

MINUTES
OAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
JUNE 23, 2014

The council of the city of Oakwood, Ohio, met in a work session on Monday, June 23, 2014 in the conference room of the Oakwood Municipal Building, 30 Park Avenue. The Mayor of the city, William Duncan, presided. Council members in attendance were Mayor William Duncan, Vice Mayor Steven Byington, Rob Stephens, Anne Hilton and Christopher Epley; Staff in attendance were City Manager Norbert Klopsch and City Attorney Rob Jacques. Chief Alex Bebris was present for the first two agenda items.

Mayor Duncan called the council work session to order at 5 p.m. and began the meeting with a discussion about deer, coyotes and foxes. Wildlife Officer Trent Weaver from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, joined Council for this discussion. Mr. Klopsch explained that city staff, in particular the Public Safety Department, periodically receives citizen calls regarding deer, coyotes, foxes and other wildlife. Most recently, there were reports about coyotes around the Lutheran Church of Our Savior on Thruston Boulevard and foxes on Woods Road. He invited Mr. Weaver to the work session for a general discussion about these animals and what actions, if any, the City can and/or should take in responding to citizen inquiries. Officer Weaver explained that deer, coyotes and foxes are indeed present in Oakwood and in most other political jurisdictions throughout the Miami Valley and Ohio. While they are most prevalent in rural areas, they are also commonly found in urban settings. In most cases, the animals do not pose a threat to humans, domestic animals or pets. The exception is when an animal is sick or injured, at which time they could pose a threat. Coyotes, foxes and deer are technically state property and normally the Division of Wildlife recommends that they be allowed to exist naturally, even in urban areas. In the case of sick or wounded animals, any police/safety department has authority to take action to remove a threat. This includes killing animals, if necessary. If animals are deemed to be a nuisance, but not necessarily a threat, property owners can, if permitted by local ordinance, have animals trapped and relocated. Under Oakwood ordinance, this can be authorized by the Public Safety Director. At the conclusion of the conversation, Mr. Klopsch stated that staff would prepare a memo summarizing city ordinances regarding trapping and use of firearms within the corporate limits. Mayor Duncan thanked Officer Weaver for his assistance.

At 5:40 p.m., Mayor Duncan continued the work session with a discussion about the public service radio system. Mr. Klopsch introduced the topic by explaining that Montgomery County is engaged in a comprehensive study of the county-wide public service radio system and is preparing for a multi-million dollar project to upgrading the system from analog to digital. The project will involve an expenditure of many millions county-wide, and several hundred thousand in infrastructure investment by the city of Oakwood. Mr. Klopsch then asked Chief Alex Bebris to deliver a PowerPoint on the topic. Chief Bebris provided a detailed overview of the existing public service radio system and details on what upgrades are necessary to replace outdated equipment and meet current radio system standards. At the conclusion of the briefing, Mr. Klopsch noted that this issue will be discussed again at another work session, once additional cost information is available.

At 6:45 p.m., Chief Bebris departed the meeting. Thereafter, Mayor Duncan led a discussion on the following additional agenda items:

- COUNCIL COMMITTEES
 - PLANNING & ZONING, Mr. Byington
 - Routsong Retail Center Parking: Mr. Klopsch reported that he and City Attorney Rob Jacques recently met with Attorney Greg Gantt. They had a good discussion about the nuisance of employees parking within the residential neighborhood and are hopeful that this issue will be amicably resolved.

- STREETS & ALLEYS, Mr. Stephens
 - Tree Maintenance: Mr. Klopsch explained that over the last two years, the City has begun conducting annual tree trimming in-house rather than hiring an arborist. This is one of the many cost saving measures implemented to reduce the General Fund budget. Mr. Klopsch will provide more details at the July 21 work session.
- REGIONAL AGENCIES
 - FIRST SUBURBS, Mr. Byington
 - June 25 Meeting: Mr. Klopsch reminded Council that Oakwood is hosting the monthly First Suburbs meeting this Wednesday. It will be held at Sugar Camp.
 - Best Practices Project: Not discussed.
- BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
 - ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE, Mr. Stephens
 - Geoffrey Owens Appointment: Mr. Klopsch noted that Oakwood resident Geoffrey Owens is interested in appointment to the Environmental Committee and staff recommends same. Council will address the appointment at the July 21 public meeting.
- MISCELLANEOUS
 - Public Safety Officer Vacancy: Mr. Klopsch reported that the PSO eligibility list includes one final candidate... Officer Ryan Rump. The City will contact Officer Rump to inquire as to his continued interest.
 - Engineering Technician Vacancy: Mr. Klopsch reported that staff is beginning work on seeking a replacement for former Engineering Technician Bart Bornhorst.
 - OneDayton: Not discussed.
 - Professional Photos: Mr. Klopsch noted that a photographer will be in the Council Chambers at 6 p.m. on July 21 to take updated professional photos of Council and selected department heads.
 - BZA Vacancy: Mr. Klopsch explained that Jane Voisard is moving away from Oakwood and that a new member is needed for the Board of Zoning Appeals. Staff recommends Linda Weprin for this position. Mayor Duncan will contact Ms. Weprin to see if she has interest in serving.
 - BRC Vacancy... Precinct C: Council discussed the vacancy in Precinct C, a result of Chuck Rodabaugh's resignation. Council considered several residents who had applied for the City Council vacancy position and decided to ask Leigh Turben if she has interest.

There being no other business, at 7 p.m. Mayor Duncan adjourned the work session.



Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council