

MINUTES
OAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
JANUARY 24, 2022

The Council of the city of Oakwood, Ohio, met in a work session on Monday, January 24, 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 and Councilmember Leigh Turben. Councilmember Anne Hilton was excused absent. Staff in attendance were City Manager Norbert Klopsch and City Attorney Rob Jacques.

Mayor Duncan called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. and led the work session by discussing the following items:

- **COUNCIL COMMITTEES**
 - Planning & Zoning, Vice Mayor Byington
 - Property Maintenance: Mr. Klopsch shared that Mr. Jacques started researching how other cities may be addressing the issues of properties being converted from traditional outdoor landscaping to native style landscaping. Mr. Jacques reviewed how some local communities regulate yard maintenance. Most do so via limits on the height of grass. He mentioned that the Oakwood Code already includes a provision for the city manager to approve designated “natural areas”. Staff is working on developing guidelines for granting such approvals, and on an application form for property owner seeking to establish “natural areas”.
 - Property Maintenance Code Update: Mr. Klopsch mentioned that the February 7 council meeting agenda will include legislation to adopt a new Property Maintenance Code based on the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code. The current Oakwood code is based on the 2003 International Property Maintenance Code. The new code will include changing the Property Maintenance Board from 15 members (three from five districts) to 24 members (three from eight precincts).
 - Public Properties, Mrs. Turben
 - Dog Park Parking Lot: Mr. Klopsch explained staff’s recommendation to leave the Creager Dog Park parking lot in the current configuration where it provides 18 spaces, and to forego plans to add ten additional spaces. Staff will post “No Parking” signs on the east side of Shafor Boulevard between the Public Works Facility and Irving Avenue, forcing dog park patrons to use the existing parking lot established for that purpose.
 - Hollinger Tennis Facility: Mr. Klopsch commented on Hollinger’s 2021 Profit & Loss Statement, and mentioned that staff has not received any new information on possible plans to improve the tennis facility clubhouse.
 - Public Utilities/Waterworks/Sewer, Mrs. Turben
 - Far Hills Storm Sewer Project: Mr. Klopsch shared that design work will begin soon for a replacement storm sewer system crossing Far Hills Avenue at

Greenmount Boulevard; on Dellwood Avenue from Far Hills to East Schantz; on Forrer Boulevard from Far Hills to East Schantz; and on Devereux Drive north of Forrer Road. Design plans will be completed in 2022 with construction of the storm sewer replacement in 2023. Staff has been unable to find grant money for the engineering services so will prepare a supplemental appropriation ordinance in the amount of \$150,000 for presentation at the February 7 council meeting. As previously discussed with the Budget Review Committee, the city is planning to use federal ARPA funds for the 2023 construction costs.

- REGIONAL AGENCIES

- Mayors & Managers, Mayor Duncan
 - OML Presentation: Mayor Duncan and Mr. Klopsch commented on the January 19 Mayors and Managers meeting where OML Executive Director Kent Scarrett spoke about statewide topics impacting cities and villages. Much of the discussion focused on municipal income taxes.

- BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

- Historical Society, Mrs. Turben
 - May 14 “Town of Oakwood” Historical Marker Unveiling: Mr. Klopsch noted that an unveiling ceremony for the “Town of Oakwood” marker to be erected in front of the city building is tentatively set for May 14, with the time yet to be determined.

- MISCELLANEOUS

- 2022 Committee Needs: Council discussed citizen committee appointments. Mayor Duncan noted that he will continue making phone calls inviting some existing committee members to continue in their positions.
- Rotary Awards: Mr. Klopsch shared that he will submit an application for the Community Service Award, and discussed possible candidates for the Civic Leadership Award.
- Oakwood Sustainability: Mr. Klopsch discussed measures the City has taken over the years regarding sustainability and the environment. He will deliver a presentation on this topic at the February 7 council meeting.
- 2021 Annual Report: Mr. Klopsch announced that staff is preparing the 2021 Annual Report using the same format as in recent years.
- City Comprehensive Plan: Mr. Klopsch explained that he is preparing a paper on accomplishments over the years towards addressing the Goals and Objectives presented in the City Comprehensive Plan. The plan is the city’s official guide for physical improvements and development. It addresses land use planning, transportation planning, community facilities and community character.
- “Bee City USA”: Mr. Klopsch presented a memorandum prepared by Law Director Rob Jacques that outlines the requirements for becoming a “Bee City USA”. Staff does not recommend pursuing the designation at this time.
- “Power A Clean Future Ohio” Designation: Mr. Klopsch presented a memorandum prepared by Law Director Rob Jacques that outlines the requirements for obtaining

the "Power A Clean Future Ohio" designation. Staff does not recommend pursuing the designation at this time.

At 6:32 p.m., Mayor Duncan adjourned the work session.



Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council