

CITY OF OAKWOOD
STATE OF OHIO
SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

The Council of the city of Oakwood, State of Ohio, met in a work session and executive session at 6 p.m. in the conference room of the city of Oakwood, 30 Park Avenue, Oakwood, Ohio, 45419. Council then met in a regular session at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers of the city of Oakwood.

The meeting was streamed live from the Oakwood city website, telecast live on Cable Access Channel 6, and available via remote teleconferencing utilizing the Zoom.com platform.

The Mayor, Mr. William Duncan, presided, and the Clerk, Ms. Lori Stacel, recorded. Mayor Duncan asked all present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon call of the roll, the following members of Council responded to their names:

- MR. WILLIAM D. DUNCAN.....PRESENT
- MR. STEVEN BYINGTONPRESENT
- MR. ROBERT P. STEPHENS.....PRESENT
- MRS. LEIGH TURBENPRESENT
- MRS. HEALY JACKSON.....PRESENT

Officers of the City present were the following:

- Mr. Norbert S. Klopsch, City Manager
- Mr. Robert F. Jacques, City Attorney
- Ms. Carol Collins, Leisure Services Director
- Mrs. Cindy Stafford, Finance Director
- Mr. Douglas Spitler, Public Works Director
- Ms. Lori Stacel, Clerk of Council

The following in-person visitors registered:

- Katie Smiddy, 8228 Yarrow Court
- Joel Smiddy, 8228 Yarrow Court
- Dan Turben, 204 Forrer Boulevard
- Holly Pohlman, 15 Shafor Boulevard
- Colin Pohlman, 15 Shafor Boulevard
- Melissa Brandfass, 234 Patterson Road
- Steve Radcliffe, 2 Ivanhoe Avenue
- Sharlyn Radcliffe, 2 Ivanhoe Avenue
- Karen Carter, 2406 Shroyer Road
- Cynthia Daugherty, 31 Shafor Circle
- Andrea White, Ohio State Representative
- Brian Barr, *Oakwood Register*

There were no Zoom visitors in attendance.

Mrs. Jackson advised Council she had read the meeting minutes of the August 5, 2024 regular session, work session & executive session, August 8, 2024 executive session, August 9, 2024 executive session, August 14, 2024 executive session, August 19, 2024 work session & executive session, September 4, 2024 executive session and September 9, 2024 executive session. Mrs. Jackson reported she found the minutes correct and complete. Therefore, it was moved by Mrs. Jackson and seconded by Mrs. Turben that the minutes of the sessions of Council aforementioned be approved as written and the reading thereof at this session be dispensed with. Upon a viva voce vote on the question of the motion, same passed unanimously and it was so ordered.

STATUS REPORTS

City Manager Appointment – Mayor Duncan shared that City Council has unanimously decided to appoint Katie M. Smiddy as City Manager Designate effective October 14, 2024, and as the City Manager effective November 1, 2024. He then read the resolution of the appointment of a new city manager:

WHEREAS, Council of the city of Oakwood has conducted a formal search for a City Manager to succeed Norbert S. Klopsch; and

WHEREAS, 24 applications were received and reviewed with the assistance of an outside consulting firm; and

WHEREAS, the top eight applicants were interviewed by Council and narrowed to four finalists, who were then interviewed by senior staff of the City; and

WHEREAS, Council narrowed the pool again to two candidates who were selected for final review; and

WHEREAS, Council has made its final decision on this matter and now desires to formalize that choice by placing it in the form of a resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAKWOOD, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, OHIO, THAT:

SECTION I.

By unanimous vote of the Council, Katie M. Smiddy is hereby appointed as City Manager Designate, effective October 14, 2024. The terms and conditions of her employment shall be as set forth in a letter agreement dated September 12, 2024, which has been signed by both Katie M. Smiddy and Mayor William D. Duncan and is hereby ratified and confirmed. Commencing November 1, 2024, upon the retirement of Norbert S. Klopsch, Katie M. Smiddy shall automatically succeed to the position of City Manager.

Thereupon, it was moved by Mayor Duncan and seconded by Vice Mayor Byington that the resolution be passed.

Upon call of the roll on the question of the motion, the following vote was recorded:

- MR. WILLIAM D. DUNCAN.....YEA
- MR. STEVEN BYINGTONYEA
- MR. ROBERT P. STEPHENSYEA
- MRS. LEIGH TURBENYEA
- MRS. HEALY JACKSON.....YEA

There being five (5) yea votes and no (0) nay votes thereon, said resolution was declared duly passed and it was so ordered.

Mayor Duncan shared that Mrs. Smiddy is currently the Finance Director at the City of Springdale. She previously served as the Finance Director of the City of Montgomery and CFO of Hamilton County Community Action Agency after holding various positions for over 18 years in Butler County. She has a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Xavier University and a Master of Public Administration from Wright State University. She is also a graduate of the Leading, Educating, and Developing (LEAD) Program from the University of Virginia. Mrs. Smiddy has been married to her spouse, Joel, for 24 years. They have two children. Mayor Duncan welcomed Mrs. Smiddy to the City of Oakwood.

Mrs. Smiddy thanked Council for the warm welcome. She said that she is excited and honored to work with Oakwood City Council and city staff to keep Oakwood the premiere community that it is.

Auditor of State Award – Mayor Duncan recognized Finance Director Cindy Stafford, CPA, for once again completing a successful financial audit and receiving the Auditor of State Award. Mrs. Stafford thanked Council and recognized the Finance Department staff for all of the hard work they put in daily.

Citizen Committee Appointment – Mayor Duncan presented the new appointment of Samantha Elder to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

It was moved by Mayor Duncan and seconded by Vice Mayor Byington that the aforementioned appointment be confirmed. Upon a viva voce vote on the question of the motion, same passed unanimously and it was so ordered.

VISITORS

2024 July and August Beautification Award Winners – Mayor Duncan explained that a video will be shown highlighting all the winners and then he will present certificates to those who are at the meeting. The following properties were recognized and shown in the video:

- Tara & Matthew Cavo, 270 E. Schantz Avenue; Kelly & Todd Pleiman, 914 E. Schantz Avenue; Sharlyn & Steve Radcliffe, 2 Ivanhoe Avenue; Kathryn Sanford, 235 Forrer Boulevard; Julie & Jim Beyer, 352 Corona Avenue; Jeannie & David Andrews, 2701-2703 Shafor Boulevard; Jan Heaton, 2701 Shafor Boulevard; Michele & Jim Schoen, 1201 Hathaway Road; Teresa & Michael DeMonico, 315 Harman Boulevard; Royanna & Dennis Wolters, 240 Grandon Road; Mary Gunlock, 2313 Ridgeway Road; Dion Flannery, 1100 Runnymede Road; Smith Memorial Gardens, 11 Walnut Lane; Brandy & Patrick McFall, 229 Schenck Avenue; Molly Hall, 321 E. Schantz Avenue; Kim & Nick Giancola, 518 Woodview Drive; Paige & Bobby Barlow, 548 Acorn

Drive; Donna Grankosky, 20 Wiltshire Boulevard; Ellie & Doug Hammer, 20 Wiltshire Boulevard; Tanya Hazen, 346 Forrer Boulevard; Marian & Evan Marlin, 320 Hadley Avenue; Karen Carter, 2406 Shroyer Road; Mary Smith-Haddad, 253 Claranna Avenue; David Feldmiller, 238 Greenmount Boulevard; Erin & David Nye, 40 W. Peach Orchard Road; Shannon Johnson-Query & Robert Slonaker, 223 Oak Knoll Drive; Michele & Timothy Hawk, 20 Walnut Lane; Gina & Shawn Domm, 111 Katharine Terrace; and Brookdale Oakwood, 1701 Far Hills Avenue.

Holly Pohlman, 15 Shafor Boulevard, asked City Council to consider supporting the use of organic lawn chemicals throughout the city. She explained how toxic lawn chemicals negatively impact the health of the community. She asked Council to prioritize the well-being of the citizens and the environment. Mrs. Pohlman provided Council with a packet of information on how to move toward an organic lawn treatment program.

LEGISLATION

A RESOLUTION
BY MAYOR DUNCAN NO 1926
A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR 50 YEARS AND
COUNTING OF PUBLIC SERVICE BY LEISURE SERVICES
DIRECTOR AND HORTICULTURIST CAROL D. COLLINS.

A copy of the resolution, having been placed on the desks of each member of Council prior to introduction, was read by title.

Mayor Duncan read the following resolution recognizing Ms. Collins:

WHEREAS, on August 19, 1974, Carol D. Collins was hired by the city of Oakwood as City Horticulturist, a position she held until March 30, 1998; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 1998, Carol Collins was appointed to the position of Leisure Services Director, a position she continues to hold to this day; and

WHEREAS, on April 11, 2024, Carol surpassed Harry W. Carter as the longest serving employee of the city of Oakwood; Harry Carter served in the Oakwood Public Works Department from May 9, 1922 until December 31, 1971, a period of 49 years, seven months and 22 days; and

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2024, Carol celebrated her 50th anniversary as an employee of the city of Oakwood, a truly remarkable milestone; and

WHEREAS, over the course of the past 50 years, Carol has served with utmost distinction and with an unmatched commitment to the betterment of the city she so dearly loves; and

WHEREAS, Carol's positive impact on the community can be seen throughout the entire city, including every tree-lined public street and boulevard, Shafor Park, Orchardly Park, Fairridge Park, Cook Park and Huffman Park, the City Administration/Public Safety Building, Oakwood Community Center and J. David Foell Public Works Center, Loy Garden, Elizabeth Gardens, Houk Stream, Francine's Garden, and the enchanting Smith Memorial Gardens, referred to as "one of the finest tiny public gardens in Ohio" by Ohio Magazine; and

WHEREAS, in her roles as Leisure Services Director and City Horticulturist, Carol has shouldered primary responsibility for maintaining and continually enhancing the Oakwood community ambience, which is matched by no other community in the Miami Valley; and

WHEREAS, Carol Collins has served, and continues to serve, Oakwood with an incredible sense of duty and personal integrity, and with the highest degree of professionalism;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAKWOOD, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION I.

The Council of the city of Oakwood accords very special public recognition and thanks to Carol D. Collins for reaching the 50-year milestone of outstanding public service to the city of Oakwood.

It was moved by Mayor Duncan and seconded by Vice Mayor Byington that the aforementioned resolution be approved. Upon a viva voce vote on the question of the motion, same passed unanimously and it was so ordered.

Ohio State Representative Andrea White presented Ms. Collins with a commendation from the Ohio Statehouse recognizing her 50 years of public service.

Ms. Collins thanked City Council and Representative White for their kind words. Ms. Collins shared that she is honored and blessed to serve the residents of Oakwood.

A RESOLUTION
 BY VICE MAYOR BYINGTON NO 1927
 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS
 DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND
 AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING
 THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR

A copy of the resolution, having been placed on the desks of each member of Council prior to introduction, was read by title.

Vice Mayor Byington explained that each tax year, the Montgomery County Budget Commission is required to certify its determination of the millage rates and amounts the city will receive from its existing property tax levies. For 2024-2025, the Budget Commission has determined that Oakwood will receive \$1,607,186 from inside-millage and \$1,556,384 from outside-millage tax levies. These figures are consistent with the city’s projections.

This is the annual resolution to accept the county’s determination.

Thereupon, it was moved by Vice Mayor Byington and seconded by Mr. Stephens that the resolution be passed.

Upon call of the roll on the question of the motion, the following vote was recorded:

MR. WILLIAM D. DUNCAN.....	YEA
MR. STEVEN BYINGTON	YEA
MR. ROBERT P. STEPHENS	YEA
MRS. LEIGH TURBEN	YEA
MRS. HEALY JACKSON.....	YEA

There being five (5) yea votes and no (0) nay votes thereon, said resolution was declared duly passed and it was so ordered.

STAFF REPORT

Public Works Department Presentation: Mr. Doug Spittler, Public Works Director, referenced a PowerPoint presentation and updated Council on various Public Works projects and operations.

Mr. Spittler thanked Mr. Klopsch for his leadership and support of the Public Works Department. He said that Mr. Klopsch is a model of what quality work should be.

The Hefty® ReNew™ Program allows residents to purchase specific orange bags from local retailers and place materials in those bags that were previously unacceptable in the loose co-mingled recyclable container.

The Public Works Department provides several self-service options available for refuse and recycling such as drop-off containers for recycling cardboard, yard debris, and co-mingled materials at a 24/7 Recycling Facility; the Foell Public Works Center at 210 Shafor Boulevard is open from 8 a.m. until 12 noon on the first Saturday of each month for Oakwood citizens to drop off refuse items; and refuse dumpsters are available for disposal of a mixture of debris from “do-it-yourself” homeowner projects.

The annual community document shred event is from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 28 at the Public Works Center. There will be individuals on hand to assist with unloading documents.

The next Styrofoam recycling event is on Saturday, September 28.

The next Oakwood Rotary household hazardous waste pick-up event is on Saturday, October 19. Citizens desiring a pick-up should call (937) 296-5155 before noon on Friday, October 18, and leave their name and address.

The annual leaf collection program begins on Monday, October 14. As in previous years, the program will provide bi-weekly leaf pickups of all areas throughout the city. The city is divided into ten sections with each being collected on a 2-week interval. The program is scheduled to continue until Friday, December 20, but will be extended if conditions warrant.

Manhole adjustments are being made on roadways throughout the city with a "Mr. Manhole" machine.

A street sweeper was purchased this year for \$268,465. The sweeper works great around boulevards and narrow street areas.

The Public Works Department cleans the entire 211,200 feet (about 40 miles) of the underground sanitary sewer system. The goal is to clean the entire system every three years.

The Public Works Department replaced around 50' of water main and installed several valves at Far Hills Avenue and Park Avenue before the paving on Far Hills Avenue. Approximately 40' of water main was replaced and several valves were installed at Harman Avenue and Park Avenue. This fall, underground electrical work will be completed on Well #6, and an underground vault will be removed on Peach Orchard Road.

From December 2023 to March 2024, the Public Works Department used 564 tons of salt through the winter season, compared to 741 tons in 2023. There are approximately 800 tons of salt in storage. The cost of salt this year is \$63.97 per ton, compared to \$91.62 per ton last year.

Mr. Spitler reminded residents that if you plan any sort of digging or excavating on your property, be sure to call Ohio 8-1-1 ahead of your scheduled start.

Mr. Spitler shared several personnel changes in the Public Works Department. Longtime employees Mike Kingdom retired in April 2024; Elonsie Kirk retired in June 2024; and Steve Kunz retired in August 2024. The Public Works Department welcomed Brandon Cuzner, General Service Worker; Jacob Dupler, General Service Worker; Peter Kurtz, General Service Worker; and Jason Adkins, Water/Sewer Technician.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Klopsch thanked Mr. Spitler for the department report. He commended the Public Works Department for all of the good work in providing so many essential public services to the Oakwood community. He noted that Mr. Spitler oversees about 1/3 of all Oakwood employees.

Mr. Klopsch commented on the August 18 event recognizing the 50th anniversary of Smith Gardens and Ms. Collins' 50 years of employment with the city of Oakwood. Ms. Collins started in Oakwood in 1974 when the city was gifted Smith Gardens from the Carlton Smith Family. Ms. Collins has embraced Smith Gardens since day one. He publicly thanked Ms. Collins for everything she has done and will continue to do for the city.

The most disruptive work on Far Hills Avenue resurfacing project is completed. An asphalt surface treatment will be applied next week to extend the life of the new pavement. After that, the permanent roadway striping will be done.

Concrete repairs will continue in the Far Hills Business District for another week or two, at the most.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mrs. Jackson commented on the process City Council used in selecting the new city manager. She shared that she is grateful for the leadership of Mayor Duncan who kept the process focused and timely. She said that she appreciates her fellow council members for their open minds throughout the process.

Mrs. Turben congratulated Oakwood City Schools for another great report card earning a five-star rating and exceeding state standards.

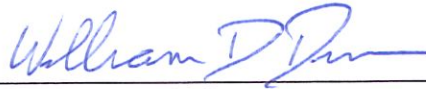
Mr. Stephens thanked his fellow council members for devoting their time to finding the new city manager. He opines that Council made a wonderful choice with Katie Smiddy and believes she will lead the City for many years to come. He thanked Oakwood citizens for their patience with the construction work along Far Hills Avenue. He closed his comments by congratulating Mrs.

Stafford and the Finance Department for earning the Auditor of State Award and Ms. Collins for 50 years of employment with the City.

Vice Mayor Byington congratulated the beautification award winners. He shared that the pride that everyone has in their property ownership is truly amazing.

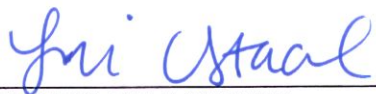
Mayor Duncan shared that he and Representative White are attending an event this Wednesday to honor Clara Hochstein on her 100th birthday. Mrs. Hochstein and her husband David were the owners and founders of Hochstein Custom Furrier which operated in Oakwood for many years.

The public meeting concluded at 8:31 p.m.



MAYOR

ATTEST:



CLERK OF COUNCIL