

CITY OF OAKWOOD
STATE OF OHIO
FEBRUARY 3, 2020

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.

The Mayor, Mr. William Duncan, presided, and the Clerk of Council, Ms. Lori Stacel, recorded. Mayor Duncan 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.....PRESENT
- MR. STEVEN BYINGTONPRESENT
- MR. ROBERT P. STEPHENS.....PRESENT
- MRS. ANNE S. HILTON.....PRESENT
- MR. CHRISTOPHER B. EPLEYPRESENT

Officers of the City present were the following:

- Mr. Norbert S. Klopsch, City Manager
- Mr. Robert F. Jacques, City Attorney
- Mrs. Cindy Stafford, Finance Director
- Chief Alan Hill, Public Safety Director
- Ms. Lori Stacel, Clerk of Council

The following visitors registered:

- Kristi Hale, Wright Memorial Public Library Director
- Bob Eling, Wright Memorial Public Library Board of Trustees
- Mary Hopton, Wright Memorial Public Library Fiscal Officer
- Joe Fulford, Wright Memorial Public Library Board of Trustees
- Leigh Ann Fulford, 219 Orchard Drive, Oakwood, OH 45419
- Kevin Connell, 546 Hathaway Road, Oakwood, OH 45419
- Will Connell
- Andrea White, City of Kettering Clerk of Courts
- Ann Marie Yanderburgh
- Lucas Butler
- Poithini Geetha Krishnamoorthy
- Brian Barr, *Oakwood Register*

The following individuals were observed in attendance, but did not sign in:
Stefanie Campbell, 271 Schenck Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45409

Mrs. Hilton advised Council she had read the meeting minutes of the January 6 regular session and work session, and January 27 executive session and work 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

2020 State of the City Address – Mayor Duncan gave the following address:

“Members of City Council, honored guests, City staff and citizens of Oakwood:

On behalf of Oakwood City Council, it is my honor to proclaim that Oakwood continues to be the premier residential community in the Dayton region.

We have this distinction because of our beautiful neighborhoods, our excellent public schools and library, unmatched city services, including public safety, public works, recreation and leisure, and most of all because of our citizens.

Community Ambience

Community ambience is the character and atmosphere of a place. It begins with our new resident breakfast in March, attended annually by over 100 new residents to our city. City staff prepares breakfast for our new neighbors moving to Oakwood from the Miami Valley, other states and foreign countries. Officials from the city, Oakwood City Schools, Wright Memorial Library, and the Oakwood Municipal Court describe to our new residents what makes Oakwood special.

In May, several hundred people participated in the 18th annual Care Walk to fight breast cancer. The event raised over \$16,500 this year and over \$250,000 since its inception.

That Day in May community event continued its tradition of the pancake breakfast, 5k and 10k runs, parade, car show, dog costume contest, displays, games, rides and food.

In August, the 20th annual Giving Strings concert, with 120 musicians of various ages, raised over \$3,500 for the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

In October, more than 2,000 walkers participated in the 6th annual Out of the Darkness Walk to Stop Suicide. Suicide is at an 18 year high in Ohio among youth aged 8 to 19. In December, Oakwood Public Safety Captain Mike Jones and Detective Kasey Ballinger received a report of a student three hours away who was contemplating suicide. Their extraordinary above and beyond efforts resulted in the saving of a young life. I refer you to the Oakwood Register January 8, 2020 issue for a complete report of this event. Thank you Captain Jones and Detective Ballinger.

City Staff and Volunteers

We will issue our 2019 Annual Report to every household in the near future. This report provides an abundance of information about our city and the services we provide to our citizens. Accordingly, I will not repeat tonight the good news found in the report. Please read this interesting report at your leisure.

We have an outstanding city staff led by City Manager Norbert Klopsch. He begins his 18th year as our City Manager and is recognized throughout the region for his leadership skills.

Under the leadership of Chief Alan Hill, our Public Safety Director, we added experienced Public Safety Officers Chris Slone and Kyle Sewert, and promoted Damien Baggett to Lieutenant.

Lt. Chuck Balaj was recognized for his work on the Dayton/Cincinnati Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) where he played a critical role in arresting and convicting Laith Alebbini for attempting to conspire and provide material support and resources to ISIS. This was the first ever conviction on an international terrorism case in the Southern District of Ohio.

Detective Jeff Yount, Jr. received the Tactical Crime Suppression Unit (TCSU) Agent of the Year award. This recognition was for his cumulative body of work over the course of the year.

We offered our second Citizen Police Academy in 2019. This 10 week program is designed to educate citizens about the functions of our Public Safety Department and the challenges of modern day policing matters.

We also implemented a new program entitled Assisting and Contributing to Oakwood Resident Needs (ACORN).

We continually receive notes and comments from citizens complementing our Public Works Department for their courteous and outstanding service. Our employees assisted the City of Dayton with debris cleanup after the May tornadoes. We welcomed Doug Spitler, P.E. in January 2020 as our Director of Engineering and Public Works.

Carol Collins, our leisure services director, and her staff are directly responsible for our beautiful city parks, our designation as a Tree City USA for the 37th year, the 45th anniversary of Smith Gardens and for operating our Oakwood Community Center and all the excellent recreation programs available to our citizens of all ages.

Our finance director, Cindy Stafford, CPA, received another Auditor of State Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Less than 10% of the jurisdictions in the state of Ohio receive this award. She and her staff continue our tradition of transparency in all financial respects.

Rob Jacques continues to serve as our law director consistently providing sound and timely legal counsel and advice to the city manager, staff and City Council.

Jennifer Wilder, our director of personnel and properties, has continued our strong enforcement of our property maintenance standards and managed the favorable extension of all our collective bargaining agreements with city employees.

We have outstanding employees. Steve Alston, Steve Kunz and Shaun Huffman celebrated 30 years of service with our Public Works Department. Lieutenant Jeff Yount, Sr. celebrated 30 years of service with our Public Safety Department. Because we generally hire experienced employees from other jurisdictions, Lieutenant Yount's years of public safety service to Oakwood may never be surpassed.

Public Works employee, Chris North and former PSO and current dispatcher Leslie Zengel celebrated 35 years of service with the city.

And Director of Leisure Services, Carol Collins, celebrated 45 years of service to our fine city.

We are also blessed to have over 100 citizen volunteers who serve on our Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Board of Health, Property Maintenance Board, Budget Review Committee, Beautification and other committees.

Oakwood Schools and Wright Memorial Library

Everyone knows Oakwood has great schools but did you know US News and World Report ranked Oakwood High School seventh best of the 736 Ohio public schools ranked.

The OHS Academic Decathlon team won the Division III National Championship for the eighth year in a row. They earned the highest team score ever in Division III history and finished second overall out of 73 competing teams.

How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice! Well, Oakwood Junior High student Alex Zhang performed at Carnegie Hall last April as part of American Protégé International Piano and Strings Competition. Congratulations Alex.

In 2019, Wright Memorial Public Library celebrated its 80th anniversary. Under the leadership of Director Kristi Hale, they received their second four-star rating from Library Journal's 2019 Star Libraries report. The index measures circulation, visits, program attendance and public internet use. Wright Library ranked in the top 1.5% of libraries under \$4.9 million in expenditures. Their beautiful building is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Neighborhoods

We have outstanding diversity in housing choices. Although most of our housing stock is over 70 years old, our homes and properties are better maintained than any other city around and our home values prove it. In 2019, 78% of Oakwood home sales were higher than the County appraised value.

New home construction continues on the remaining lots in Pointe Oakwood. The 84 unit luxury condominium project known as Element Oakwood is essentially complete and new residents began moving in last month. We are excited about these additional housing choices for our citizens.

Because Oakwood is essentially one large neighborhood, we take traffic enforcement very seriously. As a result of the 2017 Shroyer Road Diet project, speeds on this one mile stretch of roadway have dropped between 4 and 11 miles per hour. In 2016, we issued 236 speeding tickets on Shroyer Road. In 2018, we issued only 36 speeding tickets.

Financial Stewardship

The eight years of the Governor Kasich administration were difficult for counties, cities and villages as the State of Ohio broke its 75 year partnership between state and local governments.

Instead of us working together as partners, and recognizing the enormously important role that local government plays in providing services to the citizens of Ohio, the State chose to treat us as an expenditure to be reduced. I am happy to report that Governor DeWine recognizes the value of the partnership between state and local governments. His policies and tone have been a welcomed change for local governments.

Under the leadership of City Council, our outstanding city staff and the advice and counsel of our 35 member citizen Budget Review Committee, we met the challenges to our financial stability. We reduced expenses each year between 2009 and 2014. We had modest increases in spending in the last few years but those included major capital expenditures to redesign Shroyer Road, to replace our 65 year old tennis courts at the Oakwood Community Center, and to pay off our Ohio Police & Fire Pension liability.

Our revenue exceeded our expenses in 2019 and we believe this will also be the case in 2020. We now offer a 90% credit for city taxes paid to other jurisdictions. This important action reduced our continuing loss of revenue when surrounding cities raise their tax rates and ensures that all Oakwood residents with taxable income pay at least 0.25% to Oakwood.

Well Governed, Well Managed and Financially Strong

As I begin my 17th year on Oakwood City Council and my 11th year as Mayor, I am humbled to follow in the footsteps of former Mayor Jeff Ireland, Mayor Gretchen Bullock, and my mentor, Mayor Judy Cook. I am also honored to serve with my fellow members of Council. Steve Byington begins his 13th year as a member of Oakwood City Council and his 11th year as our Vice Mayor. Council members Rob Stephens and Anne Hilton begin their 11th year on City Council and Council member Chris Epley begins his seventh year on City Council.

This Council, like those that preceded it, operates in a collégial style and everyone believes in doing the right thing for the citizens of Oakwood. We listen to one another, no one has hidden agendas, and we believe in community service. Our representatives in Washington DC should follow our example.

When I joined City Council in 2003, it was my belief that Oakwood was well governed, well managed and financially strong. I still hold that belief and will continue this tradition.

With the help of City Council, city staff and the citizens of Oakwood, we will continue to be well governed, well managed and financially strong.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you."

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

The reappointments of Dr. Dave Denka to the Board of Health; Nina Anglin to the Personnel Appeals Board; Dan Ferneding (A), Jeff Woeste (B), Mark Risley (C), Michael Vanderburgh (D), Heidi Edwards (D), Bill Rieger (F) and Mike Ruetschle (G) to the BRC; and the appointment of Kristina Marcus (A), Amanda Malusky Krauss (A) and A.J. Lewis (C) to the BRC, Jacob Fromholt to the Beautification Committee, Dr. Tom Hardy to the ADA Compliance Committee, and Polly Petricola (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.

Health District Annual Report – Mr. Klopsch encouraged citizens to watch the March 2 Oakwood City Council meeting where Board of Health members will speak publicly about suicide prevention programs. He then explained that per the City Charter, Oakwood has its own Board of Health. Oakwood operates the only local health district within Montgomery County. All other jurisdictions within the county are served exclusively by the combined health district known as Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County. The Ohio Revised Code requires that local health districts publish an annual report with vital statistics. Oakwood submitted this report to the State, and the report will be available on the City's website.

VISITORS

Mayor Duncan recognized Andrea White, Kettering Clerk of Courts, in the audience. He explained that Mrs. White is running for the Ohio House to fill the 41st District seat that will be vacated with the departure of Representative Jim Butler.

Wright Memorial Public Library, Kristi Hale – Wright Memorial Public Library Director Kristi Hale began her presentation by thanking City Council, and recognizing the following individuals in the audience: Wright Memorial Public Library Fiscal Officer Mary Hopton, Wright Memorial Public Library Board of Trustees President Joe Fulford, and Wright Memorial Public Library Board of Trustee member Bob Eling.

She then provided the following information about library services and a 1.5 mill property tax levy on the March 17, 2020 ballot.

Wright Library is committed to providing quality library services that are tailored to the priorities of the community. Wright Library is one of the most-used libraries in America attracting over 150,000 visitors per year. 99% of Oakwood voters surveyed consider Wright Library to be an important asset to the community.

The library continues to offer a variety of materials and services from their well-trained, quality staff with less annual revenue than it received in 2008. The materials available include books, audiobooks, movies, magazines, mobile hot spots, museum passes, Makerboxes, research databases, digital books, music, and movies, and other special collections. The library provides services such as: critical literacy support to Oakwood's children from cradle to college; technology tutoring and tech classes that help adults stay connected in a digital world; educational programs; and special services such as the "Wright to Your Home" homebound delivery service, notary services, and passport services.

The decision to put a levy on the ballot was not made lightly. The levy will protect the library services and maintain Wright Library's historic building with infrastructure repairs and needed updates to make the Library more accessible.

Mrs. Hale then invited Wright Library Board of Trustees President Joe Fulford to speak about the Library finances.

Mr. Fulford explained that Wright Library needs additional revenue to offset a decade of reductions in state funding, combined with rising costs of materials, wages, healthcare, and technology. With no increase in local tax support since 2009, Wright Library operates with less revenue today than it received in 2008.

Additional funding is needed to address infrastructure issues to bring the building up to today's building codes and unexpected issues that inevitably occur when repairing old buildings. The required building maintenance includes replacing HVAC units, replacing a roof and elevator, addressing drainage issues, bathroom remodels, update to efficient lighting and exterior repairs. In addition to the required repairs, modest updates are needed to better meet the needs of today's library users and to address infrastructure needs.

Beginning in 2020, revenues will fall short of operating expenses. Without additional levy funds, operating expenses, and building maintenance and repairs are expected to deplete the Library's reserves by 2024.

Mr. Fulford closed the presentation by encouraging the community to attend upcoming community information meetings about the Wright Library levy. Meeting dates and additional information is available on the Wright Library website.

Mayor Duncan stated that Wright Memorial Public Library is a gem, and he thanked Wright Library staff for their good work.

LEGISLATION

A RESOLUTION
BY VICE MAYOR BYINGTON NO 1867
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO
EXECUTE A THREE YEAR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF OAKWOOD CHAPTER OF THE
OHIO COUNCIL 8, DAYTON PUBLIC SERVICE UNION, LOCAL
101, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND
MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (AFL-CIO).

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 the current collective bargaining agreement covering the Public Works employees expired on December 31, 2019. The City entered into negotiations with the DPSU, which is the union representative for the Public Works employees, and has agreed to terms for a new three (3) year agreement. The new agreement includes responsible wage increases of 2.75%, 2.85%, and 2.95% over the next three years. This is consistent with increases being provided to the Public Safety Dispatchers, Officers, and Lieutenants, and all non-bargaining unit employees.

Vice Mayor Byington shared that he and Mayor Duncan reviewed the agreement as members of Council's Finance Committee, and this resolution will authorize the City Manager to implement it. City Council commended Director of Personnel Jennifer Wilder for her efforts on the City's behalf, and also the Public Works employees for their help in coming to a reasonable agreement.

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. 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.

STAFF REPORT

Public Safety Department Presentation: Chief Alan Hill, Public Safety Director, referenced a PowerPoint presentation and updated Council on the following topics: Crime Statistics; EMS Trends; Fire Trends; Personnel Changes; In-service Training Program and the Citizen Police Academy.

Chief Hill began his presentation by reporting that there has generally been a steady decrease of crime in Oakwood over the past five years. These statistics are impressive and show that the collective efforts of the Public Safety Department and the Oakwood community are working.

Oakwood experienced a 14% decrease in reported larceny offenses and had only 59 total reported larcenies in 2019. The clearance rate for these offenses was 32%, which was about ten percent higher than the national average of 22%. Overall, reported crimes experienced a 28% reduction from 2018 to 2019. Oakwood has only experienced three burglaries over the past three years and zero burglaries in 2019.

In 2019, Oakwood experienced an 8% increase in traffic accidents, but a 33% decrease in accidents that resulted in injury. One fatal traffic accident occurred in 2019. The *Shroyer Road Diet* is a main reason why injury accidents have decreased.

Medic runs in 2019 were slightly higher than the past three years. Oakwood’s mutual aid medic run requests to other jurisdictions have increased over the past five years. There were zero mutual aid medic responses to Oakwood from other jurisdictions in 2019.

2019 was a good year for fire loss in the Oakwood community. While the total number of responses was relatively stable in 2019, there were no fires that caused damage or fire loss. The Oakwood Public Safety Department continues to maintain an exceptional response time that is well below the national average.

Public Safety Officer Kyle Sewert was hired on November 18, 2019, and arrived with almost ten years of public safety experience. Officer Sewert was certified in all three disciplines and immediately began his field training program. Officer Sewert recently completed his field training program and is assigned to Crew #2. Dispatcher Jennifer Anderson was hired on December 16, 2019. She arrived with a tremendous amount of dispatching experience and most recently worked for the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Dispatcher Anderson has completed her field training program and is working on her own.

The Oakwood Public Safety Department has a comprehensive in-service training program covering all three disciplines. Over the past five years, the department has averaged 3,397 hours of in-service training annually. The training is done through online continuing education, classroom training and practical training exercises. The 2019 EMS training topics included: drug emergencies; SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome); Ohio trauma triage; pediatric triage; heat emergencies; taser and agitated delirium; behavioral emergencies and geriatric assessment and falls. The 2019 fire training included: SCBA donning drills; chimney fires; fire suppression; fire engine pump operations; emergency vehicle safety and driving; gas meter training; Haz-mat refresher; live burn scenarios and ladder deployment. The 2019 police training included: Terry Stops and warrantless searches; cultural competency; domestic violence; elder abuse; legal updates; school safety; community policing in the 21st century; use of force/defensive tactics; statement analysis and firearms training. The 2019 leadership training included: ethical issues for law enforcement; correcting poor performance; generational difference in the workplace; leading by example; managing change; ethical leadership and reducing liability for smaller agencies. The 2019 dispatch training included: call handling for dispatch; understanding stress for the dispatcher; beyond the basics; verbal judo for dispatchers and emergency medical dispatching. The 2019 specialty training included: narcotics investigations training; extreme close quarters concepts; evidence technician school; traffic

collision reconstruction; bike patrol school; sexual assault investigation; certified armorer courses; interview and interrogation and active shooter.

The Oakwood Public Safety Department hosted its second Citizens Police Academy (CPA) in 2019. This is a great program for citizens as well as the Safety Department. The CPA is free of charge, and the next academy is scheduled to start on September 9, 2020.

Mr. Stephens inquired about the three concealed weapon offenses in 2019.

Chief Hill explained that the offenses were identified during traffic stops.

Mr. Stephens asked how many medic runs are to the assisted living facility.

Chief Hill estimated that roughly 10-15% of the medic calls are to the assisted living facility.

Mrs. Hilton asked for additional information related to medic runs “no removal” and “mutual aid provided” as referenced in the PowerPoint presentation.

Chief Hill explained that “no removal” is when a patient is not transported to the hospital. They could have received treatment onsite, or refused medical treatment and transport. “Mutual aid provided” is when Oakwood Public Safety medics respond to a call for medical assistance in another jurisdiction.

Mrs. Hilton asked how often people refuse treatment.

Chief Hill stated that approximately 10% of patients will refuse treatment for various reasons.

Mrs. Hilton asked if people are charged for medical transportation.

Chief Hill confirmed that a soft billing practice is in place where insurance companies typically pay the bills.

Mayor Duncan mentioned an incident that occurred at Smith School last month and read the following letter from Smith School Principal Chrissy Elliott into the record:

“Chief Hill,

Words can't begin to express my gratitude toward your team today! From patrol to EMS to the lieutenant leading the investigation, they were top class, extremely professional and gave 110% in all that they did. I was amazed by the way they connected to our student making him feel safe and comfortable the entire ride to Children's. This afternoon, we reviewed our camera system and realized our front camera was able to capture most of the incident on tape. The investigator headed right over to the board office to debriefed with us and then was going to touch base with the family to share the findings that the video showed.

The Oakwood community is blessed to have such a devoted and professional team of first responders. Thank you for your leadership and sharing your team with our school.”

Mayor Duncan thanked the Oakwood Public Safety Department on behalf of the entire community for their efforts.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS – NONE

COUNCIL COMMENTS – NONE

The public meeting concluded at 8:32 p.m.



MAYOR

ATTEST:



CLERK OF COUNCIL