

MINUTES
OAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MAY 18, 2015

The Council of the city of Oakwood, Ohio, met in a work session on Monday, May 18, 2015 in the conference room of the Oakwood Municipal Building, 30 Park Avenue. The Vice Mayor of the city, Steve Byington, presided. Council members in attendance were Vice Mayor Steve Byington, Rob Stephens, Anne Hilton and Chris Epley. Mayor William Duncan was excused absent. Staff in attendance were City Manager Norbert Klopsch and City Attorney Rob Jacques.

Vice Mayor Byington called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. and began with a discussion on public spending transparency. Finance Director Cindy Stafford joined the meeting for this agenda item. Mr. Klopsch explained that the city was recently contacted by a company called OpenGov requesting a meeting where they could explain services provided in placing public sector spending records online. Assistant City Manager Jay Weiskircher and Finance Director Cindy Stafford met with OpenGov. The OpenGov representatives also brought with them a representative from Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel's office. Mrs. Stafford explained that Treasurer Mandel is providing a basic platform for online posting of public spending records that he intends on making available to all local governments in Ohio. The platform would host basic spending information. The OpenGov product comes at an expense to local governments and enhances the presentation of spending data. Vice Mayor Byington asked if OpenGov provided the city with an estimate on the annual charges. Mrs. Stafford replied no. Council discussed the option of placing the standard monthly finance report on the city's website. There being no objection, Mr. Klopsch will see that this step is taken. Mr. Klopsch noted that several area communities have recently hired OpenGov for the enhanced online reporting package. The costs range from \$5,000 – \$10,000 or more per year.

Vice Mayor Byington then led a discussion on the city's public service radio system project. Chief Alex Bebris joined the meeting for this agenda item. Mr. Klopsch and Chief Bebris provided an update on the status of the county-wide digital radio system upgrade project. Oakwood had originally planned to purchase the new dispatch center equipment in 2015 and the new digital radios in 2016. However, based on pricing schedules and currently available discounts, staff is recommending that the city move the radio purchase up to 2015. This will require a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$225,000. In order to capitalize on the largest discounts, the supplemental appropriation would need to be approved at the June council meeting. Mr. Klopsch explained that this action will complete the entire radio improvement project, meaning that there will be no additional radio system capital items needed in 2016.

Vice Mayor Byington then led a general discussion on the following agenda items:

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- COURT LIAISON, Mrs. Hilton
 - Vehicle Towing or Booting: Mr. Stephens reported that Oakwood Municipal Court Judge Peggy Quinn recently contacted him to discuss the idea of adopting legislation to authorize vehicle towing and/or booting. This action would be used in the case of vehicle owners who have multiple unpaid citations. Council discussed the pros and cons of towing and booting and then asked Mr. Jacques to draft a proposed ordinance for future consideration.

- PUBLIC PROPERTIES, Mr. Epley
 - Far Hills Business District Tree Project: Mr. Klopsch updated Council on major progress made in completing this tree replacement project. The vast majority of the work is done with only some minor loose ends to address.
 - Old River Field and Soccer Programs: Mr. Klopsch mentioned that Leisure Services Director Carol Collins and Recreation Supervisor Dan Ruble will attend the June work session to provide a briefing on the status of improvements to Old River Field and discussions underway with Oakwood United Soccer.
 - Turf Task Force: Mr. Epley and Mr. Klopsch briefed Council on discussions that have taken place over the last two months with school officials. The current thinking is that an artificial turf field with track at Old River best serves the needs of our Oakwood community. Under this scenario, the Mack Hummon Stadium facility would remain a natural grass field. There remains much work to be done on this project. Mr. Epley and Mr. Klopsch will meet with Oakwood residents Dave Dickerson and Chris Schairbaum on June 4 to discuss how this proposal might affect the Oakwood United Soccer Program.

- MISCELLANEOUS
 - Vectren Gas Line Projects: Mr. Klopsch briefed Council on the three major gas line replacement projects planned for 2015. One outstanding issue deals with the permit charges that Vectren will pay, consistent with the city right-of-way management ordinance. Mr. Klopsch is meeting next week with Vectren President Colleen Ryan to discuss the fees and arrive at the appropriate manner in which to assess the charges.
 - June BRC Meeting: Mr. Klopsch confirmed that the mid-year Budget Review Committee meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2.
 - Virginia Hollinger Tennis Courts: Mr. Klopsch reported that the Governing Board of the Virginia Hollinger Tennis Club is proceeding with plans to eliminate two tennis courts and create a buildable lot off Schantz Avenue. This action is being taken to address financial needs of the Tennis Club.
 - Sugar Camp Condominiums: Council discussed the comments made at the May 4 City Council meeting concerning the height and size of the approved condominium buildings. Mr. Klopsch will see that a draft response is prepared and distributed to City Council.

There being no other business, at 6:17 p.m. Vice Mayor Byington adjourned the work session.


Vice Mayor

ATTEST:


Clerk of Council