

**MINUTES
OAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
JANUARY 3, 2011**

The council of the city of Oakwood, Ohio, met in a work session on Monday, January 3, 2011 in the conference room of the Oakwood Municipal Building, 30 Park Avenue. The Vice Mayor of the city, Steven Byington, presided. Council members in attendance were Vice Mayor Steven Byington, Stanley Castleman, Rob Stephens and Anne Hilton; Staff in attendance was City Manager Norbert Klopsch. Mayor Bill Duncan was excused absent.

Vice Mayor Byington called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The following agenda items were discussed.

- **STATUS REPORTS**
 - **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS.** Vice Mayor Byington announced that he will call for a vote at the formal meeting this evening to reappoint several citizens to council committees.

- **LEGISLATION:** Council discussed the following two items of legislation proposed for second reading at the formal meeting this evening.
 - **ORDINANCE TO ADOPT FIRE CODE, VICE-MAYOR BYINGTON**
 - **ORDINANCE RE: COUNCIL SALARIES, MR. CASTLEMAN.** Mr. Klopsch noted that citizen Budget Review Committee Chair Dave Dickerson and Vice Chair Bill Frapwell will make a statement at the formal meeting in support of the council salary increase.

- **COUNCIL COMMITTEES**
 - **FINANCE, MR. CASTLEMAN**
 - o **Estate Tax Law.** Mr. Klopsch explained that he will be attending a meeting in Columbus on January 11, joining representatives from approximately 25 Ohio jurisdictions. The meeting is being organized by the city of Shaker Heights. The 25 jurisdictions were invited because they rely very heavily on revenue from the Ohio estate tax. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the impact of possible changes in estate tax law and to discuss ways in which to ensure that Ohio lawmakers understand how important the estate tax revenue is to many Ohio cities, villages and townships.
 - o **Debt Payoff.** Council discussed preliminary plans for addressing the annual short-term debt payoff and note re-issue. Mr. Klopsch reported that staff believes the city will continue to earn enough on investment income to offset short-term note debt service costs. Councilmember Castleman suggested that council consider paying off more principal, perhaps up to half of the \$2.6M debt. This could be accomplished by lowering the 2011 short-term borrowing from the proposed \$2.05M to \$1.3M. Additional discussion will take place at the January 24 work session.

- o BRC Subcommittees (personnel costs and budget structure). Mr. Klopsch suggested that two subcommittees be established, one to focus on personnel costs and the second to focus on the structural problem with the city budget; that problem being caused by the city's heavy reliance on estate tax revenue. Council concurred. Mr. Klopsch will assemble a list of suggested BRC members to serve on these two subcommittees.
- PLANNING & ZONING, MR. BYINGTON
 - o Irving Avenue. Mr. Klopsch commented that he will contact Oakwood resident Chris Conard next week to arrange a meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss options for addressing concerns raised by citizens in the North Oakwood Association relating to rental properties serving as UD student housing along Irving Avenue.
- PUBLIC PROPERTIES, MR. CASTLEMAN
 - o Dog Park. Mr. Klopsch reported that a group of Oakwood residents now has approximately 150 signatures on a petition to support construction of a community dog park and that more signatures are expected. The citizen group is tentatively scheduled to make a presentation to city council at the February 7 council meeting.
 - o Oakwood Bikeway. Mr. Klopsch briefed council on plans to erect new signs along the bikeway route around Oakwood. Staff also plans to develop a bikeway map to publicize and promote existence of this route.
- SAFETY & TRAFFIC, MR. STEPHENS
 - o Command Staff. Mr. Klopsch reported that staff completed an evaluation of the Public Safety Department command staff configuration and determined that retaining two captains (operations and administration) is essential to efficient department operation. With Operations Captain Dave Lantz retiring in April, staff has begun the process of selecting an officer within the department to promote.
- REGIONAL AGENCIES
 - MVRPC, MR. BYINGTON
 - o MVRPC Complete Streets Policy. Vice Mayor Byington explained that an important vote will take place on Thursday regarding a new policy relating to roadway design. This policy will require study and evaluation of features to accommodate all modes of transportation including bicyclists, pedestrians, public transit, and others. This new requirement, if passed, would apply to all future roadway projects funded through MVRPC (i.e., state and federal money). There is some disagreement among MVRPC jurisdiction members regarding this policy. Primarily, the concern is that in the present very challenging economic times, some believe that all available money should be dedicated to maintaining streets for vehicular traffic rather than spending money on addressing other modes.

- BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

- ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE, MR. STEPHENS

- o Honeysuckle and Ivy. Councilmember Anne Hilton explained that she and Mr. Klopsch recently met with Oakwood residents Barb Rion and Jean Woodhull to discuss honeysuckle and ivy around Oakwood. Mrs. Rion and Mrs. Woodhull would like to see the city take steps to educate the community on the negative impacts of invasive honeysuckle and ivy. In regards to ivy, the concern relates to this plant growing up tree trunks. Mr. Klopsch expressed staff support in establishing an education campaign and will begin work on this project.

- MISCELLANEOUS

- o Dayton Development Coalition. Mr. Klopsch reported that some concern exists among local jurisdictions in regards to the level of compensation, including bonuses, being paid to employees of the Dayton Development Coalition, particularly now that many local cities are providing public tax dollars to the agency. However, there remains strong support for the work of the Coalition and Mr. Klopsch suggested that Oakwood remain a member.

There being no other business, Vice Mayor Byington adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m. at which time council moved to the 7:30 p.m. formal meeting.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBERS OF STAFF
FROM: NORBERT KLOPSCH
SUBJECT: COUNCIL MEETING WORK SESSION MINUTES
DATE: JANUARY 11, 2011

Attached is a copy of the minutes from our most recent council work session. I send this to you for your information and follow through as appropriate. Please see me if you have any questions.

NSK:cg

attachment