

CITY OF OAKWOOD
STATE OF OHIO
JUNE 1, 2015

The Council of the city of Oakwood, State of Ohio, met in an executive session for personnel matters at 6:30 p.m., which concluded at 6:38 p.m. and was immediately followed by a work session in the conference 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 Mayor, Mr. William Duncan, presided, and the Clerk of Council, Ms. Lori Stacel, recorded. Mayor Duncan opened the meeting by asking 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
MR. CHRISTOPHER B. EPLEY.....PRESENT

Officers of the city present were the following:

Mr. Norbert S. Klopsch, City Manager
Mr. Robert F. Jacques, City Attorney
Mr. Jay A. Weiskircher, Assistant City Manager
Ms. Carol Collins, Leisure Services Director
Chief Alex Bebris, Public Safety Director
Ms. Lori Stacel, Clerk of Council

The following visitors registered:

Laura Hart, 534 Hathaway Road
Stefanie Campbell, 271 Schenck Avenue
Brian Barr, *Oakwood Register*

Mrs. Hilton advised Council she had read the meeting minutes of the May 4, 2015 regular, executive and work sessions, and May 18, 2015 work 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 – NONE

VISITORS

Laura Hart, Chair for the Shafor Boulevard Flags Project – Mrs. Hart shared that she was so inspired after seeing flags lining Lonsdale Avenue last year that she wanted to do something for Memorial Day along Shafor Boulevard. She felt that this would be a good opportunity for Oakwood to be more patriotic and to help the kids appreciate the wonderful country in which we live. After approaching Oakwood Rotary with the idea, the Oakwood Rotary Foundation graciously purchased all of the flags for the project. Mrs. Hart was assisted by members of the Oakwood High School Rotary Interact Club, students at Oakwood Junior High and other volunteers throughout the community.

Mayor Duncan shared that he received a lot of positive feedback regarding the flags along Shafor Boulevard. He hopes that this becomes another great Oakwood tradition.

Mr. Stephens thanked Mrs. Hart for all of her work with this project.

Mrs. Hart explained that she received a lot of inquiries from residents asking where they can purchase the flags. She hopes this will continue and in closing, thanked the men and women who serve our country.

AN ORDINANCE
BY VICE MAYOR BYINGTON NO 4806
TO AMEND SECTION I, 2015 ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO.
4799, TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF:

AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF \$230,000 TO BE EXPENDED FROM THE
GENERAL EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF
800 MHz PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO EQUIPMENT.

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

Vice Mayor Byington explained that post-9/11, there has been a national mandate to shift police, fire and EMS first responder agencies away from using local analog radio systems to using shared digital radio networks. The primary reason for doing this is to ensure that first responders from multiple jurisdictions are able to communicate with each other. In Ohio, this is being done through a statewide radio network known as the MARCS system. MARCS stands for Multi-Agency Radio Communications System.

In order to join the MARCS system, there are significant infrastructural investments to be made. Local communities have been meeting for over two years now to plan this. The result in our area will be a countywide migration from analog to digital with a target completion date in 2016.

For Oakwood, this is a significant project that requires upgrading our dispatch console and associated equipment, and all of the handheld and vehicle-mounted radios used by our Public Safety Department. This equipment is about 20 years old and has exceeded its useful life. The city has planned for this project, and it was included on the city’s capital improvement schedule for the dispatch equipment in 2015 and radios in 2016. The city recently found an opportunity to purchase the upgraded radios at a significant discount, as long as the purchase is made by June 12, 2015. This discount, coupled with a discount for purchasing the dispatch equipment by June 15, 2015, will reduce the overall project cost by \$29,000.

The ordinance being introduced is a supplemental appropriation ordinance that will allow the city to purchase all of the necessary radio equipment in 2015, rather than some in 2015 and some in 2016. The preferential pricing will soon expire, so it is important that it be passed tonight.

Thereupon, it was moved by Vice Mayor Byington and seconded by Mrs. Hilton that the second reading be waived and that the ordinance 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
MR. CHRISTOPHER EPLEY..... YEA

There being five (5) yea votes and no (0) nay votes thereon, said ordinance was declared duly passed and it was so ordered.

STAFF REPORT

Leisure Services Report: Mrs. Carol Collins, Leisure Services Director, referenced a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed the following:

Ms. Collins began her presentation by sharing that Recreation Supervisor Dan Ruble will be leaving Oakwood employment at the end of June to join his wife in North Carolina. She recognized Mr. Ruble for all of his years of outstanding service and thanked him for everything he has done for the Leisure Services Department. Ms. Collins explained that Mr. Ruble is in charge of Old River and has made many outstanding improvements. Ms. Collins shared that Jerry Smith, groundskeeper at the Old River Fields, is also leaving at the end of June. She thanked them both for their service and added that there is a large void to replace.

Gardner Pool opened over Memorial Day weekend and there are 577 pool memberships purchased as of May 27. The Oakwood Community Center has three “Summer Fun at the Pool” family nights planned in 2015. The dates are Sunday, June 21; Sunday, July 19; and, Sunday August 16. The pool staff will organize relay races and fun games throughout the night. The pool will close at 9 p.m. on all three nights, one hour later than normal.

The Oakwood Dolphins have dominated their league with over 200 swimmers. They have taken first place every year for the past 13+ years. The registration deadline for the upcoming season is Sunday, June 7 and practice begins on Monday, June 8, in the morning.

The 7th annual Dog Splash is scheduled for Sunday, September 13 from 1 – 3 p.m. There were 45-50 participants in the 2014 Dog Splash event.

The Smith Gardens Legacy Paver Project helped celebrate the 40th anniversary of Smith Gardens, where friends and residents were invited to order a personalized, engraved brick to be permanently displayed in Smith Gardens. Individual brick pavers can be purchased in honor of or in recognition of a friend or family member or to celebrate an anniversary or special occasion. To date, there have been 168 bricks sold and installed.

The Smith Gardens Blanket Concerts are scheduled for Sunday, June 28 at 7 p.m. - MADCAP PUPPETS; Sunday, July 26 at 7 p.m. - THE FRIES BAND; and, Sunday, August 23 at 7 p.m. - VIVA LA STRINGS. Hundreds of people enjoy these concerts every summer by bringing their families, blankets and chairs to relax in the beauty of Smith Gardens.

In regard to the Business District Tree Replacement Project, 164 new trees were planted, new sod was laid, all areas have been mulched, and new electric and new irrigation was also installed.

The Oakwood Rotary Foundation funded a project that lined Shafor Boulevard with 2,500 American flags for the Memorial Day holiday weekend. Laura Hart, Chair for this project, was inspired after seeing flags lining Lonsdale Avenue last year. Mrs. Hart was assisted by the Oakwood High School Rotary Interact Club along with other volunteers from the community.

Mr. Dan Ruble reported that Old River Sports Complex is open from early spring though late fall for a variety of activities. It is open seven days a week in the spring, summer and fall. The city of Oakwood utilizes the complex for recreational sports and special events. City sponsored spring recreational sports include kickball, Jump Start coach pitch and tee-ball clinics. City sponsored fall recreational sports include youth soccer for grades 1-6, preschool outdoor soccer and flag football. City sponsored summer recreational events include Olympic Camp, lacrosse, Skyhawks Mini Hawks and multi sports camp (baseball, basketball and soccer) and school age multi-sports camp (soccer, volleyball and baseball). Special events include Snowman Building in February and Kite Nite in April. There were two family movie nights in 2014. Family Movie nights were held in cooperation with Wright Memorial Public Library. Approximately 100 people attended each of these movie nights. There is also a snow romp in February for residents to bring their dogs down to run and play in the snow.

Oakwood City Schools use Old River Sports Complex from June to late October for boys and girls High School/Junior High School soccer practice and open fields, as well as in the spring for lacrosse.

Old River Sports Complex facility is rented to non-city or non-school organizations. These include: Oakwood United Soccer Club, Dayton Coed Soccer, Dayton Amateur 40+ Soccer, DASL Men and Women, Coerver Soccer Camp as well as others. It is also a site for the Warrior's Memorial Day soccer tournament. More than 60,000 people attended and utilized Old River Sports Complex for sports and special events in 2014.

As a new event this year, ORSC will be a site location for the BSA Haunted Classic soccer tournament.

In 2012, The City of Oakwood entered into a mutual lease agreement with the University of Dayton for the use of Old River Sports Complex and UD Old River Tennis Courts. The University of Dayton club sports and intramural sports have scheduled access to Old River Sports Complex while the city has exclusive programming rights to the UD Old River Tennis courts. These six courts are open to the public for play from April-October. Both the OHS Boys & Girls Tennis teams use the tennis courts for practice and matches.

In 2013, the City extended a water line to the Old River Fields and purchased a large watering reel. We are now able to keep the grass in good shape even through drought periods.

The 2015 Family Movie Nights premiere the movies 'Big Hero 6' on Friday, July 17 and 'Annie' on Friday, August 14.

Mr. Stephens shared that it was a pleasure working with Dan Ruble. He will be missed.

Mayor Duncan echoed Mr. Stephens's sentiments and added that Dan Ruble is always very helpful in assisting with events. His dog, in addition to Ms. Collins' dog, help keep the geese away at Old River.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS – Mr. Klopsch shared that Dan Ruble has been an extremely valuable employee. He represented the city of Oakwood in a professional manner and worked tirelessly, even on evenings and weekends. He and his dog, Luna, will be missed.

Recently, City Inspector Dave Bunting retired after a long career with the city of Oakwood. Mr. Weiskircher is filling Mr. Bunting's shoes until the replacement is hired. Several people were interviewed and an excellent candidate has been identified. The position should be filled in the next few weeks, following some final pre-employment reviews.

Public Safety Officer Gail Schmidt retired last week. She started in 1990 and served the Oakwood community in an outstanding fashion for the past 25 years. PSO Schmidt was the third female hired in the Public Safety Department. She was the DARE Officer for the last eight years where she developed a close relationship with the students and teachers. PSO Schmidt was very passionate about teaching the kids the importance of DARE.

Mr. Klopsch thanked Mr. Weiskircher, Ms. Collins and the Public Works staff for all of the work done on the Far Hills Business District Tree Project. The project has made a significant improvement to the area, including the timber wall. The original plan was to do the project in two parts. The second phase of this project, originally budgeted for next year, was completed this year and will be removed from the 2016 budget.

The 2015 Sidewalk Repair Project work will begin in three weeks. The deadline for property owners completing the work on their own is Monday, June 15. RA Miller is the contractor and they have already been working on some concrete pavement repairs in the Far Hills Business District.

Over the next several months, Vectren will be replacing underground gas distribution mains and home service lines to residential properties between Greenmount Boulevard and Telford Avenue bounded by Far Hills Avenue and Shroyer Road. Oakwood residents affected by the work have already received information from Vectren and will continue to receive information. Public Works Inspector/Foreman Tom Long will be spending a large amount of time overseeing the project. Tentatively, Vectren may also work in the Alpine Lane/Hillview Avenue/ Roanoke Avenue area later in the summer or fall if the first project moves along at a fast past.

Later this week, a press release will be distributed announcing the streets included in the 2015 Asphalt Paving Project. The most notable roadway included is Oakwood Avenue from Five Points North to Springhouse Road.

Mr. Stephens asked if it will take extra time to work around the pavers on Oakwood Avenue.

Mr. Klopsch responded that it should not have an impact because a flat concrete barrier curb was installed between the roadway and the pavers. There will, however, be some traffic maintenance issues.

Mr. Klopsch congratulated Brookville City Manager John Wright on his recent retirement. He held that position since 1981, and his total service with the city of Brookville was 46 years. Mr. Klopsch wished him all the best in his retirement.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mrs. Hilton shared that she and Vice Mayor Byington recently visited Harman School for a "Place Project" with the Harman 3rd graders. The 3rd graders visited Houk Stream several times throughout the school year to help them learn the 3rd grade curriculum. Part of the students' message was that they are lucky to live in the city of Oakwood with Houk Stream and wonderful parks to help them learn.

Vice Mayor Byington reiterated Mrs. Hilton's comments and shared that the Harman 3rd graders' presentation regarding the "Place Project" was outstanding. He recognized Mrs. Frye and the entire 3rd grade at Harman Elementary for a job well done.

Mayor Duncan mentioned that Vice Mayor Byington delivered a proclamation to Ron Nelson who recently retired as the Oakwood music teacher after many years with the Oakwood school district.

Vice Mayor Byington added that Ron Nelson was beloved by everyone.

Mayor Duncan congratulated the Wright State University baseball team for making it to the College World Series regional final. After beating Ohio University and Notre Dame, their series came to end after a loss to Illinois.

Mayor Duncan shared that the city received a nice thank you letter from a homeowner that he wanted to share. Mayor Duncan read the letter aloud:

“To Whom It May Concern:

I want to thank the City of Oakwood Police and Fire Department for the professional and friendly assistance you gave us during the week of May 10th. After receiving an alarm on one of our carbon monoxide detectors at rental home at 612 Irving Avenue, we called a heating and air conditioning repair company, but also reached out to your office to ensure the safety of the home and surrounding neighborhood. Within a few minutes a police officer arrived. Within a minute later, the fire department arrived in their engine.

After gathering the background information, we entered the home and your officers quickly went to work. The fire department representative checked for gas levels and looked at every detail, while also explaining what he was doing every step of the way. We determined that the water heater was the likely cause, so he shut off the pilot light after checking all other possible sources. We eventually had the HVAC company on site the next day and the water heater was repaired.

With all of the negative press across the country targeting hard working, uniformed officers, our family wants thank the Oakwood Police and Fire Departments for how you helped us, but also how you continue to help all of the citizens of Oakwood. I only wish that I noted the names of the officers to thank them personally. I hope that your records tell you who was present and will allow each of them to see this letter of gratitude. Along with the person who answered my initial call, each of you made me feel safe from my very first interaction with the City.

Thank you again for all that you do for Oakwood!”

Mayor Duncan shared that the officers involved were Lieutenant Chuck Balaj and Public Safety Officers Jack Harrison, Ryan Rump, Scott Cavin, Damien Baggett and Mike Tanner.

Mayor Duncan reported that on May 27, Oakwood dispatch received a call about a suspicious person in the area of Kramer Road, called in by an *Oakwood Register* delivery person. Officers Mike Tanner and Jeffrey Yount, Jr. responded. Upon their arrival, the officers began checking the home and observed that a rear door of the house had been forced open. In continuing to check the home, they discovered that the house was still in the process of being burglarized. The suspect attempted to flee out the front door, but was pursued by Officer Yount. The suspect was captured and taken into custody after a short struggle. The suspect had a criminal history and record of burglary convictions. This clearly demonstrates how rapidly a situation can change from a “routine” situation into a dangerous situation. Officer Jack Harrison responded to the scene as an evidence technician and took over 150 photos of the scene. Detective Norris responded to the scene and completed an interview of the suspect. By the time the owners returned home, the suspect was arrested, interviewed (and confessed), the scene was processed, the rear door was secured and their property had been inventoried and was ready to be returned. Mayor Duncan added this this is just another example of how lucky we are to live in a city where people look out for each other and our Public Safety Department responds immediately to calls.

Mayor Duncan shared the following *Wall Street Journal* article for the 2015 graduating class:

“Ryan Pitts joined the U.S. Army out of high school and in July 2008 was the last man alive in northeastern Afghanistan. Wounded in the forehead, one arm and both legs, Sgt. Pitts defended that outpost with grenades and a machine gun until helicopter gunships could lay down supporting fire to clear the way for his rescue. He said, “I thought I was out of the fight until I looked around and watched everyone else fighting with everything they had. They would never let me down and I owed them the same. I rejoined the fight.”

Twice, U.S. reinforcements ran from the post, but all were killed or wounded in the attempt. Sgt. Pitts kept lobbing grenades into a ravine 10 yards away, and radioed the gunships to concentrate their fire into the ravine.

Last year, Ryan Pitts received the Congressional Medal of Honor from President Obama, America’s highest award for valor. Last month, at age 29, he was the commencement speaker at the University of New Hampshire. Two years earlier, he graduated with high honors from the university.

He stated, "Valor was everywhere that day. Courage is not the absence of fear; it is the ability to move forward in the face of it. Courage exists in the individual who accepts who they are and openly lives the life they want in the face of rejection. Be courageous and appreciate courage in others who take action in the face of fear. The last thought I will leave you with is more a matter of character. Never forget those who helped you reach where you are."

Then he named the nine men who died that morning in a village in Afghanistan."

Mayor Duncan added that he disagrees with those who believe that our best days are behind us. He also believes that Sgt. Ryan Pitts would disagree with this as well.

The public meeting concluded at 8:09 p.m.

 VICE MAYOR
FOR MAYOR

ATTEST:


CLERK OF COUNCIL