

Oakwood, Ohio
May 16, 2023

The Oakwood citizen Budget Review Committee (BRC) met at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. 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
Jeanne Boozell
Cait Botschner
Fred Dudding
Ellen Fodge
Bill Frapwell, Vice Chair
William Meyer
Bill Rieger
Mark Risley
Mike Ruetschle
Michael Vanderburgh
Jim Vaughn
Raya Whalen
Sarah Waechter

Via Zoom:

Susie Elliott
Erika Endsley
Ella Himes
Yusaku Kawai
Amanda Malusky Krauss
Kristina Marcus
Beth Ritzert
Jeff Woeste

Oakwood City Council

In-person:

Mayor William Duncan
Vice Mayor Steve Byington
Council Member Rob Stephens
Council Member Anne Hilton
Council Member Leigh Turben

City Staff

In-person:

City Manager Norbert Klopsch
Leisure Services Director Carol Collins
Finance Director Cindy Stafford
Law Director Rob Jacques
Engineering & Public Works Director Doug Spitler
Public Safety Captain Kevin Pruszynski
Staff Engineer Chris Kuzma

Mayor Bill Duncan opened the meeting with a welcome. He introduced the three new members of the committee (Jeanne Boozell, Jim Vaughn and Raya Whalen) and then asked the committee members to do self-introductions. He asked if there were any suggested edits to the minutes of the November 29, 2022 meeting. There being no edits, Mayor Duncan asked for a motion to approve those minutes. Motion to approve by Bill Frapwell; second by Howard Boose. Upon viva voce vote, motion passed and the minutes were approved.

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

Mr. Klopsch began the meeting by discussing the following city projects:

- Five Points Intersection: The Five Points intersection will be discussed later in the meeting. A decision will not be made on the Five Points intersection design until a thorough analysis is completed, and until city leaders receive feedback from the citizens of Oakwood and the general public.
- Medic Vehicle: Captain Pruszynski will explain the need to purchase a new medic vehicle in 2024.
- Finances: Finance Director Cindy Stafford will speak in detail about our city finances. Overall, our finances are in good shape. That said, Mrs. Stafford will explain that we need to discuss rate increases in 2024 in our water and sanitary sewer utilities.
- LED Street Lights: The majority of the street lights throughout Oakwood are in the process of being upgraded to LED fixtures. The new lights have a different look than the previous High Pressure Sodium fixtures, but the upgrade was necessary because LED lights are the new standard for street lighting. About 500 fixtures are being replaced.
- Solar Panels: There are 49 residential solar power generating systems installed on Oakwood rooftops. Mr. Klopsch commented on a recent *Dayton Daily News* article about the city of Vandalia prohibiting the installation of solar panels that face the street. Oakwood does not have that prohibition.
- Fiber Optic Infrastructure: The fiber optic broadband market is close to reaching its saturation point. There have been four different companies requesting to put fiber in Oakwood over the past few years.
- CenterPoint Energy Project: The CenterPoint gas line replacement project that began in 2010 is scheduled to be completed this year. At the end of this year, all of the underground gas distribution pipes and home service lines in Oakwood will have been renewed.
- RTA Trolley System: The RTA trolley system in Oakwood dates back to the early 1900s and is now obsolete and RTA no longer uses it. It is likely that RTA will remove the overhead trolley infrastructure in the next few years.
- Oakwood RTA Bus: The Oakwood RTA bus will debut in the ‘That Day in May’ parade on Saturday, May 20. Following the parade, it will be displayed on Dellwood Avenue for citizens to view before it starts operating on normal transit routes.

Mr. Klopsch reported that the audit of the 2022 city finances was recently completed. No items were noted and an unqualified “Clean” opinion is expected. He thanked Finance Director Cindy Stafford and the finance department for their diligence.

He then invited Finance Director Cindy Stafford to present the following financial data:

- 2022 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS:
 - Total 2022 spending for General City Services was \$14.15 million. A review of city spending over the past 15 years shows tight cost controls. The increase in 2021 was for the construction of a new Recycling Facility and a storage building at the Public Works Center. The increase in 2022 was for Gardner Pool upgrades, engineering costs for the Far Hills Storm Sewer Reconstruction project and also inflation in general.

Mrs. Fodge asked if actual costs have been compared to projected inflation costs.

Mrs. Stafford shared that inflation did not hit until last year. Hopefully inflation comes down this year, but if not, a determination will be made on whether a comparative graph is needed.

- General City Services receipts were 106.83% for the year and disbursements were 93.93% of budget. The year finished in a strong financial position with receipts exceeding disbursements by about \$1.3 million. This is attributed to several 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 total earned income of Oakwood residents remains strong.
 - Refuse Fund receipts were 100.57% for the year and disbursements were 95.01% of budget. The budget included capital expenditures for the purchase of a new front-end loader and two new refuse scooters.
 - Enterprise Funds receipts were 98.86% for the year and disbursements were 96.04% of budget. The Enterprise Funds include Water, Sanitary Sewer and Stormwater. The budget included planned capital expenditures.
- 2023 FINANCIALS THROUGH APRIL
 - General City Services receipts through April are at 41.83% of budget, while disbursements and encumbrances are at 40.64% of budget. The first of two property tax and property tax assessments are received in April and May. Blanket purchase orders are submitted for many purchases at the beginning of the year to cover expenses for the entire year.
 - Refuse Fund receipts through April are at 33.89% of budget and disbursements and encumbrances are at 49.09% of budget.
 - Water Fund receipts through April are at 31.25% of budget and disbursements and encumbrances are at 42.45% of budget. This includes \$500,000 of capital expenditures. We strive to have the Water Fund start the year at a minimum of \$1 million to maintain the fund. 2023 started with \$1.3 million. If everything goes as planned, the fund will end the year below \$1 million, which is why a water rate increase may be considered for 2024.
 - Sanitary Sewer Fund receipts through April are at 32.14% of budget and disbursements and encumbrances are at 36.41% of budget. Like the Water Fund, we strive to have the Sanitary Sewer Fund start with a \$1 million minimum to maintain the fund. If the year goes as planned, the fund will be below \$1 million at the end of 2023. Most of the Sanitary Sewer Fund expenses relate to wastewater treatment, the cost of which is about 63% of our budget. Montgomery County and Dayton's wastewater treatment rates increased by about 29%. These increases have been factored into the 2023 budget. A sanitary sewer rate increase may be considered to cover the Montgomery County and Dayton increases. There are also planned capital expenditures over the next few years.
 - Stormwater Fund receipts through April are at 12.41% of budget and disbursements and encumbrances are at 25.99% of budget. This includes \$985,000 for the Far Hills Storm Sewer Reconstruction Project. This project was dependent on a grant that was not received which is why a supplementation appropriation was passed by Council to allow for the transfer of these dollars from the General Fund. The total project is budgeted at \$2.2 million, with the other \$940,000 coming from American Rescue Plan Act monies that were received in 2021 and 2022.

Mr. Klopsch then delivered the following presentation:

- 2023 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS/CAPITAL EXPENSES: The following capital expenses are in the 2023 Budget. Mr. Klopsch provided a brief overview of the items highlighted in blue.
 - General City Services
 - S-44 2016 John Deere Mower Replacement: \$15,000
 - Georgia Buggy: \$20,000
 - S-82S 1994 Henderson Salt Spreader Replacement: \$30,000
 - S-86S 2003 Henderson Salt Spreader Replacement: \$30,000
 - S-91S 1997 Henderson Salt Spreader Replacement: \$30,000
 - S-51 2011 John Deere Gator: \$20,000
 - Vermeer Brush Chipper: \$25,974
 - Orchardly Park Playset: \$50,000
 - Marked Public Safety EV Vehicle #40 : \$75,000
 - Unmarked Public Safety Vehicle #75: \$36,000
 - S-87 2009 International Dump Truck Replacement: \$150,000
 - S-71 2008 Ford F250 Replacement: \$ 40,500
 - Safety Department Flooring Replacement: \$25,000
 - Gardner Pool Upgrades: \$70,600
 - Shafor Park Safety Surface Replacement: \$90,000
 - OCC Carpet, Wallpaper & Paint: \$ 32,000
 - Asphalt Street Program: \$450,000
 - Concrete Street Program: \$100,000
 - Far Hills Catch Basin, Curb, Sidewalk & Apron Repairs: \$297,000
 - Sidewalk, Curb & Driveway Apron Program: \$229,000
 - Far Hills Avenue Resurfacing: \$220,000 (2024 project)
 - Refuse Utility
 - S-79 2008 Crane Refuse Packer Refurbishment: \$55,000
 - S-06 2019 Scooter Replacement: \$25,000 (Insurance Proceeds)
 - Water Utility
 - Iron & Manganese Filter Rebuild: \$175,000
 - Emergency Power Generator - Springhouse: \$40,000
 - EZ Valves: \$50,000
 - Utility Line Locater: \$25,000
 - Valve Turner: \$76,000
 - Water Line Repairs: \$50,000
 - Water Tower Overflow Upgrades: \$20,000
 - Various Water Tools: \$43,500
 - Sanitary Sewer Utility
 - S-74 2012 GMC Sierra Pick-up Truck Replacement: \$45,000
 - Sewer Line Camera: \$95,000
 - Sanitary Sewer Repairs: \$50,000
 - Stormwater Utility
 - Far Hills Storm Sewer Reconstruction Project: \$2,163,394
 - S-30 1998 ODB Leaf Vacuum Replacement: \$35,000
 - (Plus \$75,000 from 2022)
- TRAFFIC SIGNAL STUDY: Mr. Klopsch displayed an aerial map of the current Five Points intersection showing Far Hills Avenue, Oakwood Avenue and Thruston Boulevard.

He commented on the current movement of vehicle and pedestrian traffic through the Five Points intersection. Over a four year period between 2008-2021, there were a total of 21 crashes, 29% of which resulted in injuries. The primary reason roundabouts are being built is because they have proven to slow down traffic. By slowing down traffic, the number of crashes and the severity of crashes involving serious injury are reduced. The main purpose of this potential project is to slow down vehicles and to improve safety at the intersection. The traffic signal study that began last year identified that a roundabout intersection design was worth studying, given the vehicle and pedestrian movements, volume and land ownership. This type of project would also compete well for state and/or federal funding, but could take approximately 4-5 years before it would be built. Mr. Klopsch displayed a conceptual plan to show how a roundabout might be designed at the Five Points intersection. There was discussion on the traffic flow of the potential roundabout as well as control options for pedestrian safety. Mr. Klopsch played a video showing how a beacon signal is used to address pedestrian traffic. An information mailer will be delivered to every residence and business in Oakwood with an invitation to three open houses that will be held to get citizen input and feedback. The community open house events will be conducted from 6 – 8 p.m. on June 14, June 29, and July 11 at the Oakwood Community Center. A general discussion took place amongst committee members regarding the pros and cons of a roundabout.

- 3.75 MILL PROPERTY TAX: The city’s 3.75 mill property tax expires this year. City Council will place the issue on the November 2023 ballot for a renewal only, meaning it would, if approved by the voters, continue to generate the same annual revenue, and would represent no increase in property taxes.
- POSSIBLE 2024 CAPITAL PROJECTS/EXPENSES: Mr. Klopsch briefly reviewed the following possible capital projects scheduled for 2024:
 - Far Hills Repaving: \$880,000 (ODOT expense)
 - Gardner Pool Liner: \$100,000
 - Harman Boulevard Median: \$200,000 – \$500,000
 - Shafor and Orchardly Parks: \$400,000 & \$300,000)
 - Medic Vehicle: \$300,000
 - Asphalt Repaving: \$450,000
 - Sidewalk, Curb and Driveway Aprons: \$175,000
 - Salt Storage Structure: \$?
 - E. Schantz Hill: \$?
 - Harman Boulevard Median: \$200,000 – \$500,000

There being no other business, at 6:52 p.m. Mayor Duncan and Mr. Klopsch thanked the committee members for their service and the meeting was adjourned.


Chairman