

MINUTES
OAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 4, 2023

The Council of the city of Oakwood, Ohio met in a work session on Monday, December 4, 2023 in the second-floor meeting 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, Councilmember Anne Hilton, Councilmember Leigh Turben and Councilmember-elect Healy Jackson. Staff in attendance were City Manager Norbert Klopsch and Law Director Rob Jacques. Also attending as visitors were Andrew and Cheryl Lloyd.


Mayor Duncan called the work session to order at 5:30 p.m. and reviewed the agenda for the regular session this evening. Thereafter, he led a discussion on the following work session agenda items:

- **STATUS REPORTS:**
 - PSO Swear-in: Mayor Duncan mentioned that he will administer the Oath of Office to Public Safety Officer Dustin Mitchell. Chief Hill will introduce him.
- **VISITORS:** Mayor Duncan mentioned that there are no visitors scheduled for the regular session this evening.
- **LEGISLATION:** Council discussed the following legislation scheduled for presentation at the regular session this evening:
 - An Ordinance to increase the water and sanitary sewer rates, Mrs. Turben
 - An Ordinance to place a property tax issue on the March 19, 2024 ballot, Vice Mayor Byington
 - An Ordinance to approve the 2024 Budget, Vice Mayor Byington
 - An Ordinance to approve updates to the Traffic and General Offenses Codes, Mr. Stephens
 - An Ordinance to amend the personnel schedule, Vice Mayor Byington
 - An Ordinance to amend compensation rates for Oakwood Court, Vice Mayor Byington
 - An Ordinance to amend the organization and staffing schedule, Vice Mayor Byington
 - An Ordinance to provide a supplemental appropriation for the Far Hills Resurfacing Project, Vice Mayor Byington
 - A Resolution to proceed with the 2024 ODOT resurfacing project on Far Hills Avenue, Mr. Stephens
- **COUNCIL COMMITTEES**
 - Public Utilities/Waterworks/Sewer, Mrs. Turben
 - Montgomery County Solid Waste District: Mr. Klopsch commented on the Montgomery County Solid Waste District (MCSWD) considering imposing a fee for the drop-off of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) material to begin in 2026. The County Commissioners are opposed to fee increases and have directed MCSWD staff to look for ways to stabilize the budget without fee increases.

- Safety & Traffic, Mr. Stephens
 - Bikes and Electric Scooters: Mr. Klopsch noted that Mrs. Turben had recently informed him of additional resident complaints about the manner in which operators of bikes and electric scooters use public sidewalks. Mr. Jacques reviewed state and city law in regard to operating these devices. A discussion ensued on the topic, culminating with the conclusion that this remains a challenging issue. Mr. Klopsch commented that the use of leaf blowers also remains a challenging issue.
- MISCELLANEOUS
 - Montgomery County Ombudsman: Mrs. Hilton mentioned that she recently visited the office of the Montgomery County Ombudsman and found it enlightening.
 - Marijuana: Mr. Klopsch commented on the recent passage of Issue 2 that legalizes the recreational use of marijuana. He explained that state lawmakers are debating actions to take to adjust this voter-initiated statute. Mr. Jacques explained that Issue 2 was a voter-initiated statute and not a constitutional amendment, which gives Ohio lawmakers flexibility to amend it. Mr. Klopsch noted that in the absence of clear statewide law on this topic, numerous political jurisdictions in Ohio have imposed, or are considering imposing, moratoriums relating to retail dispensaries, cultivators, or processors of marijuana. Mr. Klopsch recommended that Oakwood also impose a moratorium through legislation to be presented at the January 2, 2024 council meeting.

At 6:27 p.m., Mayor Duncan concluded the work session and Council moved to executive session for property matters. Andrew and Cheryl Lloyd departed the meeting.

At 7:25 p.m., Mayor Duncan concluded the executive session and Council moved to regular session.



Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council