

CITY OF OAKWOOD

STATE OF OHIO

FEBRUARY 7, 2011

The Council of the city of Oakwood, State of Ohio, met in a work session at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room of the city of Oakwood, 30 Park Avenue, Dayton, 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, Mrs. Cathy Gibson, 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. STANLEY CASTLEMAN ABSENT
MR. ROBERT P. STEPHENS PRESENT
MRS. ANNE S. HILTON 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 D. Collins, Leisure Services Director
Mr. Kevin Weaver, Public Works & Engineering Director

It was moved by Mrs. Hilton and seconded by Mr. Stephens that the absence of Mr. Castleman be excused. Upon a viva voce vote on the question of the motion, same passed unanimously and it was so ordered.

The press this evening was represented by the editor of the *Oakwood Register*, Mr. Lance Winkler and *Dayton Daily News* reporter, Mr. Jeremy Kelley.

The following visitors registered:

Mike Oxner, 516 Patricia Faye Court
Cindy Payne, 69 Wisteria Drive
Linda Hart, 230 Patterson Road
Beth Gideon, 321 E. Dixon Avenue
Bill Wagner, 103 Spirea Drive
Greg & Kimberly Robinson, 236 Rubicon Road
Stefanie Campbell, DP&L
Lesley Neufeld, 1501 E. Schantz Avenue
Maria Marlin, 320 Hadley Avenue
Diane Fowler, 135 Greenmount Boulevard
Leo Birbilas, 98 Patterson Road
Wayne Anderson, 215 Lonsdale Avenue
Marvin Miller, 171 Lookout Drive
Kenneth Pohl, 240 Park Road

Mrs. Hilton, Chair of the Council Committee on Minutes, advised council she had read the minutes of the regular and work sessions of council held January 3, 2011 and the work session of January 24, 2011. 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 REPORT

David Mudry. Mayor Duncan noted after many years the Wills, who volunteered with MVCC on filming Oakwood council meetings, retired. He welcomed Oakwood High School Freshman David Mudry who is interested in filmography. Although David is in the basement behind the camera, they look forward to him volunteering and welcome him.

2011 State of the City. Mayor Duncan gave the following address:

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

Why does Oakwood continue to be “The Premier Residential Community in the Dayton and Miami Valley Region?” It is simple. It is our neighborhoods, our schools and library, city services, public safety, recreation and leisure; but most of all it is our citizens.

Neighborhoods: *Whether it is a Normandy Contemporary on Park Road, a Cape Cod on Oakwood Avenue, an English Cottage on Orlando Terrace, a historical farmhouse on Wiltshire Blvd. or a Craftsman Foursquare on Wisteria Drive, we have outstanding diversity in housing choices. Two homes bear special mention this year. Hawthorn Hill was featured in the January 2010 issue of Smithsonian Magazine. Former Oakwood resident Dave Bohman remarked “I have lived in several communities in the United States but have never encountered the hometown feeling of Oakwood, Ohio, a suburb of Dayton. The feeling of community and the beauty of the homes are unmatched. Oakwood was also the home of Orville Wright for most of his adult life, and his mansion on Hawthorn Hill is now a national historic landmark. A visit to the Wright Memorial Public Library is a must. Look at the plaque inside the front door and you will see the names of the board members who got the library built in 1939. When you see “Orville Wright, Vice President” and consider the man’s accomplishments, you realize how proud you are to have been a part of Oakwood and say it was your hometown.” In June, Mission Manor, a Colonial Revival home on East Schantz Avenue was chosen the 2010 Designer’s Show House by the Dayton Philharmonic Volunteer Association.*

Schools/Library: *Everyone knows Oakwood has great schools, but did you know this about Oakwood schools?*

Oakwood schools have received the top rating of “Excellent with Distinction” from the State of Ohio since the inception of the rating system.

- *Oakwood High School ranked in the top 3% nationally and first in the region on Newsweek’s 2010 list of “America’s Best High Schools.”*
- *The High School Academic Decathlon Team placed first in Ohio and third in the nation in competition in March and April.*
- *The varsity golf team won its second consecutive Division II state championship.*

Wright Memorial Public Library received another 3 star rating as one of “America’s Star Libraries”. The award was based on circulation, number of visitors, program attendance and internet usage.

City Services: *The city services offered to Oakwood residents are unsurpassed. We continue to provide weekly backyard trash collection, year-around curb collection of yard waste, fall leaf collection and spring mulch delivery and sidewalk snow removal. We were honored as a Tree City USA for the 28th consecutive year. Our Johnny Appleseed program has planted over 2,500 trees in Oakwood since the inception of this program. We commend the efforts of our 32 member public works department during the recent ice storm. Their service under dangerous conditions kept our streets clear and our citizens safe.*

Public Safety: *Formed in 1927, our 36 member 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, fire fighting and emergency medical services. Our police response time is two minutes. Our fire response time is 4.7 minutes; the national standard is 6 minutes. Our medic response time is 3.9 minutes; the national standard is 13 minutes. After reviewing over one hundred applications, the City hired five new public safety officers to replace officers who retired or resigned in 2010. We now have the finest group of public safety officers in recent memory.*

Recreation/Leisure: *Where else will you find in a community of 2.2 square miles the parks and green space offered in Oakwood? We offer three neighborhood parks, Shafor Park, Orchardly Park and Fairridge 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, Creager field, Irving field, Old River fields and Mack Hummon Stadium. In June, Oakwood City Council adopted an Athletic/Recreation Master Plan. With the help of a 25 member Athletic/Recreation Master Plan Committee, city staff, outside consultants and significant public input, we have a guide for operations, maintenance and capital improvements of Oakwood’s athletic and recreation facilities for the next five to 10 years. In December, Vickie Gearhart retired from our Leisure Services Department with 37 years of public service. She will be missed.*

People: Oakwood's strength is its people. Just consider some of the events in which our citizens participated in 2010.

- In January, several hundred people attended the 7th annual Kettering-Oakwood Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast.
- In April, over 150 volunteers participated in a cleanup of the Acorn corridor sewer access road.
- In May, over 800 walkers participated in the 9th Annual Breast Cancer 5K CARE Walk. The event raised over \$17,500 to support a cure for breast cancer.
- That Day in May, sponsored by the City and the Oakwood Rotary Club continued the tradition of the pancake breakfast, 5K and 10K runs, community parade, games, rides, refreshments and displays. This year included a car show.
- The Oakwood Historical Society created a Shafor Heights self-guided walking tour booklet highlighting the architecture and history of more Oakwood neighborhoods. In addition, they completed a four-year restoration of the Long-Romsper Homestead on Far Hills Avenue. The home is now an educational house museum.
- The Oakwood Sister City Association, under the leadership of Dr. Kirsten Halling, held several events in 2010. Their mission is promoting peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation—one individual, one community at a time. We have two sister cities: Le Vesinet, a suburb of Paris and Outremont, a suburb of Montreal.

The Value Proposition: We have not raised City income taxes since 1984 or City property taxes since 1991. In fact, we lowered property taxes in 2008 by allowing a property tax issue to expire. Our citizens pay less for water and sewer than most people in Montgomery County. The services we receive in Oakwood exceed those provided by other cities. We have reduced our city staff by seven fulltime positions since 2002 with no reductions in city services. The reductions were possible by finding efficiencies and by asking our employees to do more. We have cash reserves to pay off all our debt incurred to renovate our Public Works Center, Administration/Safety Building and purchase the Old River Athletic/Recreation fields.

Our financial strength is a direct result of the Ohio estate tax. We have received on average \$2.7 million of estate taxes annually over the last ten years. The most significant financial threat to our City is the elimination of the Ohio estate tax. Many Ohio state representatives wish to repeal this tax. They believe that when you die the government should be done with you. It is a compelling argument. I support an increase in the exemption amount and a lower tax rate. I also believe any state estate tax paid should be a dollar for dollar credit instead of a deduction from their federal estate tax. As Warren Buffett said, "A very rich person should leave his kids enough to do anything but not enough to do nothing." Regardless of your position on this matter, City leaders need some certainty from our state legislators regarding this source of income.

Our largest source of revenue is the city income tax. We project collections of \$5.8 million in 2011. Over the past few years we have lost about \$300,000 annually of income tax due to other municipalities raising their income tax rates. Because we give a 100% credit for taxes paid to other jurisdictions, for an Oakwood resident working in Dayton or Kettering, where the income tax rates are 2.25%, Oakwood only receives 0.25% of the 2.5% total taxes paid. It is possible the City of Dayton will ask its citizens to increase their income tax rate in the near future. If so, Oakwood would lose an additional \$300,000 annually. Accordingly, it may be time to limit the amount of the credit permitted on income taxes paid to other communities.

Well Governed, Well Managed and Financially Strong. We have citizens who are willing to pay the extra costs to have this special Oakwood community. As former city manager J. David Foell once said, "It's not a question of how much you pay in taxes; the question is whether you receive good value for each dollar spent." Accordingly, it was not surprising our citizens passed a school levy in November by a 63% margin and the County Human Services levy by a 75% margin. Our citizens demand that our elected officials represent and listen to everyone in our community. They expect us to provide community service to Oakwood and its neighbors. I am honored to serve with four such individuals.

Vice Mayor Steve Byington was recently re-appointed to the First Tier Suburbs Council Steering Committee of the National League of Cities. He represents our City on the First Suburbs Consortium and the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission. Stanley Castleman represents our City on the Miami Valley Communications Council. Rob Stephens and Anne Hilton completed their first year on City Council and play a vital role ensuring Oakwood remains a premier residential community.

The 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 is also blessed with a fine group of department directors and deputy city manager Jay Weiskircher. Our nation and our state face serious fiscal problems. There is a nationwide debate about the size and role of government in our country. It is my hope we can debate the issues of public sector compensation and benefits without demeaning the public sector employees who provide valuable services to our citizens. Regardless of the outcome of this debate, Oakwood City Council represents you and will provide the services you believe are necessary. We will manage the resources given to us prudently. We will also ensure our city staff continues to provide our citizens the high quality and personal services they have come to know and expect. 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 for the opportunity to serve you.”

Proclamations. Mayor Duncan read Proclamations proclaiming March, 2011 as Developmental Disabilities Month and American Red Cross Month.

Estate Tax. Mayor Duncan noted this issue was mentioned in his State of the City address and added that he and Mr. Klopsch plan to attend the House Ways & Means Committee meeting in Columbus on Wednesday. Mr. Klopsch explained Ohio estate tax is different from the federal estate “death” tax, the federal tax on an estate over \$5M requires a 35% tax. In Ohio, estates over \$500,000 pay only 7% in estate tax, thus 93% of the estate value remains with its heirs. The federal tax remains in federal accounts with nothing going to the state or local community; however, in Ohio the tax stays in the state with 80% returned to the local community. Mr. Klopsch indicated Oakwood has relied on this money for many years and deferred raising other taxes; however the recently mailed property tax bills were higher due to the school levy, etc. Since Oakwood relies on the estate tax money, if it is eliminated it will create a hardship - they could lose \$2.7M annually which in turn might result in raising taxes or dramatically reducing services. He indicated there is a large group in the state educating the legislators who are debating this issue. Mayor Duncan noted the Ohio Speaker of the House has recently stated his intent to combine this issue with other state budget matters. If adopted the estate tax repeal could result in a 35% pay cut for personnel or a major tax increase.

Committee Appointments. Mayor Duncan announced there are vacancies on the Board of Zoning Appeals, Environmental Committee and Budget Review. Council has identified potential members and he will contact those individuals to see if there is any interest in serving.

VISITORS

Dog Park: Mayor Duncan recognized Linda Hart. Ms. Hart explained she is representing the Oakwood residents who own 2,400 licensed dogs for a safe and enclosed place to exercise their dogs and referenced a petition she submitted with approximately 224 signatures. She indicated everyone is very excited about a dog park and pointed out that 75% of citizens expressed an interest for a dog park during the recent Recreation Plan survey. Ms. Hart indicated there are no such parks in close proximity; she has to drive 30 minutes south to run her dog. She explained there are many positives for the park - more exercise will make the dog happy, healthier and calmer which in turn is less of a nuisance with barking. It will assist citizens who have difficulty walking in the snow and ice and provide an outlet for dog owners to socialize and problem-solve. Ms. Hart noted every city park/school area prohibits dogs so citizens are asking for a legal location. She has done a lot of research on the internet and learned it’s generally registered voters who are educated that request a dog park, so the Oakwood demographics are conducive to what they are asking. She indicated other amenities of a dog park are that it’s for multi-generational use and based on the number of users, would be a good use of tax dollars, a small price for a large impact. They agree that Creager Field is the perfect place and although she saw the proposed budget, only the basics are needed for a safe enclosed area.

Holiday Decorating Contest Winners. Mayor Duncan recognized Kimberly Robinson, Environmental Committee. Mrs. Robinson explained judging occurred from December 12-18 with the city divided into six areas with two winners per area based on use of natural materials, lighting and curb appeal. Although many are not in attendance, she read the following list of winners: Nighttime: The Bane Family, 5 Volusia Avenue; Alyssa and Dennis Trosen, 235 Spirea Drive; Becky and Bill Leister, 27 Lonsdale Avenue; Jen McKinnon and Eric Reed, 405 Corona Avenue; MJ and John Gray, 1911 Ridgeway Road; and Wendy and Ted Frederick, 335 Southview Road. Daytime: The Woessner’s, 50 Rubicon Road; The Deal Family, 62 Beverly Place; Mary and Tom Williams, 133 Lonsdale Avenue; Suzanne and Joe Mitolo, 216 Monterey Avenue; Angela and Kenneth Pohl, 240 Park Road; Wendy and Daniel Hites, 1410 Woodstock Drive. Business Daytime: The Little Exchange, 45 Park Avenue and Business Nighttime: Cambria Fabric and Design, 6 Triangle Avenue. Mrs. Robinson recognized Dr. Pohl and presented his certificate. She thanked everyone for helping make the city look so fantastic. Mayor Duncan extended his thanks.

Dr. Pohl noted since there are no sidewalks near his home on Ridgeway, he sees many citizens walking in the street with no reflective gear. He indicated it is very dangerous at dusk and urged citizens to know of this danger and invest in reflective gear.

There being no other visitors with business, the following legislation was introduced.

RESOLUTION

BY VICE MAYOR BYINGTON NO 1726

TO GRANT APPROVAL OF THE AMENDED MASTER PLAN SUBMITTED BY THE OAKWOOD INVESTMENT GROUP FOR THE POINTE OAKWOOD RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.

A copy of the resolution, having been placed on the desks of each member of council prior to introduction, was read by title. Mr. Byington referenced the January 19, 2011 Planning Commission public hearing - a representative from OIG requested an amendment to the Residential Master Plan from 143 to 128 units and no concerns were expressed. The Commission unanimously recommended approval and this remains consistent with the Site Development Plan, Comprehensive Plan and Subarea Plan.

Thereupon, it was moved by Mr. Byington and seconded by Mr. Stephens that the resolution be passed.

Mayor Duncan opened the hearing for comments. There being none, the hearing was closed.

Mr. Byington explained as a member of the Commission, he expressed concern with how many times they plan to amend the Master Plan. He reassured citizens that the city and developer are in constant communication and are aware these changes are market driven, but made it clear this is not an endless process; but the city wants to be flexible for a successful development.

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. STANLEY CASTLEMAN	ABSENT
MR. ROBERT P. STEPHENS	YEA
MRS. ANNE S. HILTON	YEA

There being four (4) yea votes and no (0) nay votes thereon, said resolution was declared duly passed and it was so ordered.

RESOLUTION

BY MAYOR DUNCAN NO 1727

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/GOVERNMENT EQUITY PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF OAKWOOD AND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONS OF MOTNGOMERY COUNTY, OHIO ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF OAKWOOD, OHIO.

A copy of the resolution, having been placed on the desks of each member of council prior to introduction, was read by title. Mayor Duncan explained this relates to the regional cooperation agreement between government entities in the county. Since the existing agreement expires this renews same.

Thereupon, it was moved by Mayor Duncan 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. STANLEY CASTLEMAN	ABSENT
MR. ROBERT P. STEPHENS	YEA
MRS. ANNE S. HILTON	YEA

There being four (4) yea votes and no (0) nay votes thereon, said resolution was declared duly passed and it was so ordered.

RESOLUTION

BY MRS. HILTON

NO 1728

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO MAINTAIN AND UPDATE THE CITY OF OAKWOOD'S PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY IN COMPLIANCE WITH OHIO REV. CODE 149 AND THE CITY CHARTER.

A copy of the resolution, having been placed on the desks of each member of council prior to introduction, was read by title. Mrs. Hilton explained this relates to public records and Ohio Revised Code requirements. Since the Oakwood Charter designates the city manager as the chief operating officer, this authorizes the manager to maintain and update the public records policy.

Thereupon, it was moved by Mrs. Hilton 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. STANLEY CASTLEMAN	ABSENT
MR. ROBERT P. STEPHENS	YEA
MRS. ANNE S. HILTON	YEA

There being four (4) yea votes and no (0) nay votes thereon, said resolution was declared duly passed and it was so ordered.

RESOLUTION

BY MAYOR DUNCAN

NO 1729

SUPPORTING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WRIGHT FLYER ICON TO BE LCOATED AT THE SOUTHWEST QUADRANT OF THE I-70 AND I-75 INTERCHANGE.

A copy of the resolution, having been placed on the desks of each member of council prior to introduction, was read by title. Mayor Duncan explained a private group is trying to raise private donations so an icon can be placed at this interchange informing travelers that Dayton is the home of the Wright Brothers.

Thereupon, it was moved by Mayor Duncan and seconded by Mr. Byington that the resolution be passed.

Mr. Byington noted this is only support of the idea, no financial commitment.

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. STANLEY CASTLEMAN	ABSENT
MR. ROBERT P. STEPHENS	YEA
MRS. ANNE S. HILTON	YEA

There being four (4) yea votes and no (0) nay votes thereon, said resolution was declared duly passed and it was so ordered.

ORDINANCE

BY MAYOR DUNCAN

NO 4719

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOTES IN THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$748,000, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING A NEW MUNICIPAL SERVICE CENTER BUIDING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A copy of the ordinance, having been placed on the desks of each member of council prior to introduction, was read by title. Mayor Duncan explained when the service building was built in 1999, the city borrowed money via short-term notes which resulted in lower rate, and therefore each year they have legislation to pay off the note. He indicated this is an emergency measure so the note can be paid off in March and explained overall they earn more by this method rather than a total payout. He indicated as an emergency measure this requires a four-fifths vote.

Thereupon, it was moved by Mayor Duncan and seconded by Mrs. Hilton that the ordinance be passed as an emergency measure.

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. STANLEY CASTLEMAN	ABSENT
MR. ROBERT P. STEPHENS	YEA
MRS. ANNE S. HILTON	YEA

There being four (4) yea votes and no (0) nay votes thereon, said ordinance was declared duly passed and it was so ordered.

ORDINANCE

BY MAYOR DUNCAN

NO 4720

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOTES IN THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$276,000, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, FOR THE PRUPOSE OF PAYING THE COSTS OF RENOVATING AND PROVIDING ADDITIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE CONDUCT OF GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS, INCLUDING LEGISLATIVE, ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY, BY CONSTRUCTING ADDITIONS TO REMODELING, RENOVATING AND EQUIPING THE EXISTING CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AND PROVIDING FOR ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A copy of the ordinance, having been placed on the desks of each member of council prior to introduction, was read by title. Mayor Duncan indicated this relates to the payoff of notes in the amount of \$276,000 for the city building remodeling project and also is an emergency measure.

Thereupon, it was moved by Mayor Duncan and seconded by Mr. Stephens that the ordinance be passed as an emergency measure.

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. STANLEY CASTLEMAN	ABSENT
MR. ROBERT P. STEPHENS	YEA
MRS. ANNE S. HILTON	YEA

There being four (4) yea votes and no (0) nay votes thereon, said ordinance was declared duly passed and it was so ordered.

ORDINANCE

BY MAYOR DUNCAN

NO 4721

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOTES IN THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$1,500,000, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COSTS OF ACQUIRING REAL PROPERTY FOR PARKS AND RECREATIONAL PURPOSES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A copy of the ordinance, having been placed on the desks of each member of council prior to introduction, was read by title. Mayor Duncan noted this relates to the notes for the Old River Field purchased in 2006 for \$2,300,000. The remaining debit is \$1,500,000.

Thereupon, it was moved by Mayor Duncan and seconded by Mrs. Hilton that the ordinance be passed as an emergency measure.

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. STANLEY CASTLEMAN	ABSENT
MR. ROBERT P. STEPHENS	YEA
MRS. ANNE S. HILTON	YEA

There being four (4) yea votes and no (0) nay votes thereon, said ordinance was declared duly passed and it was so ordered.

STAFF REPORT

Public Works & Engineering Department Update. Mayor Duncan indicated the department has been very busy. Mr. Weaver agreed and noted he did not receive restored power at home after the ice storm until Friday morning. He referenced a PowerPoint presentation which reviewed several photos of tree damage that was caused by last week’s ice storm and commended DP&L in doing a

good job in restoring power. He pointed out the large pile of debris at the public works yard, approximately 1,500 cubic yards of material which the contractor has begun to haul away for mulch. Mr. Weaver estimates it will be three weeks before they get through the worst of the pickup. Mr. Stephens asked if the city pays to have the hauler come in. Mr. Weaver responded yes, it's part of an annual contract and cheaper because the city doesn't have to transport the debris. He reviewed upcoming projects for 2011: the Far Hills mill and overlay managed by ODOT, which will begin in July; the budgeted \$200,000 for the asphalt pavement project; and \$140,000 for the curb, walk and apron project which is the area from Aberdeen north to Patterson and east of Far Hills. He indicated they have a 2010 carry-over concrete street repair project on Ridgeway and other 2011 projects include in-house work on the Far Hills catch basin repairs and Oakwood Avenue pavers.

Mr. Weaver reviewed upcoming water projects; the Aberdeen water main is located under garages so they will be meeting with impacted property owners. In the spring they will continue ongoing maintenance in turning water valves and flushing hydrants. He reported the water softening plants continue to function well and commended Water Superintendent Gary Dursch on doing such a great job. In regard to the stormwater program, they have a management program for the 210 facility and he had a booth at the Ice Cream Social asking for public assistance. That assistance includes: reporting spills; use of car washes; clean up after pets; limit fertilizer and pesticides; and not putting anything in the catch basins. Mr. Weaver referenced refuse pickup and reminded citizens that cans are to be less than 35 gallons and weigh less than 60 pounds when full. The spring mulch program will begin in April and citizens can either come in or pay for delivery. He indicated dumpsters are available for pickup on a fee basis and every property receives two free special pickups per year. He encouraged participation in the recycling program and noted everything can be included in one container. Mr. Weaver explained since he began in 2002, his workforce has been reduced from 28 to 25 full-time positions. Mayor Duncan asked if department members are crossed-trained given how many he saw operating front-end loaders to move the debris. Mr. Weaver explained five are trained but they only have three loaders. Mayor Duncan asked that that his congratulations be extended for their yeoman work.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS

Estate Tax. Mr. Klopsch referenced the reliance on the estate tax which has been discussed with the Budget Review Committee ever since he's been manager; they've received this unexpected revenue for years and have delayed raising taxes/fees. However, now they can't continue to count on this money to help replenish funds and based on the current climate in Columbus hoping to repeal the estate tax, it's not prudent to count on this revenue. He indicated this will impact operational issues and projects that Mr. Weaver just reviewed so consequently there will be important and serious discussion with the Budget Review on how to fix the budget. Mr. Klopsch explained by August they need to determine how the expiring tax levy will need to be but on the November ballot, whether it will just be renewed or increased. He knows many citizens are feeling taxed out as was recently evident on the increased tax bill that was a result of citizens voting yes on the Human Services Levy and school operating levy. Mr. Klopsch reiterated the city hasn't asked for new real estate tax money since 1991, they recently let a levy expire and haven't raised income tax rates since 1984. He indicated this will be a challenging year.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Stephens commended school staff, Dr. Scalzo and Oakwood staff who organized a "relief warming shelter" at Smith School last week during the ice storm. Although not heavily attended, whether it was one or 30 citizens, the city was there to help. He extended thanks to the American Red Cross and Ashley's for their assistance and donations, other citizens who assisted, school board members and Mr. Weiskircher. Mr. Stephens commended DP&L for their round the clock work and crews from other states to assist in the power restoration. He also commended Mr. Weaver and his staff for their outstanding and efficient work just to get the debris off the street, another fine example of Oakwood city services.

Mr. Byington extended thanks to Linda Hart and her group for input on the dog park issue. He indicated this issue is important to him and he has heard a lot of support expressed. Mr. Byington commended the Oakwood Rotary Club for their assistance in removing hazardous waste from Oakwood homes, i.e., paint, pesticides, etc. Mr. Byington recently attended a DPVA media announcement event that this year's Show House will be held at 230 Haver Road. He indicated Oakwood has been very fortunate to host these for so many years.

Mayor Duncan extended thanks to Vice Mayor Byington for filling in last month due to an unexpected death in his family.

Council adjourned. The public meeting concluded at 8:50 p.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CLERK OF COUNCIL