

CITY OF OAKWOOD  
STATE OF OHIO  
MARCH 2, 2020

The Council of the city of Oakwood, State of Ohio, met in a work session and executive 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 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  
Chief Alan Hill, Public Safety Director  
Mrs. Jennifer Wilder, Personnel and Properties Director  
Ms. Lori Stacel, Clerk of Council

The following visitors registered:

Dr. Sallie Wilson Luther, 45 W. Peach Orchard Road, Oakwood, OH 45419  
Leigh Ann Fulford, 219 Orchard Drive, Oakwood, OH 45419  
Diane & Joe Scott, 249 Claranna Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45419  
Sydney Hardern  
Clara Leach  
Emma Gordon  
Anna Shillinglaw  
Lucas Butler  
Sam Casebere  
Liz Rubino  
P. Krishnamoorthy  
Brian Barr, *Oakwood Register*

The following individuals were observed in attendance, but did not sign in:

Dr. Bill Coyne, 302 Hathaway Road, Oakwood, OH 45419  
Stefanie Campbell, 271 Schenck Avenue, Oakwood, OH 45409

Mrs. Hilton advised Council she had read the meeting minutes of the February 3 regular 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

Proclamation – Mayor Duncan read a proclamation recognizing March as “Red Cross Month”.

Citizen Committee Appointments – Mayor Duncan presented the following citizen committee appointments:

The appointment of Nicole Motto to the Budget Review Committee and the reappointment of Larry Henry to the Personnel Appeals 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.

Voting Precincts – Mayor Duncan shared that there are several polling location changes that will impact Oakwood residents beginning with the March 17, 2020 Primary Election. The polling locations are listed on the City’s website as well as Montgomery County Board of Elections website. Precincts A and B will vote at the Oakwood Community Center; Precincts C, D and F will vote at Edwin D. Smith School; Precinct E will vote at Kettering Fairmont High School; and Precinct G will vote at the Oakwood City Building. Mayor Duncan encouraged people to get out and vote on March 17.

Public Safety Update – Mayor Duncan commented on a letter that Lieutenant Bradley M. Lambert sent to TCSU (Tactical Crime Suppression Unit) Director Robert Green recognizing Detective Jeff Yount, Jr. Detective Yount was recognized last month for receiving the 2019 TCSU *Agent of the Year* Award. Mayor Duncan then read the letter:

*“I would like to extend my appreciation for the efforts put forth by Det. Jeff Yount in regards to the homicide investigation in January. As you know, on January 18, 2020, KPD was dispatched to a found body wrapped in a blanket inside a dumpster on Aberdeen. The next day, January 19, 2020, we located the apartment nearby where the victim was killed. By that evening, the suspect had been identified, along with several possible locations he frequented. KPD Detectives were busy with other tasks and/or completely drained. As such, I contacted KPD Vice Sergeant, Sgt. Price and you for assistance in hunting for the suspect. You both quickly agreed to offer assistance and obtained Detectives to be used at my disposal, which I am greatly appreciative of.*

*Within a few hours, we had found our suspect and taken him into custody. Several of the Detectives responded back to KPD and offered any more assistance, without having to be asked. Most were thanked for their help and dismissed. During this time, Det. Yount had learned the suspect, who was being questioned by Det. Vandegrift and Det. McGuire, had not only confessed but described an area on the Kettering/Oakwood border where more evidence was located. Without being asked, Det. Yount volunteered and went with Officer Walker. They ultimately found the evidence, dug it out of a dumpster, conducted evidence and returned to KPD with it.*

*Det. Yount went above and beyond, showing great effort and teamwork. Teamwork is the most important part of the work we do in Law Enforcement because it ensures the work is done efficiently, safely and successfully. Det. Yount’s display of teamwork, work ethic and dedication is to be commended and is much appreciated.”*

Mayor Duncan thanked Detective Yount for his hard work and dedication.

Mayor Duncan shared a report that he received from the city manager about the City receiving \$7,041 last week in forfeiture money related to a traffic stop initiated last year by Public Safety Officer (PSO) Jeff Payne. On April 14, 2019, Officer Payne ran a license plate while on stationary patrol on Shroyer Road. The driver of the vehicle, Ernest Tate, returned with an active felony warrant for drug trafficking in Montgomery County. PSO Payne stopped the car, arrested Mr. Tate, and upon search of his vehicle, discovered: 1) approximately 1 pound of marijuana, packaged in small baggies for resale; 2) 30 hydrocodone pills; and 3) just over \$10,000 in cash. The \$7,041 was deposited into the Law Enforcement Fund. Mayor Duncan thanked PSO Payne for a job well done.

## VISITORS

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training Program – Mayor Duncan introduced Board of Health member Dr. Sallie Wilson and Oakwood resident Leigh Ann Fulford, and recognized Board of Health members Dr. Bill Coyne and Diane Scott, RN in the audience. Dr. Wilson and Mrs. Fulford referenced a PowerPoint presentation and provided information regarding suicide awareness and prevention.

They began their presentation by sharing that they are long-term residents of Oakwood, survivors of suicide loss (members of a club they did not ask to join), volunteers/board members of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Ohio, members of Montgomery County’s Suicide Prevention Coalition, Creators of Dayton’s Out of the Darkness Walk and certified Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) trainers, and suicide awareness and prevention speakers.

Suicide does not discriminate. People of all genders, ages, and ethnicities can be at risk. Roughly 22 veterans are lost to suicide per day. Suicide is the second leading cause of death in youth ages 10-34. More youth die from suicide than from cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia, influenza, & chronic lung disease, combined.

In 2018, more than 48,000 Americans died by suicide and 1.4 million Americans attempted suicide in 2017. Each suicide leaves behind an average of 115 people affected by the loss. Youth suicides increased by 56% from 2007 – 2016. It is believed that suicide rates have been underreported, as many are recorded as accidents. Reports show that some opioid overdoses are actually suicides. Four out of ten suicides could be prevented by reducing access to means that could take the individuals life.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), the largest suicide prevention organization in the United States, has launched Project 2025 to lead a plan of action aimed at the organization's bold goal of reducing the annual suicide rate 20% by 2025. More than 400 walks around the nation spread awareness and raise the funds required for scientific research, education, resources and legislation directly related to suicide prevention, mood disorders and depression. The four key areas of focus for Project 2025 are firearms (nearly half of all suicides are by firearms), healthcare systems (many individuals who die by suicide visit their primary care physician the month prior), emergency departments (many individuals make a visit to the emergency room in the year prior to a suicide) and corrections systems (suicide is the leading cause of all jail deaths).

The AFSP provides educational programs that explain risk factors and warning signs, and focus on prevention. The AFSP also partners with organizations to promote gun safety as well as advocate for mental health care on the local and national level.

Two-day Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) workshops are provided to teach people how to support people actively thinking about suicide, also referred to as a "person with thoughts". The training focuses on keeping a person with thoughts safe; explores attitudes about suicide; teaches how to help a person with thoughts talk about their problems and teaches the caregiver how to hear and offer support; and supports the caregiver as well as the person with thoughts. The program explains how to apply mental health first aid to someone who desperately needs it.

Locally, people are being encouraged to talk about suicide. The language regarding suicide is being changed to reduce the stigma of shame and/or fear. For example, the phrase "committed suicide" is replaced with "died by suicide". The word committed implies that a crime was committed, which it was not. A suicide-safer community is being developed by teaching people how to recognize the signs of suicide and how to develop a plan to keep a person contemplating suicide safe.

An ASIST two-day workshop is being offered on Monday & Tuesday, May 4 – 5 at Oakwood United Methodist Church. The Oakwood Board of Health is very supportive of this workshop. Also, one-hour programs, such as "Talk Saves Lives" and "Its Real" are also available upon request.

Dr. Wilson and Mrs. Fulford ended their presentation by providing their contact information, as well as the Suicide Prevention Lifeline contact number. As a last thought, they shared that 5,200 youth died last year by suicide. Less than 150 students have died in school shootings since 2001. This national health crisis must be addressed.

Mayor Duncan thanked Dr. Wilson and Mrs. Fulford for their efforts and for being great community leaders.

Mrs. Fulford commented that the first breast cancer walk was nineteen years ago. Their hope is to make suicide awareness as familiar as breast cancer awareness has become.

Chief Hill reported that four Oakwood Public Safety Officers will attend the ASIST two-day workshop on Monday & Tuesday, May 4 – 5. A recent incident involving an individual actively thinking about suicide facilitated discussion on the resources and training that the Public Safety Department receives to support a person with thoughts. This training is a great opportunity for the Public Safety Department to learn about the best way to help a person with thoughts, as well as the individual's family and/or caregivers. Chief Hill thanked Dr. Wilson and Mrs. Fulford for hosting this workshop locally. Chief Hill closed his comments by stating that if the Public Safety Department is able to help one person after the workshop, the training was completely worth it.

Mayor Duncan commended the Public Safety Department for their participation in the workshop.

LEGISLATION

A RESOLUTION

BY MR. STEPHENS

NO 1868

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF REPAIRING SIDEWALKS AND APPURTENANCES THERETO ON PATTERSON ROAD AND CERTAIN OTHER STREETS BETWEEN CERTAIN TERMINI IN THE CITY OF OAKWOOD, OHIO, PROVIDING THAT ABUTTING PROPERTY OWNERS REPAIR THE SAME.



Thereupon, it was moved by Mr. Stephens and seconded by Mr. Epley 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 4904

DETERMINING TO PROCEED WITH 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 is an annual ordinance that is the second step of the 2021 street lighting program. It is the ordinance that authorizes the City to proceed with the project.

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

AN ORDINANCE

BY MR. STEPHENS NO 4905

AN ORDINANCE TO LEVY SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION OF SIDEWALKS AND APPURTENANCES THERETO IN THE CITY OF OAKWOOD, OHIO.

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 piece of legislation for last year's Sidewalk Repair Project authorizing the assessment of the sidewalk repair costs that have not already been paid directly by affected homeowners.

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

AN ORDINANCE

BY VICE MAYOR BYINGTON NO 4906

AMENDING SECTION 913.06, SCHEDULE OF RATES, OF THE OAKWOOD STREETS AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE, TO ENABLE THE CITY'S STORMWATER UTILITY TO OFFER BILLING CREDITS TO USERS WHO MITIGATE STORMWATER RUNOFF VIA ON-SITE RETENTION AND/OR DETENTION SYSTEMS.

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 an ordinance to amend the billing regulations for the City's stormwater management utility.

The City operates a stormwater management utility to protect public surface and groundwaters from degradation by soil erosion and pollutants, and to maintain compliance with federal and state environmental regulations. The rates charged for this service are based on the amount of impervious or non-drainable surface area for the average single-family residential property, which causes water to run off the property and enter the City's stormwater system.

The City's stormwater regulations do not provide a way to calculate credits or billing reductions for property owners who build on-site stormwater retention and/or detention facilities on commercial and institutional properties. These facilities are desirable, particularly for larger properties, because they can reduce the amount of run-off directed to the City's stormwater

management system. This reduces wear and tear and extends the useful life of this important infrastructure.

This ordinance would implement a credit system for commercial and institutional properties, to be overseen by the Director of Engineering and Public Works. Under this system, owners who take steps to materially reduce stormwater runoff from commercial and institutional properties, and can document the reduced impact on the City’s stormwater system, will be able to earn credits against their stormwater billing charges.

This was a first reading of the ordinance, so Vice Mayor Byington made no motion.

A RESOLUTION  
BY VICE MAYOR BYINGTON NO 1870  
TO APPROVE THE PETITION FOR SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR SPECIAL ENERGY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UNDER OHIO REVISED CODE CHAPTER 1710 AND APPROVE THE NECESSITY OF ACQUIRING, INSTALLING, EQUIPPING, AND IMPROVING CERTAIN PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CITY OF OAKWOOD, OHIO IN COOPERATION WITH THE DAYTON REGIONAL ENERGY SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (305 SUGAR CAMP CIRCLE PROJECT).

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 at the September 2019 meeting, Council adopted an ordinance to create the “Special Improvement District Assessment Fund” within the City’s accounting records. The purpose of the fund was to allow the Finance Department to separately account for special assessments made in connection with projects that receive Property Assessed Clean Energy (“PACE”) financing. The fund was established in anticipation of receiving the first petition for a PACE-financed project in Oakwood, which was received from Beth Abraham Synagogue on February 24, 2020. The proposed project is a \$1.3 million high-efficiency HVAC upgrade for the synagogue.

PACE financing is not new in Ohio, but it is new to Oakwood. Beginning in 2009, the General Assembly adopted various state laws to authorize and implement PACE financing, which is a mechanism for funding energy-efficient property improvements. The funding comes in the form of a loan which is paid via special assessments against the property. It requires cooperation among three separate entities: the property owner who is interested in making these kinds of improvements; a public or private lender; and a city or township that has statutory authority to levy special assessments.

A key detail of PACE financing is that it does not involve the use of city funds. In the Dayton area, properties pursuing PACE financing petition to become part of the Dayton Regional Energy Special Improvement District (“Dayton Regional ESID”), and loans are made via private lenders through the Dayton Port Authority. Oakwood’s role in the process is limited to levying the special assessments against the property, and as they are paid, remitting the proceeds to the lender to pay the loan.

Three pieces of legislation are required to approve and put assessments in place for a PACE-financed project. The first, which is being introduced now, is the “Resolution of Necessity.” It declares the necessity of Beth Abraham Synagogue’s project and approves the addition of the Beth Abraham Synagogue property to the Dayton Regional ESID. The second, which will be introduced if the Resolution of Necessity is adopted, is the “Ordinance to Proceed” which authorizes Beth Abraham Synagogue to proceed with the project. The third and final piece of legislation is the “Ordinance to Levy Assessments,” which will be introduced at the April meeting after Beth Abraham Synagogue has secured arrangements for its PACE financing.

Thereupon, it was moved by Vice Mayor Byington and seconded by Mrs. Hilton 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 4907  
DETERMINING TO PROCEED WITH THE ACQUISITION,  
INSTALLATION, EQUIPMENT, AND IMPROVEMENT OF CERTAIN  
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CITY OF OAKWOOD, OHIO IN  
COOPERATION WITH THE DAYTON REGIONAL ENERGY  
SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT.

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 piece of legislation required in connection with the Beth Abraham Synagogue HVAC upgrade, and authorizes them to move forward to secure PACE financing for the project.

Thereupon, it was moved by Vice Mayor Byington and seconded by Mr. Stephens 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 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.

Mayor Duncan noted that a four out of five yes vote is required in order to waive the second reading of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE  
BY VICE MAYOR BYINGTON NO 4908  
AMENDING SECTION 17-107.5, PRE-SALE INSPECTION AND  
CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY REQUIRED FOR NEW OWNERS  
AND TENANTS, OF THE OAKWOOD PROPERTY MAINTENANCE  
CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE WAIVER OF RENTAL  
INSPECTIONS WHEN A RENTAL UNIT HAS ALREADY BEEN  
INSPECTED IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS.

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 an ordinance to clarify the process and timing for rental unit inspections under the City's Rental Inspection Program. This long-standing program requires landlords to obtain a rental unit inspection and provide certain tenant information each time there is a change of tenant.

Regular property inspections are important in a city like Oakwood, which has a well-maintained but aging stock of homes. But inspections can be intrusive, and the need for regularity must be balanced with private property rights. For that reason, city staff has recommended that the number of inspections be capped at one per year, per property, unless the property has a history of complaints or other issues that would warrant an inspection.

Under the proposed amendment, the City would have discretion to waive the inspection requirement if all of the following three conditions are met:

1. The property has already been inspected within the previous 12 months;
2. The city has not received any zoning or property maintenance complaints about the property within the previous 12 months; and
3. The property owner is otherwise in compliance with all requirements of the Property Maintenance Code.

This was a first reading of the ordinance, so Vice Mayor Byington made no motion.

STAFF REPORT

Personnel & Properties Report: Mrs. Jennifer Wilder, Personnel & Properties Director, referenced a PowerPoint presentation and updated Council on the following topics: zoning and property maintenance, the pre-sale/rental inspection program, the Vectren gas line improvement project, development/construction updates, business updates and personnel updates.

The Zoning Department exists to protect Oakwood residents. By enforcing the Zoning and Property Maintenance Codes of the city of Oakwood, the City is working to protect property values. This is done by reviewing & analyzing land use, zoning proposals, requests, and administering permits for improvements made to properties. The Zoning Department's number one goal is compliance with the Council-approved Oakwood Zoning Code and Oakwood Property Maintenance Code.

Mrs. Wilder encouraged residents to contact the Zoning Department before taking any steps on property improvement projects. She explained that Mr. Ethan Kroger, the code enforcement officer, will meet residents at their property and walk them through the permitting process so that residents have a clear understanding of the process.

The Oakwood Zoning Department is a busy place, with 353 permits issued in 2019. This work represents over \$5 million dollars being reinvested into the community.

In addition to ongoing property maintenance efforts, the Zoning Department annually conducts a city-wide automobile tour to identify violations of the Oakwood Property Maintenance Code. Property owners are sent a letter advising them of the violation(s) and establishing a date to complete the repair(s). There were 158 property maintenance violation letters sent in 2019. The most common violations were dead or diseased trees and/or peeling paint. City staff works with property owners who require additional time to correct violations. In the rare circumstance that a property owner makes no attempt to correct a violation, citations are issued to appear in Oakwood Municipal Court. Of the 158 property violations, 155 were corrected and three cases are still open and being addressed.

The Zoning Department also administers a Pre-sale and Rental Inspection Program. This program was established in 1968 to ensure that properties are code-compliant at the time of sale, or brought into compliance shortly thereafter. The Zoning Department completed a total of 427 pre-sale, rental and business inspections in 2019. This program is especially important to a community like Oakwood with an aging housing stock, further protecting property values by ensuring homes are maintained throughout the transfer of property. Inspections are scheduled once a completed application is received. An inspector will meet the property owner or agent and perform a brief inspection of the interior and exterior of the property for compliance with the building, zoning, and property maintenance codes. This includes confirming placement of smoke detectors, hand rails, and other safety requirements, as well as general property maintenance concerns. Also the inspector will verify that HVAC equipment has been properly inspected through the city of Kettering's building department. Once an inspection is complete, and any violations are remedied, an occupancy certificate is generated which is necessary for closing on the property.

Between April and October this year, Vectren will replace underground gas distribution pipes and home service lines in specific areas. Project area A includes work on: Park Avenue between Harman Avenue and Oakwood Avenue; Oakwood Avenue between Park Avenue and W. Thruston Boulevard; W. Dixon Avenue; Harman Avenue between Far Hills Avenue and W. Dixon Avenue; Harman Terrace; Runnymede Road between W. Thruston Boulevard and W. Dixon Avenue; and Katharine Street. Project area B includes work on: Oakwood Avenue between Far Hills Avenue and Ridgewood Avenue; Ridgewood Avenue; Schenk Avenue; Glendora Avenue between Ridgewood Avenue and Schenk Avenue; and Springgrove Avenue between Ridgewood Avenue and Schenk Avenue. Project area C includes work on: Runnymede Road between W. Dixon Avenue and Walnut Springs Drive; Oakmead Place; Thornhill Road; and Walnut Springs Drive.

In all work areas, Vectren is installing new polyethylene pipes in place of old steel and cast iron pipes and is moving indoor gas meters to outside wall locations. This is the continuation of a multi-year Vectren infrastructure replacement project in Oakwood. Oakwood residents personally affected by the work will receive detailed information from Vectren. Vectren pipeline project maps are available on the City's website or on Vectren's website.

The Properties and Public Works Departments are working on an inventory project involving city signs relating to corporation limits, business district block signs, and signs on municipal lots including parks, parking lots, etc. This involves creating a GIS-backed record of the signs, which includes photos and exact locations. The inventory will include the type of sign and will determine a refurbishment schedule for those signs needing attention.



Element Oakwood, which was approved by Oakwood City Council in 2017, is located at 310 Old River Trail, across from the Old River Sports Complex. The 84-unit condominium community features a variety of sizes ranging from one bedroom to two bedrooms with a den. Leasing is currently underway in the west building and move-ins began in January 2020.

The construction is expected to be complete this summer.

Pointe Oakwood construction began in 2009. There are currently three houses under construction. The City received plans for two additional houses in Pointe Oakwood so only one lot remains open.

In 2019, there were some new businesses that moved into the Far Hills Business District. Jaffe Jewelers is renovating the space at 2419 Far Hills in the former Mouisain Rug Shop, and will be moving their Kettering store to the Far Hills Business District. Park Studebaker, owner of the Oakwood Eye Clinic located at 2525 Far Hills, recently retired. The eye clinic was sold and is now called MyEyeDoctor. Salon 5 at 2521 Far Hills is currently undergoing renovations.

Kettering Health Network purchased the 2600 Far Hills Building in April 2017 for the purpose of converting the space to medical offices and related support services. In 2020, Kettering Health Network intends to move forward with an extensive rehabilitation of the existing building. As part of their plans, Kettering Health Network also intends to add supporting parking in the immediate area.

Mrs. Wilder then reviewed the 2019 employee retirements and hires. Assistant Finance Director Alice Young retired on September 30 with 41 years of service. Municipal Court Clerk Linda Young retired on November 29 with 18 years of service. Public Safety Dispatcher Pat Bobst retired on January 17, 2020 with 20 years of service. New hires include: General Service Worker Levi McMonigle; General Service Worker David Carmean; Account Clerk Gloria Corona-Luna; Public Safety Officer Kyle Sewert; Public Safety Dispatcher Jennifer Anderson; Deputy Clerk of Court Sarah Clever and Engineering and Public Works Director Doug Spittler.

The City is currently recruiting for seasonal positions in the following areas: Day Camp Counselors, Boulevard and Smith Gardens Maintenance; Public Works Laborers; and Pool Concessions and Lifeguards. The City is also accepting applications for a full-time General Service Worker position that is currently open.

The City's new website went live in June 2019. Since that time, there have been over 54,000 browsing sessions. The search feature on the City's website is the fastest way to find information about the City. Popular searches on the website include the employment application and announcements, online bill pay, trash and recycling information, and OCC information. The website also includes a Service Center with very helpful questions and answers. The most common questions have been: "Where can I find city ordinances and regulations" and "May I include large or bulk items with my weekly trash". Mrs. Wilder concluded her presentation by urging citizens to contact City staff with any feedback or recommendations regarding the City's website.

Mayor Duncan said that the current website is much better than the previous website. Mayor Duncan thanked Mrs. Wilder and Ms. Stacel for their efforts in updating and improving the City's website.

#### CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Klopsch referenced a PowerPoint presentation and provided an update on how the Shroyer Road roadway improvement project has addressed safety concerns that were identified in a 2016 Shroyer Road Safety Study.

Mr. Klopsch shared that the timing of his presentation is due to a *Dayton Daily News* inquiry that resulted in preparation of a two page paper describing the project and how the roadway has functioned since the project was completed.

Shroyer Road is much different than what it was three short years ago. Prior to the roadway improvement project in 2017, Shroyer Road was a large piece of pavement that encouraged speeding. The project converted Shroyer Road from a 4-lane section to a 3-lane section. A project that reduces through lanes is called a *Road Diet*. The *Road Diet* included several different components that dramatically improved the roadway. Shroyer Road was a good candidate for this type of project because of the large number of cross streets along the one mile stretch of roadway. Dedicated left turn lanes were added to each of the 16 cross street intersections. The distance from the travel lanes to the sidewalks was increased from two feet to seven feet, which provides a safer pedestrian experience. Two mid-block pedestrian crossings were created and equipped with flashing beacons to alert motorists of pedestrians. The

pedestrian/bikeway crossing just north of Dellwood Avenue was rebuilt and was also equipped with flashing beacon technology.

The Shroyer Road improvement project was prompted by longstanding goals and objectives in the Oakwood Comprehensive Plan, and by a citizen petition expressing concerns about roadway and pedestrian safety after an elementary student was struck on Shroyer Road in 2015. Initially, the citizen group asked for a traffic signal along the Shroyer corridor. A safety study was completed to investigate possible countermeasures to improve safety on Shroyer Road. It was quickly determined that signalized intersections were not warranted, as described in the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, and would not be effective.

After several heavily attended public meetings, City Council approved the Shroyer Road improvement project with the primary focus being on safety improvements.

Accident data that was reported via the Transportation Information Mapping System (TIMS) maintained by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) was used to complete a safety analysis on the Shroyer corridor. Over a three year period before the project, there were 62 crashes on Shroyer Road, with nearly 25% of these crashes resulting in injury. Almost 40% of the accidents were caused by rear-end crashes. The data showed excessive vehicle speeds at 6-11 miles per hour above the posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour.

The project objectives were to reduce the number of crashes; to reduce crash severity by reducing vehicle speeds; and to increase pedestrian safety. This project also created an opportunity to improve and enhance the roadway streetscape.

As a result of the Shroyer Road improvement project, there has been a dramatic drop in accidents, as well as accidents with injury. There has been a 66% reduction in total crashes over the three year period from 2017-2019, and there has been an 87% reduction of crashes resulting in injury over that same time frame. The road improvements have resulted in an 85% reduction in citations issued by the Oakwood Public Safety Department. Mr. Klopsch stated that the best way to control speed is through the design of a roadway and not through enforcement.

Mr. Klopsch closed his presentation by acknowledging and thanking Traffic Engineer Scott Knebel, P.E., Crawford, Murphy & Tilly Engineers, Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) Staff, ODOT District 7 Staff and the city of Kettering Engineering Staff for their contributions to the project.

Mr. Stephens commented that there are just as many cars traveling Shroyer Road as there were before the roadway improvements. He commented that the Shroyer Road improvements turned out wonderful.

#### COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Epley reminded everyone that the Primary Election is on March 17.

Mr. Stephens commended Miami Valley Communication Council (MVCC) Executive Director Jay Weiskircher and MVCC staff for all of their work on the GATEway Fiber Network project. MVCC and its member cities of Centerville, Kettering, Miamisburg, Moraine, Oakwood, Springboro and West Carrollton have been recognized as a global 'Smart 50 Award' winner for 2020.

Mayor Duncan shared that he recently read an article from *Site Selection* magazine announcing that the Dayton metro area ranked first among cities of its size for economic development projects in its annual Governor's Cup rankings. This is also the 14th consecutive year the Dayton metro area has ranked in the top 10 for economic development projects.

Mayor Duncan read the comments he made at the February 2015 meeting regarding the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp:

*"Last month marked the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp. Tonight, I want to tell you the story of Richard Dutro of Lakewood, OH, a suburb of Cleveland, OH. At age 19, he served in the famed 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division of the American 7<sup>th</sup> Army and was awarded a Bronze Star. His division liberated the Dachau Concentration Camp.*

*He would not talk of his war time experiences for almost 60 years. In response to numerous reported instances of Holocaust deniers in the news media, he now describes his personal experiences to middle school and high school students. I have heard his story and it is compelling.*

*After the war he received an undergraduate degree from the University of Dayton, his masters from Miami University and his doctorate from The Ohio State University. He was a teacher and administrator for over 40 years in the Lakewood City School District.*

*Several years ago, he went to Washington D.C. with his family to visit the WWII Memorial. His son-in-law bought him a veteran's ball cap which he reluctantly wore.*

*They also visited the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. The tour guide upon seeing his hat asked him where he served. He replied he served in Europe and liberated Dachau.*

*She exclaimed "you liberated me." They embraced and cried together.*

*Richard Dutro is my Uncle and, although he will probably disagree with me, Richard Dutro is a true American Hero.*

*Why do I tell this story? Many of you know, or should know, about the yellow star attached to the clothing to identify the Jews in the camp. Did you know about the pink triangle for homosexuals, the purple triangle for Jehovah's Witnesses, the green triangle for criminals, the red triangle for political prisoners or the black triangle for prostitutes?*

*Injustice then, injustice now. A teenage woman in Pakistan is shot because she wants to attend school. A woman in India is raped and murdered because she is considered to be a lower caste. Now, ISIS has beheaded and crucified children, sells them as sex slaves and has buried children alive.*

*As the German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer once said, "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."*

*What will you do when confronted with injustice?"*

Mayor Duncan shared that his uncle, Mr. Richard Dutro, passed away last week at the age of 93.

The public meeting concluded at 8:58 p.m.



MAYOR

ATTEST:



CLERK OF COUNCIL