

CITY OF OAKWOOD

STATE OF OHIO

DECEMBER 14, 2009

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, Mrs. Judy Cook, presided, and the Clerk of Council, Mrs. Cathy Gibson, recorded. Mayor Cook 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:

MRS. JUDY COOKPRESENT
MR. CARLO C. McGINNIS.....PRESENT
MR. STEVEN BYINGTONPRESENT
MR. WILLIAM D. DUNCANPRESENT
MR. STANLEY CASTLEMANPRESENT

Officers of the city present were the following:

Mr. Norbert S. Klopsch, City Manager
Ms. Dalma C. Grandjean, City Attorney
Mr. Jay A. Weiskircher, Assistant City Manager
Ms. Cindy Stafford, CPA, Finance Director
Mr. Kevin W. Weaver, P.E., P.S., Director of Engineering & Public Works

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

The following visitors registered:

Perry Martin, 44 Ivanhoe
Bill Frapwell, 400 Hathaway Road
Joanne McPortland, 68 Vine Street
Ted O'Connor, 217 Peach Orchard
Martha Haley, 400 Irving Avenue
Cole Prizler, 546 Shafor
Herold Williams, Versant Group
Steve Walters/Ray Simons, Inc., 474 Lookout
Anne Hilton, 900 Harman Avenue
Mike Bruggeman, 220 Volusia
David Leach, 201 Lookout Drive
Tommy Routsong, 494 Lookout
Harvey Lehrner, 126 E. Schantz
Sam Warwar, 222 Northview

Mr. Duncan, Chair of the Council Committee on Minutes, advised council he had read the minutes of the regular and work sessions of council held November 2, 2009, the work session of November 16, 2009 and the work session of December 7, 2009. Mr. Duncan reported he found the minutes correct and complete. Therefore, it was moved by Mr. Duncan and seconded by Mr. Castleman 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

Committee Appointments. Mayor Cook announced the following have agreed to serve: Harrison Gowdy, Planning Commission; Dan Deitz and Greg Lauterbach, Board of Zoning Appeals; Dr. Greg Ramey and Dr. Richard DeWall, Board of Health; Jill Kendall, Personnel Appeals Board; Frank Hollingsworth, Howard Boose, Fred Dudding, George Kling, Jackie Hollmeyer, Richard Stock, Brian Huelsman, Charles Rodabaugh, Rob Connelly, Vince Lewis and Charles Campbell, Budget Review Committee; Polly Petricola, Property Maintenance; and Jan Scheid, Tax/Water/Sewer Appeals Board.

Therefore, it was moved by Mr. Byington and seconded by Mr. Castleman 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.

Annual City Manager Review. Mayor Cook explained council recently conducted the annual review of the city manager and gave him high ratings in all categories. Since this is her last time to publicly do so, she extended her thanks to Mr. Klopsch as they have grown up together in their respective jobs. She gave the following report. *“Honesty - A city must have the reputation that people can rely on information given them as being the truth. This begins with our City Manager and is emulated, as required, throughout the city staff. Norbert Klopsch does not know how to lie. He goes beyond abhorrence of falsehoods to demanding full disclosure of the truth. Even when it is not demanded or is problematic, the City Manager stands firm in his conviction. This principle lends a transparency to Oakwood government that builds trust with constituents and business associates alike. Our city is strengthened and highlighted by this quality. It is an unshakeable characteristic of Norbert Klopsch. Integrity - Human relations constitute a major portion of community image. The person occupying the City Manager position must be held in high regard for his principles and actions as applied to his relationships with others. Words such as fairness, equality, respect, concern, attentiveness describe the expected guiding principles for the City Manager in his interface with all his associates. They abound in the approach and demeanor of City Manager Norbert Klopsch. For all his sophistication and polish he is without guile. It is most refreshing. He physically stands straight and tall and his spirit can be described with the same adjectives. It is a source of great confidence and pride for those dependent on his leadership. Work Ethic - A city manager’s job expectation is 24/7. The confidence awarded him by his constituents is dependent on the degree to which he is able and is willing to meet that expectation. Norbert Klopsch views his responsibilities in terms of work to be done not days of the week or hours of the day. This can be extremely demanding and challenging at times. Norbert’s extreme capabilities and unfailing commitment always wins the day because he will not stop until it does. The rewards to our city are legion. In pursuing his tasks he is mindful and respectful of staff. He does not demand more of them than he demands of himself and confidently allows them to use their skills to accomplish their assigned work. At the same time, he fulfills his leadership responsibility by always monitoring the total city operation and maintaining his designated status of having the last word. Norbert is faithful and diligent in his responsibility of following the policies established by City Council. This allows an effective team relationship to exist in our Council/Manager form of government. His role in regional affairs grows with the respect he gains from those beyond our borders. Through his participation, Oakwood interests and concerns are heard at the regional level. My association with City Manager Norbert Klopsch has been the highlight of my years as Mayor. He has been our City Manager for eight years and if we are wise we will make sure he stays for many more. I pay tribute to him as a person and to his work. I take this opportunity to thank him for all the trust and support he has given me in my work. I am deeply grateful.”*

Marketing. Mayor Cook explained prior to going to the Base Realignment & Closure (BRAC) meeting in San Antonio last year; they began updating tools on marketing the city. Mr. Klopsch explained for the past 15 or so years, the city has had a nice new resident packet which included zoning information, refuse regulations and other items. In advance of the BRAC meeting, they decided to transform the information and since they’d just finished the Centennial Celebration, utilized the expertise of the same team who voluntarily worked on assembling centennial information which included Perry Martin, JoAnn McPortland and Ted O’Connor.

Mr. Martin explained they put together a marketing packet for Oakwood, i.e., for persons interested in Oakwood and for realtors to give to potential residents. They had put together a brochure for the BRAC trip, the next phase was a 9 x 12 folder with eight bound pages about amenities, very generic information which won’t become outdated, plus slip sheets with factual data that can be customized or updated. Ms. McPortland indicated they will provide templates so information can be updated, i.e., statistical data on the slip sheets or specific topics. Mr. Martin explained the packet also includes a five minute DVD about the city which he presented. Mr. Martin extended thanks to city employees, library staff and citizens who helped with the video and detailed how the brochure/DVD comes in a clear plastic cover which can be mailed.

Mr. O’Connor referenced the welcome2oakwood.com website that was originally developed for the BRAC trip and opened the site which will include a link to the video. He pointed out the contact page includes a mailbox to the city if additional information is needed as well as links to the city’s website. Mayor Cook asked if the links are two-way to the [welcome2oakwood](http://welcome2oakwood.com) site. Mr. O’Connor responded not as of yet. Mr. Duncan asked who at the city will be responsible. Mr. Klopsch indicated it will be sent behind the scenes to he and his secretary. Mr. Duncan wondered who will update the statistics. Mr. Klopsch indicated they haven’t worked that out and plans to keep this site separate from the city’s site which is managed by MVCC. Mr. Martin also referenced Oakwood Ambassadors, citizens available to be contacted by potential home buyers. He noted the next item they plan to work on is the new resident welcome packet.

Mr. Klopsch explained during the last Comprehensive Plan update, the committee touched on marketing Oakwood and at the time it was the consensus that Oakwood markets itself; however the economy has changed and with visits to BRAC, they decided to become more pro-active. He plans to meet with realtors in January to make them aware of this information. The packets, which include the DVD, cost \$3. Mayor Cook indicated this is very exciting and thanked them for their presentation.

VISITORS

MVRPC Going Places. Mayor Cook recognized Martin Kim, MVRPC. Mr. Kim, on behalf of the Board of Directors, thanked council for the opportunity to update them and referenced a Power Point presentation with the following details. They are looking into how the region might look in 30 years and compared an urbanization trend map from 1970 to 2009 as well as a 2030 projection. These trends are important to regional planning, local government and businesses. If the past land development patterns continue, this will result in a thinner tax base for larger areas which will effect the quality of life and economic prosperity in the region. Mr. Kim explained Going Places is an integrated land use vision for the Miami Valley region, a four-year initiative designed to bring people living and working in the region together to build a clear and shared future land use framework which will guide them to make the region a better place to live, work and play. He reviewed the three year planning process and scope. Two years ago they began with an existing condition assessment and learned there is a demographic and economic shift. He referenced charts on land development not tied to population change, land use percentage changes, a map of potential future land use development, a chart showing that a moderate amount of additional developed land will be needed, etc. He explained the entire region will benefit if development is planned and takes advantage of the region's natural resources, including a regional bikeway on the river.

Mr. Kim explained the second phase relates to future landscape exploration of the how and where and to a land use scenario impact assessment. To that end, MVRPC has asked constituents to help schedule workshops and meetings to collect data. They recently held four meetings in the Miami and Warren county areas and after the holidays will continue with the workshops. He submitted a poster and information on the workshops and asked the city to help promote. Mr. Kim indicated MVRPC is also asking council to consider adopting a resolution of support to endorse the existing condition assessment phase of Going Places. He concluded with providing details on where additional information can be obtained at the website and on facebook. Mr. Duncan asked about the resolution. Mr. Klopsch indicated it can be presented at the next meeting. Mr. Castleman asked if market forces aren't taking care of utilization of existing land. Mr. Kim explained when looking at development there are three forces: the market, vision of the general public and desire of the government. He noted Going Places is a process for the region's framework. Mayor Cook asked if they have obtained valuable information during the past four workshops. Mr. Kim responded although they were successful, they are hoping for a greater citizen turnout. Mayor Cook thanked him for the presentation.

Mr. Cole Prizler indicated like the marketing DVD stated, he is one of those who came back to Oakwood to live. He expressed concern with the proposed income tax amendment and although agrees with getting in line with other cities, is concerned with the calculation formula. He presented an example of how a net loss would be calculated and taxed, and hopes that he wouldn't be double taxed by two communities, a potential 4.75% tax on a loss. Mr. Klopsch deferred to Finance Director Cindy Stafford. Mrs. Stafford explained the intent is not as suggested. Mr. Prizler indicated he is not a CPA, however his CPA told him about this potential double charge. Mr. Klopsch commented that under no circumstance will anyone pay more than the city's 2.5% rate. Mr. Duncan explained the city audits 100% of its returns and if he has paid 4.75% in taxes, he will get a refund. Mr. Klopsch suggested his CPA speak with Mrs. Stafford. Mr. Prizler submitted his written example to the city for their review.

A member of the audience asked if the Routsong issue is on the agenda. Mayor Cook responded no and future efforts are yet to be outlined.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE

BY MR. DUNCAN

NO 4685

TO AMEND SECTIONS 148.03(g) AND 148.15 OF THE MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX CODE RELATING TO THE OFFSET OF BUSINESS LOSSES.

A copy of the ordinance, having been placed on the desks of each member of council prior to introduction, was given a second reading. Mr. Duncan explained it changes the code so losses aren't deducted from W-2 income. He explained this brings Oakwood into conformance with most other communities.

Thereupon, it was moved by Mr. Duncan and seconded by Mr. Castleman that the ordinance be passed.

Upon call of the roll on the question of the motion, the following vote was recorded:

MRS. JUDY COOK YEA
MR. CARLO C. McGINNIS..... YEA
MR. STEVEN BYINGTON YEA
MR. WILLIAM D. DUNCAN YEA
MR. STANLEY CASTLEMAN YEA

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

ORDINANCE

BY MR. BYINGTON NO 4686

TO AMEND SECTION 505.071 OF THE OAKWOOD CODIFIED ORDINANCES RELATING TO NO TETHERING.

A copy of the ordinance, having been placed on the desks of each member of council prior to introduction, was given a second reading. Mr. Byington explained this provides additional restrictions in regard to cruelty to animals and was suggested by students from Wright State University.

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

Upon call of the roll on the question of the motion, the following vote was recorded:

MRS. JUDY COOK YEA
MR. CARLO C. McGINNIS..... YEA
MR. STEVEN BYINGTON YEA
MR. WILLIAM D. DUNCAN YEA
MR. STANLEY CASTLEMAN YEA

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

ORDINANCE

BY MR. BYINGTON NO 4687

TO APPROVE CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE OAKWOOD TRAFFIC AND GENERAL OFFENSES CODES.

A copy of the ordinance, having been placed on the desks of each member of council prior to introduction, was read by title. Mr. Byington explained this is annual legislation from Drane who reviews state regulations against the city's Chapter 3 of Traffic and Chapter 5 of General Offenses. He indicated there are approximately 45 changes, small amendments.

Thereupon, it was moved by Mr. Byington and seconded by Mr. Castleman that the ordinance be passed and the second reading waived so as to go into effect immediately.

Upon call of the roll on the question of the motion, the following vote was recorded:

MRS. JUDY COOK YEA
MR. CARLO C. McGINNIS..... YEA
MR. STEVEN BYINGTON YEA
MR. WILLIAM D. DUNCAN YEA
MR. STANLEY CASTLEMAN YEA

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

ORDINANCE

BY MR. DUNCAN NO 4688

TO REPEAL ORDINANCE NUMBER 4660 AND ESTABLISH AN AMENDED PERSONNEL SCHEDULE DATED DECEMBER 14, 2009 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO INCREASE THE TOP RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR OFFICE AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEES, INCREASE THE RATE OF COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES IN THE CAPTAIN CLASSIFICATION WHO HOLD AND MAINTAIN A PARAMEDIC CERTIFICATION AND DELETING THE REFERENCE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF A NON-QUALIFIED DEFERRED COMPENSATION PROGRAM, AND TO DECLARE 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. Mr. Duncan explained this grants a 3% pay increase in 2010.

Thereupon, it was moved by Mr. Duncan and seconded by Mr. Castleman that the ordinance be passed.

Upon call of the roll on the question of the motion, the following vote was recorded:

MRS. JUDY COOK	YEA
MR. CARLO C. McGINNIS.....	NAY
MR. STEVEN BYINGTON	YEA
MR. WILLIAM D. DUNCAN	YEA
MR. STANLEY CASTLEMAN	YEA

There being four (4) yea votes and one (1) nay vote thereon, said ordinance was declared duly passed and it was so ordered.

ORDINANCE

BY MR. DUNCAN

NO 4689

TO DETERMINE THE MAXIMUM COMPENSATION OF THE CITY OF OAKWOOD MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK, DEPUTY CLERK, BOOKKEEPER/DEPUTY CLERK AND BAILIFF, AND TO DECLARE 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. Mr. Duncan indicated this also permits a 3% increase in 2010.

Thereupon, it was moved by Mr. Duncan and seconded by Mr. Castleman that the ordinance be passed.

Upon call of the roll on the question of the motion, the following vote was recorded:

MRS. JUDY COOK	YEA
MR. CARLO C. McGINNIS.....	YEA
MR. STEVEN BYINGTON	YEA
MR. WILLIAM D. DUNCAN	YEA
MR. STANLEY CASTLEMAN	YEA

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

ORDINANCE

BY MR. DUNCAN

NO 4690

TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF OAKWOOD, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2010.

A copy of the ordinance, having been placed on the desks of each member of council prior to introduction, was read by title. Mr. Duncan explained this is a \$19M budget with \$13.4M in the general fund, \$2.4M in water and a \$3.2M debt payoff.

Thereupon, it was moved by Mr. Duncan and seconded by Mr. Castleman that the ordinance be passed.

Mr. Klopsch referenced a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed fund accounts as of November 30, 2009, water utility has 90% revenue and 65% disbursements and Oakwood is the 5th lowest of 68 on area water rates. He noted the city hasn't raised rates since 1994, has its own fully automated system and produces 100% of its own water. He then reviewed the 90% revenue and 71% disbursements of the sewer utility and noted Oakwood is the 38th lowest of 63 on that rate. He noted 75% of the sewer expenses are what they pay Dayton and the County for wastewater treatment. He then reviewed the 96% revenue and 80% disbursements for the non-enterprise funds (majority of funds which include public safety, service, parks, etc.). He noted expenses include personnel and that since 2002 they have cut four staff positions; equipment, and capital improvements. He explained revenue includes property tax, income tax and estate tax. Mr. Klopsch reviewed an income tax revenue chart that shows the \$5.34M as of November 30 and expects they will end up \$100,000 less than the \$5.8M budgeted and have budgeted 2010 income tax revenue at \$5,800,000. He explained the last tax increase was in October 1, 1984 from 2.0% to 2.5%. He reviewed the estate tax revenue chart which is at \$1.86M as of November 30 and added they are receiving another \$880,000 by year-end.

Mr. Klopsch referenced a property tax chart showing \$1.5M revenue as of November 30 based in part to the 2008 full reappraisal which resulted in an increase of \$300K in revenue but was offset by the decision to allow a 5.5 mill property tax issue to expire. Mr. McGinnis asked if the levy money

is frozen and not just due to reappraisals. Mr. Klopsch explained it depends on whether it's inside or outside millage, the latter of which is voted on. He referenced colored pie charts that compared the 1992 to 2009 residential real estate breakdown between the Schools, County, Metro Parks, Developmental Disabilities, Human Services, Sinclair, the City and Wright Library. He pointed out the majority of the property tax supports the schools as is depicted in green, the city portion is depicted in red and blue is the human services levy.

Mr. Klopsch referenced the 2010 Budget and explained in the water utility major expenses include \$105,000 for the Ion Exchange Filter #1 Rebuild and \$40,000 for the Aberdeen Water Main improvement. He reviewed the water fund financial summary sheet from the budget and pointed out how the beginning and ending balances are close. In regard to the sewer utility, the expense is \$40,000 for sanitary sewer repairs and the budget page shows they will pick up some unencumbered 2010 year-end balance due to the sewer rate increase imposed last July. Mr. Klopsch referenced the ten-year average of estate tax and noted the average is \$1.3M if two large estates are not included; however, including those two estates makes it \$2.9M. He reviewed non-enterprise fund major expenses for 2010: sidewalk, curb and apron project at \$140,000; street improvements at \$675,000; two police cruisers at \$48,000 and refuse truck at \$75,000. Mr. Klopsch reviewed the 2010 goals and objectives: Sugar Camp/Pointe Oakwood development; Athletic & Recreation Facilities Master Plan; update Municipal Court software; Safety Department procedures and Financial Department procedures. Mr. Klopsch indicated the Athletic & Recreation Facilities Master Plan Committee meets tomorrow and a community meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday at the OCC, 6:30 p.m. Mr. Klopsch extended thanks to Mrs. Stafford for her assistance on the budget, this is his eighth, her second, a lot of work and numbers and he was pleased Mr. Duncan didn't find any mathematical errors.

Mr. Frapwell, Budget Review Committee Vice Chair, reported the committee met several times, reviewed a lot of information, had a lot of questions and affirmatively voted in favor of the budget.

Upon call of the roll on the question of the motion, the following vote was recorded:

MRS. JUDY COOK YEA
MR. CARLO C. MCGINNIS..... YEA
MR. STEVEN BYINGTON YEA
MR. WILLIAM D. DUNCAN YEA
MR. STANLEY CASTLEMAN YEA

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

RESOLUTION

BY MR. BYINGTON NO 1707

TO GRANT APPROVAL OF THE AMENDED MASTER PLAN SUBMITTED BY THE OAKWOOD INVESTMENT GROUP AND VERSANT GROUP FOR THE RESIDENTIAL PORTION OF THE SUGAR CAMP DEVELOPMENT.

A copy of the resolution, having been placed on the desks of each member of council prior to introduction, was read. Mr. Byington explained this request was to amend the Master Plan for the residential portion of Pointe Oakwood due to Mr. Williams learning from perspective buyers that they'd rather purchase a single-family home in that location rather than a duplex. This amendment reduces the overall density from 147 to 143 units and has been recommended by the Planning Commission.

Mr. Castleman announced, for the record, that he would have to recuse himself from this issue.

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

Upon call of the roll on the question of the motion, the following vote was recorded:

MRS. JUDY COOK YEA
MR. CARLO C. MCGINNIS..... YEA
MR. STEVEN BYINGTON YEA
MR. WILLIAM D. DUNCAN YEA
MR. STANLEY CASTLEMAN RECUSED

There being four (4) yea votes, no (0) nay vote and one (1) recused, said resolution was declared duly passed and it was so ordered.

RESOLUTION

BY MR. BYINGTON

NO 1708

TO GRANT APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY PLAN B REALTY FOR A MARKETING SIGN AT SUGAR CAMP.

A copy of the resolution, having been placed on the desks of each member of council prior to introduction, was read. Mr. Byington explained Plan B Realty represents the separate owners of Building B at Sugar Camp and requests another marketing sign. The Planning Commission recommended approval subject to the sign being reviewed in 12 months.

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

Upon call of the roll on the question of the motion, the following vote was recorded:

- MRS. JUDY COOK YEA
- MR. CARLO C. McGINNIS..... YEA
- MR. STEVEN BYINGTON YEA
- MR. WILLIAM D. DUNCAN YEA
- MR. STANLEY CASTLEMAN RECUSED

There being four (4) yea votes, no (0) nay vote and one (1) recused, said resolution was declared duly passed and it was so ordered.

Mr. Duncan asked for an update on the model home. Mr. Williams explained they are putting finishing touches on the interior and still waiting for Vectren to finish a gas line. He is hopeful with the weather that they will have the curb in by the end of the week for Phase 2; however, they might not get the paving finished. He asked for council's indulgence in finishing the clean-up and grading of the north lot until the beginning of the new year.

RESOLUTION

BY MR. DUNCAN

NO 1709

AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO DISPOSE OF EXCESS EQUIPMENT ON GOVDEALS.COM AND WAIVING ANY FORMAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING.

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

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

Upon call of the roll on the question of the motion, the following vote was recorded:

- MRS. JUDY COOK YEA
- MR. CARLO C. McGINNIS..... YEA
- MR. STEVEN BYINGTON YEA
- MR. WILLIAM D. DUNCAN YEA
- MR. STANLEY CASTLEMAN YEA

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

CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS

Mr. Klopsch extended heartfelt thanks to Mayor Cook and Vice Mayor McGinnis for all their work and noted although this is their final meeting there will be receptions later for additional comments. He commended them for serving 44 years between the two of them, 24 for Mr. McGinnis and 20 for Mayor Cook. He reiterated his thanks for all their volunteer service and added it has been an honor to serve with both of them.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Castleman extended thanks to Mayor Cook for her advice and counsel, and for her incredible commitment and service to the community; he cannot comprehend all her service and time. He also recognized Mr. McGinnis for serving the longest and wished both of them the best of health and good wishes.

Mr. Castleman extended holiday wishes to the community.

Mr. Duncan indicated he has been able to serve with both Mayor Cook and Mr. McGinnis for the last 6 1/2 years and is impressed that Mr. McGinnis has served so long as a feat to volunteerism. He referenced a quote from Thomas Jefferson that Ben Franklin could be replaced as Ambassador but

no one could replace Ben Franklin, similar to the service Mayor Cook has given. He noted her service has been great to Oakwood and the region, a testament of leadership and the city is in a better place because of it.

Mr. Byington piggy backed comments and indicated as the new person, he has learned a lot from both Mayor Cook and Mr. McGinnis and it's been an honor to work with them. He believes they have accomplished a lot during his two years and commended them on a fantastic run. He looks forward to seeing what they do in the future and extended thanks for all their help.

Mr. Byington extended thanks to all committee members who volunteer throughout the year, a lot of expertise given unselfishly for the betterment of the community.

Mr. McGinnis indicated this is his last meeting and he is excited to pursue what is ahead and to see Anne and Rob on council. He appreciated the opportunity to serve the city as best he could for 24 years. He tried to always keep the citizens' interest in the forefront and noted Oakwood is a special and unique place. He is proud to live here and to have worked with various councils and staff. He noted this is the most well run city in the county. He extended his thanks for allowing him to serve.

Mayor Cook concluded the meeting with the following thanks to council:

"As I prepare to relinquish this seat and leave office, I cannot do so without expressing praise for and appreciation to my fellow Council members. Oakwood Council was established by charter as a consortium of elected citizens with equal authority and voice. It remains so today. As a group we discuss, listen, speak, debate, agree, disagree, compromise and at the end of the day reach a consensus. It is often thought that because we do not argue and speak contentiously on camera we act only with a rubber stamp. What appears as a rubber stamp is instead the consensus reached that comes to a vote, often at the end of long study and discussion. In 20 years I have enjoyed a working relationship with a dozen different Council members. Whatever the composition of Council, there were positive characteristics shared by all. Council always acts as a team. Council members have diverse skill sets and knowledge bases. This allows rich discussions with multi-faceted considerations. The team focus is always on what's best for the community. The end result sought is a consensus. Egos and self interests are consistently left at the door. Respect for each other is always present. Council's relationship with the city manager is comfortable, supportive and synergistic. The Council/Manager form of city government is a good model and in Oakwood we take full advantage of its benefits. I am particularly grateful to be part of the council seated here tonight. We have worked together through some complex and challenging projects. Their team effort made success possible. I appreciate the support they have given to me as Mayor. I know I leave the city in capable hands. Thank you gentlemen."

Mayor Cook thanked the Wills for operating the cable equipment.

Council adjourned. The public meeting concluded at 9:33 p.m.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CLERK OF COUNCIL