

CITY OF OAKWOOD  
STATE OF OHIO  
JULY 18, 2022

The Council of the city of Oakwood, State of Ohio, met in a work session at 6 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. Jennifer Wilder, Personnel and Properties Director  
Ms. Lori Stacel, Clerk of Council

The following in-person visitors registered:

Mr. Brian Barr, *Oakwood Register*  
Kirsten Halling, 415 Triangle Avenue  
Mitch Detrick, 330 Patterson Road  
Greg & Theresa Hammons, Ashley's Pastry Shop  
Mary Crockett, 314 Forrer Boulevard  
Matt & Rachel Jessup, 565 Sweetwood Lane  
Mark & Kenzie McEvily, 511 Walnut Springs Drive  
Charles Simms, 333 Oakwood Avenue  
David Lunne, 718 Oakwood Avenue

The following Zoom visitors attended via remote teleconference:

MC (no last name provided)  
Katie (no last name provided)

Mrs. Hilton advised Council she had read the meeting minutes of the June 6, 2022 regular session, work session and executive session. Mrs. Hilton noted that 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 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 Appointment – Mayor Duncan presented the new appointment of Bruce Reger to the Property Maintenance Board, Precinct E.

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.

Proclamation recognizing Ashley's Pastry Shop 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Mayor Duncan read and presented a Proclamation to Greg and Theresa Hammons recognizing the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ashley's Pastry Shop. Mrs. Hammons shared that they started their business 40 years ago without knowing a lot about Oakwood. She indicated that it has been a wonderful experience to be part of the Oakwood community, they are fortunate to have loyal supporters and swift assistance from city staff whenever needed. She closed her comments by thanking City Council and sharing that they plan on serving the Oakwood community for many years to come.



Le Vésinet 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Mrs. Turben displayed pictures from her visit to Le Vésinet for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary twinning festivities and shared the following information. Ann and Charles Simms are credited with establishing the sister city relationship with Le Vésinet. Le Vésinet is very similar to Oakwood in size, as well as mainly being a residential community that values green space. Le Vésinet was also celebrating their 45<sup>th</sup> twinning anniversary with Outremont, Canada. The festivities began with a gala dinner in a beautiful facility that rests on an island in the middle of the largest of five lakes. Official twinning ceremonies were held at City Hall, which is a beautiful historic building. Mrs. Turben gave the Mayor's speech with Oakwood Sister City President Dr. Kirsten Halling translating. At the end of the speech, a gift from Oakwood was presented to Le Vésinet Mayor Coradetti. The gift was a replica of the historical marker that stands out in front of the city building recognizing the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first platting in Oakwood. A brass plate on the plaque commemorated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Oakwood's twinning with Le Vésinet. Mrs. Turben invited Kirsten Halling to share some additional information.

Mrs. Halling thanked Mrs. Turben for attending the twinning celebration as an official representative from Oakwood. City officials from Le Vésinet, including the mayor and vice mayor, attended all of the festivities and gave speeches and toasts. The Le Vésinet Vice Mayor commented that he would enjoy seeing the Simms family again. Mrs. Halling shared that Oakwood will be hosting an event for Le Vésinet and Outremont from October 20 – 24. She encouraged City Council to participate in the festivities in October, as well as an oyster supper that Outremont is hosting in the weekend of October 14 – 16 in Canada. Dr. Halling then invited Charles Simms to address Council.

Mr. Simms thanked City Council for their support of the Sister City program. He shared the story of how Oakwood entered into a sister city relationship with Le Vésinet 50 years ago.

Mrs. Turben closed her comments by sharing that while the celebrations were grand, the best part was making new friends.

Mayor Duncan thanked her for the update and indicated that the upcoming events will be publicized.

#### VISITORS

Tour de Gem, "Wright Library Book Pedalers" – Oakwood resident Mary Crockett shared information about the Wright Brothers 2022 Cycling Classic event scheduled in October and encouraged participation. She is the co-captain of this year's "Wright Library Book Pedalers" team on October 9 in downtown Dayton. A virtual ride is also available on September 26. Mrs. Crockett invited the Oakwood Public Safety Department's bike patrol to participate in the October event.

Mr. Stephens asked if the fundraising proceeds will go to the Wright Library.

Mrs. Crockett answered yes.

2022 May and June Beautification Award Winners – Mayor Duncan explained that a video will be shown highlighting all the winners and then certificates will be mailed to the winners. The following properties were recognized and shown in the video:

Matthew & Emily Cook, 525 Ridgewood Avenue; 508 Irving LLC, 508 Irving Avenue; James & Patricia Parrish, 297 Hathaway Road; Steven & Kim Gilbert, 508 Acorn Drive; Jennifer & Andrew Alternberg, 148 Telford Avenue; Mark & Denise Kemper, 315 Wiltshire Boulevard; Kristi Hale, Director, Wright Memorial Public Library; Dan & Kimberly Lemaster, 416 Monteray Avenue; Justin & Erika Sheese, 343 E. Peach Orchard Avenue; Todd Barnhart, 345 Claranna Avenue; Dr. Gary & Pam Ensor, 2606-2610 Shafor Boulevard; Laurie Franz, 17 Lonsdale Avenue; Kyle & Alaina Siefring, 126 Greenmount Boulevard; Matthew & Kacy Ferrara, 1900 Southwood Lane; Pam & Pat Carroll, 351 Fairforest Circle; Dr. Jacob Gibson & Dr. Whitney Sharp, 1101 Ridgeway Road; Matthew Jessup & Mark McEvily, Jessup Wealth Management, 35 Park Avenue; Michael & Jelena Staub, 447 Kramer Road; Dr. Sam & Dr. Gwyn King, 205 Haver Road; Mitchell Detrick, 330 Patterson Road; Ann Carbonell & Robert Gajda, 675 Garden Road; Dr. Erich & Cynthia Mende, 254 Lonsdale Avenue; Dan Turben, 204 Forrer Boulevard; Keith Morris, 225 Monteray Avenue; Tessa & Andrew Stiene, 452 Orchard Drive; Scott & Jennifer Kujawa, 215 East Drive; Kirk & Ann Febus, 235 Spirea Drive; Michael & Angela Armitage, 112 Dellwood Avenue; Dr. Stephen & Lisa Schreck, 2425 Ridgeway Road; Jean Eckert, 1629 Far Hills Avenue; David & Katie Lunne, 718 Oakwood Avenue; and Paul Moore, 933-1001 Far Hills Avenue.



LEGISLATION

AN ORDINANCE  
 BY MR. STEPHENS NO 4960  
 AMENDING CHAPTER 551, *WEEDS*, OF THE OAKWOOD GENERAL  
 OFFENSES CODE BY UPDATING THE TITLE THEREOF TO  
*LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT*, ADDING RELEVANT DEFINITIONS,  
 REORDERING EXISTING PROVISIONS, AND INCORPORATING  
 NEW PROVISIONS TO AUTHORIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
 MANAGED NATURAL LANDSCAPE AREAS ON PRIVATE  
 PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY.

A copy of the ordinance, having been placed on the desks of each member of Council prior to introduction, was read by title.

Mr. Stephens explained that this is the second reading of an ordinance to update Oakwood's laws on noxious weeds and mowing. It does not make significant changes to the existing requirement that grass and weeds be mowed or maintained at a height of 8" or less. However, Council recognizes that there is a growing movement to think about landscaping in new or non-traditional ways, particularly with regard to the use of native plants, rain gardens, and butterfly gardens. These kinds of plantings have always been permitted in Oakwood, but have not been clearly addressed in the Code, which is the purpose of the ordinance is being introduced.

This ordinance makes the following changes:

1. It updates the title of the chapter from "Weeds" to "Landscape Management."

2. It adds relevant definitions, as well as a statement of purpose that reads:

"The purpose of this chapter is to encourage the use of vegetation throughout the City to maximize ecological and aesthetic benefits while respecting existing community values regarding landscaping to include well-maintained yards, preservation of sight lines, compatibility with existing structures, and public safety. Ecological benefits of "managed natural landscapes" include enhancement of pollinator support habitat, stormwater management, carbon sequestration, erosion control, and preservation of biodiversity."

3. It eliminates the species-specific list of weeds contained in the current ordinance. Instead, it defines "weed" in a manner that encompasses any type of vegetation that is neglected or overgrown.

4. For properties that are placarded due to high grass or weeds and mowed by the city, the new ordinance will allow a streamlined notice process that makes it easier to deal with subsequent violations after the first violation.

5. It adds provisions to expressly authorize property owners to establish "managed natural landscape areas" on their property. It is important to note that this does NOT give homeowners permission to neglect their yards or allow them to "go wild." The key concept behind a managed natural landscape area is that it must be "managed and maintained" as required by the new ordinance.

Thereupon, it was moved by Mr. Stephens 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
MR. ROBERT P. STEPHENS .....	YEA
MRS. ANNE 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 1895  
 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.

A copy of the resolution, having been placed on the desks of each member of Council prior to introduction, was read by title.

Mr. Stephens explained that each year, the city incurs costs for mowing and clearing overgrown yards and removing nuisance plant material when owners do not take care of their property. The city bills property owners for those costs and most of them pay. For those who do not pay, this is the annual resolution to certify the costs to the County Auditor so they can be added to the tax bill for each property. This certification includes ten properties at a total outstanding dollar amount of \$4,020.12.

Thereupon, it was moved by Mr. Stephens 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
MR. ROBERT P. STEPHENS .....	YEA
MRS. ANNE HILTON .....	YEA
MRS. LEIGH TURBEN .....	YEA

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

#### STAFF REPORT

Personnel & Properties Report: Mrs. Jennifer Wilder, Personnel & Properties Director, referenced a PowerPoint presentation and updated Council on the activities of the Personnel and Properties Department.

The annual property maintenance tour was postponed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but resumed in 2021. In addition to ongoing property maintenance efforts, city staff conducts a city-wide automobile tour to identify violations of the Oakwood Property Maintenance Code. To date, 30 letters have been sent to property owners advising them of violation(s) and establishing a date to complete the repair(s). City staff works with property owners who require additional time to correct violations. In the rare circumstance that a property owner makes no attempt to correct a violation, citations are issued to appear in Oakwood Municipal Court. The most common violations seen this year include chipping or peeling paint, miscellaneous outdoor storage and sidewalk encroachments.

Mrs. Wilder provided a reminder about maintaining trees and vegetation in Oakwood. Property owners are required to maintain their trees under the Oakwood Zoning Code.

Since March of this year, Shoppe Smitten has opened a second location in the Miami Valley, bringing their successful home and clothing boutique to the space at 2316 Far Hills. Joining them in the space is Ordinarie Fare, selling prepackaged foods like baked goods, vegan deserts, salads, and spreads. The space at 2533-2537 Far Hills has sold and is currently seeking new tenants. Also, in the Routsong Retail Center, a cookie bakery called Insomnia Cookies opened early this summer.

As a free service to Oakwood citizens, the City has contracted with Shred-It to be on-site at the Public Works Center at 210 Shafor Boulevard on Saturday, September 24 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. to provide document destruction services.

Mrs. Wilder then reviewed the 2022 employee retirements and hires. Captain Mike Jones retired after 23 years of service. Dispatcher Leslie Zengel retired after 10 years of service. She had previously retired in 2011 after serving 28 years as a Public Safety Officer. Account Clerk Theresa Rushlow retired after 22 years of service. New hires include: Jon Nielson, Part-time Athletic Field Maintenance; Jack Froelich, Part-time Groundskeeper; Grant Morton, General Service Worker – Refuse; Cherie Muceus, Part-time Dispatcher; Hannah Thirey, Account Clerk I; Randi Clark, Dispatcher; and Cade Wallace, Part-time Public Works Laborer.



AN OAKWOOD MOMENT

Mrs. Turben recognized summer in Oakwood.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Klopsch shared that Mrs. Wilder does a great job finding new employees that are a good fit in Oakwood.

After experiencing a few delays, the asphalt repaving is now scheduled for the second week in August. Construction notification postcards were mailed today to all impacted property owners. The Creager Field Dog Park will also be resurfaced.

As part of CenterPoint's (formerly Vectren) final two years of replacing the natural gas distribution pipes and home service lines in Oakwood, work will take place in the next 6 – 8 weeks along Far Hills Avenue from East Drive to Beverly Place. Far Hills Avenue has much heavier traffic requiring lane restrictions and closures to accommodate the work.

The August/September *Oakwood Scene* newsletter will be delivered in the next two weeks. This edition has helpful information about the CodeRed emergency notification system, and about a camera being installed at the new Recycling and Yard Debris Drop-off Facility to aid in identifying improper dumping at the facility.

Last Saturday was the quarterly Styrofoam recycling drop off event at the Recycling Center at 210 Shafor Boulevard. He recognized Green Oakwood for transporting the Styrofoam that Oakwood citizens drop off to the countywide drop off location.

COUNCIL COMMENTS – City Council did not have any comments.

The public meeting concluded at 8:39 p.m.




---

MAYOR

ATTEST:




---

CLERK OF COUNCIL