

MINUTES
OAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
AUGUST 2, 2021

The Council of the city of Oakwood, Ohio, met in a work session on Monday, August 2, 2021 in the second-floor training room at the city building, 30 Park Avenue. The Mayor of the City, William Duncan, presided.

Council members in attendance were Mayor William Duncan, Vice Mayor Steve Byington, Councilmember Rob Stephens, Councilmember Anne Hilton and Councilmember Leigh Turben. Staff in attendance were City Manager Norbert Klopsch and City Attorney Rob Jacques.

Mayor Duncan called the work session to order at 6:30 p.m. and reviewed the agenda for the regular session this evening. Thereafter, Mayor Duncan led a discussion on the following agenda items:

- **STATUS REPORTS:**
 - Proclamations: Mayor Duncan noted that he will read a proclamation designating September as “Prostate Cancer Awareness Month,” and Mr. Stephens will read a proclamation posthumously honoring Coach Howard Sales for 30 years of dedicated service to the Oakwood community.

- **VISITORS:**
 - Oakwood Teen Court: Mr. Jacques shared that he will provide an overview on the operation of the Oakwood Teen Court, and then recognize Shaun Roberts for his 20+ years of service and Chris Conard as the newly appointed Teen Court Advisor.

- **LEGISLATION:** Council discussed the following legislation scheduled for presentation at the regular session this evening:
 - 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, Mr. Stephens

- **STAFF REPORT:** Mr. Klopsch noted that Personnel and Properties Director Jennifer Wilder will deliver a PowerPoint presentation at the regular session this evening.

- **COUNCIL COMMITTEES**
 - Finance, Vice Mayor Byington
 - 2.72 Mill Levy Renewal Mailings: Mr. Klopsch shared that the levy will be promoted through a letter from the Budget Review Committee (BRC) chair, a letter from City Council, and an article in the October/November *Oakwood Scene* newsletter. He suggested to forego sending the postcard from BRC members to each of the seven voting precincts. Council concurred.
 - American Rescue Plan Act: Mr. Klopsch reported that Oakwood received the first distribution from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. The amount is \$468,028 and the money is placed in the Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. The second distribution is expected in July 2022. In accordance with federal interim rules, the money must be encumbered by December 31, 2024 and distributed by December 31, 2026. Finance Director Cindy Stafford will attend an upcoming work session to discuss possible uses of the funds, including the potential funding of Far Hills storm sewer improvements.

- Public Properties, Mrs. Turben
 - Shafor Park Tennis Facility: Mr. Klopsch reported that the tennis court rebuild is done, but the City is in discussions with the contractor to determine if one additional coat of acrylic sealer should be applied to the tennis court surface. If this is done, the work will take 3-5 days to complete. In the meantime, the courts are useable. The Oakwood Schools requested that the perimeter fence screen be left off and we are planning to accommodate this. They made this request so that spectators could view tennis matches from outside the court facility. Sometime this fall, Bilbrey Construction will apply a sealcoat to the entire OCC parking lot and will restripe the parking spaces. This was part of the project warranty agreement and is also at no cost.
 - Trash and Recycling Cans in Public Areas: Mr. Klopsch mentioned a letter received last week from a Harman 4th grader who is interested in making Oakwood more environmentally friendly. The letter suggested that a trash can be placed in Elizabeth Gardens, and that Oakwood consider having a site for composting.
- Public Utilities/Waterworks/Sewer, Mrs. Turben
 - Recycling Center Improvements: Mr. Klopsch reported on the status of the project. Staff is waiting on a date for construction of the retaining wall.
- Streets & Alleys, Mr. Stephens
 - 2021 Asphalt Resurfacing Program: Mr. Klopsch noted that 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.
 - Park Avenue Sidewalk: Mr. Klopsch reported that staff continues to work with the contractor making improvements to 35 Park Avenue to ensure that the public sidewalk is reopened before school starts on August 25.
 - Old River Trail Cul-de-sac: Mr. Klopsch mentioned that the City recently removed the circular island at the west cul-de-sac of Old River Trail. The island impeded the efficient movement of vehicular traffic. The Oakwood Investment Group, developer of Pointe Oakwood, concurred with the removal.
- REGIONAL AGENCIES
 - MVCC, Mr. Stephens
 - Fiber Optic Project: Mr. Klopsch noted that work on installing the 288-count fiber cable through Oakwood is scheduled to begin in the next week or two. The conduit and cable will be installed underground from Far Hills & East Drive north to Far Hills & W. Schantz, and then west on W. Schantz to Kramer.
 - MVRPC, Vice Mayor Byington
 - Miami Valley Environmental Justice Academy: Mr. Klopsch provided an overview of the Miami Valley Environmental Justice Academy. The academy is a training program developed for emerging community, non-profit, and environmental leaders to help cultivate skills to identify and address environmental changes in their communities. Mr. Klopsch noted that given Healy Jackson's seat on the Oakwood Planning Commission (2010 to present), and her leadership role on the Oakwood Inclusion Coalition, he feels that she is an excellent candidate for this program.

- First Suburbs, Vice Mayor Byington
 - August 4 Networking Event: Mr. Klopsch mentioned that he and his wife are planning to attend the First Suburbs Consortium's networking event on Wednesday, August 4. Mrs. Turben and Mr. Byington mentioned that they also plan to attend. The event will start with a summer barbeque dinner at 6:00 p.m. on the Frazee Pavilion Patio and a 7:30 p.m. concert featuring the United States Air Force Band of Flight, Flight One.
- Oakwood Inclusion Coalition, Mr. Klopsch
 - August 29 Event: Mr. Klopsch shared that the OIC Leadership team is planning a food truck event on Sunday, August 29.
 - Public Records Request: Mr. Jacques mentioned that the City received an extensive public records request through an organization named MuckRock. The request was for emails to and from the City and members of the OIC Leadership Team over a five month period. The City is complying with the request. The Oakwood Schools and Wright Library received similar requests.
- MISCELLANEOUS
 - Juneteenth Federal Holiday: Mr. Klopsch mentioned that he recommends establishing Juneteenth as a City-observed holiday, consistent with it becoming a federal holiday. This will be included in the annual Personnel Schedule presented to City Council at the December 13 public meeting.
 - Challenge Coins: Mr. Klopsch shared pricing quotes for the challenge coins that City Council may be interested in distributing as a symbol of appreciation and recognition.
 - 9/11 20th Anniversary: The City has given thought to conducting a 20th anniversary remembrance ceremony, but decided against it because the event falls on a Saturday.

At 7:25 p.m., Mayor Duncan adjourned the work session and Council moved to regular session.



Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council