

CITY OF OAKWOOD
STATE OF OHIO
NOVEMBER 4, 2019

The Council of the city of Oakwood, State of Ohio, met in a work session at 7:00 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 Vice Mayor, Mr. Steven Byington, presided, and the Clerk of Council, Ms. Lori Stacel, recorded. Vice Mayor Byington opened the meeting by asking 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.....	ABSENT
MR. STEVEN BYINGTON	PRESENT
MR. ROBERT P. STEPHENS.....	ABSENT
(Note: Mr. Stephens joined the meeting at 7:40 p.m.)	
MRS. ANNE S. HILTON.....	ABSENT
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
Mrs. Jennifer Wilder, Personnel and Properties Director
Ms. Lori Stacel, Clerk of Council

The following visitors registered:

Mark & Betty Hughes, 106 Oak Knoll Dr., Oakwood, OH 45419
Sam Dorf, 101 Oak Knoll Dr., Oakwood, OH 45419
Grant Neeley, 123 Oak Knoll Dr., Oakwood, OH 45419
Susanne Ordonez, 440 Irving Ave., Oakwood, OH 45409
Raul Ordonez, 440 Irving Ave., Oakwood, OH 45409
Kip Bohachek, Property Maintenance Board Chair
Michael Cox, 240 Acorn Dr., Oakwood, OH 45419
Tom & Judy Thompson, 239 Forrer Blvd., Oakwood, OH 45419
Marsha Tolle, 244 Harman Blvd., Oakwood, OH 45419
Sharon Kelly, 148 Greenmount Blvd., Oakwood, OH 45419
Sara Harrison, 336 Ridgewood Ave., Oakwood, OH 45409
June & Larry Crawford, 20 Patterson Rd., Oakwood, OH 45419
Kevin Jones, 215 Pointe Oakwood Way, Oakwood, OH 45409
Laura Enzbrenner & Bob Eling, 69 E. Dixon Ave., Oakwood, OH 45419
Jimmy Leach, 214 Spirea Dr., Oakwood, OH 45419
Susan Gardstrom, 2754 Fairmont Ave., Oakwood, OH 45419
Ben & Erin Kunz, 31 Triangle Ave., Oakwood, OH 45419
Meghan Henning & Doug Daniels, 951 E. Schantz Ave., Oakwood, OH 45419
Paul Goodling, 200 Peach Orchard Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45419
Anthony Smith, 11 Dellwood Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45419
Ted Kircher, 522 Volusia Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45419
Tim Benford, 132 Greenmount Boulevard, Oakwood, OH 45419
Denise Taylor, 321 Dellwood Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45419
Lucy Baker, 400 Monterey Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45419
Colleen Gallagher, 428 Triangle Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45419
Myrna Gabbe, 345 Peach Orchard Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45419
Crecia Orsello, 37 Park Road, Oakwood, OH 45419
Michele Berry, 120 Grandon Road, Oakwood, OH 45419
Bill & Sue Trollinger, 1319 Devereux Drive, Oakwood, OH 45419
Deo Eustace, 7745 John Elwood Drive, Dayton, OH 45459
Seamus Sullivan, 236 Wisteria Drive, Oakwood, OH 45419
Leslie Picca, 317 Dellwood Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45419
Autumn Lockwood Payton, 407 Triangle Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45419
Rachel Collopy, 305 Orchard Drive, Oakwood, OH 45419
Caroline Waldrun, 205 Kramer Road, Oakwood, OH 45419
Lily Behnke, 1518 E. Schantz Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45419
Suki Kwon, 901 Acorn Drive, Oakwood, OH 45419
Stephanie & Kurt Houdeshell, 300 Oakwood Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45409
Shannon Toll, 50 Telford Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45419
Lieutenant Damian Baggett and Family
Various Members of Oakwood Safety Department
Brian Barr, *Oakwood Register*

The following individuals were observed in attendance, but did not sign in:
 Roger Crum, 159 Aberdeen Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45419
 Dean Parmelee, 400 Schenck Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45409
 Dr. Martha Hurley, UD Professor

It was moved by Vice Mayor Byington and seconded by Mr. Epley that the absences of Mayor Duncan and Mrs. Hilton be excused. Upon a viva voce vote on the question of the motion, same passed unanimously and it was so ordered.

Vice Mayor Byington shared that Mr. Stephens will be a few minutes late to the meeting.

Mr. Epley advised Council he had read the meeting minutes of the October 7, 2019 regular session, work session and executive session and the October 28 executive session. Mr. Epley reported he found the minutes correct and complete. Therefore, it was moved by Mr. Epley and seconded by Vice Mayor Byington 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

Lieutenant Promotion – Vice Mayor Byington welcomed PSO Damian Baggett and his family. He then administered the Oath of Office. Chief Hill shared that Lieutenant Baggett is filling an open position created with the pending retirement of Lieutenant Yount after almost 30 years of service. Chief Hill then reviewed the highlights of Lt. Baggett's career and shared that he was pleased to promote Lt. Baggett. Lieutenant Baggett's wife pinned the lieutenant bars onto his uniform.

VISITORS

Scarecrow Row Award Winners – Vice Mayor Byington recognized the 2019 Scarecrow Row Award winners. Awards and certificates were presented to the following: Third Place – “Slip N Died” by the Neumeister Family; Second Place – “Sinister City Face-Off” by the Oakwood Sister City Association; First Place – “The Blue Screen of Death” by the Beck Family; Mayor's Award – “Eerie Express” by the Oakwood Beautification Committee.

2019 Beautification Award Winners – Vice Mayor Byington explained that a video will be shown highlighting all the winners and then he will present certificates to those who are at the meeting. He was assisted by Kip Bohachek, Property Maintenance Board Chair. The following properties were shown in the video:

Kurt & Stephanie Houdeshell, 300 Oakwood Avenue; Kevin Jones, 215 Pointe Oakwood Way; Laura Enzbrenner, 69 E. Dixon Avenue; Brad & Jane Lynch, 152 Patterson Road; Jonathon & Tamiko Ritschel, 117 Forrer Boulevard; Thomas & Judith Thompson, 239 Forrer Boulevard; Carol Andrews, 116 Monteray Avenue; Beth Roederer, 332 East Drive; Michael & Marci Verdon, 2614 Deep Hollow Lane; Mark & Betty Hughes, 106 Oak Knoll Drive; Carl & Kathleen Carlson, 222 Glendora Avenue; Dean Parmelee, 400 Schenck Avenue; Scott & Holly Fischer, 220 E. Dixon Avenue; Marsha Tolle, 244 Harman Boulevard; The Spikes Family, 105 Aberdeen Avenue; Camela Furry, 424 Aberdeen Avenue; Nancy Nichols & Darci Gerber, 357 Monteray Avenue; Carol Fleck, 416 E. Peach Orchard Avenue; Andrew & Carla Fiden, 1312 Devereux Drive; David & Judith Duwel, 1492 Ridgeway Road; Teresa Rhodes, 159 E. Thruston Boulevard; Adam & Noreen Beiersdorfer, 454 E. Schantz Avenue; Laurie Hessler, 400 Harman Boulevard; Larry & June Crawford, 20 Patterson Road; Jack Strass, 300 Lonsdale Avenue/1508 Hathaway Road; Federico & Jennifer Medrano, 219 Forrer Boulevard; Paul & Lauren Goodling, 200 E. Peach Orchard Avenue; Jonathan & Lindsey Fulton, 409 Orchard Drive; Susan Hearn, 1115 Oakwood Avenue; Christine Hemmelgarn, 1111 Oakwood Avenue; Duane & Sara Harrison, 336 Ridgewood Avenue; Andrew & Jennifer Howe, 101 E. Thruston Boulevard; Tina Lusignola, 20 E. Dixon Avenue; Greg & Jenny Meyer, 134 Beverly Place; AJ & Liz Lewis, 214 Lonsdale Avenue; Christopher Endres, 24 Corona Avenue; Bill & Athanasia Zois, 304 Monteray Avenue; TR Holdings, LLC, 306 Triangle Avenue; John & Katherine Hemmert, 205 Dell Park Avenue; and Michael & Jenifer Dinwiddie, 811 Far Hills Avenue.

Sam Dorf, 101 Oak Knoll Drive, came to the podium to share that there are a group of people attending the meeting to discuss the ABLE report that addresses traffic stops in Oakwood. He asked City Council to share their findings now that they have had 30 days to review the document.

Vice Mayor Byington explained that Mayor Duncan stated at the October 7 council meeting that he will provide an updated status report to the community after 60 days, which would be at the December 9 council meeting. He shared that two meetings have already occurred between the City, Dr. Hurley and Mr. Ellis to discuss the ABLE report in detail, and a third meeting may possibly be scheduled. City Council and city staff are exercising due diligence in addressing concerns with the report, and to understand the report in detail.

Mr. Dorf commented that the concern is not just with the report, but also with the culture and perception of Oakwood. The current perception of why certain people are not welcome in Oakwood should be addressed as well.

Vice Mayor Byington agreed that the perception issue should be addressed. He stated that City Council is always looking for ways to welcome people into the City, and suggestions on how to do things better.

Myrna Gabbe, 345 Peach Orchard Avenue, asked if there has been any discussion on diversifying the police force in Oakwood because her perception is that there is not much diversity.

Vice Mayor Byington commented that it is Oakwood's policy to hire the absolute best candidates for the job. He added that while City Council does not hire the officers directly, they have full confidence in city staff's hiring decisions.

Roger Crum, 159 Aberdeen Avenue, clarified that Ms. Gabbe's question was not about hiring the most qualified officers, but questioning if there are goals to seek out candidates from diverse groups to help create the excellent core of public safety officers. He stated his belief that diversity is a worthy aim in and of itself.

Vice Mayor Byington shared that recruitment standards are in place to hire the highest caliber of officers, and race is not a factor.

Mr. Crum commented that he is not hearing that Oakwood has a strategic initiative to diversify the workforce. He opined that the community needs to work on perception and the question of diversity is at the core.

Leslie Picca, 317 Dellwood Avenue, shared that the ABLE report only scratches the surface of the broader issue of perception. She urged City Council to look into the perception issues, and said that citizens are willing to help.

Vice Mayor Byington stated that City Council and city staff are always available for feedback and/or comments. Oakwood is a small community and the members of council are here to serve. He explained that the perception concern is not being taken lightly and the conversations should take place in the right venues to produce results. He urged people to reach out to City Council or city staff to share thoughts and opinions.

Rachel Collopy, 305 Orchard Drive, explained that concerns of bias and discrimination have come up before in Oakwood. She asked if City Council is committed to real and substantial change to both formal and informal policies versus things just continuing as they always have.

Vice Mayor Byington explained that members on City Council are also citizens of the Oakwood community. This issue, along with every issue brought forward, is taken very seriously. Unfortunately, there are not always easy solutions, but City Council is always looking to find ways to make Oakwood the best it can be.

Mrs. Collopy commented that she hopes that City Council will have a plan that includes checks and balances to measure how the plan is working. There has to be a starting point and a way to measure the changes.

LEGISLATION

AN ORDINANCE

BY VICE MAYOR BYINGTON

NO 4894

TO AMEND SECTION I, 2019 ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 4870, SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION NO. 4887, AND SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION NO. 4891 TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF:

1. AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF \$422,137.00 TO BE EXPENDED FROM THE POLICE PENSION FUND TO PAYOFF THE OHIO POLICE & FIRE PENSION LIABILITY; AND
2. AN AMOUNT OF \$422,000.00 TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE POLICE PENSION FUND; AND

3. AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF \$32,000.00 TO BE EXPENDED FROM THE EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FUND TO PURCHASE A VEHICLE FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR; AND
4. AN AMOUNT OF \$32,000.00 TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FUND.

FOR THE CITY OF OAKWOOD, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019.

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 a supplemental appropriation ordinance that will allow the City to make two expenditures not already included in the 2019 budget. One is the early payoff of a liability owed to the state of Ohio, and the other is the purchase of a vehicle for use by the Director of Engineering and Public Works.

The Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund ("OPFP") was created by the Ohio General Assembly in 1965 to replace hundreds of individual local police and fire pension plans. At the time, many cities including Oakwood had pension liabilities on paper exceeding the assets needed to pay future retiree benefits. In other words, once the state assumed control of local pension plans, many local governments owed money to the state. These liabilities were placed on a 65 year payment schedule, with payments beginning in 1970 and continuing through 2035.

The current payoff figure for Oakwood's remaining liability is \$422,137, which continues to incur interest at an average rate of 4.25 percent. Due to the difference between that interest rate and the amounts generated by city investments, Council has determined that it costs the city more to carry this debt, and paying off this liability early is the most prudent use of city resources. By paying off the liability now, the city will save approximately \$175,000 in interest expenses that would otherwise accrue between now and 2035.

It should be noted that 0.3 mills of the city's inside-millage property tax revenues, which amounts to approximately \$96,000 annually, have been dedicated to servicing this liability. Once the liability is paid off, the Montgomery County Budget Commission has approved the reallocation of that money to the city's General Fund going forward.

The other expenditure is for a vehicle for the Director of Engineering and Public Works. The city has not employed a full-time Director in that department since the previous Director resigned in the fall of 2014. Those duties have been assumed by the City Manager in the interim, but a full-time Director of Engineering and Public Works will be hired later this year. The city no longer has a vehicle available for use by the person in that position and needs to acquire one.

In total, this supplemental appropriation will authorize the transfer of \$454,000 from the city's General Fund, with \$422,000 going to the Police Pension Fund and \$32,000 going to the Equipment Replacement Fund in order to pay for these expenditures.

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

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

MR. STEVEN BYINGTON	YEA
MR. ROBERT P. STEPHENS.....	YEA
MR. CHRISTOPHER EPLEY.....	YEA

There being three (3) yea votes and no (0) nay votes thereon, said ordinance was declared duly passed and it was so ordered.

AN ORDINANCE
BY MR. STEPHENS NO. 4895
TO APPROVE CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE
OAKWOOD TRAFFIC AND GENERAL OFFENSES CODES.

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

Mr. Stephens explained that each year, City Council passes an annual house-keeping ordinance to align Oakwood's local traffic and criminal ordinances with changes that have been made at the state level. This ordinance will adopt Oakwood's 2019 replacement pages for the Traffic Code and the General Offenses Code.

This was a first reading of the ordinance, so Mr. Stephens made no motion.

STAFF REPORT – NONE

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS – NONE

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Stephens thanked the Oakwood Public Safety Department for doing a great job in responding to the power outages that occurred throughout the city this morning.

Vice Mayor Byington congratulated Lieutenant Baggett for his promotion. He then reminded everyone that tomorrow is Election Day and encouraged everyone to vote.

The public meeting concluded at 8:37 p.m.


MAYOR

ATTEST:


CLERK OF COUNCIL