

CITY OF OAKWOOD  
STATE OF OHIO  
JUNE 7, 2021

The Council of the city of Oakwood, State of Ohio, met in a work session at 7:00 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.

City Council was present at City Hall while respecting social distancing guidelines. Four staff members were present and dispersed throughout the council chambers. 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.....	ABSENT
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  
Ms. Carol Collins, Leisure Services Director  
Ms. Lori Stacel, Clerk of Council

The following in-person visitors registered:

Mrs. Christine Robinson, 36 Telford Avenue

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

Mr. John Hemmert, AES Ohio

It was moved by Vice Mayor Byington and seconded by Mrs. Hilton that the absence of Mr. Stephens be excused. Upon a viva voce vote on the question of the motion, same passed unanimously and it was so ordered.

Mrs. Hilton advised Council she had read the meeting minutes of the May 3, 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 Vice Mayor Byington 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

Citizen Committee Appointments – Mayor Duncan presented the appointment of Kirsten Halling to the Property Maintenance Board; Elizabeth Kussman to the Budget Review Committee; Kevin Jones to the Beautification Committee; and the reappointment of Ted Kircher to the Beautification Committee.

It was moved by Mayor Duncan and seconded by Vice Mayor Byington that the aforementioned appointment be confirmed. Upon a viva voce vote on the question of the motion, same passed unanimously and it was so ordered.

Public Safety Mental Health Training – Mayor Duncan read the following press release about the Public Safety Department taking a proactive approach on mental health:

*“According to the National Institute of Mental Health, statistics show that approximately 20% (51.5 million) of U.S. adults experienced a mental health condition in 2019, and it is estimated that 10 percent of all law enforcement calls for service involve a person with a mental illness. In an effort to equip every officer with the necessary skills to safely and effectively do their job, the Oakwood Public Safety Department has implemented a series of trainings in 2021 focusing on mental health.*

*The first of these trainings, Talk Saves Lives, was recently presented by Dr. Sallie Wilson Luther, who is a member of the Oakwood Board of Health, and Leigh Ann Fulford. In*

*this training, officers learned about the warning signs and risk factors of suicide, as well as how to communicate effectively with someone who is thinking about suicide.*

*Luther and Fulford are volunteer board members for the Ohio Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) and brought the first Out of the Darkness Walk to Dayton in 2013. This walk, which has provided tremendous support to suicide loss survivors over the years, attracted more than 2,000 participants at its last in-person event at Oakwood's Mack Hummon Stadium in 2019. Because of the growth of the walk and logistics with parking, the decision was made to move this year's walk to Welcome Stadium on Sunday, October 17, 2021. Luther said, "The Oakwood community has been at the forefront of suicide prevention the last eight years. We could never have accomplished what we did without the help and support of Oakwood's City Council, Oakwood's Schools, and the Oakwood Safety Department. We are grateful for Oakwood's support of events and programs surrounding mental health and suicide, and we are happy to support officers and members of the community with suicide prevention programs funded by AFSP's Out of the Darkness Walk."*

*In addition to the Talk Saves Lives training, all sworn Safety Department personnel will complete a Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training course for Public Safety Officers during 2021. The MHFA course is designed to provide officers with the ability to recognize symptoms of mental illness and substance abuse, effectively engage a person in crisis, and connect positively with the person in need. Oakwood officers will also receive de-escalation training that will provide officers with the essential tools and tactics needed to achieve the most desirable outcome when dealing with an individual in crisis.*

*Additionally, the Oakwood Public Safety Department will send all first-line supervisors to an intensive 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training certification course, and a select group of officers will attend a leading suicide intervention training program entitled Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST). Also, all public safety dispatchers will complete a crisis intervention companion training course providing them with the knowledge and skills necessary to identify and respond effectively to a caller in a mental health crisis.*

*Oakwood Public Safety Director Alan Hill stated, "The goal of conducting a series of trainings focused on mental health is to provide our officers with the necessary skills and resources that allow them to respond appropriately to and engage individuals suffering from a mental health condition. Increasing an officer's knowledge and understanding of mental illness will assist them in de-escalation, ensuring the best outcomes in challenging situations." All Oakwood sworn officers are trained and certified as police officers, firefighters, and paramedics/EMTs."*

#### VISITORS

Mrs. Christine Robinson, 36 Telford Avenue, asked City Council to consider a change in the traffic flow in the first block of Telford Avenue. She proposed making the first block of Telford Avenue one-way westbound.

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. Mr. Stephens and Mrs. Hilton are the current council members assigned to topics related to "Streets and Alleys". He asked Mr. Stephens and Mrs. Hilton to review Mrs. Robinson's recommendation, and then to provide a recommendation to City Council.

Mayor Duncan acknowledged AES Ohio representative John Hemmert who was attending the meeting remotely via Zoom. Mayor Duncan said that he would like to talk with Mr. Hemmert about why electric service providers are going door-to-door asking people to switch providers.

Mr. Hemmert replied that he would be happy to explain why this is happening. He said that he will follow up with Mayor Duncan after the meeting.

#### LEGISLATION

##### AN ORDINANCE

BY VICE MAYOR BYINGTON NO 4941

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 145.04, FORMAL BIDDING PROCEDURES, OF THE OAKWOOD ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TO CLARIFY THAT CERTAIN BROKERED PURCHASES AND CONTRACTS ARE EXEMPT FROM FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS.

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 update Section 145.04(E) of the Oakwood Administrative Code, which is the City's purchasing and contracting ordinance. It was introduced with a first reading at the May 3, 2021 Council meeting.

For many years, the City has obtained insurance and other employee benefits through brokers who are familiar with the local market and who have a contractual fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of the City. These broker service contracts have always been exempt from competitive bidding as contracts for professional or personal services, and the underlying benefit contracts have been included in that exemption. However, Council wishes to add a specific exemption for the underlying benefit contracts. This will avoid any specious argument that the broker contract might be exempt while the underlying contracts are not.

Thereupon, it was moved by Vice Mayor Byington 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
MRS. ANNE HILTON .....	YEA
MRS. LEIGH TURBEN .....	YEA

There being four (4) yea votes and no (0) nay votes thereon, said ordinance was declared duly passed and it was so ordered.

A RESOLUTION  
BY MAYOR DUNCAN NO 1882  
A RESOLUTION TERMINATING THE COVID-19 STATE OF  
EMERGENCY FOR THE CITY OF OAKWOOD.

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 for more than one year, the world has addressed the COVID-19 pandemic. Health authorities around the world have implemented lockdowns, mask mandates, and other measures to help mitigate the negative health impact of the virus, and to ensure that the medical facilities were not overwhelmed. States of emergency have been declared at federal, state, and local levels of government. In Oakwood, Council adopted an emergency declaration through Resolution No. 1871, on April 6, 2020.

After a year of uncertainty and isolation, it appears that things are finally emerging on the other side of the pandemic.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers an area to have "high-incidence" of COVID-19 if it meets a threshold of 100 new cases per 100,000 residents. Ohio's numbers reached as high as the 800's during the December-January timeframe, but have rapidly dropped through April and May, falling to just 58.3 as of last week's June 3, 2021 update.

While new case counts and other key metrics have dropped, Ohio has also done an outstanding job implementing its vaccination program. To date, over five million Ohioans have been inoculated.

As a result of these efforts, the Ohio Department of Health has now rescinded almost all health orders for the state, including orders for masks, social distancing, and reduced gathering sizes. Council anticipates that Governor DeWine will soon rescind his declaration of a state of emergency for Ohio, and it is time to terminate Oakwood's state of emergency as Ohio begins its return to normalcy.

Thereupon, it was moved by Mayor Duncan and seconded by Vice Mayor Byington 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
MRS. ANNE HILTON .....	YEA
MRS. LEIGH TURBEN .....	YEA

There being four (4) yea votes and no (0) nay votes thereon, said resolution was declared duly passed and it was so ordered.

A RESOLUTION  
BY VICE MAYOR BYINGTON NO 1883  
A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAKWOOD,  
OHIO, DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF A RENEWAL LEVY IN  
EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION AND REQUESTING THE  
COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX  
VALUATION OF THE CITY OF OAKWOOD AND THE DOLLAR  
AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY A  
SPECIFIC NUMBER OF MILLS.

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 begin the process of renewing the City’s 2.72 mill property tax levy. The levy was first approved by Oakwood voters in 1991 and has been renewed every five years thereafter. It is currently due to expire at the end of 2021.

This resolution is the first legislative step towards placing the renewal on the ballot in November. The second piece of legislation will be on the agenda for Council’s July meeting.

It is important to note that this is a renewal, and NOT a new levy. It will maintain the current level of property taxation and will NOT increase property taxes.

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  
MRS. ANNE HILTON.....YEA  
MRS. LEIGH TURBEN.....YEA

There being four (4) yea votes and no (0) nay votes thereon, said resolution was declared duly passed and it was so ordered.

STAFF REPORT

Leisure Services Report: Ms. Carol Collins, Leisure Services Director, delivered the following report:

Gardner Pool opened over Memorial Day weekend. There have been 412 family pool memberships, 116 single memberships and 89 senior memberships purchased so far this season. This year’s memberships are very comparable to what was sold in 2019, before the pandemic. The Oakwood Community Center (OCC) has three “Summer Fun at the Pool” family nights planned in 2021. While the June date is still being determined, the other scheduled dates are Sunday, July 30 and Sunday August 22. The pool staff will organize relay races and fun games throughout the night. The pool will close at 9 p.m. on all three nights, one hour later than normal.

The Oakwood Dolphins continue to dominate their league with over 140 swimmers. There are fewer swimmers compared to past years due to the required COVID-19 protocols.

The Gardner Pool staff offers swim lessons that are certified by the American Red Cross. The lessons are available for toddlers with parents all the way to advanced Level V and VI. There were over 75 families who registered online for swim lessons within 30 minutes of the registration opening.

Gardner Pool offers two different types of water workouts. A “Deep Water Workout” is offered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, and “Water Aerobics” is available on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

The Oakwood Community Center will be offering the following summer camps and activities: Fencing Camps, Irish Dance Camp, Camp Shafor, Kiddie Camp, Skyhawks Sports Camps, Boys and Girls Lacrosse Camp, Camp Hodge Podge, Ballet Dance Camps, Kidz Home Alone & Better Babysitters, Kids Trivia, Youth Tennis, Ultimate Frisbee Camp, Youth Theatre Camp and Old River Sports Camp. The following adult classes will also be offered: Tennis, Easy Exercise,

Tai Chi, Upper Body Condition, Yoga, Zumba, Core Strengthening, HIIT (High Intensity Interval Training) and Dancercise.

Residents are encouraged to use the new online registration website, MyRec. The registration website allows residents to register and easily manage their account online. In addition to the new registration website, key jobs are available for pool members and will soon be available for health center members, allowing for easy electronic access to the facilities.

The city of Oakwood took possession of the Hollinger Memorial Tennis Club in late 2016. The Oakwood Community Center is responsible for collecting all monetary donations and membership revenue for the club. To date, there have been 48 memberships sold, including two new members and five mid-season memberships.

For the 40<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Ohio was recognized as the nation's leader in Tree City USA communities, with 243 participating cities, villages and townships. In 2020, Ohioans planted more than 35,000 trees, pruned more than 80,000 trees, volunteered more than 39,000 hours in urban forestry programs, and invested a combined total of \$37 million toward urban forestry efforts. Oakwood was recognized as a 39 year award as a Tree City USA city.

In 42 consecutive years, a total of 3,122 trees have been planted through the Johnny Applesseed Street Tree Planting Project at a total cost of \$423,126. The program is offered each year and includes a 50% discount to homeowners for trees that are planted in the city rights-of-way. In 2020, a total of 82 trees were planted in the Oakwood community.

This year's annual "Arbor Day Celebration" included a "Treasure Hunt" to find different species of trees in Oakwood for kids from both Smith School and Harman School. The event included a coloring contest with over 100 entries.

The OCC, in conjunction with Wright Memorial Public Library, is presenting another fun season of "Story Hour at Smith Gardens". The events offer a magical morning in the Gardens as the Children's Librarian reads enchanting stories at 10:30 a.m. on the following Friday dates: June 25, July 30 and August 27.

Ms. Collins recognized the Oakwood Beautification Committee for doing a beautiful job with the Far Hills boulevard planting near Telford Avenue.

Oakwood's 2020 Ice Cream Social was on Sunday, August 30. City Council and City Staff greeted and directed cars that attended the drive-thru event. The event had a good turnout with over 800 cups of ice cream distributed.

The City's Holiday of Lights event was held on Sunday, December 13. City Council and City Staff greeted the cars along a magically decorated and luminaria-lit drive-thru event. Santa waved to people driving by, while festive music played and over 1,000 goodie bags were handed out.

Mrs. Hilton asked if the Smith Gardens Blanket Concerts are scheduled for this summer.

Ms. Collins shared that the blanket concerts will resume next year.

Mayor Duncan encouraged people to attend the blanket concerts in 2022. The concerts provide for outstanding and tree entertainment.

Mayor Duncan commended Ms. Collins and the Leisure Services Department for finding ways to provide leisure activities to the community amid the pandemic restrictions.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS – Mr. Klopsch provided an update on the following items:

Mr. Klopsch shared that as a resident on Volusia, he has recently purchased two trees through the Johnny Applesseed Street Tree Planting Project, and he plans to buy another one this year. He commended Ms. Collins and her staff for continuing to offer this program. Mr. Klopsch noted that this program is one of many programs that Ms. Collins started in the City. The program maintains the tree stock by adding around 70-80 trees per year to the City's neighborhoods.

In addition to the Public Safety Department, the Public Works Department also received the "Talk Saves Lives" training by Dr. Wilson and Mrs. Fulford. The training is an excellent program on suicide prevention. Mr. Klopsch explained that public works employees are out-and-about the community and interacting with citizens daily. The mental health training is beneficial and empowers city employees to help citizens in their time of need. Dr. Wilson and Mrs. Fulford are two amazing people that have made a lot of positive contributions to not only

Oakwood, but to the county and state as well. Mrs. Fulford started the CARE Walk 20 years ago to raise money for breast cancer awareness and research. Together, Dr. Wilson and Mrs. Fulford created Dayton's "Out of the Darkness Walk" event to raise awareness and to encourage people to talk about suicide. This year's walk will be moved from Mack Hummon Stadium to Welcome Stadium to accommodate the growing participation in the event.

The Oakwood Public Safety Department has been actively training for the use of in-car and body cameras. By the end of June, all of the officers will be trained and fully outfitted with operational camera equipment. The cameras will serve the department and city well.

The Public Works Department recently purchased four replacement refuse scooters and a replacement refuse packer so the department can continue to provide essential and efficient services to the Oakwood community.

#### COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Turben displayed images of Harman School and Smith School third grade students visiting the Oakwood Historical Society's Long-Romspert Homestead. She shared that the tour was a wonderful event and the thank you notes that the students sent afterwards were the "icing on the cake." Mrs. Turben read a few of the thank you notes.

Councilmember Hilton thanked Ms. Collins for everything she's done last year and throughout her career.

Vice Mayor Byington shared that the Oakwood Farmers' Market opened this past Saturday. He encouraged people to come out and visit.

Mayor Duncan commented that he visited the Oakwood Farmers' Market this weekend, and noticed the diverse group of vendors. He shared that he was contacted several months ago from an Oakwood resident whose family wanted to show their appreciation for the work the safety department does to protect and serve the Oakwood community. Last month, the family delivered Dorothy Lane Market gift baskets, plus a gift card to Flyboys Deli, to each member of the safety department. The department was very appreciative of the generous gesture. He congratulated the Oakwood High School girls track and field team for winning the OHSAA Division II State Title. Mayor Duncan closed his comments by wishing his daughter a happy birthday, and wishing his parents, Ronald and Faye Duncan, a happy 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

The public meeting concluded at 8:10 p.m.



MAYOR

ATTEST:



CLERK OF COUNCIL