

**MINUTES**  
**OAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
**JUNE 24, 2013**

The council of the city of Oakwood, Ohio, met in a work session on Monday, June 24, 2013 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, Stanley Castleman, Rob Stephens and Anne Hilton; Staff in attendance were City Manager Norbert Klopsch and City Attorney Rob Jacques. Also in attendance were MVCC Executive Director John Weithofer and Jack Keegan from the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO).

Mayor Duncan called the council work session to order at 5 p.m. and welcomed John Weithofer and Jack Keegan.

Mr. Klopsch noted that Mr. Weithofer and Mr. Keegan were present this evening to brief Council on issues relating to the purchase of electricity and natural gas. Mr. Klopsch explained that utility deregulation in Ohio occurred in the late 1990s and that ten years ago Oakwood citizens voted to allow the city to establish opt-out energy aggregation programs. Since that time, it has been done only one time...that for natural gas purchasing. Various vendors continually market Oakwood residents and residents throughout the Miami Valley seeking to become their electricity or natural gas provider.

Mr. Keegan reviewed a PowerPoint presentation explaining the work of the PUCO and the resources available to assist citizens in making energy purchasing decisions. The PUCO is available to conduct briefings and information sessions for the general public. Mr. Weithofer reviewed actions taken over the past few years through MVCC to assist Oakwood and other local governments in saving energy costs. This includes purchasing natural gas and electricity for public facilities jointly through a cooperative purchasing consortium. Mr. Weithofer added that opt-out energy aggregation programs do not provide enough potential savings to justify the local government involvement. He also discussed additional programs currently offered by DPL Energy relating to electricity supply. Mr. Weithofer concluded his comments by addressing a current case before the PUCO whereby DP&L may receive an expedited implementation schedule for moving all electricity commodity purchasing to a market based system. Mr. Klopsch concluded the discussion by suggesting that the city retain a role in educating citizens on electricity and natural gas purchasing options, but not get involved in purchasing programs or specific recommendations. Council concurred. Mayor Duncan thanked Mr. Keegan and Mr. Weithofer for attending the meeting and for their comments.

At 5:45 p.m., Mayor Duncan departed the meeting. The following additional agenda items were discussed:

- COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- FINANCE, Mr. Castleman.

- Purchasing Ordinance: Mr. Klopsch mentioned that he will present an ordinance at the July 15 council meeting that includes a rewriting of the city's purchasing ordinance. The most notable change will include raising the threshold for formal competitive bidding from \$22,000 to \$50,000...this in response to changes made by the state of Ohio.

- STREETS & ALLEYS, Mr. Stephens.

- 2013 Asphalt Paving Project: Mr. Klopsch noted that bids were open last week and prices came in significantly higher than expected. Staff is analyzing the bids and will consider several options, including potentially rebidding the work.

- MISCELLANEOUS

- Solicitation Ordinance: Mr. Klopsch noted that DPL Energy and another electricity supplier will likely be engaging in door to door solicitation in the near future...this in an attempt to secure residential energy purchasing contracts. At the July 15 meeting, staff will present an ordinance to enhance the city's solicitation ordinance. City Attorney Rob Jacques explained that the city of Englewood has a court tested comprehensive solicitation ordinance. He compared that ordinance with provisions in Oakwood's current ordinance. The recommended Oakwood updates will include many of the Englewood provisions. Mr. Castleman asked if there were specific guidelines on posting do not solicit placards. Mr. Jacques responded that they simply need to be visible at the front door. Vice Mayor Byington questioned whether the updated solicitation ordinance would require Oakwood youth to obtain a solicitation permit when going door to door to sell fruit, popcorn, etc. for school fundraisers, scouting, etc. Mr. Jacques suggested there was a way to craft the ordinance so that this could be exempted.
    - RTA Benches: Mr. Klopsch noted that Oakwood resident Tom Norwalk has again mentioned his desire to see additional benches placed at various RTA bus stops. The next round of RTA grant applications begins in November. Staff will work with RTA to determine if any locations might be good candidates.

There being no other business, Vice Mayor Byington adjourned the work session at 6: 22 p.m.



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Mayor

ATTEST:



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Clerk of Council