

CITY OF OAKWOOD
STATE OF OHIO
FEBRUARY 7, 2022

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.

The following members of Council were present:

MR. WILLIAM D. DUNCAN
MR. STEVEN BYINGTON
MR. ROBERT P. STEPHENS
MRS. ANNE S. HILTON
MRS. LEIGH TURBEN

Officers of the City present were the following:

Mr. Norbert S. Klopsch, City Manager
Mr. Robert F. Jacques, City Attorney
Chief Alan Hill, Public Safety Director
Ms. Lori Stacel, Clerk of Council

The following in-person visitors registered:

Mrs. Cheryl Lloyd, Green Oakwood
Mr. Tim Benford, 132 Greenmount Boulevard
Captain Mike Tanner & Family
Various Members of Oakwood Safety Department
Mr. Brian Barr, *Oakwood Register*

There were no Zoom visitors in attendance.

Mrs. Hilton advised Council she had read the meeting minutes of the January 3, 2022 regular session, work session and executive session, and January 24, 2022 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

2022 State of the City Address – Mayor Duncan gave the following address:

Members of City Council, honored guests, City staff and citizens of Oakwood:

Last March Niche.com recognized Oakwood as the “Best Place to Live in Ohio” out of 728 communities ranked based on the overall livability of an area. They considered factors which include cost of living, education, home values, crime rates, diversity, walkability and health and wellness.

The Ohio State Senate issued a proclamation commending our city for this ranking noting “the City of Oakwood has gained a reputation as an amiable and pleasant community, offering wonderful places to live and explore, and has flourished in its efforts to achieve great progress. As a result, the city and all those who reside within it are afforded the opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the past and look forward to a future filled with promise.”

Accordingly, and on behalf of Oakwood City Council, it is my honor to proclaim that Oakwood, with its newly counted population of 9,572 residents, continues to be the premier residential community, not only in the Dayton region, but in the entire State of Ohio.

We have this distinction because of our beautiful neighborhoods, our excellent public schools and library, unmatched city services, including public safety, public works, recreation, and leisure, and most of all because of our citizens.

City Services

The primary purpose of local government is to provide for public safety, refuse services, water and sewer services and other governmental and infrastructure services. We also have the obligation to create a community ambience that encourages citizens to want to live in our fine community.

As our City Manager reported in his budget message to City Council in December.

- *We have the safest community in the region, with very low crime and very low fire loss.*
- *We have an extremely fast police and fire response time, and we answer every call with highly trained professionals.*
- *We always have qualified paramedics and EMT's on-duty to respond to medical emergencies. On average, medical help arrives in less than two minutes – unparalleled in the area.*
- *We have well-maintained streets, sidewalks, public trees, and landscaped boulevards.*
- *Although most of our housing stock is over 75 years old, our citizens maintain their homes and properties in very good condition and our home values prove it.*
- *Our city parks, public pool, community center and public natural areas are wonderful community assets.*
- *Our overall community ambience is second to none.*

Community Ambience

Community ambience is the character and atmosphere of a place. All our traditions and community events have been affected by the pandemic. Nonetheless, just consider some of the following events that occurred in our city in 2021.

- *In March, 160,000 daffodils were in full bloom on Ridgeway Road in a stunning display of beauty.*
- *That Day in May, organized by the Oakwood Rotary Club, returned with a virtual 5k and 10k run and a dog show costume contest at Mack Hummon Stadium.*
- *Wright Memorial Public Library raised over \$1.5 million dollars of private contributions for its capital campaign.*
- *The Oakwood Academic Decathlon team won its ninth consecutive Division III national championship. Whether in person or virtually, our students keep winning. Congratulations, yet again.*
- *In May, a new tradition which began in 2020, we celebrated the Oakwood High School graduating class of 2021 with a community parade through the city along with pictures of all the seniors on Shafor Blvd.*
- *The Oakwood High School girls track and field team won its first ever Division II state championship in June. Congratulations ladies.*
- *For 22 years, the Giving Strings Orchestra performed a summer concert with the proceeds this year benefitting Hannah's Treasure Chest.*
- *We continued traditional city sponsored events, the ice cream social, the family fall festival and the holiday of lights.*

Oakwood City Council added "An Oakwood Moment" to our monthly agenda and recognized the following moments:

- *Smith, Loy, and Francine's Gardens,*
- *A neighborhood band known as "Six Feet Apart,"*
- *The Oakwood High School marching band at "The Farm,"*
- *A block party on Volusia Avenue,*
- *American flags prominently displayed on Far Hills Ave., Shafor Blvd. and selected residential streets,*
- *The third annual Holiday Home Tour conducted by the Oakwood Historical Society.*
- *Santa Claus touring our city aboard Fire Engine #26.*

Community ambience indeed.

Financial Stewardship

Under the leadership of City Council, our outstanding city staff and the advice and counsel of our 35-member citizen Budget Review Committee, we met the challenges to our financial stability. Our revenues exceeded our expenses in 2021 and we anticipate this will also occur in 2022.

This year, we plan no increase in income tax, property tax or refuse, water, sanitary sewer, or stormwater fees. In fact, our water rates are now the second lowest of any jurisdiction in the region.

We thank our citizens for their continued confidence in our city leaders as they passed our property tax renewal levy last November by a 76% to 24% margin. This levy provides about \$468,000 annually for city services. And, as you know, only 8% of your property taxes go for city services. The rest goes to Oakwood Schools, Montgomery County agencies and Wright Library.

Well Governed, Well Managed and Financially Strong

As I begin my 19th year on Oakwood City Council and my 13th year as your Mayor, I am also honored to serve with my fellow members of Council. Steve Byington begins his 15th year as a member of Oakwood City Council and his 13th year as our Vice Mayor. I congratulate Leigh Turben on her election last year and look forward to serving with her as she begins her 2nd year on Oakwood City Council. I also congratulate Council members Rob Stephens and Anne Hilton on their re-elections last November as they both begin their 13th year on City Council.

This Council, like those that preceded it, operates in a collegial style and everyone believes in doing the right thing for the citizens of Oakwood. We listen to one another, no one has hidden agendas, and we believe in community service.

When I joined City Council in 2003, it was my belief that Oakwood was well governed, well managed and financially strong. I still hold that belief and will continue this tradition. With the help of City Council, city staff and the citizens of Oakwood, we will continue to be well governed, well managed and financially strong.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you.

Citizen Committee Appointments – Mayor Duncan presented the reappointments of Harrison Gowdy to the Planning Commission and Jan Scheid to the Tax/Water & Sewer/Assembly Appeals Board. He noted that the Planning Commission had its first meeting of 2022 last week on February 2. Mrs. Gowdy's reappointment to the Planning Commission will also ratify her actions at the February 2 Planning Commission meeting.

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

Captain Promotion – Mayor Duncan welcomed Lieutenant Mike Tanner and his family. He then administered the Oath of Office. Chief Hill reviewed the highlights of Captain Tanner's career and shared that he will serve as the Operations Captain. Captain Tanner's wife pinned the captain bars onto his uniform.

Captain Tanner recognized his family, the Public Safety Command Staff and the entire Public Safety Department by name. He shared that past few years have been tough for everyone in the public safety profession, in addition to the extra challenges that the Oakwood Public Safety Department faced. He thanked everyone in the Public Safety Department and said that he looks forward to working with them in 2022.

Mayor Duncan said that Oakwood has the finest group of Public Safety Officers.

VISITORS

Montgomery County Board of Elections Director Jeff Rezabek – Mr. Rezabek provided an update on the redistricting of Montgomery County precincts and polling locations.

Mr. Rezabek shared that the Ohio Supreme Court once again ruled the state's latest maps for redistricting unconstitutional. The Montgomery County Board of Elections reviewed and rebalanced precinct lines based on population shifts identified by the 2020 Census. He explained that the maximum number of voters permitted per precinct is 1,400. The city of Oakwood's

precincts are being increased from (7) voting precincts to eight (8) voting precinct. The rebalancing of the precincts helps minimize voter frustrations at the polling locations, such as having to wait in long lines. The updated precinct information will be reflected in the Montgomery County Board of Elections website system once the state of Ohio approves the maps.

Mr. Rezabek asked for city officials' help in identifying larger polling facilities with accessible parking. He encouraged constituents to vote, whether it be in person, early voting or via absentee ballot.

Mr. Rezabek shared information about the "Safe at Home" program. This is a program that gives survivors of domestic violence the option to keep their home, work, and school addresses private so it is not accessible as a public record.

Mrs. Hilton asked if the Montgomery County Board of Elections meeting are open to the public.

Mr. Rezabek said that the meetings are open to the public and attendance is encouraged. He said that the next meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Monday, February 14.

Mrs. Hilton asked how the updated precinct information will be communicated to Oakwood residents.

Mr. Rezabek explained that postcards with updated precinct information will be mailed.

Mrs. Hilton asked what will happen if someone shows up at the wrong precinct location.

Mr. Rezabek shared that the poll worker will assist the person and get him/her to the correct voting location.

Mr. Stephens inquired about the funding that the Montgomery County Board of Elections receives.

Mr. Rezabek stated that they receive their funding from the County.

Mr. Stephens noted how the increase in precincts across Montgomery County will require additional expenses for the County. He shared concerns about Oakwood's precincts being increased to eight (8) voting precincts instead of seven (7). Polling locations in Oakwood do not experience long lines like other cities, and Oakwood does not have large facilities to offer additional polling locations. He asked why the City's precincts were updated when there did not appear to be any issues.

Mr. Rezabek explained that the maximum number of voters permitted per precinct is 1,400. Oakwood currently averages 1,000 voters per precinct.

Mayor Duncan thanked Mr. Rezabek for the update and encouraged everyone to vote.

Mr. Tim Benford, 132 Greenmount Boulevard and founder/president of Drive Electric Dayton, thanked the city of Oakwood in advance for building a two port, Level 2 electric vehicle charging station in the Orchard Drive public parking lot. He provided an update on additional resources for electric vehicles due to the increase in popularity, including plans to open a Tesla service center in Moraine.

LEGISLATION

AN ORDINANCE
BY VICE MAYOR BYINGTON NO 4951
AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL THE OAKWOOD PROPERTY
MAINTENANCE CODE IN ITS ENTIRETY, WHICH WAS BASED
UPON THE 2003 INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
CODE, AND TO ADOPT A NEW OAKWOOD PROPERTY
MAINTENANCE CODE BASED UPON THE 2021 INTERNATIONAL
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE.

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 the first reading of an ordinance to update the Oakwood property maintenance code. For many years, the local property maintenance code has been based upon a model code known as the 2003 International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC), with a number of adjustments to tailor that model code to Oakwood's needs.

Staff has been working on a code update to transition Oakwood to the latest 2021 version of the IPMC. The new code is intended to streamline the administration of the property maintenance code but not to make major substantive changes. Among these administrative changes, the property maintenance districts are being aligned with Oakwood’s voting precincts. There are currently 15 citizens serving on the Property Maintenance Board, three from each of the five districts. With the updated code, there will be 24 citizens serving on the Board, three from each of the eight precincts.

This was a first reading of the ordinance, so Vice Mayor Byington made no motion.

AN ORDINANCE
BY VICE MAYOR BYINGTON NO 4952
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION I, 2022 ORIGINAL
APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 4947 TO PROVIDE FOR THE
APPROPRIATION OF:

1. AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF \$150,000 TO BE EXPENDED FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR ENGINEERING COSTS RELATED TO THE DEVEREUX STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS;

FOR THE CITY OF OAKWOOD, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE
FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022.

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 a supplemental appropriation ordinance in connection with stormwater sewer upgrades. The February/March *Oakwood Scene* city newsletter includes an article about this large storm sewer improvement project planned for construction in 2023. The project is called the Far Hills Storm Sewer Reconstruction. The stormwater infrastructure improvement project will take place on Far Hills Avenue at Greenmount Boulevard; on Dellwood Avenue between Far Hills Avenue and East Schantz Avenue; on Forrer Boulevard between Far Hills Avenue and East Schantz Avenue; and along a section of Devereux Drive north of Forrer Road. The City conducted an analysis of the existing storm sewer system in this area and found several sections of the system reaching the end of their useful life. Engineering design work for the project will take place this year, in preparation for the 2023 construction. Staff informed the citizens Budget Review Committee about this large project at meetings conducted last fall. The City will use Capital Improvement Fund dollars for the engineering design work and federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the 2023 construction expenses, supplemented by additional state or federal grant money that may be available next year.

This supplemental appropriation will authorize an additional amount of \$150,000 to be expended from the Capital Improvement Fund for engineering services relating to this capital improvement project.

Thereupon, it was moved by Vice Mayor Byington and seconded by Mrs. Hilton that the second reading be waived and that the ordinance be passed tonight.

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 S. HILTON YEA
MRS. LEIGH TURBEN YEA

There being five (5) yea votes and no (0) nay votes thereon, said ordinance was declared duly passed and it was so ordered.

A RESOLUTION
BY VICE MAYOR BYINGTON NO 1890
A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE NUMBER OF CITIZEN MEMBERS
TO BE APPOINTED TO THE BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE FROM
EACH OF THE CITY’S VOTING PRECINCTS.

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 Oakwood is fortunate to have 35 volunteers currently serving on the City's Budget Review Committee (BRC). These citizens provide valuable advice and feedback to members of City Council and City staff on a regular basis on the use of public resources.

Membership on the BRC is linked to Oakwood's voting precincts, with five members being appointed from each of seven precincts. Recently, the Montgomery County Board of Elections expanded Oakwood's electoral map from seven to eight voting precincts and this resolution will address how the change will impact BRC membership.

If five members continue to be appointed from each precinct, the new math will increase the overall BRC size from 35 members to 40. However, four members are appointed from each precinct, the new committee size would go from 35 members to 32. Council feels that a committee starts to become too large when it crosses the threshold to 40+ members, and that a committee size of 32 members would work well for the purpose of the BRC.

This resolution would authorize Council to appoint four BRC members from each of Oakwood's eight official voting precincts.

Thereupon, it was moved by Vice Mayor Byington and seconded by Mr. Stephens 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 BYINGTONYEA
- MR. ROBERT P. STEPHENS.....YEA
- MRS. ANNE HILTONYEA
- MRS. LEIGH TURBENYEA

There being five (5) yea votes and no (0) nay votes thereon, said resolution was declared duly passed and it was so ordered.

Mayor Duncan noted that there are several vacancies on the citizen committees. City Council and city staff are in the process of identifying citizen volunteers for future appointment.

AN ORDINANCE
 BY VICE MAYOR BYINGTON NO 4953
 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT FOR
 THE ADJUSTMENT OF THE BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN THE
 CITIES OF OAKWOOD AND KETTERING, OHIO.

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 the first reading of an ordinance to adjust Oakwood's shared corporate boundary line with the city of Kettering. Although minor, the importance of these changes came to light when Kettering began its project to upgrade the Ridgeway Road Bridge.

The existing corporate boundary follows an irregular path in the vicinity of the bridge. The boundary veers out into West Dorothy Lane on both sides of Ridgeway Road, placing parts of West Dorothy Lane and the bridge in both cities. It also follows an odd L-shaped path at Fairmont Avenue, placing parts of that street in both cities.

This adjustment, which is being done by mutual agreement with Kettering, will address these irregularities by aligning the boundary with the northern edge of West Dorothy Lane, except for a stub that is being created at Ridgeway Road. This is, in effect, a housekeeping measure to ensure that all of West Dorothy Lane, and the entire bridge right-of-way (including its northern approach), are under the jurisdiction of the city of Kettering, and all of Fairmont Avenue will be under the jurisdiction of the city of Oakwood.

The two cities are awaiting final engineering review from Montgomery County. As soon as that is complete and a final exhibit is confirmed for the ordinance, the matter will be back for its second reading.

This was a first reading of the ordinance, so Vice Mayor Byington made no motion.

Mayor Duncan noted that this boundary line adjustment will not impact any resident's city locations.

STAFF REPORT

Public Safety Department Presentation: Chief Alan Hill, Public Safety Director, referenced a PowerPoint presentation and updated Council on the following topics: Crime Statistics; EMS Trends; Fire Trends; Personnel Changes; In-service Training Program; the Citizen Police Academy; and Ohio Collaborative.

Chief Hill shared that the city of Oakwood continues to be one of the safest communities in the area. Oakwood experienced an 11% decrease in reported larceny offenses in 2021, compared to a significant increase in 2020 due to the reported theft of political signs. Overall, reported crimes experienced a 23% reduction from 2020 to 2021. Oakwood had two burglaries in 2021, compared to six in 2020.

Mrs. Hilton asked what requires a crime to be categorized as a burglary.

Chief Hill explained that burglaries occur when a person illegally enters an “occupied” or “likely to be occupied” structure.

In 2020, Oakwood experienced a significant increase in auto thefts. There were 13 total reported auto thefts and the normal yearly average is one to two. Of the 13 vehicles stolen, each vehicle was unlocked with keys inside the vehicle. These vehicles were easy targets that did not require the use of forced entry. In 2021, Oakwood saw a significant reduction in auto thefts. There was a total of two auto thefts which is more consistent with previous years.

There was a significant increase in traffic accidents in 2021. This was a direct result of a 75% increase in reported hit and run accidents. During the three year period of 2018-2020, the Safety Department averaged 32 hit and run accidents per year, compared to 56 reported incidents in 2021. Most of the incidents involved minor vehicle side swiping with damage to side view mirrors.

Medic runs in 2021 were consistent with previous years, including Oakwood’s mutual aid medic run requests to other jurisdictions. There were zero mutual aid medic responses to Oakwood from other jurisdictions in 2021.

The Oakwood Public Safety Department responded to one very minor structure fire that resulted in damage/loss. This is compared to two significant structure fires during 2020 that resulted in substantial damage/loss to both properties. The Oakwood Public Safety Department continues to maintain an exceptional response time that is well below the national average.

Public Safety Officer Ross Green was hired on November 15, 2021, and arrived with five years of experience. Public Safety Officer Green was certified in all three disciplines at time of hire, and is in the process of completing his field training program. Public Safety Officer Matt Staley was also hired on November 15, 2021. Public Safety Officer Staley arrived with a tremendous amount of public safety experience as he has worked as a full time firefighter/paramedic and police officer with the City of Xenia.

The Oakwood Public Safety Department has a comprehensive in-service training program covering all three disciplines. Over the past five years, the department has averaged 3,530 hours of in-service training annually. The training is done through online continuing education, classroom training and practical training exercises.

The 2022 police training to note is the Georgetown Law Innovative Policing Program - Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project. The ABLE Project is designed to prepare officers to successfully intervene to prevent harm to others and create a law enforcement culture that supports peer intervention. Law enforcement officers are frequently faced with high-stress, high-stakes decisions. ABLE teaches that it is the responsibility of every officer to act to prevent mistakes, prevent misconduct, and promote their fellow officers’ health and wellbeing.

The Oakwood Public Safety Department hosted its fourth Citizens Police Academy (CPA) in 2021. The CPA is a great program for citizens, as well as the Safety Department. The CPA is free of charge, and the next academy is scheduled for the fall of 2022.

The Ohio Collaborative was established in December 2014 to oversee implementation of recommendations for statewide policing standards in a variety of areas. Although voluntary, the Ohio Collaborative certification process provides for an independent review of a police agency to demonstrate transparency, modern methods and standards, and open critique and feedback from assessors. The Oakwood Public Safety Department continues to demonstrate compliance with all collaborative standards and most recently received certification for “Community Engagement, Body Worn Cameras, and Telecommunicator Training.”

Mrs. Hilton asked if there is any type of training for human trafficking being done in Oakwood Schools.

Chief Hill said that he is not aware of any.

Mayor Duncan and City Council thanked Chief Hill for the presentation, and told the Public Safety Department to keep up the great work.

AN OAKWOOD MOMENT

Mrs. Turben invited Green Oakwood member Cheryl Lloyd to speak about the January 8 Styrofoam Recycling Event.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Klopsch shared that the city of Oakwood has implemented many sustainability measures to provide a better environment for the Oakwood community. He provided a brief overview of some of the measures and shared that he would give a full report at the May 2, 2022 City Council meeting. The information will also be available on the City website.

Mr. Klopsch shared that the 2021 budget book is available on the City website. The budget book contains valuable information about all matters related to city finances.

Mr. Klopsch closed his comments by recognizing the passing of Mike Kelly. Mr. Kelly served the city of Oakwood for over 33 years in positions as the Assistant to the City Manager; as Public Safety Director; and as City Manager from 1992 until his retirement in 2002.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mrs. Turben thanked the Public Works Department for clearing the roads during the recent winter storm to keep the Oakwood community safe.

Mr. Stephens congratulated Captain Mike Tanner on his promotion. He said that everyone in the Public Safety Department does a wonderful job, but he has seen firsthand the hard work and dedication from Captain Tanner. Mr. Stephens congratulated Los Angeles Rams defensive lineman Michael Hoecht for being the first Oakwood graduate to play in the Super Bowl. He closed his comments with "Who Dey!"

Vice Mayor Byington said "Go Bengals!"

The public meeting concluded at 9:11 p.m.



MAYOR

ATTEST:



CLERK OF COUNCIL