

CITY OF OAKWOOD
STATE OF OHIO
NOVEMBER 2, 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 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 BYINGTON.....PRESENT
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
Mrs. Jennifer Wilder, Director of Personnel and Properties
Ms. Lori Stacel, Clerk of Council

The following visitors registered:

Mr. Thomas Routsong, 494 Lookout Ridge, Oakwood, OH 45409
Mr. William Roes, 140 Patterson Road, Oakwood, OH 45419

Mrs. Hilton advised Council she had read the meeting minutes of the October 5 regular session and work session, and the October 26 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

Scarecrow Row Contest Winners – Mayor Duncan recognized the 2020 Scarecrow Row award winners and read the following:

“We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2020 Scarecrow building contest. This is the 18th year of this traditional fall event. Unfortunately, we were not able to conduct the Family Fall Festival that normally accompanies Scarecrow Row, but we still did the scarecrows, and did so safely. Our thanks to Leisure Services Director Carol Collins and her staff for developing the plan for how to safely conduct this event, and to all the participants. There were 29 entries this year which was three more than last year.

Due to COVID-19, the scarecrow judging took place differently this year. Normally, a couple residents join me in judging the scarecrows in-person on the day of the Family Fall Festival. This year, residents voted for their favorite scarecrow by either emailing or calling the Oakwood Community Center. We accepted one vote per household.

We have a PowerPoint that will show each winning scarecrow display as I announce it. We'll start with third place.

*Third Place – “Scare Zoom” by the Coudron Family;
Second Place – “Creepy Carrots” by the Wenig/Korab/Powell Families;
First Place – “Murder Hornets for \$200” by the MOMs of Oakwood; and
Mayor’s Award – “Legend of Shafor Hollow” by the Bagwell & Buck Family.*

Normally, we would invite the winners to receive their awards here in person this evening, but under the circumstances, decided to limit the meeting attendance. We will deliver the awards to each of the winners.

Thanks again to everyone who participated in building a scarecrow this year, and thanks to everyone that participated in the voting.”

2020 Beautification Award Winners – Mayor Duncan invited Personnel and Properties Director Jennifer Wilder to begin a video highlighting all the 2020 winners. Mrs. Wilder began a video displaying the following properties:

The Little Exchange, 45 Park Avenue; Jeffrey & Susan Purks, 626 Garden Road; Parker & Valerie Bedsoe, 626 Hathaway Road; William Roes, 140 Patterson Road; Todd & Alice Henry,

25 Spirea Drive; Rob & Molly Corrado, 251 Wiltshire Boulevard.; Michael & Rosalyn Williams, 255 Corona Avenue; Byron & Deborah Stirman, 219 Triangle Avenue; Ryan & Delores Leibecke, 362 Wonderly Avenue; James & Marty Schmidt, 1820 Coolidge Drive; Benjamin & Ashleigh Holt, 11 Park Avenue; Morten & Anja Kristiansen, 69 E. Thruston Boulevard; Jane Maney, 300 Southview Road; Matt & Kerri Jones, 233 Beverly Place; Billy & Pamela Combs, 230 Greenmount Boulevard; Rich & Tracy Baginski, 413 Lonsdale Avenue; William & Michelle McCarty, 221 Monterey Avenue; Carol Holm, 223 Hiltop Avenue; US Post Office, Wright Brother's Branch, 1 Oakwood Avenue; Robert & Donna Curry, 530 Maysfield Road; David Finkel & Holly Hall, 58 Spirea Drive; Josh & Kami Meador, 61 E. Dixon Avenue; Shaun & Tara Power, 50 Forrer Boulevard; Allan & Nancy McFarland, 310 Wiltshire Boulevard; Scott & Loretta Kadam, 442 East Drive; Cheryl & Amy Cleverly, 427 Triangle Avenue; Robert Dunlevey, 1317 Raleigh Road; Ryan & Abigail Platt, 535 Sweetwood Lane; Brian & Cara Kite, 338 Volusia Avenue; David & Denise Richard, 5 Shafor Circle; Mark & Cristia Tokar, 48 Wisteria Drive; Steve & Jill Passaretti, 241 Aberdeen Avenue; Trent Jervis & Hayley Roeckner, 217 Hadley Avenue; Monica Brouwer, 336 Monterey Avenue; Nathan & Kaitlin Auttelet, 2400 Shroyer Road; Mike & Heather Ruetschle, 1020 Little Woods Road; Richard & Shari Scharer, 1041 Runnymede Road.

Mayor Duncan thanked Mrs. Wilder for her work with the Beautification Awards and the Property Maintenance program. He also thanked the citizens for keeping Oakwood beautiful.

Mrs. Hilton thanked Mrs. Wilder for showing the video. She then asked who typically submits the award nominations.

Mrs. Wilder explained that the Oakwood Property Maintenance Board consists of three citizens from each of five property maintenance districts. Award nominations are submitted to the City by members of the Property Maintenance Board and by the general public.

VISITORS – There were no visitors wishing to address City Council.

LEGISLATION

AN ORDINANCE

BY VICE MAYOR BYINGTON

NO 4922

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 1, 2020 ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 4897 AND SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES NO. 4912, 4917, 4920, AND 4922 TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF:

1. AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF \$322,515.41 TO BE EXPENDED FROM THE LOCAL CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND TO COVER COSTS CONSISTENT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 5001 OF THE CARES ACT;

FOR THE CITY OF OAKWOOD, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020.

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 another supplemental appropriation ordinance to address coronavirus reimbursement funding the City is eligible to receive under the federal CARES Act. Council adopted similar ordinances in July and September, based on the City's increased eligibility to receive CARES Act funding. Initially Oakwood was eligible to receive a little over \$128,000. That was increased in September to approximately \$192,000. Oakwood's eligibility has now been increased by an additional \$322,015, plus an estimated \$500 in accrued interest, for a total of \$515,508.01 in CARES Act funding eligibility.

Council is required to adopt a supplemental appropriation ordinance in order to use the CARES Act money. Under Section 3.04 of the City Charter, this appropriation ordinance will take effect immediately upon adoption.

Thereupon, it was moved by Vice Mayor Byington and seconded by Mrs. Hilton that the second reading be waived and that the ordinance be passed tonight.

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 S. 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.

A RESOLUTION
BY VICE MAYOR BYINGTON NO
A RESOLUTION FINDING THAT PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL
ARE SUBSTANTIALLY DEDICATED TO MITIGATING OR
RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.

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 this is a resolution that also relates to federal CARES Act funding. CARES Act funding is generally intended to reimburse expenditures related to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, which can include a wide range of things from plexiglass barriers to video conferencing technology. Generally that money cannot be used to offset payroll expenses and benefits, but there is an exception for public safety employees.

Based on guidance from the US Department of the Treasury and from the Ohio Office of Budget and Management, there is a presumption that public safety employees – including police officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and support staff such as dispatchers – are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Oakwood’s Finance Director and Law Director have reviewed all available guidance to ensure that the presumption can be fairly applied in Oakwood. Council wishes to adopt this resolution, making a formal finding that the presumption applies to Oakwood Safety Department employees. Council believes that due to the unique nature of Oakwood’s consolidated Public Safety Department, where all officers are certified and serve as police officers, firefighters, and either paramedics or EMTs, Oakwood officers have been on the front lines of this pandemic and have been substantially dedicated to its mitigation and response.

It is important to note that CARES Act funding is limited, and we may not be able to apply that funding to offset all Safety Department payroll and benefit expenses. Industry standards require at least two officers every time we deploy an ambulance, and every crew is staffed with at least one paramedic, which is a higher level of medical certification than that of an EMT. For that reason, although the City is making the determination that all of Oakwood’s Public Safety employees are substantially dedicated to COVID-19 pandemic response, which is clearly the case, the City believes the employees most directly dedicated to pandemic response are one paramedic and one EMT per shift for the relevant March-December time period. Council is therefore authorizing the Finance Department to apply CARES Act funding, first, to offset the payroll and benefit expenses of those employees. Payroll and benefit expenses for other Public Safety Department employees will only be offset to the extent that additional CARES Act funding is available.

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.

AN ORDINANCE
BY MR. STEPHENS NO
AN ORDINANCE 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, 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 the 2020 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.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Klopsch apologized for the audio issues during the meeting. The audio equipment is tested prior to each meeting and the issues were not occurring earlier in the day. He then provided the following report:

The Oakwood Community Center recently launched a new website offering online event and program registration. Residents can still go to the Oakwood Community Center to register for events.

Leaf collection season is in full swing. Property owners are encouraged to view the bi-weekly yard debris collection map and to place leaves into the roadway gutter a day or two before their scheduled pick-up day. The fall leaves are converted into the leaf mulch that is offered to residents in the spring.

Installation of a storm sewer on Ridgewood Avenue will begin soon. The block between Schenck and E. Schantz will be closed for a few weeks to through traffic. Residents impacted by this work will receive personal notification.

Mr. Klopsch thanked the large section of the Oakwood community that has dealt with the Vectren gas line replacement work so far. This year's project is completed, but the multi-year project still has two to three more years to go. Once the entire project is completed, all of the gas line infrastructure throughout Oakwood will have been rebuilt.

The 2021 budget will be presented to City Council at the December 14 meeting. The citizen Budget Review Committee met last month with nine members attending in person and 14 members participating virtually via Zoom. A balanced budget will be presented for 2021 with no proposals of new taxes or fee increases.

Mrs. Hilton shared that she created her household profile on the new OCC online event registration website. She added that the website was very easy to use and recognized the Leisure Services Department for their great work.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice Mayor Byington wished everyone a happy Veterans Day and a very happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Mayor Duncan reminded everyone that tomorrow is Election Day and encouraged everyone to vote.

The public meeting concluded at 8:04 p.m.



MAYOR

ATTEST:



CLERK OF COUNCIL