Clerk of Council