

Oakwood, Ohio  
September 13, 2022

The Oakwood citizen Budget Review Committee (BRC) met at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 13, 2022. The meeting took place in the council chambers at the city building, 30 Park Avenue, and was available via the Zoom remote teleconferencing platform.

The following people attended:

Budget Review Committee

*In-person:*

Howard Boose  
Cait Botschner  
Steve Brooks  
Bill Frapwell, Vice Chair  
John Gray  
Kate Halpin  
John Jervis  
Megan Kavanaugh  
Chas Kidwell  
Amanda Malusky Krauss  
Kristina Marcus  
Megan O'Leary  
Mark Risley  
Mike Ruetschle  
Michael Vanderburgh  
Sarah Waechter

*Via Zoom:*

Dan Ferneding  
Ella Himes  
Yusaku Kawai  
Beth Ritzert

Oakwood City Council

*In-person:*

Mayor Bill Duncan  
Vice Mayor Steve Byington  
Councilmember Rob Stephens  
Councilmember Anne Hilton  
Councilmember Leigh Turben

City Staff

*In-person:*

City Manager Norbert Klopsch  
Leisure Services Director Carol Collins  
Finance Director Cindy Stafford  
Public Safety Director Alan Hill  
Law Director Rob Jacques  
Personnel & Properties Director Jennifer Wilder  
Engineering & Public Works Director Doug Spitler  
Staff Engineer Chris Kuzma

Mayor Duncan opened the meeting with a welcome and self-introductions. He asked if there were any suggested edits to the minutes of the May 17, 2022 meeting. There being no edits, Mayor

Duncan asked for a motion to approve those minutes. Motion to approve by Mr. Boose; second by Mr. Risley. Upon viva voce vote, motion passed and the minutes were approved.

Mayor Duncan invited Mr. Klopsch to make opening comments and to deliver the meeting presentation.

Mr. Klopsch welcomed the committee members and mentioned that city department heads will assist him in making the presentation.

Mr. Klopsch discussed the following recent events and city projects:

- Far Hills Timber Wall: The timber wall along both sides of the Far Hills Business District was installed in 1974. The wall has been maintained over the years and is still serving its intended purpose. City staff will be making some needed repairs.
- Water System Hydraulic Model: The City continues to operate and maintain its public water distribution, sanitary sewer and storm sewer systems. An engineering hydraulic model of the water production and distribution system is being built to analyze the water system infrastructure and develop long range plans for capital improvements.
- GIS System: Staff is making good progress on building the GIS system.
- Traffic Signal System Analysis and Master Plan: This coming Monday, Council will be presented with an ordinance to appropriate \$120,000 for engineering services to develop a master plan to pursue federal and state grant funding to assist with rebuilding the traffic signal system.
- Former NCR Gatehouse: The Gatehouse at Sugar Camp was rebuilt preserving the building's historic integrity and is now home to National Processing Solutions.
- Remaining Sugar Camp/Pointe Oakwood Land: There are two pieces of land available for residential development in Pointe Oakwood, and two for commercial development.
  
- 2021 FINANCIAL AUDIT: Mr. Klopsch shared that the City again received the Auditor of State Award for excellence in financial reporting. The award is a testament to the fine work of Finance Director Cindy Stafford, CPA, and her Finance Department staff.
  
- 2022 FINANCIALS THROUGH AUGUST: Mrs. Stafford noted that General City Services receipts through August are at 81.85% of budget, while disbursements and encumbrances are at 70.84% of budget. Receipts are at almost 82% because of three things: income generated by the additional people living at Pointe Oakwood; an increase in Oakwood residents working from home, thereby directing their local income taxes to Oakwood rather than other jurisdictions; and the timing of real estate tax receipts, which is currently 93% of budget. Net income tax receipts through August are \$7.8 million and are projected at \$10.6 million by end of year. The City received \$468,028 in CARES Act money in 2021 and received \$471,765 this year, totaling \$939,793. The Federal Government ruled that this money can be considered general fund dollars. Refuse Fund receipts through August are at 68.19% of budget and disbursements and encumbrances are at 66.56% of budget. Enterprise Fund receipts through August are at 63.54% of budget and disbursements and encumbrances are at 63.63% of budget.
  
- CITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: Mr. Klopsch reported that the Comprehensive Plan is the City's official guide for physical improvements and development. A complete rewrite of the plan was completed in 2004, and given that Oakwood is almost fully developed, the plan is still applicable. The Planning Commission is meeting on October 5 to discuss the

Comprehensive Plan, including the purpose of the plan and the accomplishments towards the Goals and Objectives. The Planning Commission will be asked to vote on acceptance of the documented achievements, and to acknowledgement that the plan is still valid, which will take the form of a recommendation to City Council. The information and recommendation would then be presented to City Council in November for ratification.

- 2022 CAPITAL PROJECTS/EXPENSES: The following 2022 capital projects/expenses were discussed:
  - Gardner Pool: Ms. Collins shared that after over 50 years, the Gardner Pool concrete deck will be replaced this fall. The work will include demolition and replacement of the deck, installation of fencing around the zero depth wading pool (children's pool), and installing new pool lifeguard stands and diving boards. She reviewed a pool membership comparison chart from 2015-2022 showing that this year's revenue is higher than it has been the last seven years.
  - CenterPoint Natural Gas Lines: Mr. Spitler commented on the multi-year CenterPoint (formerly Vectren) gas line project that began in 2010 and is scheduled for completion in 2023. This project replaces the original bare steel and cast-iron gas distribution pipeline infrastructure and gas services to each property. When completed, all underground natural gas lines in Oakwood will have been renewed.
  - Far Hills Work: Mr. Spitler shared that the work currently being done on Far Hills is primarily the CenterPoint project. This work requires many excavations into the roadway (and subsequent roadway patches) and many excavations into green spaces. Various other projects along Far Hills have created many patches. In 2024, the entire asphalt roadway surface on Far Hills Avenue will be removed and replaced. The Ohio Department of Transportation Urban Paving Program will provide 80% of the funding for this resurfacing project.
  - Far Hills Storm Sewer Replacement Project: Mr. Kuzma reported that construction is anticipated to begin next summer to replace a portion of the storm sewer system along Far Hills Avenue near Dellwood, Greenmount and Forrer. City staff evaluated the storm sewer after several instances of ponding and flooding. An engineering study of the existing storm sewer in this area of Far Hills Avenue found several storm sewers that are reaching the end of their useful life, and are no longer able to fully accommodate intense rainfall events. The project involves a need for easements on Devereux that city staff is addressing. The City is planning to use federal ARPA funds to pay for part of the 2023 construction costs.

Mr. Klopsch noted that the total cost for the Far Hills storm sewer replacement is \$2,312,195. This includes \$2,163,395 in construction costs, plus \$148,800 in engineering costs. The project cost breakdown is to use \$150,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund; \$940,000 from ARPA funds; \$985,000 from a State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) Grant/Loan; and \$225,000 from the Stormwater Fund. City staff applied for the grant/loan money from the State Capital Improvement Program. Award announcements will be made around December 7. Mr. Klopsch then reviewed the schedule of construction events.

Mr. Klopsch continued the meeting by discussing the following items:

- 2022 and 2023 Asphalt Pavement Resurfacing: The asphalt paving work is completed for this year. The project area next year will include placing asphalt over the concrete street on E. Schantz between Lookout and Springgrove. This will result in a much smoother roadway going forward.

Below is a comparison of 2022 and proposed 2023 capital expenses:

	<u>2022 Budget</u>	<u>2023 Proposed</u>
General City Services:	\$1,735,250	\$2,130,100
Refuse Operations:	\$196,000	\$55,000
Water Utility:	\$141,500	\$499,500
Sanitary Sewer Utility:	\$150,000	\$150,000
Stormwater Utility:	\$205,000	\$2,163,394

- 2023 PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECTS/EXPENSES: The following is a list of large proposed capital projects and/or expenses for 2023:
  - *General City Services*
    - Police Car: \$98,000 (electric) or \$64,000 (gasoline)
    - Dump Truck: \$150,000
    - Asphalt Street Program: \$450,000
    - Concrete Street Program: \$100,000
    - Far Hills Resurfacing: \$220,000
    - Sidewalk, Curb & Driveway Apron Repairs: \$175,000
  - *Water Utility*
    - Emergency Power Generator: \$40,000
    - Water Valve Operator: \$76,000
    - Iron and Manganese Water Filter Rebuild: \$175,000
    - Water Line Repairs: \$50,000
  - *Sanitary Sewer Utility*
    - Sewer Line Camera: \$95,000
    - Sanitary Sewer Repairs: \$50,000
  - *Stormwater Utility*
    - Far Hills Storm Sewer Replacement: \$2,163,394
- ELECTRIC POLICE CAR: Chief Hill delivered a PowerPoint presentation about electric police cars and provided information on options for an all-electric patrol vehicle for the Oakwood Public Safety Department.

As electric powered vehicles continue to increase in popularity, it is inevitable that changes and options to the modern police patrol vehicle will occur. The Public Safety Department evaluated the following electric vehicles to determine suitability for Oakwood's needs: Tesla Model Y, Tesla Model 3 and Ford Mach E. An overview was provided of each vehicle and vehicle images were displayed. It was determined that the Tesla Model Y would best meet the department's patrol vehicle needs. The total price of the Tesla Model

Y is \$98,000. This price includes upfitting of the vehicle and building a charging station. The monthly estimated electric costs would range between \$27.60 and \$62.68, taking the recent electric rate increase into consideration. The annual cost savings on fuel would be approximately \$2,465 to \$3,658. It is well documented that the maintenance costs on electric vehicles are lower than a traditional gas powered vehicle.


If an electric vehicle is purchased, Chief Hill recommends that the vehicle be evaluated for at least 24-36 months before making a decision to purchase additional electric vehicles. He suggests that the vehicle be assigned to department supervisors and once it is proven to be functional, the vehicle will be used for patrol. An electric vehicle could be a worthwhile investment for the City.

There was discussion among the committee members about the optics of the public safety department driving a Tesla in the Oakwood community.

Mr. Klopsch polled the committee and only a slim majority of the members would support purchasing an electric vehicle at this time. He shared that this topic will be discussed again at the next meeting. He then discussed the remaining meeting agenda items.

- YARD DEBRIS IN THE STREET: For decades, the City has enforced a law prohibiting the placement of yard debris in the roadways, except leaves during the 10-week leaf collection between October and December. City staff continuously addresses illegal dumping of yard debris in streets. In an effort to obtain compliance, the City will begin imposing a \$150 fee when yard debris is placed in the street starting in January 2023.
- OCTOBER 20-24 SISTER CITY CELEBRATION: There will be several upcoming Oakwood Sister City Association events celebrating the City's 50<sup>th</sup> twinning anniversary with Le Vésinet, France, and the 46<sup>th</sup> twinning anniversary with Outremont, Canada.

There being no other business, at 7:10 p.m. Mayor Duncan and Mr. Klopsch thanked the committee members for their service and the meeting was adjourned.

  
Chairman