

CITY OF OAKWOOD
STATE OF OHIO
FEBRUARY 6, 2023

The Council of the city of Oakwood, State of Ohio, met in a work session and an executive 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 platform.

The Mayor, Mr. William Duncan, presided, and the Clerk, Ms. Lori Stacel, recorded. Mayor Duncan asked 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
- Chief Alan Hill, Public Safety Director
- Ms. Lori Stacel, Clerk of Council

The following in-person visitors registered:

- Mrs. Judy Cook, 927 Far Hills Avenue
- State Representative Andrea White
- Mrs. Raya Whalen, 143 Wisteria Drive

There were no Zoom visitors in attendance.

Mrs. Hilton advised Council she had read the meeting minutes of the January 9, 2023 regular session and work session, and January 23, 2023 work session and executive 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

2023 State of the City Address – Mayor Duncan gave the following address:

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

On behalf of Oakwood City Council, it is my honor to proclaim that Oakwood, with its population of 9,572 residents, continues to be the premier residential community in the Dayton region. 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.

Neighborhoods

We have outstanding diversity in housing choices. Although most of our housing stock is over 75 years old, our homes and properties are better maintained than any other city around and our home values prove it. Whether a classic Tudor, a Georgian revival, an American Foursquare, or an Italian Renaissance, in 2022, 95% of Oakwood home sales were higher than the County appraised value.

Oakwood is the proud home to five sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Hawthorn Hill, which also holds the special distinction of a National Historic Landmark, was the home of Orville Wright from 1914 until his death in 1948. Dayton History and The Oakwood Historical Society conduct regular educational tours of the home, and the surrounding historic district. The Long-Romspert Homestead on Far Hills was the home to three generations of the same family from circa 1863 to 1985, when it was bequeathed to The Oakwood Historical Society to serve as their headquarters and house museum. The entire Schantz Park Historic District in Oakwood was added to the Registry for its exceptional and intact collection of mid-century and late Victorian-era homes. The familiar Queen Anne style double home on East Schantz Avenue was built by

Adam Schantz, Sr. in 1895. In addition, Wright Memorial Library was added to the National Register in 2013.

Schools/Library

Everyone knows Oakwood has great schools, in fact, the finest public schools in the region. This has been the case for decades and the tradition continues. I know this is hard to believe, but the OHS Academic Decathlon team won the Division III National Championship for the 10th year in a row. This scholastic competition is unique because the team is tested in art, social science, economics, language and literature, mathematics, music and science and participates in judged events in speech, interview and essay. Congratulations to all the students and advisor Lori Morris, who is in her 17th year as coach. She deserves major kudos for her efforts on behalf of our students.

Oakwood High School is the first public high school in the Dayton region to have a Virtual Dissection Table. The Anatomage Table, as commonly known, makes it possible to visualize and interact with virtual anatomy in the way people would on a living human body. As the Oakwood Register described this addition, "The days of the traditional frog dissection are over." This is an incredible learning tool made possible with a grant from the Oakwood Schools Foundation.

We congratulate and thank Todd Duwel for his 11 years of service on the Oakwood Board of Education and thank outgoing Superintendent Kyle Ramey for his outstanding leadership of our school district.

Wright Memorial Public Library celebrated its 83rd anniversary. Under the leadership of Director, Kristi Hale, they are one of the most heavily used libraries in the county, and in 2022 they were named Partner of the Year by the Greater Dayton Partners for the Environment, in recognition of the library's environmental programs and native community gardens. They also completed a \$5.1 million renovation and restoration of their beautiful Tudor architecture building. A substantial portion of the renovation came from private philanthropy.

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.

Public Safety

Formed in 1927, our public safety department is the second oldest consolidated department in the United States. It is unique because all our officers are cross-trained and state-certified in law enforcement, firefighting and emergency medical services. Our first officer on scene response time for any emergency is under three minutes, by far the fastest in the region. Our fire engine response time is 4.4 minutes; the national standard is 6 minutes. Our medic response time is 3.3 minutes; the national standard is 12 minutes. Oakwood has the lowest crime rate and fire loss in Montgomery County.

Under the leadership of Oakwood Public Safety Chief Alan Hill, we have the best group of public safety officers in our history. Captain Mike Jones retired after 25 years in public safety and received the Oakwood Rotary Community Service Award. We were able to promote from within our organization, promoting Officer Justin Slone to Lieutenant and promoting Lieutenant Mike Tanner to Captain. Lieutenant Chuck Balaj was recognized for more than 20 years of service with the Kettering Regional SWAT team. He was the first non-Kettering officer to serve on the SWAT team and has received commendations from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other law enforcement organizations for his assistance with federal and multi-state investigations.

We offered our fifth annual Citizens Police Academy (CPA). Chief Hill describes the program as a unique opportunity for citizens to better understand the job of a public safety officer and serve as a way for Safety Department personnel to hear the needs and expectations of the community.

Public Works

Public Works is often overlooked in our city as people take most of these services for granted. They should not!

Our public works employees handle our weekly household waste collection and disposal, our comprehensive recycling program, special pickup program, year around yard debris pickup, a dumpster program, fall leaf pickup and a spring mulch delivery program. They

also provide routine repair of our asphalt and concrete streets and alleys, provide snow and ice removal and maintain our traffic signals and street signs.

Public Works also operates our water system, sanitary sewers and storm sewers. They are on call 24/7 for storm events, snow events and water main and other broken pipe events. Please thank them for their service to our city.

Leisure Services

Where else will you find in a community of 2.2 square miles the parks, gardens and green space found in Oakwood?

We offer four neighborhood parks, Cook Park, Fairridge Park, Orchardly Park and Shafor Park. Our natural areas include Loy Gardens, Elizabeth Gardens, Houk Stream and Centennial Park. Our recreation facilities include the Oakwood Community Center and Gardner Pool, the Dog Park at Creager Field, Irving Field, Hollinger Memorial Tennis Center, Old River Sports Complex and Mack Hummon Stadium.

Oakwood also features beautiful public gardens including Smith Gardens, donated to our city 49 years ago, and Francine's Garden. We have been a Tree City USA for 40 years as designated the National Arbor Day Foundation and have planted over 3,200 trees through our Johnny Appleseed Street Tree Planting program. We also sponsor numerous community events including the New Resident Breakfast, the Ice Cream Social, the Family Fall Festival and the Holiday of Lights.

Other Important Events

We celebrated several notable anniversaries last year. CARE Walk celebrated its 20th and final fundraiser for breast health of women in Dayton. They raised over \$300,000 over their 20-year run for breast cancer research. The Oakwood Register celebrated its 30th anniversary. Ashley's Pastry Shop, the best bakery in the Miami Valley, celebrated their 40th anniversary. Oakwood and Le Vésinet, France celebrated the 50th anniversary of our twinning with our first Sister City. The Oakwood Club, the best steakhouse in the Miami Valley, celebrated their 60th anniversary. In 2023, Dorothy Lane Market, the best grocery store in the Miami Valley will celebrate their 75th anniversary. We also commemorated the 150th anniversary of the platting of the "Town of Oakwood" with a historical marker placed in front of our City Building.

We mourn the loss of former city manager Michael Kelly. Mike served our city for over 33 years including nine years as city manager. He was the consummate professional in every sense of the word. He will always be remembered for his dedication to the betterment of Oakwood and as a man of the highest integrity. His grace and class are the primary reason I chose to become involved in public service.

Mary Jo Scalzo passed away on Christmas Day 2021 and we celebrated her life last June. She retired from Oakwood City Schools in 2013 as Superintendent after 41 years in public and non-public education including 21 years with the Oakwood City School District. It was my honor in 2013 to present her with the first "Key to the City" award for her career of service to our community.

Financial Stewardship

Under the leadership of City Council, our outstanding city staff and the advice and counsel of our 32-member citizen Budget Review Committee, we met the challenges to our financial stability. Our revenues exceeded our expenses in both 2021 and 2022. This year, as well as in 2022, 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 plan to have a property tax renewal levy on the ballot this November. This levy generates about \$1,100,000 annually for city services and was last renewed by our voters with a 70% yes vote in 2018. And, as you know, only 8% of your property taxes go for city services. The remainder goes to Oakwood Schools, Montgomery County agencies and Wright Library.

The 2023 budget includes \$2.2 million for the Far Hills Storm Sewer Reconstruction Project and \$220,000 for the Far Hills Resurfacing Project in 2024. The Far Hills Storm Sewer Reconstruction Project will be the third largest project that the city has completed in the past 30 years. Maintaining our city infrastructure, both above and below ground, is a top priority of City Council and city staff.

The Ohio Municipal League (OML) serves as the primary connection point between municipal and state government in Ohio, representing the interests of cities and villages to lawmakers and the governor's administration. We support their 2023-2024 Legislative Priorities as follows:

- *Restore Local Government Fund (LGF)*
- *Preserve Home Rule*
- *Protect Public Safety Funding*
- *Invest in Public Infrastructure, and*
- *Partner to Fight Opioid Addiction*

Well Governed, Well Managed and Financially Strong

The excellent services provided by our public safety, leisure services and public works departments would not occur if not for the leadership of City Manager Norbert Klopsch. He is recognized throughout the region as an outstanding city manager. He has served our city for 31 years including the last 21 years as our City Manager. He is blessed with an outstanding group of department directors.

As I begin my 20th year on Oakwood City Council and my 14th year as your Mayor, I serve our region as a member the Board of Directors of the Greater Dayton Mayors and Managers Association. I formerly served as the President of the Association. I also serve on the Montgomery County Solid Waste Advisory Committee and the Solid Waste Management Policy Committee. I am honored to serve with my fellow members of Council. Steve Byington begins his 16th year as a member of Oakwood City Council and his 14th year as our Vice Mayor. Steve represents our city on the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission and the First Suburbs Consortium. Council members Rob Stephens and Anne Hilton both begin their 14th year on City Council. Rob represents our city on the Miami Valley Communications Council (MVCC) and currently serves as the Chair of MVCC. Anne is our city liaison to the Oakwood Sister City Association. Council member Leigh Turben begins her 3rd year on Oakwood City Council. Leigh is our city liaison to the Oakwood Historical Society and represented our city in Le Vésinet France last June for the 50th anniversary celebration of our twinning with our first sister city. What a great team!

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 following list of reappointments and new appointments to various citizen committees:

The reappointment of Megan Kavanaugh (Precinct C) and Michael Hayes (Precinct E) to the Budget Review Committee; Greg Lauterbach to the Planning Commission; Alex Heckman (Precinct C) to the Property Maintenance Board; Peter Davies to the Beautification Committee and the appointment of Jim Vaughn (Precinct G) and Raya Whalen (Precinct H) to the Budget Review Committee.

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.

VISITORS

State Representative Andrea White shared that she serves the 36th District, which is a newly defined district that includes Oakwood. She congratulated Council and city staff for all of their great work as mentioned in the Mayor's State of the City Address. She encouraged citizens to contact District 36 for assistance by emailing rep36@ohiohouse.gov or calling (614) 644-6008.

LEGISLATION

A RESOLUTION
BY MR. STEPHENS NO 1903
A RESOLUTION OF CONSENT AUTHORIZING THE OHIO
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) TO PROCEED WITH
THE REPLACEMENT OF CERTAIN GUARDRAIL ASSEMBLIES
ALONG FAR HILLS AVENUE (STATE ROUTE 48).

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 this is a resolution that involves improvements along Far Hills Avenue. ODOT is planning to replace numerous guardrails along state highways in Montgomery, Miami, and Clark Counties. Far Hills is within the project area and ODOT is seeking the city's consent to replace guardrails.

ODOT's guardrail project is being planned for 2024 but will be separate from the repaving project also scheduled for 2024. The guardrail project will be financed 100% by the state, with no local funding component.

This resolution documents the city's consent to ODOT to proceed with the guardrail project and authorizes the City Manager to sign contracts in connection with the project.

Thereupon, it was moved by Mr. Stephens and seconded by Mrs. Turben 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.

A RESOLUTION
BY MR. STEPHENS NO 1904
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY'S COOPERATION WITH
THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) IN
CONNECTION WITH THE 2024 RESURFACING OF FAR HILLS
AVENUE (STATE ROUTE 48).

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 the entire length of Far Hills Avenue within Oakwood is scheduled to be repaved in 2024. Since Far Hills is a state highway, projects like this require cooperation and cost-sharing between the city and the Ohio Department of Transportation. This resolution is the first legislative step of the project. It documents the city's intent to cooperate with ODOT on the project and authorizes the City Manager to sign engineering and other contracts in connection with the project.

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

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; Medic 27 and School District Partnership.

Chief Hill shared that the city of Oakwood continues to be one of the safest communities in the area, but Oakwood experienced an increase in reported larceny, fraud and assault offenses in 2022.

In 2022, Oakwood, and the Dayton Region, experienced a significant increase in auto thefts. There were 20 total reported auto thefts and the normal yearly average is one to two. The majority of the vehicles were unlocked with keys inside the vehicle. These vehicles were easy targets that did not require the use of forced entry.

The Oakwood Public Safety Department continues to have very low use of force incidents, which is a testament to the professionalism and de-escalation skills of Oakwood's Public Safety Officers.

There was a significant decrease in traffic accidents in 2022, but an increase in injuries. Most of the incidents involved assured cleared distance, failure to control and failure to yield. The department will focus on reducing accidents causing injury.

There was an increase in medic runs in 2022 compared to previous years, including Oakwood's mutual aid medic run requests to other jurisdictions. There was one mutual aid medic response to Oakwood from other jurisdictions in 2022.

The Oakwood Public Safety Department responded to four structure fires that resulted in damage/loss. The Oakwood Public Safety Department continues to maintain an exceptional fire response time that is well below the national average.

Dispatcher Cheryl Colton resigned on January 17, 2023 with over 12 years of service to the city of Oakwood. Dispatcher Rob Plummer was hired on January 23, 2023. He comes to Oakwood with a tremendous amount of public safety dispatching experience. Rob served as a dispatcher with the Warren County Sheriff's Office for 14 years.

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 3,603 hours of in-service training annually. The training is done through online continuing education, classroom training and practical training exercises.

In 2022, all certified peace officers in the state of Ohio received 24 hours of mandated training on the following topics: Cultural Humility: Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity; Responding to Mental Health Crisis; Legal Updates; Officer Personal Wellness; Responding to Sexual Assaults and Domestic Violence.

The Oakwood Public Safety Department hosted its fifth Citizens Police Academy (CPA) in 2022. 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 2023.

A used medic vehicle was purchased in 2022 to replace an ambulance that was experiencing problems with the brake module that could not be repaired. This replacement vehicle will serve as the primary vehicle through 2024, and then will serve as a backup ambulance when a new ambulance is purchased at that time. It is essential to have two reliable ambulances, one serving as a primary vehicle and the other serving as a backup.

Chief Hill congratulated and welcomed the Oakwood City School District's new superintendent Dr. Neil Gupta. The Public Safety Department has a long and collaborative partnership with the Oakwood School District. The partnership includes: annual administrator meetings; daily school zone enforcement; daily building foot patrols; direct access to and ability to monitor school security cameras; DARE program; security services for all home varsity football and basketball games; and other educational programs.

Mrs. Hilton asked why people leave their cars unlocked and/or leave keys in their car.

Chief Hill believes that people become complacent and have a misguided sense of security, particularly in Oakwood. Car thefts are mostly a crime of opportunity.

Mrs. Hilton asked how many state mandated trainings there are.

Chief Hill explained that there are eight state mandated trainings and the other trainings are chosen by the individual departments.

Vice Mayor Byington asked if there were any instances where a car was stolen when the car was running or warming up.

Chief Hill answered no.

Vice Mayor Byington asked how many miles were on the previous medic vehicle compared to the one purchased last year.

Chief Hill shared that the previous medic vehicle was a 1996 model with about 50,000 miles. The medic that was purchased last year is a 2017 model with 45,000 miles and it will serve the department for many years to come.

Mayor Duncan asked what was done with the old medic.

Mr. Jacques explained the old medic was sold on GovDeals.

Mayor Duncan and City Council thanked Chief Hill for the presentation.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Klopsch stated that the Public Safety Department is in great hands with Chief Hill. Chief Hill is passionate about his position and the city of Oakwood. He thanked Chief Hill for everything he does.

The yard debris disposal program is in place and property owners will be charged a \$150 fee if yard debris is placed in the street. Code Enforcement Officer Ethan Kroger has only found a small number of violations and thus far, the homeowners have complied with city policy.

The first few months of the year are challenging for the Public Works Department due to inclement weather, particularly when responding to water main breaks. There was a water main break on Claranna last week that took 12+ hours to repair. Kudos to the Public Works Department for everything they do this time of year.

The entire length of Far Hills Avenue in Oakwood will be repaved next spring or summer. The repaving will begin after the completion of several projects along Far Hills Avenue such as the gas line replacement and storm sewer reconstruction.

The City's website contains a lot of valuable information. Kudos to Ms. Stacel for managing the website to ensure that the information is accurate and up-to-date.

The 2023 budget book will be posted on the City website later this week. The budget book contains detailed information about all matters related to city finances.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mrs. Turben shared that the Oakwood Historical Society and Dayton History announced the return of the Wright at Home event scheduled for Sunday, April 23. Additional information on the event will be available in the April/May *Oakwood Scene* newsletter.

Vice Mayor Byington congratulated Dr. Neil Gupta on being selected as the new Oakwood Schools superintendent. He commended the Oakwood Schools on their unique selection process that involved students, staff, parents and the community in the interview process. He closed his comments by saying that selecting the new superintendent was a tough decision because the final three candidates were all excellent.

The public meeting concluded at 8:30 p.m.


FOR MAYOR

ATTEST:


CLERK OF COUNCIL