

CITY OF OAKWOOD

STATE OF OHIO

OCTOBER 4, 2021

The Council of the city of Oakwood, State of Ohio, met in a work session and executive session at 6:00 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.

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. Cindy Stafford, Finance Director
 Ms. Lori Stacel, Clerk of Council

The following in-person visitors registered:

Detective Kasey Ballinger & Family
 Mr. Andrew Balet, 1026 Acorn Drive
 Ms. Katie Picca
 Mr. Aaron Trimm, Dayton Mediation Center

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

Mr. John Hemmert, AES Ohio

Mayor Duncan shared that the past week has been very sad for the city of Oakwood with the passing of Oakwood Public Safety Officer Jesse Schaffer. He invited Chief Hill and City Manager Klopsch to say a few words about the sad events of the week.

Chief Hill began by sharing his appreciation to everyone in the Public Safety Department for continuing to honor the oath of "service before self" even during a time of mourning. Chief Hill shared the following:

"When I first met Jesse, it was during his interview. I was impressed with his record of service at such a young age. Jesse was certified in all three disciplines and had prior work experience as a Trooper with the Ohio State Highway Patrol and Firefighter / EMT with both the Washington Township Fire Department and the Kettering Fire Department. Like so many of us within the Safety Department, Jesse became a public safety officer so that he could serve as a law enforcement officer as well as a firefighter and EMT.

Furthermore, Jesse joined the less than 10% of citizens who serve their country in the United States military serving as a United States Marine for six years.

Ronald Reagan once said during a speech, "Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But, the Marines don't have that problem." Jesse's service to his country, state, and local communities, epitomize that statement.

This week will now doubt be extremely difficult for members of the Safety Department, but as we mourn the loss of Jesse we will lean on and support one another."

Mr. Klopsch offered condolences to Public Safety Officer Schaffer's family and friends and stated that the Oakwood Public Safety Department remains strong. Mr. Klopsch shared that he knew Public Safety Officer Schaffer as a man of few words that always had a smile on his face. The pain that he carried was hidden. He will always remember him with that smile. Oakwood city staff has come together to support each other during this difficult time. The city of Oakwood is lucky to have a leader like Chief Hill. Chief Hill has and will continue to help Public Safety Officer Schaffer's family and the Oakwood Public Safety Department move forward and navigate the weeks and months ahead.

Mayor Duncan called for a moment of silence to honor Public Safety Officer Jesse Schaffer.

Mrs. Hilton advised Council she had read the meeting minutes of the September 20, 2021 regular session, work session and executive 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

Public Safety Recognition – Mayor Duncan invited Chief Hill to recognize Detective Kasey Ballinger for her work in apprehending the criminals who were recently burglarizing homes in Oakwood and Kettering. Chief Hill noted that Detective Ballinger worked side-by-side with Public Safety Officer Schaffer and knew him before he came to Oakwood. Detective Ballinger was instrumental in assisting his family during this difficult time.

Chief Hill recognized Detective Ballinger's husband and son in the audience. He stated that Detective Ballinger sacrificed time with her family and worked around the clock to investigate and apprehend the criminals. Chief Hill then read the following letter of recognition:

"On August 7, 2021, during the overnight hours, the Oakwood Safety Department received a call from a resident who reported that two subjects were attempting to break into her residence. The resident was out of the area, but watching the incident unfold on their exterior surveillance cameras. Street officers quickly arrived on the scene, but the subjects fled. A description of the suspects was obtained from the surveillance video.

Later the same morning, the Oakwood Public Safety Department received a call from another resident who reported finding three firearms and a purse in a flower bed on Thruston Boulevard. Subsequent investigation revealed that an overnight burglary had occurred in close proximity to this location, and the firearms were stolen from this residence.

Furthermore, additional crimes were reported being committed in the City of Kettering, to include a home invasion, with the description of the suspects matching the same description of the individuals captured on the surveillance video. Over the next several hours, Detective Kasey Ballinger, with assistance from the Kettering Police Department, and Tactical Crime Suppression Unit (TCSU) Investigative Unit, began working the investigation, and were quickly able to positively identify the individuals involved.

Detective Ballinger authored two search warrants and subsequently these warrants were executed in the village of Lewisburg resulting in the arrest of Keyon Taylor and Blade Root. Detective Ballinger's hard work and dedication on this case lead to a felony criminal indictment against Taylor and Root for charges that include Aggravated Robbery, Aggravated Burglary, Kidnapping, and Burglary.

It is my pleasure, Detective Ballinger, to award you this Letter of Recognition for your professionalism and hard work. Thank you for a job well done."

Mayor Duncan stated that Oakwood is a safe community because of officers like Detective Ballinger. The Oakwood Public Safety Department is the best public safety department in the area.

VISITORS

Homelessness Prevention Program, Dayton Mediation Center – Mediation Specialist Aaron Primm offered his condolences to the city of Oakwood and the Oakwood Public Safety Department.

Mr. Primm shared that the Dayton Mediation Center provides mediation services free of charge to individuals in Montgomery County, Ohio. A variety of programs are offered to help and support people in finding their way through conflicts with neighbors, family members, broken relationships, workplace situations, landlords and tenants, etc.

Mayor Duncan asked if the Dayton Mediation Center is a nonprofit organization separate from the city of Dayton.

Mr. Primm explained that the city of Dayton established the Dayton Mediation Center.

Mayor Duncan asked if the Dayton Mediation Center is related to the Dayton Ombudsman.

Mr. Primm answered no.

Mayor Duncan asked Mr. Primm to share the Dayton Mediation Center's contact information.

Mr. Primm shared the website address of daytonmediationcenter.org, email address of aaron.primm@daytonohio.gov and telephone number of (937) 333-3429.

Mrs. Hilton asked if the Dayton Mediation Center still accepts volunteers.

Mr. Primm noted that the majority of the mediation is done by volunteers. The Center provides 20 hours of training to all volunteers.

Mayor Duncan thanked Mr. Primm for his presentation.

STAFF REPORT

Finance Report: Finance Director Cindy Stafford referenced a PowerPoint presentation and updated Council on the following topics: 2020 year-end Audit; 2020 Auditor of State's StaRS Program; and 2021 Financials through September 30, 2021.

The Oakwood Finance Department was again awarded the Auditor of State Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 2020 Audit. Mrs. Stafford noted that this award not only represents the hard work of all city employees, but also City Council in overseeing the use of public resources.

Mrs. Stafford recognized the efforts of the following members of the Finance Department: Tracy Martin, Assistant Finance Director; Theresa Rushlow, Utility Clerk; Gloria Corona-Luna, Account Clerk; Linda Merker, Tax Administrator; Stacy Vreeland-Mathes, Part-time Tax Clerk; and, Tracy Davidson, Tax Clerk.

The Ohio Auditor of State uses a Stars Rating System (StaRS) to measure compliance with Sunshine Laws and to share best practices for governments to improve the transparency within their own organization. Mrs. Stafford displayed the city of Oakwood's StaRS results. The City scored four stars, which is the highest achievement in open and transparent government. The Ohio Auditor's Office shared a new best practice of recording public request acknowledgements, which was implemented immediately.

Mayor Duncan noted that a lot of the local government and school board issues reported in the Dayton newspapers are related to public records requests and open meetings. Oakwood city officials act openly to ensure transparency.

In regard to the 2021 financials through September 30, 2021, Mrs. Stafford referenced a chart for General City Services, excluding transfers, showing budgeted versus actual for receipts were: \$13,536,869 and \$13,147,130; and disbursements were: \$14,602,025 and \$11,113,738. Receipts are 97.12% as a result of three main items. The City received \$468,000 of unbudgeted revenue from the American Rescue Plan Act. An additional \$468,000 will be received next year as well and the funds will be reflected in the budget. The other two items include income taxes and property taxes. A significant amount of income tax and property tax is received in April and May, as well as property tax assessments. Mrs. Stafford shared that she anticipates that revenues will be slightly higher than budget, excluding the American Rescue Plan Act funds, and by the end of the year disbursements and encumbrances will be close to what was budgeted.

The Refuse Funds, excluding transfers, budgeted versus actual for receipts were: \$1,352,600 and \$1,042,268; and disbursements were: \$1,707,976 and \$1,364,512. For the Water Utility Funds, Sanitary Sewer Utility Funds and Stormwater Utility Funds, excluding transfers, budgeted versus actual for receipts were: \$3,511,035 and \$2,656,996 and disbursements were: \$3,794,161 and \$2,701,624.

There are many resources available on the City's website (www.oakwoodohio.gov) including annual audit reports, annual city budgets, monthly financial reports, income tax forms and vital records forms.

Mayor Duncan thanked Mrs. Stafford and the Oakwood Finance Department for all of their good work.

Mr. Stephens asked if there has been an increase of water use since last year due to COVID-19 and people working from home.

Mrs. Stafford said that there has not been a significant change in water use since last year, but there are still quite a few people working from home.

AN OAKWOOD MOMENT

Vice Mayor Byington recognized the Volusia Avenue block party. Block parties are a great way for neighbors to get together and develop relationships. Oakwood has around 30-40 block parties per year. A video highlight of the Volusia Avenue block party was played. After the video, Vice Mayor Byington noted that the Oakwood community is fortunate to have the Oakwood Public Safety Department participate in the block party events. He then recognized Lieutenant Damian Baggett, Public Safety Officer Josh Wells and Public Safety Officer Ryan Wells for their participation in the Volusia Avenue block party.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Klopsch reported that there has been significant work completed over the last four weeks extending a large retaining wall to provide a level space for the relocated recycling facility. The retaining wall should be completed sometime this week. The new location will create a more efficient drop-off operation and safer environment for the heavily used facility by removing it from the congested dog park parking lot.

The annual fall leaf collection program begins on Monday, October 11. As in previous years, the program will provide bi-weekly leaf pickups of all areas throughout Oakwood. The program is scheduled to continue until Friday, December 17, but will be shortened or extended if conditions warrant. The leaf collection schedule is available on the City website and in the *Oakwood Scene* newsletter.

Mr. Klopsch thanked Mrs. Stafford for everything she does to secure the finances of the city. He shared that he often feels that his two primary responsibilities are to ensure that the department heads have the resources they need to do their jobs, and to remove any obstacles to help them shine.

Mr. Klopsch concluded his comments by recognizing that Mrs. Stafford has three sons. One of her sons is a police officer in the city of Mason. Being a police officer in America is a tough job, and being a parent of a police officer is equally tough. Hats off to all public safety family members.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mrs. Turben reminded everyone that Tuesday, November 2 is Election Day.

Mr. Stephens shared that Trick-or-Treat will take place from 6 – 8 p.m. on Sunday, October 31.

Vice Mayor Byington also reminded everyone of Election Day, and encouraged everyone to do their homework and to vote. He thanked Personnel and Properties Director Jennifer Wilder and the Public Works employees for assisting with the annual shred event. He shared that the Family Fall Festival is from 2 – 5 p.m. this Sunday, October 10 at Shafor Park. Vice Mayor Byington closed his comments by wishing his wife a happy 8th anniversary.

Mayor Duncan asked that everyone keep Public Safety Officer Schaffer's family in their prayers during this difficult time.

The public meeting concluded at 8:25 p.m.



MAYOR

ATTEST:



CLERK OF COUNCIL