

Mayor Duncan stated that we received two letters from citizens that he would like to read recognizing the Leisure Services Department. He read the first letter:

"I wanted to commend the Oakwood Community Center on providing a safe and fun environment for our family this past summer. My children participated in the Kiddie Kamps, Camp Shafors, Tennis Lessons and Beginner Golf, and as a family we all enjoyed going to the pool all summer long.

With so many camps and events cancelled, we were very grateful that the OCC had many offerings that appealed to our children and they had an absolute blast!

A huge thank you to the OCC staff for not "cancelling summer" and working hard to keep our kids safe and active this summer!"

He then read the second letter:

"As this most unusual summer draws to a close, I want to thank you and the City of Oakwood for supporting our favorite summer activity, swimming at our beloved Gardner Memorial Swimming Pool. In the spring as Covid-19 increased and fear with it, we watched communities cancel their community pool seasons. Instead, Oakwood Community Center developed an approach that allowed the pool to open. We were so thankful!

The swim season has been a great success for swimmers of all ages! We have observed the kids enjoy a normal, good time with little risk to their health. Lap swimmers have enjoyed their time for regular swimming, as well. The program, with fixed time periods and limited numbers of swimmers in each period, allowed many, but not too many, members to swim safely. The online reservation system managed by Karen Early with the excellent OCC staff was easy to use. Once we learned how to navigate the system, we could find available swim times on most days.

We have thanked the OCC Staff numerous times for their work to allow a lovely summer at the pool. It seemed that we should thank you, and the city, for your support for a program that truly was a highlight of the season for so many Oakwood residents.

Mayor Duncan shared that he had the honor of congratulating Richard Back on the occasion of his 100th birthday and issuing a proclamation declaring September 15, 2020 as Allen Richard Back day.

Mayor Duncan closed his comments by sharing that he mailed in his completed absentee ballot registration. He understands that there is a way to track the progress online, but he is curious to see how long the ballot will take to get back.

The public meeting concluded at 8:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

Yoni Chahal

CLERK OF COUNCIL

William J. Duncan

MAYOR

CITY OF OAKWOOD
STATE OF OHIO
OCTOBER 5, 2020

The Council of the city of Oakwood, State of Ohio, met in a work session at 6:30 p.m. in the upstairs training 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 Stael, 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:

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|--------------------------------|---------|
| MR. WILLIAM D. DUNCAN..... | PRESENT |
| MR. STEVEN BYNGTON..... | PRESENT |
| MR. ROBERT P. STEPHENS..... | PRESENT |
| MRS. ANNE S. HILTON..... | PRESENT |
| MR. CHRISTOPHER B. EPLEY | PRESENT |

Officers of the City present were the following:

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|---|
| Mr. Norbert S. Klopsch, City Manager |
| Mr. Robert F. Jacques, City Attorney |
| Mr. K. Douglas Spitzer, Engineering and Public Works Director |
| Ms. Lori Stael, Clerk of Council |

The following visitors registered:

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|---|
| Mr. Brian Barr, <i>Oakwood Register</i> |
| Members of the Oakwood Inclusion Coalition Planning Team: |
| Mrs. Kristi Hale, Wright Memorial Public Library Director |
| Mrs. Judy Cook, Former Mayor of Oakwood |
| Dr. Kyle Ramey, Oakwood Schools Superintendent |
| Mr. Dan Turben |
| Mrs. Healy Jackson |

Mrs. Hilton advised Council she had read the meeting minutes of the September 21 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

Halloween – Mr. Stephens read the following statement:

“At a September 17 press conference, Governor DeWine issued a statement regarding Halloween activities:

‘Governor DeWine reminded parents that Halloween activities will be different this year than in years past. He encouraged parents and children to wear a mask, practice social distancing, avoid large groups, and to stay home if sick. Final decisions on whether to hold or participate in trick-or-treating or other events should be made by local communities, individuals, and parents. The state will be developing guidance for Halloween and it will be posted on coronavirus.ohio.gov to help communities and families plan for the holiday.’

Following the press conference, the state issued a Responsible Restart Ohio paper entitled ‘Celebrating Halloween’. That paper provides Recommended Best Practices for conducting Halloween activities. It is posted to our city website.

In response to the state guidance, Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County issued a paper on Halloween safety and trick-or-treating. That paper is also posted to our city website.

We believe that parents and adults should make the decision on if and how to celebrate Halloween this year. This includes whether to participate in trick-or-treating. If parents choose to allow their children to participate in trick-or-treating, we strongly encourage following the state and county health district recommendations. Likewise, if property owners choose to hand out candy, we strongly encourage following the same state and county health district recommendations.

Halloween is still nearly four weeks away. If things change and new directives are issued by the Ohio Department of Health and/or Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County, we will issue updated guidance.”

After reading the statement, Mr. Stephens reiterated that parents and families should make their own decisions on how to celebrate Halloween and whether to participate in trick-or-treating. Trick or Treating is from 6 – 8 p.m. on Saturday, October 31 for those who wish to participate. He asked participants to wear masks and maintain appropriate social distance, and residents to turn on their porch lights if they are planning to pass out Halloween treats.

Mayor Duncan read a letter that he received two weeks ago about the Oakwood Public Safety Department. The letter read:

"I am writing to commend the Oakwood Public Safety Department for its excellent service. We moved to Oakwood in 1971, for any number of reasons – schools, beauty of the neighborhoods, friends. We did not think of the Department of Public Safety. But over the years we have come to appreciate it as one of Oakwood's gems. The speed with which the department responds has always amazed me.

The occasion for this letter is an experience of last night. The husband of a couple who are among our dearest friends has over the last few years had serious medical problems, and members of the department have frequently helped his wife get him up when he has fallen or transported him to the hospital. Late last night the wife called me, in distress. The husband was making no sense, was talking to people who were not there, and was trying to stand up-which he is physically unable to do. I think the wife needed me to confirm that he needed to go to the hospital, and to help keep the husband in bed while she called the department.

So I was there when four people from the Public Safety Department arrived, in an incredibly short time. Their grace, kindness, and efficiency impressed me greatly. It was for me a confirmation of what I had already concluded, that is, that especially for someone like me who is aging, living in Oakwood with that kind of support is most comforting. Please know that the staff of the department are appreciated."

The four officers involved were Public Safety Officers Jeff Payne, Ryan Rump, Rob Wilson and Steve Norris. Mayor Duncan thanked the Oakwood Public Safety Department for continuing to do a great job for Oakwood citizens day after day.

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

LEGISLATION

A RESOLUTION BY MAYOR DUNCAN NO 1878 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OAKWOOD INCLUSION COALITION.

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

Mayor Duncan explained that this is a resolution recognizing the creation of the Oakwood Inclusion Coalition (OIC). Attached to the resolution is a document that establishes the organization.

As explained in the establishing document, the OIC is a citizen-driven organization with the mission "to study, promote, and celebrate an inclusive, equitable, diverse and welcoming environment and community for everyone who lives, works, visits, or passes through Oakwood." As a citizen-driven organization, it is not a public office or agency, or a public/private joint venture under the city's control. Through the resolution this evening, the city of Oakwood expresses strong support of the mission and purpose of the Oakwood Inclusion Coalition, and welcomes the annual report planned for presentation to City Council each January by the OIC Leadership Team. The city of Oakwood will regularly follow the work of the OIC and will support the organization with representative participation in OIC meetings, programs and events.

Mayor Duncan invited Wright Library Director Kristi Hale and Oakwood's former mayor, Judy Cook, to speak about the OIC.

Mrs. Hale made the following statement:

"Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to share with you the history and vision of this new citizen-driven group. I'm particularly honored to be a part of this group, and to have been named chairperson for this initial year, because the mission and vision of the Oakwood Inclusion Coalition is closely aligned with some of the programs the library has been holding over the past 3 years.

Starting in early 2018, and inspired by the American Library Association's Libraries Transforming Communities initiative, Wright Library began experimenting with holding

community conversations out of a growing awareness that in America today, people with disparate political, religious, cultural and social views are struggling with one another.

Using the Conversation Café model for holding community conversations, we developed the 'Let's Talk' series of programs, which encourage curiosity about other's ideas and promotes respect, active listening, and problem solving among people of different points of view. We have held 20 'Let's Talk' programs on many divisive topics, such as the Second Amendment, Islamophobia, the conservative/liberal political divide, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and racism and we have held 9 other events specifically about anti-racism, including 2 book discussions. The programs have been attended by more than 800 people, and participants have asked for more. These programs help us discover what unites us rather than what tears us apart.

So early this year, when a number of citizen leaders, out of concerns about the current climate with regards to matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion, were looking for a way to engage in discussions on race, the Library was a ready partner, along with City Manager Norb Klopsch and School Superintendent Kyle Ramey.

We started meeting in January to talk through how we might create a coalition that would foster an inclusive community through education, programs and projects that explore and celebrate diversity. While we were under stay-at-home orders and could not meet, the issues of race in America took a more urgent turn, and as soon as it was safe to do so, we renewed our effort to establish By-Laws for the Oakwood Inclusion Coalition that you have before you today.

The group will be a volunteer organization of government, school, and library leaders, private citizens, faith, ethnic and cultural leaders, and representatives from the business and media communities. We look forward to sponsoring, hosting, and supporting events, programs, and educational opportunities that will help us understand and value diversity in all its forms.

We will spend the remainder of this year developing the organization and leadership team and building membership, and in particular, we are looking for community volunteers to assist the OIC with obtaining 501c3 status, and we are also looking for community volunteers to assist with branding and website development. We hope to hold our first meeting in January."

Mrs. Hale then invited Mrs. Judy Cook, former mayor, to speak about the OIC.

Mrs. Cook made the following statement:

"It is really good to be here tonight to present a new phase in a long-standing effort. Having the advantage of many, many years as a resident of Oakwood, I am aware of how we have progressed as a community. Our population has not grown in numbers, but it has grown significantly in the diverse mixture of our residents. We were a great city 50 years ago but we are an even better city today. Enjoying neighbors with different histories, nationality, faiths, and ethnic backgrounds is a positive addition to our community. It opens the door to discovery, learning and lots of enjoyment. For our children growing up, the experience allows them the comfort of familiarity when their lives take them beyond our borders. Over the years, all this happened very naturally, without disruption or fanfare.

The benefits were recognized so efforts were made to ensure success with what we were doing. For a long time we had every year a celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday. The breakfast event focused on educating our school aged students. To this day, we regularly invite new residents to a breakfast to welcome them and introduce them to highlights of city services and opportunities in the cities. We are conscious that including takes more than good thoughts.

Many voices throughout our community encourage us to travel further along this path and do so in a purposeful manner. The development of the Oakwood Inclusion Coalition will give structure to this effort. Fortunately, we are the beneficiaries of highly successful programs developed at Wright Library under Kristi Hale's leadership. They will significantly help us in the development of the Oakwood Inclusion Coalition programs.

As citizens, we find Oakwood a great place to call home. We are grateful for the many amenities that make our community appealing and strive to maintain them. It is what we offer to people considering making Oakwood their home in the future. More and more of our citizens want assurances that 'welcome' is expressed as well. The Oakwood Inclusion Coalition's mission is to assure that the message of welcome is clear and genuine both within our community and beyond our borders. With the participation of our citizens we will find a common voice that is heard by all and through consensus remove any barriers

that are found. I have great confidence that our community is ready to pursue this goal and I am determined to participate.

I appreciate the opportunity to be here tonight to introduce the Oakwood Inclusion Coalition to all our citizens. I conclude by recognizing and giving immense thanks to our city manager Norbert Klopsch. His leadership, assistance, guidance, time, and patience goes far beyond his job description. We could not have reached this moment, I don't think, without his help. Thanks Norb, we applaud you."

Mayor Duncan shared his appreciation for the efforts of this group to establish the OIC.

Mr. Stephens also thanked the planning group for taking the time to create this citizen group.

City Council did not have any further comments on this matter.

Thereupon, it was moved by Mayor Duncan 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:

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|-----------------------------|-----|
| 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.

Mrs. Hilton asked Dr. Ramey if he has a sense of how diverse the Oakwood Schools are.

Dr. Ramey shared that Oakwood Schools continue to become more diverse, which makes Oakwood a stronger community. He explained that he will present additional information at the school board meeting next week.

Mrs. Hilton asked how the Schools get information about diversity.

Dr. Ramey shared that the information is gathered as part of the enrollment process.

Mrs. Hale closed her comments by sharing that similar resolutions to endorse the creation of the coalition will be presented to the Oakwood Board of Education on Monday, October 12 at 7 p.m. and to the Wright Memorial Public Library Board on October 19 at 6 p.m.

Mayor Duncan commented that the City, Oakwood Schools and Wright Library are supporting the efforts and mission of the Oakwood Inclusion Coalition.

Mrs. Hale agreed.

AN ORDINANCE
BY MR. STEPHENS NO 4918
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 521.12, PLACING SNOW
ON PUBLIC STREETS OR DEBRIS ON PAVED STREETS, OF THE
OAKWOOD GENERAL OFFENSES CODE, TO EXPAND THE
PROHIBITION THEREOF TO APPLY TO SIDEWALKS AND OTHER
PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

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 ordinance to update an existing provision of Oakwood's General Offenses Code. The ordinance was introduced with a first reading at the September 21st council meeting.

It has always been unlawful to place snow, grass clippings, or other debris in our public rights-of-way. However, the City has experienced issues with contractors doing line clearance work for utility companies, who trim street trees, sometimes leaving limbs and branches in large piles along the tree lawns and sidewalks. In some instances, these piles have blocked pedestrian traffic along the sidewalks.

This updated ordinance makes it clear that "debris" includes limbs and tree trimmings, and expands the prohibition to include both paved rights-of-way, such as sidewalks and streets, and unpaved rights-of-way, such as tree lawns. The ordinance retains an exception for homeowners who put ordinary yard debris out for refuse collection.

Thereupon, it was moved by Mr. Stephens 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. 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 MR. STEPHENS NO 4919

AN ORDINANCE TO ENACT NEW CHAPTER 907, VISIBILITY
HAZARDS, OF THE OAKWOOD STREETS AND PUBLIC SERVICES
CODE.

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 ordinance to update the Oakwood Streets and Public Services Code. The ordinance was introduced with a first reading at the September 21st council meeting.

As a predominantly residential community, public safety is always a paramount concern in Oakwood. This includes keeping public streets free of obstructions and hazards that block critical visibility. The Oakwood Public Works and Leisure Services Departments routinely trim trees, bushes, and other vegetation near roadways to ensure that critical sightlines are kept open.

Sometimes sightlines are blocked by trees or vegetation growing on private property, adjacent to the street and outside the public right-of-way. Usually trimming can be done as needed with the property owner's consent, but occasionally the property owner will not consent. This results in enforcement action under the City's Property Maintenance Code, which involves a lengthy court process before the safety hazard is finally addressed.

This ordinance will create a streamlined mechanism to deal with these situations more quickly and effectively. It will allow the City to provide written notice to the property owner when trimming needs to be done, which will be based on objective traffic engineering standards from the Ohio Department of Transportation. The property owner can then choose whether to do the work himself or herself, or allow the City to perform the work. It also provides an appeal process in the event of a disagreement as to whether the work is necessary.

The goal of this ordinance is to establish a clear procedure that protects private property rights and affords due process to residents, while acknowledging the reality that safety concerns need to be addressed quickly.

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 4922

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

1. AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF \$60,000 TO BE
EXPENDED FROM THE WATER
IMPROVEMENT/EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT
FUND FOR THE REPAIR OF A STORM SEWER
NECESSARY FOR OPERATION OF THE
CITY'S WATER UTILITY; AND

2. AN AMOUNT OF \$60,000 TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE WATER OPERATING FUND TO THE WATER IMPROVEMENT/EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FUND;

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 a supplemental appropriation ordinance to address an important repair for Oakwood's water treatment plant at the Foell Public Works Center. Part of the treatment process involves the discharge of waste water, which flows through a storm sewer underneath the parking lot of the Public Works Center to a storm sewer main underneath Shafor Boulevard. The segment that runs underneath the Public Works Center has recently become clogged with scale and is not allowing proper discharge for our water operations.

The City was not aware of the scale build-up when this year's budget was adopted, so this repair was originally unbudgeted. The ordinance being introduced is a supplemental appropriation ordinance that will authorize the expenditure. It also authorizes the transfer of money from the Water Operations Fund to the Water Improvement and Equipment Replacement Fund to cover this expense.

Under Section 3.04 of the City Charter, this appropriation ordinance will take effect immediately.

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

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|-----------------------------|-----|
| 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 1879

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND DEADLINES SET FORTH IN COUNCIL'S PREVIOUS RESOLUTION NO. 1874, AND TO REAFFIRM THAT CORONAVIRUS AID MONEY RECEIVED UNDER THE FEDERAL "CARES ACT" WILL BE USED FOR AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES ONLY.

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 to ensure that Oakwood remains eligible to receive its full allocation of federal CARES Act coronavirus reimbursement funds.

Earlier this year, the Ohio General Assembly adopted S.B. 310 to govern the distribution of federal CARES Act money to Ohio municipalities. Council adopted Resolution No. 1874 in July to comply with the requirements of S.B. 310, including the establishment of deadlines for making and reporting qualified expenditures.

The Ohio General Assembly has now adopted H.B. 614. This new bill makes additional federal CARES Act dollars available to municipalities and extends the reporting and payment deadlines that were established by S.B. 310. The resolution being introduced now would extend Oakwood's reporting and payment deadlines to match what is contained in H.B. 614, ensuring that Oakwood are eligible to receive coronavirus reimbursement funds under both S.B. 310 and H.B. 614.

This resolution also includes language that will automatically extend deadlines to match any additional state-level changes that might be made in the future.

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.

STAFF REPORT

Public Works Department Presentation: Mr. Doug Spitler, Engineering and Public Works Director, referenced a PowerPoint presentation and updated Council on various Public Works projects and operations.

The Public Works Department has made several project and staffing adjustments amid COVID-19 to continue to provide essential public services to the Oakwood community.

The concrete curb along Far Hills Avenue between Patterson Road and the north end of Oakwood at Springhouse Road was repaired. This was the first phase of roadway improvements along Far Hills Avenue in advance of a total roadway resurfacing currently scheduled for 2024.

Asphalt repaving was completed on E. Schantz Avenue (Patterson Road to Spirea Drive); Southwood Lane; and Delaine Avenue. Mr. Spitler recognized the Public Works crews that completed the adjustment of 24 manholes prior to the asphalt repavement work on Delaine Avenue.

The repaving work at the intersection of Springgrove Avenue and E. Schantz Avenue, and the northbound lane of Oakwood Avenue from Far Hills Avenue to Schenck Avenue was invoiced to Vectren directly. The work was necessary to restore pavement damaged by the Vectren gas line project.

The 2020 Sidewalk, Curb and Driveway Apron project was completed in the northeast quadrant of Oakwood, in the area bounded by Irving Avenue, Springhouse Road, Far Hills Avenue, Patterson Road and Acorn Drive. That cost was \$135,534. Concrete street repair took place on Oak Forest Drive at a cost of \$88,224.

Additional projects include: pavement markings were repainted before the start of the school year; all traffic signals throughout Oakwood were tested; the Asphalt Pavement Rejuvenation Project is pending; and the installation of the storm sewer on Ridgewood Avenue and replacement of the storm sewer serving the water softening plant at 210 Shafor Boulevard are pending.

The multi-year Vectren gas line project work is scheduled for completion in 2023. This is a project to replace the original bare steel and cast iron pipeline infrastructure and installation of new gas services to each property. The 2020 work was broken down into four project areas. Project Area A included work on Oakwood Avenue, W. Dixon Avenue, Harman Terrace, Park Avenue and Runnymede Road. Project Area B included work on Ridgewood Avenue and Schenck Avenue. Project Area C included work Runnymede Road, Oakmead Place, Thornhill Road and Walnut Springs Drive. Project Area D included work on Fairmont Avenue and Dell Park Avenue.

There were several large equipment purchases made for this year. The purchases included: Street Service Truck: \$83,851; Refuse Packer Truck: \$245,687; Refuse Scooter: (pending); Water Plant Controls at 210 Shafor: \$29,700; and a Sewer Vactor Truck: \$391,335.

The Public Works Department provides a broad range of municipal services such as: weekly trash/recyclables collection; yard debris and special pickups; and leaf disposal/leaf mulch. The annual leaf collection program begins on Monday, October 12. There are also several self-service options available such as: drop-off containers for recycling cardboard, yard debris, and co-mingled materials at a 24/7 site in the Creager Field (Dog Park) parking lot at Shafor Boulevard and Irving Avenue; the Foell Public Works Center at 210 Shafor Boulevard is open from 8 a.m. until 12 noon on the first Saturday of each month for Oakwood citizens to drop off refuse items; and refuse dumpsters are available for disposal of a mixture of debris from “do-it-yourself” homeowner projects.

Mr. Spitler displayed a line graph showing refuse collection trends over the past five years. The line graph showed a substantial increase in collection beginning in March of this year. This increase follows the COVID-19 pandemic, suggesting that many property owners disposed of more household debris during the statewide “stay at home” order. He thanked the Public Works Secretary Missi Seifert for her help in creating this graph.

The next Oakwood Rotary hazardous waste pick up event is on Saturday, October 24. Citizens desiring a pick up simply call (937) 296-5155 before noon on Friday, October 23 and leave their name and address.

Construction on the Ridgeway Road Bridge, which will be performed by the city of Kettering, is scheduled to start in November. There will be road closures on sections of Dorothy Lane, and Ridgeway Road from Oak Knoll Drive to Canterbury Drive in Kettering. Mr. Spitler displayed a vehicular detour map as well as a bicycle and pedestrian detour map.

Mr. Spitler shared four personnel changes that either already have or will occur this year. Kenneth Perkins retired on April 30, 2020 after serving our city for 30 years as the foreman in charge of our comprehensive refuse program. Gary Dursch is retiring on December 31, 2020 after over 44 years of public service, including 14 years running the Oakwood water system. Effective November 16, 2020, Derek Shell will assume the position of Water Plant Superintendent/Water & Sewer Line Foreman. The Public Works Department welcomed general service worker Jon Wissinger in August.

Mr. Stephens asked how many refuse scooters the city currently has.

Mr. Spitler stated that there are 10 refuse scooters.

Mr. Stephens asked if the same refuse scooters go out daily.

Mr. Spitler explained that there are five refuse scooters that work around the city daily. The other five are used as a backup.

Mayor Duncan inquired about our current roadway salt storage level.

Mr. Spitler confirmed that the City's salt storage bin is fully stocked.

Mayor Duncan noted that even with the increase of refuse collection, the Public Works Department has not missed a beat. He asked Mr. Spitler to give the department staff kudos.

Mr. Stephens commented that he did not notice a change in service amid the pandemic. The Public Works Department does a phenomenal job. He told Mr. Spitler that he did a great job on his first status report presentation to Council.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Klopsch provided the following report:

Doug Spitler started in Oakwood on January 6, 2020 as the new Engineering and Public Works Director. He came to Oakwood from the city of Centerville. While Centerville is larger than Oakwood, Oakwood tends to have more issues to address relating to the Engineering and Public Works Director position. He thanked Mr. Spitler for quickly establishing himself as a department head. Mr. Spitler does a good job thinking outside the box and looking for ways to improve processes.

Mr. Klopsch shared his appreciation to Oakwood citizens for complying with yard sign regulations.

The Oakwood School Crossing Guards were recognized and commended for continuing to provide important safety services through the pandemic.

Mr. Klopsch shared his excitement for the development of the Oakwood Inclusion Coalition. Over the next few months, the coalition will be building the membership and finding key volunteers. He opined that the coalition will be well-received and will have a lot of community involvement. He thanked the Oakwood Inclusion Coalition planning team for taking the time to establish this citizen-driven organization.

Mrs. Hilton asked how long the action City Council took earlier this year authorizing the City Manager to issue temporary waivers to the outdoor seating rules for businesses in Oakwood during the pandemic is in place.

Mr. Klopsch stated that he believed it extended until the state of emergency was cancelled, but that City Council can extend the authorization at any time. He shared that he does not have any concerns with continuing this temporary process through the pandemic to promote local businesses.

Mayor Duncan noted that carry-out business has increased at the Oakwood Club, and they are now offering Saturday carry-out.

Mrs. Hilton inquired about the 2020 Census and when the results will be released.

Mr. Klopsch shared that 2020 Census results will be available in 2021, probably around April or May. He confirmed that Oakwood had a very high participation rate.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Epley wished all University of Dayton law students luck in passing the bar exam. He then congratulated the Oakwood High School students inducted into National Honor Society, including his son Jack.

Mrs. Hilton thanked Councilmember Stephens for providing the Halloween summary. She reiterated that kids should just pass the homes that do not appear to be participating in trick-or-treating.

Mr. Stephens wished everyone a happy Halloween.

Vice Mayor Byington reminded everyone that Tuesday, November 3 is Election Day. He encouraged everyone to do their homework and to vote. He then wished his wife a happy 7th anniversary.

Mayor Duncan provided an update on the absentee ballot request that he mailed in on September 22. The absentee ballot tracker tool on the Montgomery County Board of Elections website (www.montgomery.boe.ohio.gov) showed that his ballot will be mailed this week. He advised people to submit their absentee ballot as soon as possible, or to vote in-person on Election Day. Mayor Duncan closed the meeting by reading the argument below that was published in the *Raleigh State Gazette* regarding the presidential election of 1824. He explained that the result of the election was inconclusive and ended up getting settled in the House of Representatives.

“Because half a dozen grasshoppers under a fern make the field ring with their importunate chink, whilst thousands of great cattle, reposed beneath the shadow of the British oak, chew the cud and are silent, pray, to not imagine that those who make the noise are the only inhabitants of the field; that, of course, they are many in number; or that, after all, they are other than the little, shriveled, meagre, hopping, though loud and troublesome insects of the hour.”

The public meeting concluded at 8:34 p.m.

ATTEST:


MAYOR


CLERK OF COUNCIL