

MINUTES
OAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
APRIL 18, 2022

The Council of the city of Oakwood, Ohio, met in a work session on Monday, April 18, 2022 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. Also attending for a portion of the meeting were Leisure Services Director Carol Collins, Finance Director Cindy Stafford, Personnel and Properties Director Jennifer Wilder, Code Enforcement Officer Ethan Kroger and Mark Flannery, IT Consultant with Third Rock Engineering.

Mayor Duncan called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. and asked Mr. Klopsch to introduce Mr. Flannery. Mr. Klopsch noted that Mr. Flannery has been the city's IT consultant for about 25 years. He maintains all of the city's computer systems.

Mr. Klopsch introduced the "cybersecurity" agenda item and invited Mr. Flannery to discuss how the city's computers are protected from hacking and how local governments can reduce cyber security risks.

Mr. Flannery described his education and experience and then gave an overview of cybersecurity in today's computer world. He presented information as to the city's current security measures as well as enhancements for further consideration.

Mr. Flannery departed the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Mr. Klopsch invited Personnel and Properties Director Jennifer Wilder to share information about designated natural areas/native gardens. Mrs. Wilder reported that city staff recently reviewed the Oakwood General Offenses Code to determine if it sufficiently addresses the topic of natural areas and native gardens. Mr. Jacques and Mrs. Wilder drafted an amended Chapter 551 *Weeds* incorporates possible changes to address a few recent topics – the definition of weeds, managed natural landscape areas, and recurring violations of grass-cutting at vacant properties. The draft includes suggestions from the Green Oakwood subcommittee in a manner that still allows for efficient code enforcement. A new subsection for managed natural landscape areas was created rather than modifying the existing section on nature areas. A discussion ensued that highlighted the complexity of the issue. Staff will continue working on a possible code amendment that achieves an appropriate balance between meeting the desires of those residents wishing to cultivate natural areas/native gardens and those who prefer traditional landscaping within their neighborhoods and the Oakwood community. Mrs. Turben commented on her recent discussions with members of the Green Oakwood citizens group where they explained some of their goals and objectives. One specific goal involves adding native trees to the list of trees offered through the annual Johnny Appleseed Tree Planting Program. Mrs. Collins commented on the process used by the Beautification Committee to select trees for the program. Mr. Klopsch suggested that representatives from Green Oakwood attend the next meeting of the Beautification Committee.

Mr. Klopsch reported that staff is working on plans for the Sister City celebration this year. Mrs. Turben described the gift that is being made for presentation to Le Vésinet in June. She and her husband Dan will travel to Le Vésinet for the 50th anniversary of the twinning between Oakwood

and Le Vésinet. The gift will be a plaque with the "Town of Oakwood" 150th anniversary marked embossed.

At 6:45 p.m., Council moved to executive session for conference with attorney and property matters.

At 6:56 p.m., Council concluded the executive session and moved back to work session.

Mayor Duncan continued the meeting by discussing the following items:

- COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- Finance, Vice Mayor Byington
 - Spring BRC Meeting: Mr. Klopsch shared that he will schedule the spring BRC meeting soon.
 - OneOhio Regional Board: Mr. Klopsch explained that Montgomery County is requesting that all government entities adopt a resolution accepting the proposal to create a OneOhio regional board to address the disbursement of opioid settlement funds. This resolution will be on the May 2 council agenda.
- Law & Minutes, Mrs. Hilton
 - Open Meetings Law: Not discussed.
- Planning & Zoning, Vice Mayor Byington
 - Land-use and Zoning Law: Mr. Jacques delivered a PowerPoint presentation on land-use and zoning law, and how it applies in Oakwood.
 - Hawthorn Hill: Mr. Klopsch mentioned that proposed changes to the US National Park System's General Management Plan include Hawthorn Hill, but not in a substantial way that would require an amendment to the existing special use permit.
 - Oakwood Schools Performing and Visual Arts Project: Mr. Kroger delivered a PowerPoint presentation on a proposed project to build an addition to the Oakwood Jr/Sr High building to enhance performing and visual arts education. The project will also include remodeling and improving existing classroom space currently dedicated to performing and visual arts education.
- Safety & Traffic, Mr. Stephens
 - Fireworks: Mr. Jacques explained that staff recommends that the city pass legislation to continue a prohibition on the use of most types of fireworks. The legislation is necessary in response to recent state action to legalize use of most types of fireworks in Ohio. It will be presented for a first reading at the May 2 council meeting.
- Streets & Alleys, Mr. Stephens
 - Sidewalk, Curb and Driveway Apron Project: Mr. Klopsch reported that city staff is still completing negotiations with RA Miller to finalize a contract to complete the northern half of the project, west of Far Hills.
 - Far Hills Curb Project: Mr. Klopsch reported that city staff is using informal competitive bidding procedures to find a contractor to complete the Far Hills curb work. The work is scheduled to take place this year in the area between Patterson Road and the south corporation line.
 - Far Hills Stormwater Inlet Project: Mr. Klopsch reported that city staff is studying alternative options for addressing the deteriorating concrete on the top of numerous stormwater inlets along Far Hills Avenue. One option under consideration involves installing a stainless steel top over the existing inlet.

- REGIONAL AGENCIES

- MVCC, Mr. Stephens

- Cable Franchise Fees: Mr. Jacques noted that a number of cities in numerous states are attempting to get video streaming service providers (e.g., Netflix, Hulu) to pay local cable franchise fees. It will be interesting to see how court cases will unfold.

- Oakwood Inclusion Coalition, Mr. Klopsch

- April 13 Annual Meeting: Mr. Klopsch reported that he and Chief Hill attended the Oakwood Inclusion Coalition (OIC) annual meeting on Wednesday, April 13 at Wright Library. There were about 50 people in attendance... about 35 in person and 15 via Zoom. The meeting went well. The OIC general membership confirmed five new Leadership Team members... Sam Davis, Lisa Wagner, Mike Miller, Jacqueline Housel, and Brandy Mariani. Brandy Mariani is the new OIC Treasurer, replacing Jeremy Newport. The other four are members-at-large.

- BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

- Sister City Association, Mrs. Hilton

- 2022 Celebration Events: Addressed above.

- Historical Society, Mrs. Turben

- May 14 "Town of Oakwood" Marker Unveiling: Mr. Klopsch noted that the unveiling of the "Town of Oakwood" historic marker is set for 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 14 in front of the city building. Mrs. Wilder explained the events scheduled as part of the unveiling.

- Board of Health, Mayor Duncan

- Local Health Districts: Mr. Klopsch discussed Sub H.B. 110 and how it impacts Oakwood's local health district. He opined that Oakwood's local health district will likely need to merge with the county health district.

- MISCELLANEOUS

- Committee Needs: Council discussed two remaining citizen committee appointments for the Property Maintenance Board in Precinct E and the Budget Review Committee in Precinct G.
 - Private Fire Hydrants: Mr. Klopsch reported that staff continues to work with several property owners to address testing and upgrading requirements for private fire hydrants.

At 8:15 p.m., Mayor Duncan adjourned the work session.



Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council