

CITY OF OAKWOOD
STATE OF OHIO
JANUARY 4, 2021

The Council of the city of Oakwood, State of Ohio, met in a work session and executive session for personnel matters at 6:30 p.m. in the second floor 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 Stacel, recorded. Mayor Duncan opened the meeting by asking all present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Council was present at City Hall while respecting social distancing guidelines. Three staff members were present and dispersed throughout the room. The meeting was streamed live from the Oakwood city website and telecast live on Cable Access Channel 6.

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
- Ms. Lori Stacel, Clerk of Council

The following visitors registered:

- Mr. David Schoeff, 115 E. Schantz Avenue. Oakwood, OH 45409

Mrs. Hilton advised Council she had read the meeting minutes of the December 14 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

Mayor Duncan shared that while this is not an item on the meeting agenda, he wanted to publicly recognize the leadership of City Manager Norbert Klopsch. Mayor Duncan read the following memo dated December 30, 2020 from Mr. Klopsch to all city of Oakwood employees:

“As the year comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on 2020. Needless to say, this year has been very challenging, across the board. We have all been confronted with an impact to our daily lives that could never have been predicted or anticipated. The impact has touched everyone in various ways. The saddest situations are those involving the loss of life. By now we all likely know of someone lost this year, whether close to us or through a distant connection. People also experienced the loss of jobs, businesses and livelihoods, and the ability to be with friends and family. There was also the loss of a sense of peace, peace in knowing or believing that all is generally well, and that our place in the world is a safe one.

We have dealt with the challenges of the year, each in our own way. Yet, we also rallied together, recognizing that the work we do is essential to the health, welfare and safety of the citizens and businesses we serve in our community; and that our work directly impacts the everyday lives of the people we serve.

THANK YOU to each of you for all you did this year for our city, and thank you for all you will do in the coming year. I am hopeful 2021 will bring better and brighter days.

Happy New Year! Norb”

Mayor Duncan stated that the city of Oakwood has the best city manager in the area. Mr. Klopsch’s leadership is beyond exemplary and he wanted to publicly recognize his service.

Council Committee Assignments – Mayor Duncan explained that City Council members are assigned to several committees of Council that consist of two members that meet as needed to discuss various topics. City Council typically confirms committee assignments at the January Council meeting each year, but with Mr. Epley resigning from City Council to take a seat on the bench of the Second District Court of Appeals, Council has decided to postpone the assignments until the February 1 Council meeting.

2021 Committee Appointments – Mayor Duncan explained that there are several vacancies on the citizen committees. City Council and City staff are in the process of identifying citizen volunteers for appointment at the February 1 Council meeting.

2020 Holiday Decorating Award Winners – Mayor Duncan shared that the award winners were invited to watch the meeting livestreaming from the city website or on live TV. Mayor Duncan announced the following holiday decorating award winners as the images were displayed via a PowerPoint presentation:

DAYTIME WINNERS

Area 1 – Kelly Teemer & Tim Ippisch, 300 Volusia Avenue
 Area 2 – Paul & Allyson Goolsby, 24 Spirea Drive
 Area 3 – Mark & Norma Allex, 332 Lonsdale Avenue
 Area 4 – Joseph & Suzanne Mitolo, 216 Monterey Avenue
 Area 5 – David & Liesl Hart, 126 Hadley Road
 Area 6 – Drs. Samuel & Gwyn King, 205 Haver Road
 Business – Wild Poppy, 2426 Far Hills Avenue

NIGHTTIME WINNERS

Area 1 – CJ & David Schoeff, 115 E. Schantz Avenue
 Area 2 – The Kokoropoulos Family, 118 Spirea Drive
 Area 3 – The Cox Family, 101 Forrer Boulevard
 Area 4 – The Tollefson Family, 427 Wonderly Avenue
 Area 5 – Larry Mullins, 321 Fairforest Circle
 Area 6 – Gus & Sharon Liapis, 269 Northview Boulevard
 Business – Oakwood Florist, 2313 Far Hills Avenue

VISITORS – Mayor Duncan shared that given the status of COVID-19 in Montgomery County, visitors were invited to call in to the meeting telephonically to address City Council.

There were no visitors wishing to address City Council.

LEGISLATION

AN ORDINANCE

BY MR. STEPHENS NO 4928

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 311.05, *TOY VEHICLES UPON ROADWAY*, OF THE OAKWOOD TRAFFIC CODE TO CLARIFY THAT THE SAME DOES NOT APPLY TO THE USE OF CERTAIN SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS, AND ROLLER SKATES, AND ENACTING NEW SECTION 371.13, NON-COMMERCIAL SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS, AND INLINE ROLLER SKATES, OF THE OAKWOOD TRAFFIC CODE TO REGULATE THE USE OF SUCH VEHICLES UPON PUBLIC STREETS, ALLEYS, AND SIDEWALKS.

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 the second reading of an ordinance to update Oakwood's laws for the use of scooters, skateboards, and inline skates on public streets and sidewalks.

Scooters, skateboards, and inline skates are commonly used by children and adults in Oakwood for transportation and recreation. A recent review of Oakwood's Code revealed that they are technically prohibited for street use and there are no regulations for their use on sidewalks.

The reason they are prohibited for street use is that they are classified as toy vehicles, a legal category that also includes things like sleds and wagons. That may have made sense at one time, but today these vehicles are used as commonly as bicycles. The ordinance being introduced will update Oakwood laws to reflect this.

This ordinance accomplishes three things:

1. It gives scooters, skateboards, and inline skates their own definitions, separate from the definition of "toy vehicle."
2. It allows scooters, skateboards, and inline skates to be used on public streets and alleys, treating them the same as joggers and other pedestrian traffic. That means:
 - They must travel along the curb, facing oncoming traffic, and must yield the right of way to all other vehicles;

- They may not be used on busy streets like Far Hills, Shroyer, or Patterson; and
- From a half-hour before sunset to a half-hour after sunrise, they must wear lights or reflective clothing, or must vacate the street upon the approach of any motor vehicle.

3. It allows scooters, skateboards, and inline skates to be used on sidewalks, as long as the user yields the right of way to pedestrians and does not operate recklessly.

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 BYINGTONYEA
 MR. ROBERT P. STEPHENS.....YEA
 MRS. ANNE HILTONYEA
 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.

STAFF REPORT – NONE

CITY MANAGER’S COMMENTS – Mr. Klopsch thanked Mayor Duncan for his kind comments. He added that he is honored to serve the fantastic city of Oakwood.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Duncan welcomed everyone to the new year. He closed his comments by sharing that City Council looks forward to serving the citizens of Oakwood in 2021.

The public meeting concluded at 7:43 p.m.



 MAYOR

ATTEST:



 CLERK OF COUNCIL