

CITY OF OAKWOOD
STATE OF OHIO
AUGUST 2, 2021

The Council of the city of Oakwood, State of Ohio, met in a work session 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 meeting was streamed live from the Oakwood city website, telecast live on Cable Access Channel 6 and was available via remote teleconferencing utilizing the Zoom.com platform.

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
MRS. LEIGH TURBEN.....	PRESENT

Officers of the City present were the following:

Mr. Norbert S. Klopsch, City Manager
Mr. Robert F. Jacques, City Attorney
Mrs. Jennifer Wilder, Personnel and Properties Director
Ms. Lori Stacel, Clerk of Council

The following in-person visitors registered:

Mr. Shaun Roberts, Teen Court Advisor (outgoing)
Mr. Chris Conard, Teen Court Advisor (incoming)

Attending via remote teleconference utilizing the Zoom.com platform were the following visitors:

Mr. John Hemmert, AES Ohio

Mrs. Hilton advised Council she had read the meeting minutes of the July 19, 2021 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. Stephens 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

Proclamations – Mayor Duncan read a proclamation designating September as “Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.”

Mr. Stephens read a proclamation posthumously honoring Coach Howard Sales for 30 years of dedicated service to the Oakwood community.

VISITORS

Oakwood Teen Court – Law Director Rob Jacques provided an overview on the operation of the Oakwood Teen Court.

The Oakwood Teen Court is a pretrial diversion program for certain juvenile matters. It is a peer panel under supervision of a Teen Court Advisor and has been a decades-old program in Oakwood. The Oakwood Teen Court was officially recognized as a Satellite Juvenile Court Program by Montgomery County Juvenile Court on May 1, 2014.

As a Satellite Juvenile Court Program, the policies and procedures are approved by Montgomery County Juvenile Court. The Oakwood Teen Court continues to operate much as it has for many years, but has enhancements involving the eligible offenses, eligible offenders, the “opt-in” procedure, and court documentation.

The Teen Court has a \$0 budget. It is composed of a panel of volunteer teen judges, and a volunteer Teen Court Advisor.

Teen Court typically has 30-40 cases per year. The hearings are scheduled on the 2nd Saturday of every other month, September through May.

The benefits of having a Teen Court in Oakwood include local resolution of cases; handling cases without official Court action; promptness; creative and innovative case disposition; parental involvement; and creating a positive experience for panel members and diversion participants.

The procedure for Teen Court is as follows: 1) teen makes a mistake, receives citation or summons; 2) one chance for Teen Court, not available to repeat offenders; 3) "opt-in" procedure: offender can choose Juvenile Court; 4) confidential, parent and offender, no attorneys; 5) recusal, sworn, explanation; and, 6) deliberation and sanction. Teen Court is available to all eligible offenders, regardless of whether they reside in Oakwood.

Some common offenses handled by the Teen Court are: pedestrian offenses: jay-walking; traffic offenses: speeding, stop signs, red lights, minor accidents, seat belt violations; and, criminal offenses: smoking violations, underage drinking, criminal damaging, vandalism. The following are not eligible: alcohol-related traffic offenses (OVI, etc.), crimes of violence (assault, domestic violence), and felonies.

The goal of Teen Court is to give constructive sanctions that fit the crime. Juvenile Court encourages the Teen Court to be creative and innovative in developing options for sanctions. The typical range of options include: warnings, "fines" (donation to D.A.R.E. program or charitable organization), unofficial driver's license suspension, essay/term paper or community service.

There are many benefits of Teen Court. For offenders, there is no official record, no attorney is needed, and offenders do not miss school to appear in Montgomery County Juvenile Court. For Teen Court Judges, volunteer work is made available and an introduction to civic work, courts, and the law is created.

The Public Safety Department is responsible for the initial charge, eligibility screening, participant/parent notification, scheduling and case-tracking, Juvenile Court referrals (when necessary), and maintenance of records.

The Teen Court Advisor is responsible for running the court proceedings. The advisor selects the court panels, runs bi-monthly meetings, serves in an advisory capacity with the Teen Court panel, and maintains all documentation and record-keeping to ensure privacy due to the participants being minors.

Mr. Jacques recognized Mr. Shaun Roberts, Esq. for serving as the Oakwood Teen Court Advisor for the past 22 years.

Mr. Roberts shared that he was appointed as Teen Court Advisor in 1999, replacing Tom Talbot, Jr. He recalled the ages of his children when he started, and commented that the teen judges that were on the court when he started in 1999 are now older than he was when he took over. He thanked the city of Oakwood, and shared his appreciation to the Oakwood Public Safety Department and city staff members for their continued participation and support of this program. Mr. Roberts closed his comments by saying that it has been a privilege to learn from the bright young kids, and that he is departing from the role with more knowledge than what he came in with.

City Council thanked Mr. Roberts for his service to the Oakwood community.

Mr. Jacques then introduced Mr. Chris Conard, Esq. as the newly appointed Teen Court Advisor.

Mr. Conard shared that he has been practicing law for the past 30 years and is honored to serve the citizens of Oakwood. He said that the role of any juvenile court is focusing on the best interest of the children. He looks forward to promoting civic engagement and helping the kids to understand that everyone makes mistakes, but that doesn't mean they have to pay for them the rest of their life.

City Council welcomed Mr. Conard to the Teen Court Advisor role.

A RESOLUTION

BY MR. STEPHENS

NO 1886

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO CERTIFY CERTAIN DELINQUENT CHARGES FOR CUTTING NOXIOUS WEEDS AND NUISANCE PLANT MATERIAL TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR FOR COLLECTION.

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

Mr. Stephens explained that each year, the City incurs costs for mowing and clearing overgrown yards and removing nuisance plant material when owners do not take care of their property. The City bills property owners for those costs and most of them pay. For those who do not pay, this is the annual resolution to certify the costs to the County Auditor so they can be added to the tax bill for each property. This certification includes eight properties at a total outstanding dollar amount of \$11,608.68.

Thereupon, it was moved by Mr. Stephens 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
MRS. LEIGH TURBEN	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

Personnel & Properties Report: Mrs. Jennifer Wilder, Personnel & Properties Director, referenced a PowerPoint presentation and updated Council on the activities of the Personnel and Properties Department.

Each spring, city staff conducts a city-wide automobile tour to identify violations of the Oakwood Property Maintenance Code. During the strictest phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, only significant property maintenance violations were addressed through normal code enforcement procedures. The more thorough annual city-wide property maintenance review was resumed in May 2021. To date, 147 letters have been sent to property owners advising them of violation(s) and establishing a date to complete the repair(s). 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. The most common violations seen this year include dead or diseased trees and chipping or peeling paint. Mrs. Wilder provided a reminder about caring for trees in Oakwood. Oakwood Property Maintenance Code Section 17-302.14 – *Diseased and Dead Trees* states that if a dead tree constitutes a safety hazard because of its proximity to the right-of-way, any building or structure, or to persons who use nearby premises, it shall be removed at the expense of the owner.

Jessup Wealth Management has embarked on an interior and exterior renovation of their building on Park Avenue. Renovations are expected to be complete later this summer. Mrs. Wilder displayed a rendering of the front of the building.

In June, the Planning Commission heard a request from Natalie Dunlevey of National Processing Solutions, a company located in the Sugar Camp office buildings, to amend the Sugar Camp Master plan to change the gatehouse at 10 Sugar Camp Circle from delicatessen use to professional office/business use. The original Sugar Camp Master Plan was approved on April 23, 2007. The Plan has been amended a number of times, sometimes to accommodate market demands and sometimes to shift the location of approved uses within the development. The Gatehouse building has been vacant since before the original master plan approval, and no one has stepped forward with a plan to operate it as a deli, or any other type of food service establishment. Other ideas have been floated over the years, but to date, nothing concrete had been proposed and the master plan has never been amended with respect to the Gatehouse. Ms. Dunlevey has invested in the gatehouse, restoring the building and making overdue repairs. Landscaping will be compatible with the surrounding sugar camp development, and a 10.5 square foot wall sign will be added to the front. City Council held a public hearing for the request at the July 19, 2021 meeting and approved the change of use.

As a free service to Oakwood citizens, the City has contracted with Shred-It to be on-site at the Public Works Center at 210 Shafor Boulevard on Saturday, September 25, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. to provide document destruction services.

Mrs. Wilder then reviewed the 2021 employee retirements and hires. Steve Alston, a Maintenance Worker who most recently worked on the city's yard debris crew, retired in April after 33 years of service to Oakwood. New hires include: Water Plant Superintendent and

Water & Sewer Foreman Scott Loper; Staff Engineer Chris Kuzma; and General Service Worker Corey Edwards.

Mrs. Turben asked if paper clips and staples need to be removed from documents prior to shredding.

Mrs. Wilder answered no, and explained that the professional shredder can cut through these items so they do not need to be removed.

AN OAKWOOD MOMENT

Mrs. Hilton recognized the band "Six Feet Apart." The band is a subset of UD's New Horizons Band and it got its start during the COVID-19 lockdown when a few of the members (initially called a "quarantet," but now 12+ members, mostly Oakwood residents) met at Dixon and Shafor to provide a weekly concert. The group has additionally appeared at events such as the Wright Library Grand Re-Opening and Oakwood High School's Graduation Parade, and there is a Carillon Park concert in the works for August. Music types include American folk songs, patriotic songs, classical and jazz music, marches, and soon to be showcased "Take Me Out to The Ballgame." Among the musicians' instruments are the saxophone, trombone, tuba, trumpet, French horn, bass drum, snare drum, clarinet, flute, and euphonium.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS – Mr. Klopsch provided the following report:

Gardner Pool will be closing for the season in five weeks. The annual Dog Splash event is scheduled for Sunday, September 12. Kudos to Leisure Services Director Carol Collins and her staff for another successful pool season.

The annual asphalt resurfacing project was completed on Friday, July 30. The program included repaving Ridgewood Avenue, Schenck Avenue, Runnymede Lane, Sweetwood Lane, Runnymede Road and Patterson Road.

The annual roadway restriping project was recently completed.

The Shafor Park Tennis Courts reopened today, just in time for the high school tennis team to begin their practices. The court were temporarily closed to fix the flaws that occurred with the original project in 2018, at no public expense.

The annual Sidewalk, Curb and Driveway Apron Project will resume next year. The project will take place on the west side of Oakwood.

The annual summer employee picnic will be held at Shafor Park this Friday. The event includes recognizing retired employees that were unable to be recognized due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Turben reported that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources is still advising that all bird feeders be removed and cleaned until a cause can be identified for the large number of bird deaths.

Councilmember Stephens encouraged everyone to attend the Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 22 from 4 – 7 p.m. at Shafor Park. He reminding everyone to be safe, and to obey traffic laws, since school is starting on Wednesday, August 25. He closed his comments by wishing the teachers and students good luck on the upcoming school year.

The public meeting concluded at 8:09 p.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CLERK OF COUNCIL