

CITY OF OAKWOOD
STATE OF OHIO
FEBRUARY 9, 2015

The Council of the city of Oakwood, State of Ohio, met in an executive session at 6 p.m. 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 BYINGTONPRESENT
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. Lori Stacel, Clerk of Council

The following visitors registered:

Judy Cook, 927 Far Hills Avenue
Rod Sommer, LJB, Inc.
Mike Eddy, LJB, Inc.
Stefanie Campbell, DP&L
Chris Hoffman, Montgomery County Solid Waste District
Brian Barr, Oakwood Register
Katherine Wright, Cox Media Group

Mrs. Hilton advised Council she had read the meeting minutes of the January 5, 2015 regular, executive and work sessions. 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

State of the City Address – Mayor Duncan gave the following address:

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

I would like to thank the citizens of Oakwood for allowing me to represent them as a member of Oakwood City Council for the past 12 years. I would also like to thank Oakwood City Council for allowing me to serve our city as Mayor for the last six years.

I am proud to proclaim that Oakwood, with a population of 9,202, continues to be “The Premier Residential Community in the Dayton and Miami Valley Region.” Why? It is simple. It is our beautiful neighborhoods, our excellent schools and library, unmatched city services, public safety, public works, recreation and leisure; but most of all because of our citizens.

Neighborhoods: 12 new single family homes and three 2-unit townhomes highlight the residential section of Sugar Camp at Pointe Oakwood. An additional 2-unit townhome and a three-story condominium building will begin construction in 2015. These homes blend the new with the recognized old charm of Oakwood architecture. Whether it is a Georgian on Rubicon Road, a Tudor on Schantz Avenue or a Four Square on Far Hills Avenue, we have outstanding diversity in housing choices.

Schools/Library: Everyone knows Oakwood has great schools, in fact, the finest public schools in the region. Our Oakwood schools had the highest 2014 “Performance Index Score” in the Miami Valley and rank 4th in the state of Ohio. 99% of Oakwood third grade students passed the Ohio reading test.

The Washington Post named Oakwood High School one of America’s Most Challenging High Schools in 2014.

For the third year in a row, the Oakwood High School Academic Decathlon team are national champions. This scholastic competition is unique because the eight member team is tested in art, economics, language and literature, mathematics, music and science and participates in judged events in speech, interview and essay.

Emmaline Bennett, Will Fitz, Graham Gardner, Jacob Hunt, Tim McCarthy, Grant Pitarys, Will Powers and Wending Zhu, along with Coach Lori Morris, are congratulated for this significant achievement.

In 2014, Wright Memorial Public Library celebrated its 75th anniversary in its current location which, along with Hawthorn Hill, is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

It continues its mission to provide high levels of efficient, friendly and personal service and to foster an atmosphere of intellectual liberty in the American tradition of free ideas.

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 32nd consecutive year. Our Johnny Appleseed program has planted about 3,000 trees in Oakwood since the inception of this program. We commend the efforts of our public works department and our horticulture staff in the leisure services department.

Public Safety: Formed in 1927, our 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 first officer on scene response time for any emergency is under two minutes, by far the fastest in the region. Our fire engine response time is 4.2 minutes; the national standard is 6 minutes. Our medic response time is 3.8 minutes; the national standard is 13 minutes. Oakwood has the lowest crime rate and fire loss in Montgomery County.

Recreation/Leisure: Where else will you find in a community of 2.2 square miles the parks, gardens and green space found 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, the Dog Park at Creager Field, Irving Field, Old River Sports Complex and Mack Hummon Stadium.

Oakwood also features beautiful public gardens including Smith Gardens, donated to our City 40 years ago, and Francine's Garden.

People: Oakwood's strength is its people. Our citizens are leaders in industry, education, medicine and the arts. Just consider some of the events in which our citizens participated in 2014.

- In May, about 300 rain-soaked walkers participated in the 13th Annual Breast Cancer 5K CARE Walk. Since its inception, the event has raised over \$175,000 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.
- The successful farmer's market re-opened on Saturday morning's from June to September and featured home-produced and gourmet food items and works of local artisans.
- Winter lights returned to the Oakwood business district because of the efforts of Oakwood resident, Linda Weprin. She organized private funding through charitable donations to the Dayton Foundation and raised about \$9,000 to light up Oakwood. We look forward to continued private support of our business district.
- The first annual Oakwood Winter Market braved bad weather but will become another great Oakwood tradition. The event featured artisan booths, live music and dance and carved ice sculptures.

Financial Concerns: The past five years have been financially difficult for our city and local governments across Ohio. In 2012, the Ohio General Assembly broke its 75 year covenant with local governments by taking for itself sales tax revenue previously reserved for cities, villages, townships, counties and school districts. The General Assembly also phased out the business tangible property tax reimbursement and eliminated the Ohio estate tax. Together these actions reduced our average annual revenue by about 20%.

In December, 2014 the General Assembly passed additional legislation benefiting certain taxpayers by eliminating their local tax obligations. We are still analyzing this legislation, which is not effective until 2016, but we believe it will reduce our revenue by about \$300,000 a year. It is now apparent that the Ohio General Assembly is no longer our partner in providing services to the citizens of Ohio.

According to Policy Matters Ohio, since 2010, 110 cities have needed to increase their income tax rates. At the same time, 20,000 local government employees were terminated, including 3,000 public safety personnel. Meanwhile, the number of state employees in Ohio has increased by 7,000 and the Ohio budget increased by \$6 billion.

In addition, 20 surrounding communities have increased their income tax rates over the last several years. 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.

In 2014, the City of Moraine increased their income tax rate to 2.5%. An Oakwood resident working in Moraine now pays no income tax for Oakwood city services. The Moraine election reduced Oakwood revenue by about \$70,000 annually. The cumulative effect of all these income tax rate increases by surrounding cities reduces our revenue by about \$400,000 annually.

The Value Proposition: Because of sound judgment from this and previous City Councils, and revenues from the now repealed Ohio estate tax, we have municipal facilities that will support our city for a generation or more; we own the Old River Sports Complex; we made Sugar Camp and Pointe Oakwood infrastructure improvements with no adverse impact to Oakwood City Schools revenue; we reduced city property taxes in 2008; we had no city property tax increase for 22 years until 2013; we have not raised city income taxes in 30 years; and we have no outstanding debt.

We have spent less for city services in each of the last six years. This bears repeating. We have spent less for city services in each of the last six years.

Our citizens pay less for water and sewer than most people in the Miami Valley. Through retirements and productivity improvements, we have reduced our city staff by 14% since 2004 with no reductions in city services.

We made our refuse program self-supporting by reducing expenses and increasing the monthly refuse charge. We established a storm water utility to account for the costs of this program. We increased fees and reduced expenses at the Oakwood Community Center. Our union and nonunion employees agreed to two year salary freezes, and a current increase of only 1.5% this year.

In spite of our prudent fiscal management, we may need to ask for additional revenue in 2016. If needed, we will openly discuss this issue with our community and I am confident our citizens will support the recommendations or actions of City Council.

Because it is a well-established fact that local government is the most accountable and responsive government, we represent you and will see that our city provides the services you believe are important and necessary. And in doing so, we will prudently manage the resources our community provides.

Well Governed, Well Managed and Financially Strong: When I joined City Council in 2003, it was my belief that Oakwood was well governed, well managed and financially strong. I still hold that belief and will continue this tradition.

In April 2014, my dear friend and fellow member of Council, Stanley Castleman, passed away. He served for 10 years on our volunteer citizen Budget Review Committee before being elected to Oakwood City Council in 2003 and re-elected in 2007 and 2011. His last official act on Council in 2014 was to nominate Steven Byington and me as Vice Mayor and Mayor, respectively.

Stanley Castleman served Oakwood with distinction and worked tirelessly to maintain the wonderful attributes of our city. Stanley always based his advice, recommendations and decisions on the long-term interests of our community and was highly respected by his peers. May his memory be eternal.

I am proud to serve with Vice Mayor Steve Byington who begins his eighth year on City Council and represents our City on the First Suburbs Consortium of Dayton. He has served as chair of First Suburbs Consortium for the past three years. I am also proud to serve with Rob Stephens and Anne Hilton each of whom begin their sixth year on City Council.

We also welcome Christopher Epley, who was selected from among many qualified applicants, to complete Mr. Castleman's term. Chris is an Oakwood graduate and holds an undergraduate degree from Denison University and a law degree from the University of Dayton. He previously served as a member of the Oakwood Board of Education.

This Council, like those that preceded it, operates in a collegial style and everyone believes in doing the right thing for the citizens of Oakwood. We listen to one another, no one has hidden agendas, and we believe in community service.

The excellent 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 including deputy city manager/personnel director/zoning official Jay Weiskircher, who has served our city with class and distinction for 32 years.

A special mention belongs to Carol Collins, our leisure services director, who has served our city for 40 years. Congratulations Carol.

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 again for the opportunity to serve you."

Citizen Committee Appointments – Mayor Duncan presented the following list of reappointments to various committees:

Michael Hayes and William Lockwood to the Budget Review Committee; Katy Dalrymple, Nancy Drozd and Jane Lieberth (new appointment) to the Environmental Committee; and Stefan Neumeister (new appointment) to the Property Maintenance Board.

It was moved by Mayor Duncan and seconded by Vice Mayor Byington that the aforementioned appointments be confirmed. Upon a viva voce vote on the question of the motion, same passed unanimously and it was so ordered.

VISITORS

Chris Hoffman, Education Specialist, Montgomery County Solid Waste District – Mr. Hoffman shared that the Montgomery County Environmental Services currently operates one Waste Transfer Station in Moraine. The Moraine facility provides a variety of waste disposal, recycling, and education programs for county residents and businesses. On December 27, 2014, the north transfer station was closed and all operations were consolidated at the Moraine facility.

There is a new external yard waste drop-off area offering free disposal for Montgomery County residents. A new compressed natural gas fueling station will be built at the corner of Cardington Road and SR 741 in March, 2016.

At the Environmental Learning Center, visitors can learn about resource conservation, waste reduction, and environmental sustainability. There are free guided tours available as well as meeting and event space rentals.

The Environmental Crimes Task Force is a multi-jurisdiction task force that was formed in 2012. The task force focuses on education, enforcement and action and includes a full-time Environmental Crimes Sheriff's Deputy. There have been 82 criminal convictions since January, 2013.

There are funding opportunities for Jurisdiction Incentive Grants, Business Incentive Grants, Buy-Recycled Grants and Beautification Grants. There are also state funding opportunities for recycling programs including Community Development Grants, Market Development Grants and Scrap Tire Grants.

Vice Mayor Byington asked if anyone can make an appointment for the services available at the Environmental Learning Center.

Mr. Hoffman answered yes. He shared that they will schedule Environmental Learning Center events as needed.

Mrs. Hilton asked if there is a minimum group size requirement.

Mr. Hoffman answered no and explained that it just depends on the availability of the meeting rooms and the tour guides.

Mayor Duncan shared that volunteers with the Oakwood Rotary Club collect hazardous waste material from Oakwood residential property owners for disposal at the Montgomery County Refuse Transfer Station four times a year. He asked if other communities provide this service.

Mr. Hoffman shared that other communities offer drop-off services usually about once a year, but typically not through Rotary.

Mayor Duncan recognized Mrs. Judy Cook, Mr. Rod Sommer and Mr. Mike Eddy in the audience.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE

BY MR. EPLEY NO 4800

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A LAND LEASE AGREEMENT WITH NEW PAR D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CELLULAR SERVICE TOWER ON CITY-OWNED PROPERTY.

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

Mr. Epley explained that Verizon Wireless has approached the city to express interest in leasing land near Irving Field for construction of a cell tower and control building. The idea has obvious appeal because of the potential for revenue and enhanced cell phone service, but it is important to ensure that the project will not interfere with activities at Irving Field, and that the tower and control building will not adversely impact the facility appearance and character.

City staff has worked with Verizon representatives to review plans, select an appropriate location and building materials, and determine the least-disruptive way to run utilities to the tower. Law Director Rob Jacques has worked with Verizon's counsel to negotiate a fair lease agreement, including a provision that gives the city the right to hang its own antenna facilities on Verizon's tower at no cost.

This is a 5-year renewable agreement that will generate \$30,000 per year in lease revenue. Lease payments will begin when construction commences or 18 months after signing the agreement, whichever comes first.

It is important to note that Irving Field is located in the city of Dayton, even though it is owned by the city of Oakwood. For that reason, there is a provision in this ordinance that authorizes the City Manager to seek zoning approvals from Dayton to allow for construction of the tower.

Thereupon, it was moved by Mr. Epley and seconded by Mrs. Hilton that the second reading be waived and that the ordinance be passed.

Mayor Duncan asked Mr. Jacques if it now requires four out of five yes votes for approval due to waiving the second reading.

Mr. Jacques answered yes, but explained that it is not being passed as an emergency ordinance so it would not take effect for 30 days.

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

A RESOLUTION

BY MAYOR DUNCAN NO 1797

A RESOLUTION TO HONOR THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. JOHN ALLEN EASTMAN, Ph.D., P.E., TO THE CITY OF OAKWOOD.

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 read the following resolution as a tribute to Dr. Eastman:

WHEREAS, between 1987 and 2014, Dr. John Eastman provided extensive professional engineering services to the city of Oakwood and contributed significantly to the maintenance and improvement of the city's public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, John Eastman was born and raised in Yellow Springs, Ohio, graduated from Antioch College in 1970, completed graduate work at Johns Hopkins University and in 1977, received a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Washington; and

WHEREAS, following receipt of his Ph.D. degree, Dr. Eastman served for seven years as an engineering professor at Michigan State University; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, John returned to the Dayton area and assumed the position of chief environmental engineer at LJB, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, from 1987 through 1992, Dr. Eastman served as Oakwood's city engineer of record from his position at LJB; and

WHEREAS, from 1993 until his unexpected death on December 28, 2014, John Eastman served as Oakwood's primary engineering consultant, assisting City Engineer Norbert Klopsch from 1993 through 2002 and City Engineer Kevin Weaver from 2003 through 2014; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Eastman's contributions to the city of Oakwood touch all components of the city's public infrastructure, with a partial list of projects as follows:

- *Design and construction of the Springhouse and 210 Shafor water softening plants.*
- *Establishment of Oakwood's Well Field Protection Program.*
- *Construction of the new public works facility at 210 Shafor Boulevard.*
- *Major addition and reconstruction of the Oakwood City Building and Police & Fire Station.*
- *Numerous roadway reconstruction and repaving projects, including sidewalk, curb and apron repairs.*
- *Removal of several underground fuel storage tanks and development of environmental assessment and clean-up programs.*
- *Design of the Oakwood automated water system controls.*
- *Major improvements to the Oakwood water distribution system including replacement of all city fire hydrants, replacement of a majority of underground water main valves and installation of several miles of new underground water main piping.*
- *Development and improvement of several water production wells.*
- *Completion of several environmental site assessments around the city, including major environmental work on the Sugar Camp and Pointe Oakwood properties and at the Old River Field site.*
- *Improvements to the pump and water filtration systems at the Oakwood community swimming pool.*
- *Review of numerous stormwater drainage studies.*
- *Rehabilitation of Oakwood's 1.5 million gallon water storage tank.*
- *Reconstruction of the Dayton/Shroyer Road water booster station.*
- *Installation of several miles of new sanitary sewer lines, including major projects along Houk Stream and in the southeast and northwest quadrants of Oakwood.*

WHEREAS, Dr. Eastman was recognized by many as the most technically competent environmental and water resources engineer in the Miami Valley Region; and

WHEREAS, on every project in which Dr. Eastman was involved, the end result was an expertly engineered and practical solution that worked; and

WHEREAS, John possessed the very unique ability to dissect and fully understand complex problems and be able to explain those problems and potential solutions to the average non-engineer; and

WHEREAS, in large part due to John's contributions, the 100+ year old Oakwood public infrastructure stands today as a well-maintained and fully functioning system; and

WHEREAS, in his dealings with city staff, Oakwood citizens and contractors working for the city, John always conducted himself with the highest degree of professionalism, personal integrity and in a friendly and helpful manner; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAKWOOD, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION I.

The Council of the City of Oakwood accords special public recognition to the life of Dr. John Eastman and to the many contributions he made to the Oakwood community.

SECTION II.

Through this resolution, the City Council hereby declares and expresses the sincere gratitude and appreciation of the Oakwood citizens, public officials, and employees of the city of Oakwood.

Thereupon, it was moved by Mayor Duncan 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
- MR. CHRISTOPHER EPLEY..... YEA

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

Mr. Klopsch shared that Dr. Eastman was a truly remarkable person and his contributions to the city of Oakwood are immeasurable. Dr. Eastman cared deeply about every project in which he was involved and everything he touched worked. We lost a very special man.

STAFF REPORT

Deputy City Manager Presentation: Mr. Jay Weiskircher, Assistant City Manager, referenced a PowerPoint presentation and updated Council on Property Maintenance, Pointe Oakwood, Sugar Camp, Business Development, Oakwood Winter Market, New Hires and Collective Bargaining.

Mr. Weiskircher reported that 2014 was a busy year. There were 213 property maintenance violation letters sent in 2014. The most common violations were peeling paint, overgrown vegetation and deteriorating asphalt or concrete. By the end of the year, 85% of the violations were corrected. The remaining property owners were provided extensions through May, 2015. Over the past five years, an average of 203 property maintenance notices were sent per year.

Mr. Weiskircher recognized the efforts of the 15 citizens on the Property Maintenance Board. The board works closely with staff in implementing our property maintenance program and on the beautification awards project that is conducted from May through September each year.

Mr. Weiskircher reported that during 2014, there were two single-family homes and two townhomes built at Pointe Oakwood. Work has begun on a third townhome and plans have already been approved for a fourth townhome. The Planning Commission and City Council approved plans last August for three condominium buildings – 23 units – located on the corner of W. Schantz and Far Hills Avenue. The developer plans to begin construction on the corner building in late summer.

Mr. Weiskircher referenced a site plan of Sugar Camp and explained that the developer intends to begin construction on the assisted living center later this year.

At Sugar Camp, Building D has been dedicated for medical and related uses and will be 40% occupied by the summer. With the employees already working in Buildings A and B, there are currently 140 employees working on the Sugar Camp campus. In 2015, the developer plans to convert the gate house at Sugar Camp into a New York style deli.

Mr. Weiskircher provided a business development update for the Far Hills Business District and the Neighborhood Business District. In the Far Hills Business District, Lululemon Athletica opened in June, 2014 at 2533 Far Hills Avenue. Louise Christine is a bridal store that will be going in at the Oakwood Retail Center in the space recently vacated by Preen. The Flower Shoppe, currently located on Brown Street, will be moving into in the former location of US Bank at 2316 Far Hills Avenue. In the Neighborhood Business District, Saxbys Coffee opened in March, 2014, Firehouse Subs opened in May, 2014, VaporCast E-Cigarette Shop opened November, 2014 and Orange Leaf Yogurt opened December, 2014.

Organizers of the Farmers' Market held the First Annual Winter Market on December 5 and 6 in the Far Hills Business District. The Winter Market featured tents with artisans, vintage goods and apparel. There was also an ice sculpting contest, Elf Shoppe, and fest tent with live entertainment. Although the weather was challenging, organizers were encouraged by the community support and hope to make this an annual event.

Mr. Weiskircher recognized new hires. In the Public Safety Department, Jason Tipton, Jeff Yount, Jr., Ryan Rump and Cameron McElroy were hired in 2014. Jason Tipton was a Dayton Police Officer for 12 years including three years as a detective. Jeff Yount, Jr. was a New Orleans Police Officer for 4 years, including detective experience. Ryan Rump came to the City of Oakwood already trained in all three public safety disciplines. In the administrative offices, Robyn Hess worked at Butler Township for 28 years. In Public Works, Tom Long has 12 years of experience from the City of Trotwood.

Mr. Weiskircher shared that Foreman Jeff Rittenhouse resigned after 21 years of service and he will be sorely missed. Candidates are currently being interviewed for the position and the hope is to have the new foreman in place by sometime in March.

Mr. Weiskircher reported that the Public Safety Officer and Dispatcher Contracts were extended for one year with no wage increases. There was a wage reopener provision in the second year of the DPSU Contract and the parties agreed upon a 1.5% wage increase effective December 29, 2014 for the 2015 calendar year. Negotiations with the Public Safety Lieutenants went to fact finding and there was a favorable report issued by the fact finder which both parties accepted. The new contract, signed last week, includes no wage increase in 2015 and a 1.5% wage increase in 2016. With this agreement, Mr. Weiskircher reported that all union and non-union employees will have voluntarily taken a 2 year pay freeze.

Mr. Stephens asked if there have been discussions about developing the properties along Old River Trail.

Mr. Weiskircher explained that there have been preliminary discussions, but nothing concrete has been planned.

Mayor Duncan thanked Mr. Weiskircher for his service to the city.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT— Mr. Klopsch thanked Mr. Weiskircher and added that he is blessed with wonderful Department Heads.

Mr. Klopsch recognized Jeff Rittenhouse and added that his contributions to the city of Oakwood have been enormous. When he was first hired, Mr. Rittenhouse took over the Sidewalk, Curb and Apron Project, which requires a lot of interactions with citizens, and he did a great job. When Mr. Rittenhouse became Foreman, he did an excellent job in leading and motivating the public works team. He will be missed.

As weather permits, Public Works Foreman/Engineering Technician/Inspector Tom Long will be working on marking concrete requiring repair on the 2015 Sidewalk, Curb and Apron Project. The 2015 area is bounded by Forrer Road, Far Hills Avenue, Patterson Road, Acorn Drive and Shroyer Road.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mrs. Hilton congratulated the 15 Oakwood students involved with the Muse Machine's Oliver. It was a wonderful show including 1st graders through 12th graders. Mrs. Hilton shared that she attended the Oakwood Historical Society's annual meeting Saturday night. The Oakwood Historical Society has an enthusiastic group and they have many events planned for the year

including Hawthorn Hill walking tours, the annual "A Taste of Wine and Cheese", children programs, the Wright Library Speaker Series and Holiday at the Homestead.

Mayor Duncan noted that 70 years ago the Auschwitz concentration camp was liberated. He then shared the following his story:

"Last month marked the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp. Tonight, I want to tell you the story of Richard Dutro of Lakewood, OH, a suburb of Cleveland, OH. At age 19, he served in the famed 42nd Rainbow Division of the American 7th Army and was awarded a Bronze Star. His division liberated the Dachau Concentration Camp.

He would not talk of his war time experiences for almost 60 years. In response to numerous reported instances of Holocaust deniers in the news media, he now describes his personal experiences to middle school and high school students. I have heard his story and it is compelling.

After the war he received an undergraduate degree from the University of Dayton, his masters from Miami University and his doctorate from The Ohio State University. He was a teacher and administrator for over 40 years in the Lakewood City School District.

Several years ago, he went to Washington D.C. with his family to visit the WWII Memorial. His son-in-law bought him a veteran's ball cap which he reluctantly wore.

They also visited the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. The tour guide upon seeing his hat asked him where he served. He replied he served in Europe and liberated Dachau.

She exclaimed "you liberated me." They embraced and cried together.

Richard Dutro is my Uncle and, although he will probably disagree with me, Richard Dutro is a true American Hero.

Why do I tell this story? Many of you know, or should know, about the yellow star attached to the clothing to identify the Jews in the camp. Did you know about the pink triangle for homosexuals, the purple triangle for Jehovah's Witnesses, the green triangle for criminals, the red triangle for political prisoners or the black triangle for prostitutes?

Injustice then, injustice now. A teenage woman in Pakistan is shot because she wants to attend school. A woman in India is raped and murdered because she is considered to be a lower caste. Now, ISIS has beheaded and crucified children, sells them as sex slaves and has buried children alive.

As the German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer once said, "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

What will you do when confronted with injustice?"

The public meeting concluded at 8:32 p.m.


MAYOR

ATTEST:


CLERK OF COUNCIL