

CITY OF OAKWOOD
STATE OF OHIO
MAY 4, 2020

The Council of the city of Oakwood, State of Ohio, 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 acting Clerk of Council, Mr. Robert F. Jacques, recorded. Mayor Duncan reported that City Council is present at City Hall while respecting social distancing guidelines. The meeting is limited to essential attendees only including the five members of City Council, the City Manager, and the City Law Director who is also acting as the Clerk of Council.

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. Hilton advised Council she had read the meeting minutes of the April 6 regular 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 session 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

Oakwood Historical Society COVID-19 Experiences: Mayor Duncan encouraged residents and businesses to participate in the Oakwood Historical Society’s effort to capture the history of COVID-19 experiences by reading the following statement:

Our Oakwood Historical Society is embarked on an effort to capture and record our collective experiences here in Oakwood during this COVID-19 pandemic. The success of the Historical Society’s project depends in large part on the participation of our residents and businesses. Let me read a statement from our Historical Society:

It’s springtime in the year 2030. You’re looking back at the pandemic of 2020, the changes it dealt to daily life, and how you adjusted. How will you describe it? Human nature is that your future memory of what happened won’t be a recollection. It will be a reconstruction, built partly from what is happening now and largely from what you learn later about what hasn’t happened yet. It’s called hindsight bias.

If you don’t take the time to record your thoughts now, you will never really have an accurate, unbiased recollection. Future accounts will include such words and phrases as “Clearly...” or “It was obvious...”. The trouble is, nothing right now is obvious or certain. Most of us can’t envision what normal life will look like months into the future.

As Mayor of Oakwood, I encourage our residents and businesses to support the Oakwood Historical Society’s effort to capture the history of what is happening now—in real-time. The Society asks residents to submit their writings, drawings, pictures, videos, and whatever else you want to send the Society for safekeeping in our City archive. I urge you to go to the website, oakwoodhistory.org, and learn more details. There is also information about this project posted to our city of Oakwood website. Our collective experience will be lost unless individuals and businesses act now.”

LEGISLATION

AN ORDINANCE
BY MR. STEPHENS NO 4909
AN ORDINANCE LEVYING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR THE
IMPROVEMENT OF CERTAIN STREETS BETWEEN CERTAIN
TERMINI IN THE CITY OF OAKWOOD, OHIO, BY LIGHTING THE
SAME WITH ELECTRICITY.

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 this ordinance is the third step of the 2021 street lighting program, and was introduced with a first reading at the April 6 Council meeting. It allows for the costs of street lighting to be certified to the Montgomery County Auditor for assessment.

Thereupon, it was moved by Mr. Stephens and seconded by Mrs. Hilton that the ordinance 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 ordinance was declared duly passed and it was so ordered.

AN ORDINANCE
BY VICE MAYOR BYINGTON NO 4910
ADOPTING THE 2021 TAX BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF
OAKWOOD, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING
JANUARY 2021.

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 to comply with Section 6.01 of the City Charter, this is the annual housekeeping ordinance to estimate the City’s revenues and expenses for calendar year 2021. The ordinance was introduced with a first reading at the April 6 Council meeting.

The City Charter requires a public hearing for this ordinance. Notice of the hearing was published as required, inviting any interested residents to contact the Clerk of Council to arrange for remote testimony. No one has done so, and Vice Mayor Byington asked that the record reflect that the hearing was convened but no members of the public wished to testify.

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

Mayor Duncan added that this ordinance is not a representation of the actual 2021 budget. This ordinance is just a housekeeping item that is required by the City Charter.

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.

CITY MANAGER’S COMMENTS

Mr. Klopsch shared that Oakwood city staff is continuing to provide essential government public services such as water, sanitary sewer, refuse collection and disposal, roadway and public property maintenance, and public safety services. Mr. Klopsch thanked city staff for stepping up amid the COVID-19 pandemic and finding ways to continue to provide quality services to Oakwood residents.

A few weeks ago there was a story in the *Dayton Daily News* about Oakwood Public Safety Officer (PSO) Steve Norris being one of the first two people in the Dayton area to donate plasma after testing positive for COVID-19 back in March. PSO Norris remains the only city employee to have tested positive for COVID-19.

A press release was distributed last Friday announcing that city facilities will remain closed through Friday, May 29. This includes the City Building/Public Safety Building, the Oakwood Community Center and the Public Works Center. Employees remain available via phone or e-mail. Mr. Klopsch reported that he has not received a single complaint about city services from residents or businesses during the pandemic. Unfortunately, the Oakwood Community Center has had to modify many programs and events during this time. Events and programs are currently being planned for June and July. The opening of Gardner Pool remains a significant

challenge. Assuming that the coronavirus continues to taper off, city staff hopes to open Gardner Pool in some way this summer.

Mr. Klopsch closed his comments by thanking Oakwood residents and businesses for dealing with COVID-19 in the best way possible.

Mrs. Hilton asked how the Oakwood Health Department assists with citizen inquiries or concerns related to COVID-19.

Mr. Klopsch explained that it depends on the issue or question. Emails that are sent to the Oakwood Board of Health are monitored by city staff. City staff determines if the inquiry can be handled by city staff (including the Oakwood Public Safety Department), or if not, involves the Oakwood Board of Health members, the health commissioner, Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County or the Ohio Department of Health.

Mayor Duncan added that he and Mr. Klopsch met with Oakwood health officials in the early stage of the pandemic. The Oakwood Health Department is following the guidelines set in place by the Ohio Department of Health.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mrs. Hilton echoed Mr. Klopsch's comments about city staff continuing to provide quality city services regardless of the workforce adjustments related to COVID-19. Mrs. Hilton also recognized the ongoing efforts of Oakwood residents practicing social distancing. Mrs. Hilton closed her comments by suggesting that people participate in Locks of Love by donating their hair to kids with cancer.

Mr. Stephens sympathized with students who are missing important events in their life due to COVID-19. He commended the Oakwood School District for finding alternate ways to celebrate the Oakwood High School Seniors. The Oakwood School District, with the help of the Oakwood PTO, displayed yard signs along Shafor Boulevard for all Oakwood graduating seniors to celebrate their graduation.

Mayor Duncan encouraged people to visit Graeters Ice Cream. He then read a nice e-mail from Harman School Principal Sarah Patterson commending Oakwood Public Safety Officer and DARE Officer Sarah Whitaker:

"Good morning everyone! I hope you and your loved ones are doing well. I wanted to reach out and share with you what an amazing job Officer Whitaker is doing with our DARE classes. I wasn't even sure our fifth graders would have the opportunity to finish their time with her when we switched to off-site instruction. However, she took the initiative to learn Google classroom and collaborate with our staff to continue to bring this important and meaningful learning to our students. I had the opportunity to sit in on her classes today, and she is an absolute pro. She is warm and patient and responsive to all of their differences and manages the tools and online instruction beautifully! Thank you for sharing her with us. I am always grateful for your partnership with the schools!"

Mayor Duncan commented that Oakwood Public Safety Officers continue to go above and beyond for the Oakwood community. Mayor Duncan congratulated Councilmember Chris Epley for currently being in the lead in the Republican Primary for judge in the Second District Court of Appeals. Mayor Duncan ended his comments on a sad note, announcing the passing of beloved Oakwood resident Richard "Skip" Ordeman on April 24. Mr. Ordeman was a longtime member of the citizen member Budget Review Committee, and was instrumental, along with his wife Martha, in the Smith Gardens Fundraising Campaigns. There was an article in this past Sunday's *Dayton Daily News* written by Tom Archdeacon about Mr. Ordeman's role in creating the history of the Dayton Triangles football team. He will truly be missed.

The public meeting concluded at 7:53 p.m.



MAYOR

ATTEST:



CLERK OF COUNCIL