
VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 25, 2020

PRESENT:

Johnnie Warren-Council President
Elaine Gaither – Council-at-Large
Eloise Hardin – Ward 2
Melanie Sanders – Ward 3
Candace S Williams – Ward 5

Gary Gottschalk-Mayor*
Brian Thompson-Finance
Ami Imbrogno-Law Dept.
Tom Haba – Service Director
Mark Garratt-Police Chief
James Schade-Fire Chief*
Robert Harris-Building Dept.

ABSENT:

Chris C. Callender – Ward 1
Patricia Rogers – Ward 4
Crystal A Williams-Housing Inspector
James Climer-Law Dept.

Carlean Perez – Recreation Director
Dan Marinucci-Chief Building Official
Ed Hren-Engineer

*= *Late Arrival*

Warren opened the meeting at 7:00 pm
Pledge of Allegiance and Roll call were completed.

Motion to approve minutes of Finance meeting of February 11, 2020 made by Hardin seconded by Gaither
YES: Warren, Gaither, Hardin Sanders Abstained by Williams

Motion to approve minutes of Council meeting of February 11, 2020 made by Sanders seconded by Hardin
YES: Warren, Gaither, Hardin Sanders, Williams

Correspondence

Clerk: You have the amended March calendar. Council meeting is next Tuesday which will replace the March 10th meeting due to several Council members attending the NLC. You also have a green sheet from the Cuyahoga County Soil and Water Conservation District. In order to maintain our partnership, we must participate in at least two events annually. One event they are having is a tree and seedling sale for the residents. Anyone can order trees at a deep discount. The sale is through March 24th and orders can be picked up April 17th at the Soil and Water Conservation District office. **Sanders** mentioned it is posted on the website. **Clerk:** Yes. You also have a purple folder with legislation the Mayor wishes to present at the next meeting dealing with CRAs. I don't believe those are the final, but they are close to the finals. **Hardin** asked if they have a senior option for the sale. **Clerk:** You can purchase five seedlings and split them up among neighbors or family members. **Hardin:** I am concerned about the growth. **Clerk:** The sheet explains the growth rate of each species; some grow faster while others grow slower.

Departmental Reports

Law-Imbrogno had nothing.

Finance-Thompson: I have a representative coming; Dave from Colonial. **Warren:** We are rescheduling the Finance meeting? **Thompson:** Yes, next week at 6:00pm. **Warren:** By the end of March it has to be passed. Did you get everything from every department? **Thompson:** Yes.

Fire-Schade: I am here to entertain questions. **Hardin** mentioned he saved a dog. **Schade:** It was in Walton Hills. The dog went through the ice.

Service-Haba: The two houses on Alexander at the Premier location are down.

Building-Harris: My name is Robert Harris. I recently joined the Building Dept. in September. Dan is expected to be back Monday. **Warren:** Are you working on your RBI? **Harris:** I am working on the Building Official training from the state and training in March. **Warren:** You still must get your RBI before you can reach CBO. I suggest Mr. Marinucci send your application in for RBI. They give you an interim which gives you two years to take the test. It is easier to get it while working for a building dept. **Harris:** Is it the interim or the training? **Warren:** If you demonstrate a certain amount of experience, they can get you an interim which is a jump above the trainee. I would go for the RBI. The trainee is a fall back certification.

Police-Garratt: We have a lot of training this and next month. I-271 north will open in May. Detail work will be complete when it is dry. **Warren** asked if Kokosing will be shifting the egress and repair the part we are using now? **Garratt:** That ramp is Bedford. I have a copy of the plans. I can find out for you. The merge point is further up in Bedford Heights for I-480 and I-271. **Warren:** We are using the older part now. I think they may shift over to the new concrete for egress then repair what we are using now. **Garratt:** You are correct. It is better than it was. **Hardin:** Thank you Chief and Service Director for your assistance in Ward 2. A stop sign was requested, and you followed through.

Mayoral Report-Mayor handed out a flyer to Council: This flyer is going out Friday with \$0.20 postage each. He explained we had on the ballot last fall, prohibiting warehouse distribution. I had alerted a real estate agent this will pass in November and not to look for companies for this. In his lust for greed, the agent brought in a company taking 40% of the 75,000 sq. ft. building with three employees and payroll of only \$160,000 a year bringing into the Village \$4,000 a year. The same size operation is Medical Service on Broadway/Macedonia bringing in \$6 million in payroll.

Economic Development

Mayor: Fortunately, I have several pieces of legislation for your review prior to the next Council meeting. I have a company taking up the additional 40,000 sq. ft. Nichols has a payroll of \$2 million with \$50,000 a year coming into the Village. They have a seven-year lease. They are a lead supplier of paper packaging and sanitary solutions for clean and healthy facilities servicing K-12, colleges, hospitals, surgery centers, long term care nursing facilities, hotels, casinos and food processing in the Great Lakes area. We will give them a job creation tax credit; 30% of what we collect beginning in 2022. I will call up the owners of the building in Minneapolis regarding the real estate company handling that as well as the President of the real estate company on the warehouse distribution occupant. **Hardin** asked the length of the lease. **Mayor:** Five years. Julia & Sveltana Bugarcic will construct a village market with a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, eggs, Amish meats and cheese with an expanding organic section, dairy and beverage dept. on 12,000 sq. ft at Richmond/Broadway. We are offering them 80% CRA if the building is attractive, which I am sure it will be. We will also offer them a minimum TIF. This is a welcome addition to Oakwood. It will be equivalent to Miles Farmers Market. **Hardin** asked about the TIF. **Mayor:** The TIF will bring in \$5,000 a year which would have gone to the County for 30 years. Cuyahoga County has the ninth highest population loss in the U.S. because of the high taxes. In addition, I have five small companies which will not require the School Board or the County approval. McDonalds will renovate the building. This project will cost them \$375,000 and bring in \$1,600 annually for improvements coming into the site; it could be sewers, lighting, streets, etc. **Warren** asked about the vinyl look. **Mayor:** We will review the proposed building prior to moving forward. **Warren** mentioned the nice venue of McDonalds at Libby and Broadway. **Mayor:** Federal Metal is expanding. They are renovating the interior of their building adding 7200 feet and expanding the parking lot by 17,750 sq ft at a cost of \$650,000. Money coming back to the Village is \$2,800 a year for the first 15 years. After that, it triples. **Warren** asked what they will be doing on the interior. **Hardin:** The exterior needs work too. **Mayor:** It had tires everywhere along with other debris. They want to dress it up. Quality Inn will renovate the entire interior for a more welcoming environment; dining area and guest rooms, updating the HVAC and swimming pool at \$350,000 cost. We will get \$1,600 a year. We will use it to improve lighting along Oakwood Commons. The last company is Rock the House located at First Place. They will provide sound for the Rolling Stones when they come to Oakwood. Crains said they have an incentivization through Twinsburg but that proved to be a bit premature. They want to stay at First Place. They want to construct a 15,000 sq ft pre-engineered metal addition to an existing building and relocate 40 parking spaces at a cost of \$400,000. **Hardin** asked what the Village gets from this agreement. **Mayor:** On the TIF we are getting \$1,700. It isn't

much money, but we wouldn't have seen this because the County would have taken it. The CRA may save them \$4,000 in property tax. The TIF can't be used for their own site but leading up to their site as in Oakwood Labs and Sofi. Next week I will review the Premier updates. Jobs Ohio announced today we will get \$700,000 grant for the looping of the entrance and exit there. We will review the ballot issues as well.

2020 Budget

Hardin: Why didn't we do the budget today? **Mayor:** I have been working on these companies. **Warren:** The budget is priority over everything else. You are talking about what you are anticipating. **Mayor:** This will be on the regular agenda. **Hardin:** We aren't impressing on this? We need to address the budget. **Mayor:** These will be on the regular agenda. The sooner we pass this. **Warren:** We can do additional readings. **Hardin:** We are going to prioritize the budget. **Warren:** Is there any more land at First Place? **Mayor:** No. That is why we have items on the ballot. Premier had options to purchase three homes on the south side of Macedonia. **Warren:** At First Place. **Mayor:** Penske has a little land but are not willing to sell it.

Ms. Audry Wynne, Partnership Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau: Thank you for inviting me. We have four Partnership Specialists. We speak to government officials, community leaders and organizations sharing information about the 2020 Census to ensure the best possible count. The Census determines the future of communities, our representation in Congress including state and local as well. Businesses use Census information to determine where they will expand or locate. They have to ensure they have a customer or work force base. An accurate count is essential. Also, the data is responsible for \$675 billion in federal funds to the state each year for ten years like Medicaid, senior programs, Title I programs, schools, roads and bridges. The need isn't going away, just the funding will if the community is undercounted. We understand in 2020 there are concerns about responding. We know there is some distrust in government and people are hesitant to give their information. People may be concerned about their data protection; are they going to report me to the IRS, child enforcement, etc. The answer is no. We want people to know their data is protected by law. When a Census is taken, your personal identifiable information is separated from your data. That stays separate 72 years by law. It isn't going anywhere, and it isn't available until 72 years after the Census. Genealogists are working right now with the 1940 Census date which is the most recent with personal information. We want people to feel good about their data being secured. Another concern is complex living situations. There are many variations as to how people live today; they move from place to place, grandparents raising grandchildren, etc. Everyone should be counted where they sleep most of the time. Census day nationally is April 1, 2020. Where will I be sleeping on that day. We are concerned about a number of groups not responding. One of those groups is renters. They may feel their property owner will take care of it. That is not true. Every rental unit is a resident and is responsible for reporting based on who is living in that unit. There is specific information on the Census website at www.2020census.gov/roam. It is a mapping tool. It has variables which may lead to a reduced count. Numbers above 20% are concerning to us. It has a variety of demographic factors. We know lower income homes do not respond; African Americans respond less as well. We want people to spread the word to feel more comfortable about responding. A lot is just information, so they feel secure about it. The largest undercounted group in 2010 was children under the age of five. We aren't sure why that happens. Children not counted could lead to overcrowding or underfunding in schools. The Census data is used by schools for long term plans. We want to make sure all children are counted. If a person takes a breath on April 1, 2020, they should be counted. There are four ways to respond to the Census this year. Online is one; every library in the county is offering their computers to the public to take their census. Trained people will be on hand to assist. It is safe and secure, and the data is encrypted when it is entered. The second way is by phone. The person calls in, they should not receive a call. The Census is the largest peace-time effort of the federal government with 500,000 people hired nationwide. There is potential for fraud. The way to protect people is information. You should never be called to give your response; you call us. You should never be asked your social security number, your bank information or for a donation. You can respond by mail, in person interview as well. The interview is very short. You are giving name, birthdate, how many people live in the home, male or female, whether you own or rent and your race. The timeline is beginning on March 12, 2020 every household in America will receive notification by mail, an invitation to respond to the Census in the two ways I mentioned; by phone or online. The web address and phone number will be on that notification. It is the least expense for taxpayer outlet. Every household which doesn't respond will continually be reminded by mail up to five times. If a household still hasn't responded, census takers will come to remind people and, in some cases, enumerate for them and take their information. One concurrent effort

during the count is the group quarters enumeration: nursing homes, college dormitories, rehab centers, hospitals, prisons, jails, etc. Those living in communal situations who are not related. People are counted where they sleep most of the time. A college student who lives on campus most of the time are counted at the college. Their administrators work with our team resulting in a paper transaction. They enter the information and send it back to us. I also wanted to share with you, there are jobs associated with the Census. They will last about 90 days and pay \$22.50 an hour in Cuyahoga County. People work their own hours. This is great for college students, high school seniors 18 years of age and older and U.S. Citizen. The process for applying is at www.2020Census.gov/jobs. The entire process takes place online with no interview. We are just now making calls to bring people in for training. People who are receiving SNAP or other benefits from Ohio will not be affected. I am asking all our potential partners; we need your help. The facts about the Census need to get out so people feel comfortable about the Census. We are asking you to speak with the constituents you serve. Give them the true story about the Census and employ them to participate. It is in all our best interest to have as complete a count as possible. Thank you for your time. **Hardin:** They first separate the name from the date and it is maintained for 72 years. **Wynne:** Yes. Please share that with everyone. **Warren:** You stated the information is secure from law enforcement agencies. Is there a legislative bill which has that specific verbiage? **Wynne:** There are two federal statutes; Title 44 and Title 31 both deal with the confidentiality of the Census. I'd like to send information to Debra about what we discussed tonight. **Warren:** It would be helpful to have your talking points highlighted. To summarize and incentivize. **Wynne:** Yes. Census takers will be moving through your community beginning the end of March early April. Police agencies have received a bulletin as to how to identify them. They will have a vertical badge with a picture, expiration date and a chip. Also, they will use electronic equipment which should have a Census 2020 logo on it. The front should have the seal of the Census Bureau. We want people to feel comfortable. Census takers do not enter your home. The enumeration process is done across the doorway. If they have any level of discomfort, we welcome them to call their local law enforcement. **Williams** asked if she does community presentations. **Wynne:** Yes. I am available. I come to Ward meetings, recreation centers, senior centers. We are more than happy to give presentations. Those are a bit different. The emphasis is the safety of the Census and the actual process. All thanked her.

Dave Mycek-Colonial Life. **Hardin:** I invited him here to explain what was being offered to employees. **Mycek:** I started working with Mr. Thompson last year. These are voluntary benefits. Colonial Life is administering the Cafeteria Plan. IRS requires you to have a Cafeteria Plan if you are pre-taxing premiums. Colonial Life provides that to all employees including Council. The Village is providing a payroll deduction. These benefits are portable. You can take the benefit with you and the cost never changes. Everything on the list ranges from \$3-\$8 per week; accident plan, cancer and critical illness, dental, life, short term disability and they all come with wellness benefits. If you go to the doctor for your annual check up Colonial sends you \$50-\$100. **Hardin:** We have Cadillac coverage for full-time personnel. Part-time people need this opportunity. **Mycek:** Whether the individual has medical or not, the payment goes to the user. The only exception is the Dental Plan, which is paid to the dentist. **Hardin** asked about hospital confinement. **Mycek:** Some people call it a medical bridge. We offer \$1000 for being hospitalized and the other plan is \$1500. There are riders you can include \$500 for diagnostic tests or outpatient surgeries. That costs about \$20 a month. **Hardin:** If I am admitted to the hospital you give me \$1000 and it has nothing to do with my hospital bill. **Mycek:** Yes. **Hardin:** No matter how long I am hospitalized. **Mycek:** If one of your procedures are on that list, you get an additional \$500. **Hardin:** You don't do anything as far as hospitalization. **Mycek:** No, it is a one-time payout. For those wanting to start a family, we have short-term disability with six weeks maternity and hospital confinement \$1000 or \$1500. For a couple hundred dollars a year, it isn't a bad idea. One of two men and one of three women may get cancer in a lifetime. The Cancer Plan pays \$35,000. I have seen it pass \$80,000. It pays for wellness visits. It pays you for an initial diagnosis from \$5000 to \$10,000. Then it pays you for treatments. It pays you \$1000 a week for radiation, \$1000 a week for chemo. It pays \$3-500 a day if you are in the hospital and from \$700 a day if you are in the hospital more than 30 days. Outpatient surgeries or out-of-state procedures, it pays for lodging and any procedure. **Hardin** asked about disability insurance. **Mycek:** That covers if you miss work due to an accident or sickness. **Hardin:** That is a cash payment. **Mycek:** We generally recommend six months. It can be designed in many ways. This doesn't replace someone's paycheck, I just helps them to get by. It may pay \$1000 a month. **Hardin:** When you cover an individual, you provide a sliding scale. **Mycek:** Yes. It considers if you smoke, etc. The Cancer Plan, whether you are 20 or 70 years old, the cost is the same. **Hardin:** Did you get good participation? **Mycek:** Yes. We do this for the City of Medina, Oberlin, Avon and Strongsville. We had a lot of participation. It is pretax and it saves the Village a little on Workers Compensation and payroll tax. **Hardin** asked how. **Mycek:** It reduces the

taxable income. **Hardin** asked how often he comes to Oakwood. **Mycek:** We have open enrollment once a year; in March. Anyone can add anything at any time even outside enrollment. Pretax isn't available to you because IRS requires 20 hours a week in wages to qualify. You can enroll anytime. The others on payroll need to do that under open enrollment. **Hardin:** I just saw you here and wondered about the benefit. We aren't entitled to benefits through the city. **Mycek:** I attached my business card to all the flyers. **Hardin:** It has to be payroll deduction. **Mycek:** Yes. Once a month. Everyone else is bi-weekly. If you leave you can pay on your own, but the cost stays the same. **Hardin:** I am glad you gave our people opportunity to enroll. **Mycek:** I will be here February or March. If you want to sign up, you can do it electronically. It takes about 10 minutes.

Open Floor Comments

Beverly Brown 26379 Redfox Trail: I came here complaining about the trees falling in my backyard. It was taken care of. Thank you for doing that. It was a serious situation. **Haba:** One resident wasn't happy about how they were cut down. I spoke with Mr. Callender and the Mayor. We aren't supposed to take them out of there.

Closed Floor

Legislation

2020-12 A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tinkers Creek Watershed Partners and declaring an emergency

Hardin asked about it. **Clerk:** We partner with Tinkers Creek Watershed Partners for grants and programs. If we do not, we don't get the grants, etc. Ed Hren will bring those projects before Council when they come available. **Hardin** asked that each Councilperson get a copy of the erosion response at Hyannis. **Williams:** Didn't you send that out already? **Clerk:** Yes, via email. **Hardin** asked it be addressed at a later date.

Motion to suspend made by Hardin seconded by Gaither

YES: Warren, Gaither, Hardin, Sanders, Williams

Motion to adopt made by Gaither seconded by Williams

YES: Warren, Gaither, Hardin, Sanders, Williams

2020-13 A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District for the Public Involvement (PIPE) Program, adopting the 2020-2024 Outreach Strategy and declaring an emergency

Clerk: This is an MOU we do every year. The tree planting was part of this. This year we are doing the Stream Clean Up, we are participating in the flower and tree seedling sale and a few other things. The Village receives points for residents participation.

Motion to suspend made by Gaither seconded by Sanders

YES: Warren, Gaither, Hardin, Sanders, Williams

Motion to adopt made by Gaither seconded by Sanders

YES: Warren, Gaither, Hardin, Sanders, Williams

2020-14 A resolution authorizing the Mayor to accept a grant from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District and declaring an emergency

Clerk: This is the grant for our shred days and for sending out educational materials about recycling. The multi-recycling unit located at Village Hall was purchased through this grant last year.

Motion to suspend made by Williams seconded by Gaither

YES: Warren, Gaither, Hardin, Sanders, Williams

Motion to adopt made by Sanders seconded by Gaither

YES: Warren, Gaither, Hardin, Sanders, Williams

Motion to adjourn by Hardin seconded by Callender

YES: Warren, Gaither, Hardin, Sanders, Williams

Adjourned at 8:10 pm

Approved: March 3, 2020

Johnnie A. Warren
Johnnie Warren, Council President

Debra L. Hladky
Debra L. Hladky, Clerk of Council

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
February 25, 2020

PRESENT:

Johnnie Warren-Council President
Elaine Gaither – Council-at-Large
Chris C. Callender – Ward 1
Eloise Hardin – Ward 2
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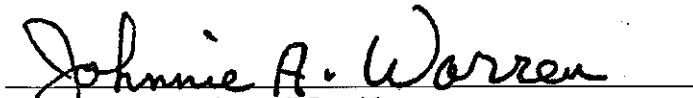
ABSENT:

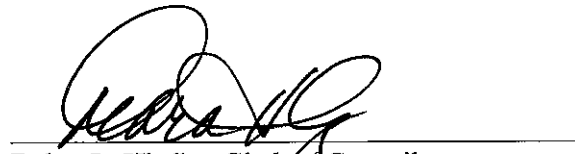
Crystal A Williams-Housing Inspector
James Schade-Fire Chief*

Carlean Perez – Recreation Director
Dan Marinucci-Chief Building Official

No meeting was held

Approved: March 3, 2020


Johnnie Warren, Council President


Debra L. Hladky, Clerk of Council