

CITY OF OAKWOOD  
STATE OF OHIO  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

The Council of the city of Oakwood, State of Ohio, met in an executive session and a work session at 6:00 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. Robert F. Jacques, City Attorney
- Ms. Carol Collins, Leisure Services Director
- Mrs. Cindy Stafford, Finance Director
- Mr. Douglas Spitler, Public Works Director
- Mr. Ethan Kroger, Planning & Zoning Manager
- Mrs. Sangita Anand, Human Resources Manager
- Ms. Lori Stacel, Clerk of Council

The following in-person visitors registered:

- Leigh Ann Fulford, 219 Orchard Drive
- Joe Fulford, 219 Orchard Drive
- Carly Hall, 413 Corona Avenue
- Andrew Lloyd, 465 Kramer Road
- Brian Barr, *Oakwood Register*

The following Zoom visitors attended via remote teleconference:

- alendrachuk
- Brianna Griffith
- Briana
- Casey
- Catherine
- Nlber
- Tania

Mrs. Hilton advised Council she had read the meeting minutes of the August 7, 2023 regular session, 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

Proclamation – Mayor Duncan read a proclamation designating September 17 – 23 as “Constitution Week”.

Auditor of State Award – Mayor Duncan recognized Finance Director Cindy Stafford, CPA, for once again completing a successful financial audit and receiving the Auditor of State Award.

Electricity Aggregation Program – City Attorney Rob Jacques shared that the city of Oakwood’s electricity purchasing aggregation program is now available. He explained that electric bills in Ohio are broken down into two components. One is the delivery component, which is the wires that get the electricity to your house. The other component is the supply and that is the electricity itself delivered to the house. For the supply component, residents and small businesses have the option to either use AES or contract with an outside third-party provider directly or through a governmental aggregation program. Oakwood residents and small businesses may enroll by calling (866) 636-3749 or on the city’s website at [www.oakwoodohio.gov/energyaggregation](http://www.oakwoodohio.gov/energyaggregation). The

program offers a competitive rate of 6.57 cents per kWh for conventional electric energy. There is also a 100% renewable energy option at 6.97 cents per kWh. Mr. Jacques shared a few common questions that he has received from Oakwood residents, such as:

Who is the provider and how will I be billed? Energy Harbor is the name of the company that provides electricity for this contract period. The bill will still come from AES, but will include that Energy Harbor is the electricity supplier.

What if I find a better rate somewhere else or I decide I don't want to stay in the aggregation program? There is no early termination fee. Services can be terminated at any time. Better rates can possibly be found through the State of Ohio's Apples to Apples website which compares different contracts, but those pursuing this option should review the contract terms very carefully.

Do you recommend signing up for this? Oakwood's program is an opt-in program for a reason. City Council thought it was important that the citizens be able to make that choice for themselves and that no one is forced to participate in a program.

Mayor Duncan noted that Mr. Stephens is Council's representative to the Miami Valley Communications Council (MVCC) Board and he currently serves as the chair.

Mr. Stephens stated that MVCC does a phenomenal job and has been integral in supporting its eight member cities.

Staffing Changes – Mr. Jacques announced the promotion of Ethan Kroger to Planning & Zoning Manager and the appointment of Sangita Anand to Human Resources Manager.

#### VISITORS

Oakwood Teen Court Advisor Chris Conard – Mr. Conard provided an overview of the operation of the Oakwood Teen Court. He shared that serving as Teen Court Advisor has been an interesting and rewarding experience. The interaction between the teenage judges and the teenage offender is an interesting dynamic. He explained that the role of any juvenile court is to focus on the best interest of the children. Teen Court is available to all eligible offenders, regardless of whether they reside in Oakwood.

Mrs. Hilton asked how people find out about Teen Court.

Mr. Conard shared that first of all, unfortunately, an interaction with law enforcement takes place. Once that occurs, law enforcement determines whether or not the offense fits the criteria for Teen Court. If so, paperwork is sent to the offender and his/her parents explaining the Teen Court option.

July and August Beautification Award Winners – Mayor Duncan explained that a video will be shown highlighting all the winners and then he will present certificates to those who are at the meeting. The following were shown in the video and recognized by Mayor Duncan: David & Carolyn Schoeff, 115 E. Schantz Avenue; Aaron & Kathlyn Delidow, 227 E. Dixon Avenue; Therese Nyholm & David Becker, 232 Collingwood Avenue; Rachel Kostoff, 247 Forrer Boulevard; Mark & Denise Kemper, 315 Wiltshire Avenue; Eric Grupe & Dair Arnold, 315 Telford Avenue; James Tunison & Billie Sue Williams, 242 Wiltshire Boulevard; Andrew and Carly Hall, 413 Corona Avenue; Luke & Madison Hill, 29 Triangle Avenue; Tom & Mary Lou Williams, 133 Lonsdale Avenue; William & Jean Rieger, 20 Dellwood Avenue; Judy Heller, 1400 Runnymede Road; Todd & Kimberly Howell, 661 Garden Road; Mark & Andrea Nelson, 583 Acorn Drive; Sean & Kimberly Johnson, 222 Aberdeen Avenue; Christopher Adams, 1516 Shroyer Road; Drew & Karina Moore, 316 E. Peach Orchard Avenue; Sean & Darlene Weaver, 1216 Raleigh Road; Timothy & Valerie Walker, 2508 Hillview Avenue; John & Autumn Johnson, 1220 Runnymede Road; and Michael & Stacy McCloskey, 121 Park Avenue.

Mr. Andrew Lloyd, 465 Kramer Road, suggested that the vacant lot at 1313 Far Hills Avenue be converted into a low-maintenance biodiversity-friendly park commemorating Oakwood resident Joseph Desch. According to President Eisenhower, Joseph Desch shortened World War II by two years and saved tens if not hundreds of thousands of lives across the alliance. He is the recipient of the medal for merit, a brilliant NCR engineer, UD alumni, and resided on Oakwood's Greenmount Boulevard. He played a pivotal role in shortening the horrors of the Holocaust by untold hundreds of thousands.

Leigh Ann Fulford, 219 Orchard Drive, shared that September is Suicide Prevention Month. It is a time to raise awareness and discuss this highly stigmatized topic. Mrs. Fulford thanked Council and City staff for their support.

A RESOLUTION  
 BY VICE MAYOR BYINGTON NO 1913  
 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE LAW DIRECTOR TO SERVE ON  
 THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DAYTON REGIONAL  
 ENERGY SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT.

A copy of the resolution, having been placed on the desks of each member of Council prior to introduction, was read by title.

Vice Mayor Byington explained that the city is a participating member of the Dayton Regional Energy Special Improvement District, or "ESID." ESIDs are authorized by state law as a mechanism that allows residents and local businesses to finance certain energy efficiency projects through special assessments.

Since Oakwood is a participating member, Council is required by law to appoint a person to serve on the Dayton ESID's Board of Directors. Oakwood's previous appointee no longer works for the city, so the resolution is being introduced to appoint the City Law Director to serve on that board.

Thereupon, it was moved by Vice Mayor Byington and seconded by Mrs. Hilton 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 VICE MAYOR BYINGTON NO 1914  
 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS  
 DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND  
 AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING  
 THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

A copy of the resolution, having been placed on the desks of each member of Council prior to introduction, was read by title.

Vice Mayor Byington explained that each tax year, the Montgomery County Budget Commission is required to certify its determination of the millage rates and amounts the city will receive from its existing property tax levies. For 2023-2024, the Budget Commission has determined that Oakwood will receive \$1,268,666 from inside-millage and \$472,969 from outside-millage tax levies. These figures are consistent with the city's projections, although it should be noted that the outside-millage figure is lower than needed because it assumes the expiration of a 3.75-mill levy at the end of this year. That levy is on the ballot for renewal in November. As a renewal, it will not raise property taxes.

This is the annual resolution to accept the county's determination.

Thereupon, it was moved by Vice Mayor Byington and seconded by Mr. Stephens 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 Works Department Presentation: Mr. Doug Spitler, Public Works Director, referenced a PowerPoint presentation and updated Council on various Public Works projects and operations.

A map was displayed depicting the 2023 Asphalt Street Resurfacing Project. The work took place on E. Schantz Avenue between Far Hills Avenue and Lookout Drive; Lookout Drive; Acacia Drive; E. Thruston Boulevard between Woods Road & Acorn Drive; Hathaway Road between Patterson Road and north end; the alley between Rubicon Road and Oakwood Avenue; and the alley between Ridgewood Avenue and E. Schantz Avenue at a cost of \$556,670.

The 2023 Sidewalk, Curb and Driveway Apron Repair Project is taking place in the southwest area of the city, including all areas of Oakwood west of Far Hills Avenue, south of Park Road. Work also took place around Harman Elementary School. The cost of the project is \$229,050.

Work is underway to repair a series of stormwater inlets along the east and west sides of Far Hills Avenue, and to replace numerous sections of concrete roadway curbing, mostly between East Drive and Patterson Road.

A portion of the storm sewer system is being replaced at the crossing of Far Hills Avenue at Greenmount Boulevard; on Dellwood Avenue from Far Hills to East Schantz; Forrer Boulevard from Far Hills to East Schantz; and along a section of Devereux Drive north of Forrer Road. The estimated cost of the project is \$2.1 million.

CenterPoint (formerly Vectren) began a major gas line replacement project in 2010. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2023. At the end of 2023, all of the underground gas distribution pipes and home service lines in Oakwood will be renewed. Mr. Spitler displayed the 2023 CenterPoint project maps.

There are several large equipment purchases this year. Several pieces of equipment were purchased last year but were not delivered until this year. The purchases already made or planned include: Dump Truck: \$141,469; V-Box Salt Spreader (3 units): \$97,290 total; and a sewer camera with trailer unit: \$110,800.

The annual leaf collection program begins on Monday, October 9. As in previous years, the program will provide bi-weekly leaf pickups of all areas throughout the city. The city is divided into ten sections with each being collected on a 2-week interval. The program is scheduled to continue until Friday, December 15, but will be extended if conditions warrant. Mr. Spitler advised residents to place leaves in the street gutter, ideally just a day or two before the pick-up. Leaves must be unbagged and spread out along property frontages so that traffic flow is not impeded. The City will not provide special pick-up service during the ten-week leaf collection season.

The next Styrofoam recycling event is on Saturday, October 14.

Mr. Spitler displayed a line graph showing refuse collection and cardboard collection trends over the past six years. The line graph showed a substantial increase in refuse collection beginning in March 2020. This increase follows COVID-19, suggesting that many property owners disposed of more household debris during the pandemic. The 2022 refuse collection data appears to be trending back to normal. The line graph shows that the cardboard collection is continuing to trend upward. In January 2022, the city of Oakwood began delivering cardboard to Rumpke for market-based revenue. The amount received in 2022 was \$13,214.60.

The next Oakwood Rotary hazardous waste pick-up event is on Saturday, October 21. Citizens desiring a pick-up should call (937) 296-5155 before noon on Friday, October 20, and leave their name and address.

From December 2022 to March 2023, the Public Works Department used 741 tons of salt through the winter season, compared to 639 tons in 2022. There are approximately 800 tons of salt in storage. The cost of salt this year is \$83.98 per ton, compared to \$54.98 per ton last year.

Mr. Spitler shared several personnel changes in the Public Works Department. Longtime employee Vere Mason retired in December 2022. He shared the sad news of Mr. Mason's passing on September 7, 2023. The Public Works Department welcomed Jacob Dersarkesian as a new General Service Worker.

Mrs. Turben asked if the annual shred event had been scheduled.

Mr. Spitler shared that the shred event is scheduled on Saturday, September 30 from 8-11 a.m. at the Public Works Center.

Mr. Stephens asked if there are alternate products besides concrete that can be used for the stormwater inlets.

Mr. Spitler said that he has looked into different options but has not found an alternative.

AN OAKWOOD MOMENT

Mrs. Turben highlighted the Oakwood Community Center Blood Drive.

CITY MANAGER REPORT – NONE

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Duncan read a letter from Harman School Principal Sarah Patterson recognizing the efforts of Oakwood Public Safety Officer Jeff Payne.

The public meeting concluded at 8:37 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK OF COUNCIL