

CITY OF OAKWOOD
STATE OF OHIO
JANUARY 2, 2018

The Council of the city of Oakwood, State of Ohio, met in a work session at 6:30 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.

City Manager Norbert Klopsch opened the meeting and shared that according to Section 2.09 of the Oakwood City Charter, once every two years an organization meeting is conducted to elect a Mayor and Vice Mayor and to swear in the newly elected or re-elected Council Members.

Before proceeding with this action, Mr. Klopsch asked all present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members of Council present were the following:

- MR. WILLIAM D. DUNCAN.....PRESENT
- MR. STEVEN BYINGTONPRESENT
- MR. ROBERT P. STEPHENS.....PRESENT
- MRS. ANNE S. HILTON.....PRESENT
- MR. CHRISTOPHER B. EPLEY.....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
- Chief Alan Hill, Public Safety Director
- Ms. Lori Stacel, Clerk of Council

The following visitors registered:

- Nancy Drozd, 237 Telford Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45419
- Jane Lieberth, 117 E. Peach Orchard Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45419
- Richard Lipowicz, 259 Spirea Drive, Oakwood, OH 45419
- Martha Haley, 400 Irving Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45409
- Bill Frapwell, 400 Hathaway Road, Oakwood, OH 45419
- Judy Cook, 927 Far Hills Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45419
- Don O'Connor, 1306 E. Schantz Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45419
- Panos Kokoropoulos, 118 Spirea Drive, Oakwood, OH 45419
- Jay Weiskircher and Family
- Lieutenant Kevin Pruszynski and Family
- Various Members of Oakwood Safety Department
- Brian Barr, *Oakwood Register*

Mr. Jacques administered the Oath of Office to re-elected Council Members Rob Stephens and Anne Hilton.

Mr. Klopsch explained that the five members of Council are elected by the citizenry for four year terms and City Council selects amongst themselves a member to serve as Mayor and a member to serve as Vice Mayor.

Mr. Klopsch asked for nominations for Mayor and Vice Mayor.

It was moved by Mr. Stephens and seconded by Mrs. Hilton that Mr. Duncan be reappointed as Mayor and Mr. Byington be reappointed as Vice Mayor.

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. STEPHENS.....YEA
- MRS. ANNE HILTONYEA
- MR. CHRISTOPHER EPLEY.....YEA

Mayor Duncan expressed his thanks to Council for re-electing him as mayor and then continued with the council meeting.

Mrs. Hilton advised Council she had read the meeting minutes of the December 11, 2017 regular session, work session and executive session. Mrs. Hilton reported she found the minutes correct and complete. Therefore, it was moved by Mrs. Hilton and seconded by Mr. Epley 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

Captain Promotion – Mayor Duncan welcomed Lieutenant Kevin Pruszynski and his family. Chief Hill reviewed the highlights of Lieutenant Pruszynski's career and shared that he was pleased to promote him. Mayor Duncan then administered the Oath of Office. Captain Pruszynski's wife pinned the captain badge onto his uniform.

Recognition of Crew #1 Lifesaving Actions – Chief Hill commented on the actions of Public Safety Crew #1 at the November 6, 2017 council meeting. He shared that Crew #1 worked together to initiate an immediate patient assessment and provide patient care. The patient was quickly transported to the hospital where he underwent a life-saving surgical procedure. He added that there is no doubt that their excellent care and fast response played a major part in the successful outcome of this event. Chief Hill thanked Crew #1 for their efforts and for their contribution to the success of the Oakwood Public Safety Department.

Mayor Duncan commented that the lifesaving actions of Crew #1 are just another reason why people want to live in Oakwood. Oakwood has the best Public Safety Department in the region.

Council Committee Assignments – Mayor Duncan explained that there are several committees of Council that consist of two members that meet as needed to discuss various topics. Mayor Duncan indicated that Council decided to leave the committee assignments the same as last year, with the exception of the Miami Valley Communications Council, where the assignments for Mr. Stephens and Mr. Epley are reversing. The committee assignments are as follows:

2018 COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

William Duncan, Mayor	Steve Byington, Vice Mayor
Court Liaison	Anne Hilton, Chair
	Christopher Epley
Finance	Steve Byington, Chair
	William Duncan
Law and Minutes	Anne Hilton, Chair
	Steve Byington
Planning and Zoning	Steve Byington, Chair
	Christopher Epley
Public Properties	Christopher Epley, Chair
	Rob Stephens
Public Utilities/Waterworks/Sewer	Christopher Epley, Chair
	Rob Stephens
Safety and Traffic	Rob Stephens, Chair
	Anne Hilton
Streets and Alleys	Rob Stephens, Chair
	Anne Hilton
Community Relations/Promotion & Appointments	William Duncan, Chair
	Steve Byington

Regional Agencies - Council Representation

Miami Valley Communications Council	Rob Stephens
	Christopher Epley, Alternate
Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission and Transportation Committee	Steve Byington
EMA Regional Advisory Council	William Duncan, Alternate
	William Duncan
First Suburbs Consortium	Norbert Klopsch, Alternate
	Steve Byington
	Norbert Klopsch
	William Duncan, Alternate
South Suburban Coalition	Alan Hill
	William Duncan, Alternate

Boards, Commissions and Citizen Ad Hoc Committees

Planning Commission	Steve Byington
Environmental Committee	Rob Stephens
Sister City	Anne Hilton
Historical Society	Anne Hilton

Note: The Mayor also serves as ex-officio member of each Council committee.

2018 Committee Appointments – Mayor Duncan presented the following list of reappointments and new appointments to various citizen committees:

William Stephens, ADA Compliance Committee; Charles Campbell (Precinct A), Sarah Waechter (Precinct A), Howard Boose (Precinct B), Frederick Dudding (Precinct B), Brian Huelsman (Precinct C), Leigh Turben (Precinct C) and Jim Broz (Precinct E) to the Budget Review Committee; Darrell Apt, Stanley Herr, Nancy Drozd and Jane Lieberth to the Environmental Committee; Harrison Gowdy to the Planning Commission; and Chuck Ellis (Precinct A) and Cheryl Young (Precinct D) to the Property Maintenance Board.

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

VISITORS

2017 Holiday Decorating Award Winners – Mayor Duncan was joined by Nancy Drozd and Jane Lieberth of the Environmental Committee to present certificates to the 2017 holiday decorating contest winners. Awards are presented based upon use of natural materials, lighting and curb appeal. Although several were not in attendance, all of the following winners were recognized:

DAYTIME WINNERS

Area 1 – The Weeda Family, 420 Schenck Avenue
Area 2 – Alan and Tracy Ambrose, 61 Beverly Place
Area 3 – The O’Connor Family, 1306 E. Schantz Avenue
Area 4 – Jeremy and Beth Wilson, 324 E. Peach Orchard Avenue
Area 5 – Cindy McHugh, 1815 Coolidge Drive
Area 6 – The Harlamert Family, 330 Southview Road
Business – Toasty Barker Boutique – Jenni Robillard, 2306 Far Hills Avenue

NIGHTTIME WINNERS

Area 1 – Drs. Charles and Mary Bane, 5 Volusia Avenue
Area 2 – Anthony and Sally Jo Stayman, 601 Woods Road
Area 3 – December Green and David Bales, 304 Forrer Boulevard
Area 4 – The Musselman Family, 26 Corona Avenue
Area 5 – Allison Cowan and Andrew Smith, 1700 Ridgeway Road
Area 6 – David and Melissa Stackhouse, 51 Forrer Road
Business – The Flower Shoppe – Mark Brueninghaus, 2316 Far Hills Avenue

Panos Kokoropoulos, 118 Spirea Drive, shared that he has lived in Oakwood for 21 years. He understands that the proposed income tax legislation on the agenda this evening is to raise an additional \$600,000. In the past, the city has budgeted high and then come in lower than what was budgeted, so he believes the \$600,000 is an imaginary number. With the recent property revaluations, and the extra tax money that will be received from new construction, there is revenue that possibly was not being accounted for. He feels that taxes should be raised for the entire community and not just impact individuals who work outside of the city of Oakwood.

Mayor Duncan thanked Mr. Kokoropoulos for his comments and stated that City Council and city staff are very careful with the budgeted expenses. It is not only important to look at the budget versus actual expenditures, but also the revenue versus expenses.

Dick Lipowicz, 259 Spirea Drive, shared that he did not realize that Assistant City Manager Jay Weiskircher retired at the end of last year. He said that Mr. Weiskircher did a tremendous job for the city. Mr. Lipowicz thanked the Public Safety Department and shared that he was impressed with Crew #1’s life-saving efforts. Mr. Lipowicz then commented on the proposed income tax legislation. He stated that he strongly believes that a tax increase needs to be taken to the voters. A few years ago, two Council members voted against a tax credit issue because they felt it needed to be voted on by city residents. He is concerned that the measure being taken by City Council is the easy way out. There is nothing fair about a proposed tax increase that singles out people who work outside of Oakwood. He supports a tax increase that impacts all residents and that is voted for by Oakwood residents. He asked that Council rethink their decision, and table the proposed legislation due to the time of year and inclement weather.

A RESOLUTION
BY MAYOR DUNCAN NO 1842
TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER JAY A. WEISKIRCHER.

Mayor Duncan introduced the resolution by title and invited Mr. Klopsch to make some comments.

Mr. Klopsch shared that Mr. Weiskircher is one of the most humble people he has ever met and even though he does not like public recognition, the fact that he served the Oakwood community for 35+ years with such distinction requires this recognition. Mr. Klopsch shared that October 31 will forever be a date he will remember because that is when Assistant City Manager Jay Weiskircher shared his plans for retirement at the end of 2017. The last two months went by very quickly, but Mr. Weiskircher worked to the very last day and gave everything he could to the Oakwood community, as he did for the previous 35+ years. Mr. Weiskircher was recognized at multiple events. The Kettering Moraine Oakwood Chamber of Commerce recognized Mr. Weiskircher's career at a holiday breakfast in early December. The city held the bi-annual staff recognition banquet in the middle of December where Jay was recognized and presented with a plaque informing him of a brick paver being placed in his honor at Smith Gardens. Mr. Klopsch read the brick engraving aloud:

*"In honor and appreciation of 35 years of service to the Oakwood community.
Jay A. Weiskircher
1982 – 2017"*

Finally, there was a beautiful luncheon event a couple of weeks ago to celebrate Jay's very successful career. Mr. Weiskircher received a plaque at this luncheon. Mr. Klopsch read aloud the plaque inscription:

"PRESENTED TO

*JAY A. WEISKIRCHER
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER*

APRIL 26, 1982 – DECEMBER 31, 2017

*IN RECOGNITION OF OVER 35 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE
CITIZENS, BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF OAKWOOD.*

*CITY COUNCIL, STAFF AND THE ENTIRE OAKWOOD COMMUNITY THANK YOU FOR
YOUR TIRELESS WORK OVER A LONG AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER.*

YOUR INNUMERABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

*TO THE OAKWOOD COMMUNITY CAN BE READILY SEEN IN ALL BUSINESS,
RESIDENTIAL AND RECREATIONAL AREAS OF THE CITY AND WILL REMAIN AS A
LONG-STANDING TESTAMENT TO YOUR EXCELLENT LEADERSHIP, KEEN FORESIGHT
AND UNCEASING COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE. "*

Mr. Klopsch said that in all of his professional years, he has not met a finer man and he thanked Mr. Weiskircher for everything he has done for the city.

Mayor Duncan introduced Mr. Weiskircher's family and congratulated them.

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 then read the following:

*A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE PUBLIC
SERVICE OF ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER JAY A. WEISKIRCHER.*

*WHEREAS, on April 26, 1982, Jay A. Weiskircher was hired by the city of Oakwood
as personnel and recreation director, a position he held for three years; and*

*WHEREAS, on March 18, 1985, Jay Weiskircher was appointed to assistant city
manager, a position he held for 32+ years; and*

WHEREAS, in addition to the duties of assistant city manager, Mr. Weiskircher assumed all responsibilities associated with the positions of director of human resources and as director of planning, zoning and property maintenance; Exhibit A hereto provides a partial list of the specific responsibilities he shouldered; and

WHEREAS, Jay Weiskircher also served as project manager for many exciting and important community projects over his long career; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Weiskircher's tenure, and with his direct involvement and leadership, the city of Oakwood engaged in many significant issues and projects; Exhibit B hereto is a partial list; and

WHEREAS, Jay Weiskircher served Oakwood with an unmatched sense of duty and personal integrity, and represented Oakwood with the highest degree of professionalism; and

WHEREAS, during his 35+ years on Oakwood staff, Jay served with the utmost distinction and worked tirelessly to maintain and enhance the wonderful attributes of the city; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished career, Jay possessed the keen understanding of what makes Oakwood a very special community and was guided by that understanding in all of his actions and decision-making; and

WHEREAS, Jay Weiskircher will forever be remembered for his strong work ethic, deep understanding of governmental issues, and his ability to apply calm and reasoned judgement even in the most challenging situations;

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 to Jay A. Weiskircher for his 35+ years of outstanding public service to the city of Oakwood.

SECTION II.

On behalf of all Oakwood residents and businesses, and members of city staff, past and present, City Council expresses sincere thanks to Jay Weiskircher for his many contributions to the Oakwood community, contributions that can be readily seen throughout the city and will remain as a long-standing testament to his public service.

EXHIBIT B

JAY A. WEISKIRCHER
ISSUES AND PROJECTS – 1982 THROUGH 2017

Below is a compilation of the significant issues and projects in which Jay Weiskircher was directly involved during the course of his 35+ year career in public service to the city of Oakwood.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AND PROJECTS

- 1982: *Le Continental at 333 Oakwood Avenue converted from apartments to condominiums
Establishment of Natural Area Advisory Committee*
- 1985: *30 Park Avenue city building improvements*
- 1986: *Creation of Leisure Services Advisory Board
Creation of leisure services director position*
- 1987: *Closing of YMCA and opening of the Oakwood Community Center
Formal establishment of the citizen Budget Review Committee*
- 1988: *Establishment of the Oakwood Income Tax Department
Implemented registration and inspection requirements for rental properties
Implemented licensing requirements for home occupations*

- Remodeling of the Oakwood Community Center
Created the Leisure Services Department
Established the first community-wide recycling program in the Dayton region*
- 1989: *Developed the first Oakwood Comprehensive Plan*
- 1990: *Transferred the Oakwood building department services from Dayton to Kettering*
- 1993: *Renovation of Shafor Park
Construction of Karrington of Oakwood assisted living facility
Far Hills Business District Streetscape Study
Citizen Housing Committee changed to Property Maintenance Board*
- 1995: *Established Beautification Awards Program
Far Hills Business District Improvements
Jay honored as Dayton Area Manager's Association "Assistant City Manager of the Year"*
- 1996: *Fairridge Park Reconstruction
Oakwood Schools Latchkey Program*
- 1997: *Published Subarea Plan for the NCR Sugar Camp and Far Hills & Schantz Area
OCC improvement, including health center
First Use of banners in the Far Hills Business District*
- 1998: *Developed and published Oakwood Business District Design Guidelines
New corporation signs*
- 1999: *First lease of NCR Old River property
Construction of CVS pharmacy*
- 2000: *New Public Works Center*
- 2001: *Oakwood Zoning Code Update*
- 2003: *NCR Sugar Camp placed on the market
Establishment of Chabad of Greater Dayton Center for Jewish Culture and Education*
- 2004: *New City/Public Safety Building
Far Hills Streetscape and Pedestrian Safety Improvements
Published NCR Sugar Camp Subarea Plan Site Development Alternatives and Guidelines
Developed and published second Oakwood Comprehensive Plan*
- 2006: *Purchased the Old River Fields from NCR Corporation
Developed the 2500 Far Hills Retail Center*
- 2007: *NCR transferred Hawthorn Hill to the Wright Family Foundation
Oakwood Investment Group and Versant Master Plan for Sugar Camp and Pointe Oakwood
Oakwood acquires the 4-unit apartment at 19 Wonderly Avenue
Oakwood City Council approves a Special Use permit for Hawthorn Hill*
- 2008: *Oakwood centennial celebration
Reconstruction of Orchardly Park
Demolition of 4-Unit Apartment at 22 Orchard Drive and Construction of Municipal Parking Lot*
- 2009: *Rezoning of 6 Oakwood Avenue to Neighborhood Business District
Approved Stormwater Management Code
Established Francine's Garden at Houk Stream
Park Avenue Parking Lot Improvements*
- 2010: *First annual community document shred event
Approved Athletic and Recreation Master Plan*

Purchased parking lot on Orchard Drive behind the Oakwood Club

- 2011: *Opening of the Grace Learning Academy at St. Paul's Church*
- 2012: *Signed reciprocal lease with UD for use of Old River fields and tennis courts*
Installed Far Hills Business District decorative street lights
- 2013: *Elimination of the Ohio estate tax*
First year of the Oakwood Farmers' Market
Construction of the Routsong Retail Center
- 2014: *Top of the Hill Preschool opened at Lutheran Church of Our Savior*
- 2015: *Completed Far Hills Business District Street Tree Replacement Project*
Construction of Lane Stadium
- 2016: *Accepted donation of Virginia Hollinger Tennis Facility*
- 2017: *Settlement agreement for condos and office building at Pointe Oakwood and Sugar Camp*
Approval of 3-story office building at Sugar Camp
Approval of 84-unit condominium complex at Pointe Oakwood
Construction and dedication of Cook Park
Completion of Shroyer Road Reconstruction

Mayor Duncan said that every significant project that has been completed in Oakwood in the past 35 years has been under Mr. Weiskircher's direction. His insight and ability to obtain consensus throughout the community is an unbelievable accomplishment. Mr. Weiskircher was responsible for hiring every current city employee, with the exception of two. Mayor Duncan congratulated him on his retirement.

Former Mayor Judy Cook stated that she got to know Mr. Weiskircher when she was a citizen member of the Oakwood Planning Commission. One of her first impressions of Mr. Weiskircher was how professional he was. He always approached things as business at hand, but it was always with a helpful hand. Mr. Weiskircher was always very patient when he was helping others, and he was always available when needed. People learned to trust Mr. Weiskircher because he always had their best interest, and the city's best interest, in mind. She shared that she was tremendously blessed to have worked with him. The list of accomplishments shows his skills and devotion to the city. Mrs. Cook said she is very grateful for Mr. Weiskircher and thanked him for his service.

Mr. Weiskircher thanked everyone for their kind words. He then thanked Mr. Klopsch and office staff for gathering the information for his resolution. He said that over the past several weeks, he and his family have been humbled by the outpouring of acknowledgements, well wishes and retirement gifts. When you love what you do, and the people you work with, 35 years goes by quickly. It was estimated that he attended approximately 550 City Council meetings over the years and at every meeting, there were five elected officials who were there to simply serve the best interests of the Oakwood community. As a city staff, there were no concerns about political agendas. Every Council member had a single purpose, which was and continues to be based solely on the interests of the community. Most citizens have no idea how much time and effort is put forth from City Council with a very nominal salary. He thanked City Council, and their predecessors, for their guidance and unwavering support as city staff carried out day-to-day duties. He and City Manager Norbert Klopsch made a good team over the past 16 years. Mr. Klopsch has done a tremendous job as city manager. He has guided the community through some challenging times. He is supported by an excellent and committed staff, including Law Director Rob Jacques, Leisure Services Director Carol Collins, Finance Director Cindy Stafford and Public Safety Director Alan Hill. He has all the confidence that his replacement will fit right in and bring talents and skills unique to that person. Over his years, there have been many excellent employees come and go. Like any successful organization, staff has been able to fill those holes with equally talented individuals. The recognition of Public Safety Crew #1 speaks to the quality of the people working for the city. Oakwood is a special place because there are citizens that care about the community and unselfishly give back their time and talents by serving on the many city boards and commissions. They receive no compensation, but only serve because of their love for the community. Mr. Weiskircher shared that he has had the honor to serve with hundreds of these citizens over the years. Their efforts and contributions are an important part in keeping Oakwood special. Mr. Weiskircher shared that he leaves with nothing but fond memories, and a greater appreciation for what a special place Oakwood is. He has cherished every moment and feels grateful for the privilege of working here. He wished City

Council and staff all the best, recognizing that the city remains in very capable hands. He thanked everyone for everything they have done for him and his family.

Vice Mayor Byington commented that as previously mentioned, Mr. Weiskircher has been involved in every significant accomplishment at the city over the past 35+ years, but he was also involved with the smaller accomplishments that happened on a day-to-day basis as well. Handling all the small things allowed City Council and staff to be the very best they could be.

Mr. Stephens shared that he has known Mr. Weiskircher for many years, but became closer to him when he was elected to City Council. Mr. Weiskircher's knowledge and experience cannot be replaced. He wished Mr. Weiskircher and his family all the best.

Mrs. Hilton expressed emotion and stated that she is unable to make comments, but Mr. Weiskircher knows how she feels about him and his outstanding service to Oakwood.

Mr. Epley said that he is the newest member on City Council and he is sure that Mr. Weiskircher has more stories than he has let on. He offered to be his ghostwriter if he ever decides to share those stories. He congratulated Mr. Weiskircher on a very successful career.

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 BYINGTON.....YEA
- MR. ROBERT P. STEPHENS.....YEA
- MRS. ANNE HILTON.....YEA
- MR. CHRISTOPHER EPLEY.....YEA

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

AN ORDINANCE
 BY VICE MAYOR BYINGTON NO. 4851
 TO AMEND EXISTING SECTION 148-1.081, CREDIT FOR TAX
 PAID TO ANOTHER MUNICIPALITY, OF THE OAKWOOD
 ADMINISTRATIVE CODE.

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

Vice Mayor Byington explained that this is the second reading of an ordinance that was introduced at the December 11 Council meeting. It would reduce the credit that Oakwood gives for income taxes paid to other cities. In Ohio, residents pay local income tax where they work and where they live. Oakwood currently gives residents a tax credit for all local income taxes paid elsewhere, up to the full amount of Oakwood's 2.5% income tax. In other words, if a person pays taxes where they work, that amount is credited against the tax they owe to the city of Oakwood.

This ordinance would reduce the credit using a factor of 0.9. What it means is this: Every resident who currently gets a credit will continue to get a credit, but their credit will be multiplied by 0.9. In other words, there is a slight reduction of their credit, but they will still get 90% of the credit they have always received.

This reduction factor does three other critically important things. First, it protects Oakwood's revenue from reductions that happen automatically when surrounding cities increase their income tax rates. Second, it ensures that all Oakwood residents who have taxable income will pay at least one-quarter of a percent (0.25%) to Oakwood. And finally, it ensures that no one's local tax burden will increase by more than one-quarter of a percent (0.25%). This last point bears repeating: no one's taxes will go up by more than one-quarter of a percent (0.25%) as a result of this ordinance.

This ordinance is a necessary step to stabilize city finances after losing nearly \$3 million of funding per year due to the 2013 repeal of Ohio's estate tax, state cuts to the Local Government Fund, and other state cuts, and after tax rate increases in 24 other cities have cost the city of Oakwood nearly \$800,000 in annual revenue.

The city has looked at this issue from every direction, and reviewed a number of approaches with the 34 member citizen Budget Review Committee. It was concluded that this approach, which has the full support of the Budget Review Committee, is the most balanced and appropriate way to spread the impact over the broadest base of residents, yet in the smallest way possible

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

Mayor Duncan invited Bill Frapwell, co-chair of the Budget Review Committee, to say a few words.

Mr. Frapwell stated that no one wants to pay more taxes, but when the facts were presented to the Budget Review Committee, the committee felt the 90% compromise would be the best course of action moving forward.

Mayor Duncan read the following statement into the record:

"I support this ordinance and, if approved by City Council tonight, the reduced credit option will stabilize our financial situation, provide for future city property tax renewals only (no new city property taxes) and protect our city from revenue losses if surrounding cities increase their income tax rates. It also endorses the financial stewardship of our city staff who work tirelessly on behalf of all our residents.

All members of City Council appreciate the advice and counsel from our 35 member Budget Review Committee. They have been instrumental in assisting our City Council and city staff with our financial challenges over the past seven years. We appreciate their support of our 2018 budget and the tax credit limitation ordinance.

It is important to understand how we arrived at this point.

In my 2012 State of the City address, I noted that there are people in the Ohio General Assembly and the current administration who do not agree with the right of Oakwood and other charter cities throughout Ohio to provide services under the "home rule" provisions of the Ohio constitution, provisions which were established over 100 years ago. They believe there are too many local governments and school districts in Ohio and plan to force local government and school district consolidation by reducing our revenue streams. My comments then were prescient.

In 1935, after a two year debate, local governments and school districts reduced local property taxes by 1/3 in exchange for a 3% state sales tax, 40% of which would go to the Local Government Fund (LGF).

In 2010 the Governor and the Ohio General Assembly broke its 75 year covenant with local governments by keeping the majority of the LGF for themselves. Local governments were no longer partners with the State but instead expenditures which needed to be eliminated.

Effective January 1, 2013 the State of Ohio eliminated the Ohio estate tax, 80% of which benefited local governments. At the time, this accounted for about 20% of our revenue. Current and former Oakwood City Councils prudently used these funds to build our Public Works facility, renovate and improve our city building, acquire the Old River playing fields, allowed a city property tax issue to expire, increased our operating reserves and ensured no city debt for future generations.

In 2013 and 2014 we fought and were unsuccessful in opposing H.B.5. This poorly written legislation by lobbyists for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and the Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants did not promote municipal tax uniformity, did not reduce complexity for business and did not create jobs. We commended our State Representative Jim Butler and our State Senator Peggy Lehner for opposing this legislation.

In December 2014, I reported to the citizens of Oakwood, "It is now clear the Ohio General Assembly is not our partner in providing services to the citizens of Ohio. They are, in fact, an existential threat to local governments. We are very concerned that the next General Assembly will continue their assault on local governments. We know they want to eliminate municipal income taxes entirely or, absent that, eliminate our ability to collect taxes locally and set our own rates and credits for taxes paid to other cities."

Like clockwork, in 2017 the General Assembly passed centralized municipal tax collection for certain businesses. We testified, to no avail, that the entire purpose of this

proposal was to take control over the administrative process of municipal income tax, which will benefit special interest groups and create a new stream of revenue for the State of Ohio, all at the expense of cities. Two weeks ago, a judge in Franklin County issued a preliminary injunction against the State of Ohio for their recent actions. The case will be adjudicated this year.

Although Oakwood has not increased its city income tax rate since 1984, 24 other cities where our citizens work have increased their income tax rates. Because we give a 100% credit for taxes paid to another jurisdiction, their tax increases have reduced our revenue by about \$800,000 annually.

These cities include Blue Ash, Brookville, Centerville, Clayton, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Evendale, Fairborn, Franklin, Huber Heights, Kettering, Mason, Miamisburg, Middletown, Moraine, Oxford, Piqua, Sidney, Springfield, Tipp City, Vandalia, West Carrollton and Xenia. Oakwood residents work in all of these cities.

Dayton, Kettering, Moraine and Centerville account for over \$600,000 of the \$800,000 revenue shortfall.

Although it is never a pleasant task to raise income taxes, it has not occurred in Oakwood since 1984. In a representative form of government, we are elected to represent the best interests of our residents and, if we do not do so, the residents will replace us as provided by our charter and the laws of the State of Ohio. I concur with Vice Mayor Byington that this ordinance is the most balanced and appropriate way to spread the impact over the broadest base of residents."

Vice Mayor Byington read the following statement into the record:

"Several years ago there was a tax credit plan before this Council that I was not able to support. While I fully understood the varying factors that led to it proposal, and completely agreed with the need those factors created, I could not support the details of the plan that was ultimately put forward. As part of my "no" vote, I openly shared my specific concerns at that time. However, that version's subsequent failure, did not make the underlying need for a viable budget solution go away. In fact, many of the factors which we predicted would steadily get worse and exacerbate that need, have ultimately come to fruition.

This Council, our incredible City Staff, and the hard-working volunteers on our Citizen Budget Review Committee have worked diligently since that previous vote to re-shape the specifics of that proposal into a revised solution that best serves the broadest contingent of Oakwood residents as possible. It has certainly not been an easy process. There has been a tremendous amount of quantitative analysis, detailed fiscal modeling, and exhaustive public discussions that have gone into the formation of the plan before us tonight. Unlike our so-called leaders in Washington and Columbus, we did not hurriedly or haphazardly throw this plan together. We put in the hard work. We took our time to make sure that the process was thorough and inclusive. Doing so allowed us the opportunity to properly present and thoroughly vet all of our options with a wide range of Oakwood residents.

This is not to say that everyone we have discussed our findings with has liked our conclusions or the resulting policy suggestions that have come from them, but I can definitively say that everyone who has taken the time to contact me through calls, e-mails, or in person, and I suspect the same is true for my fellow Council members, has had their thoughts and opinions heard and thoughtfully considered. We do not hide from open discussion; we relish it. It makes us better at our jobs.

In the toxic political environment that our country is going through right now, I am extremely proud of the fact that, at the local level, the meaningful involvement and active participation of our citizens allows this Council and all of Oakwood's City staff to engage in true public service; and not politics as usual.

Ultimately, leadership boils down to confronting the challenges that immediately face our community and doing what we believe is truly best for our City and its future prosperity. It is that charge which is going to guide my vote this evening."

There being no other Council comments, Mayor Duncan called for a vote.

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. ANNE HILTON	YEA
MR. CHRISTOPHER EPLEY.....	YEA

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

STAFF REPORT – NONE

CITY MANAGER’S COMMENTS – Mr. Klopsch provided an update on the following items:

Mr. Klopsch shared that it was wonderful recognizing the Oakwood Public Safety Department this evening.

Mr. Klopsch commended the Leisure Services Department on their recent event and activity brochure that contained many different offering. The Leisure Services Department constantly works to come up with new and creative ideas. He thanked Leisure Services Director Carol Collins and her staff.

Mr. Klopsch gave a shout out to the Public Works Department for all of their efforts during the recent cold weather. Many employees have been working overtime to deal with water main breaks and to take care of the roads.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Stephens congratulated Captain Pruszynski on his promotion. He said that the promotion is well deserved and he will do a great job. Mr. Stephens thanked his wife, children and parents for their continued support of his work on City Council.

Vice Mayor Byington congratulated Mr. Weiskircher on his retirement. He also congratulated Mr. Stephens and Mrs. Hilton on their re-election. Vice Mayor Byington commented that Oakwood is fortunate to have active, caring and engaged residents.

Mayor Duncan thanked City Council for re-electing him as mayor and Mr. Byington as vice mayor. He mentioned that Dorothy Lane Market is celebrating their 70th anniversary this year.

The public meeting concluded at 8:50 p.m.



MAYOR

ATTEST:



CLERK OF COUNCIL