

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
2023-03-21

ATTENDANCE

Johnnie Warren, President*	Gary Gottschalk, Mayor
Elaine Gaither-At-Large	Jim Climer, Law
Chris Callender, Ward 1*	Brian Thompson, Finance
Eloise Hardin, Ward 2	
Paggie Matlock, Ward 3	Dave Tapp, Fire
Mary Davis, Ward 4	Tim Haba, Service
Candace Williams, Ward 5*	Dan Marinucci, Building

ABSENT

Carlean Perez, Recreation	Ed Hren, Engineering
Mark Garratt, Police	

---

Meeting opened at 7:15pm

*Motion to approve minutes of January 31, 2023 special Council meeting made by Gaither, seconded by Callender.*

YES: Warren, Gaither, Callender, Hardin, Matlock, Williams Abstain: Davis

Motion passed

*Departmental Reports*

**Building-Marinucci:** An LLC owner of a house accused me of being a racist and disturbed Lilly. He was cited with the help of the law director. We are getting more of these. **Hardin** complimented Arron in the Building Dept. for his professionalism. **Marinucci:** Thank you. **Mayor** mentioned a house on Booker that is unlivable but is for sale. **Marinucci:** That property is condemned. **Mayor:** Bedford has 45% rentals. **Marinucci:** We are on it. **Hardin** addressed a pop-up trailer in someone's yard. We have RV's with people living in them. **Marinucci:** We will address it. **Hardin** asked about garbage can placement. I need a newsletter to go out. **Mayor:** My newsletter is close to being done. We will address that. **Hardin** asked about the RVs. **Marinucci** will address those. **Davis** asked about the Bugarcic vacant house on Hickory. Someone is rehabbing the house. **Marinucci:** No one is there every time we visit the house. **Warren** asked about permits. **Marinucci** will check it out. **Matlock** asked about three houses; one regarding trash, another in disrepair, and a third is vacant. **Marinucci:** I will get letters out. I know what you are talking about. **Matlock:** One has a dog. The window frames are sitting on the ground. **Warren** suggested Council members send an email with the street addresses so Mr. Marinucci can address them. **Matlock:** The one has a garage open, but I see a man working on the house. **Marinucci:** We appreciate you letting us know if you see a vacant house. We are also collecting fees from rental properties now. I will send you the list. I don't believe our list is complete though.

**Service-Haba:** We have saved a lot of money with less snowstorms. We will begin cleaning up the flower beds soon. We are ordering 600 tons of salt the last three years as we will do in 2023. We are saving money with milder winters. He told Ms. Davis about a letter he dropped off at the double house regarding garbage cans. **Warren** asked about senior driveways. **Haba:** We did them ourselves this year. We advertise for snowplow drivers, but only got one guy we used Christmas Eve. **Mayor:** On Sunday morning I had to go to Euclid.I-271. The speed was 35 mph. Several trucks spun out. **Haba:** We didn't get anything.

**Fire-Tapp:** The Fire Dept has completed our reporting on the I Schuman explosion and fire and have passed it onto the State. We haven't heard back yet. Environmental people and I Schuman insurance company are there. **Warren:** I gave a

summary to Mr. Pagonakis. The report went well. The communities worked together well with the leadership of our Fire Dept. **Gaither** asked about lead in the ground. **Warren:** The EPA didn't find any as of last week. **Tapp:** Monitoring is continuing. **Mayor** Envirotech and another firm are testing. **Davis** asked if the offices are open. **Tapp:** Nothing is open right now. No one is permitted in the factory.

**Law-Climer:** No report. **Hardin** asked Council to pass a resolution urging congress in the Ohio General Assembly to enact legislation to further protect the citizens from apparent injury from train derailment on the tracks located throughout the city and to urge congress to pass bill 576 the Railway Safety Act of 2023. We have tracks running through Oakwood.

**Finance-Thompson:** We will make the changes on the budget and will amend the exhibit to Council.

**Mayoral-Mayor** spoke about ViewRay's MRI guided radiation therapy machines. He stated on "March 3<sup>rd</sup>, View Ray announced the clinical team at Siteman Cancer Center in Barnes-Jewish Hospital in Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis treated its 2,000<sup>th</sup> patient using the MRIdian, MRI Guided Radiation Therapy System, In January 2014, the Siteman Cancer Center became the first to treat patients using the world's first MRI Guided Radiation Therapy System by ViewRay. The clinical team at Washington University has been a leader in publishing clinical evidence related to treating various cancers including pancreas, prostate, lung, liver, breast, and cancerous tumors that spread to cell tissues and other organs of the body. We are excited to celebrate this key milestone after a decade of productive partnership with ViewRay. The ability to deliver on-table adaptive therapy with MRIdian has allowed us to deliver innovative cancer care to our patients to directly address the inevitable changes and movement that can take place inside the body," said Geoffrey Hugo, Ph. D., Professor of Radiation Oncology and Director of Medical Physics at Siteman Cancer Center in Washington University School of Medicine. "This has brought us greater precision and control in our radiation delivery and truly changes how we treat our patients." On March 7<sup>th</sup>, View Ray announced the Czech Ministry of Health approved the purchase of an MRI Guided Radiation Therapy System to treat its patients at the Military Hospital Prague in the Czech Republic. "The acquisition of MRIdian marks a significant shift in the treatment of cancer patients throughout the Czech Republic and provides a highly sufficient and gentle cancer treatment at a world class level," said Professor Miroslav Zayoral, M.D., Ph.D., Director of the Military University Hospital Prague. "The system offers precision with unparalleled MRI quality, visualization, real-time tissue tracking, and automatic beam control while allowing for adaptation during the planning and treatment process. This allows for delivering the prescribed dose to the target while sparing surrounding healthy tissue. This results in minimizing toxicities typically associated with conventional radiation therapy." Currently 57 MRIdian systems have been installed at hospitals around the world and over 29,000 patients have been treated. Lastly, ViewRay announced on March 14<sup>th</sup> it moved the majority of its cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments held at the Silicon Valley Bank to other financial institutions with less than 5% of their investments still remaining with SVB. ViewRay said it intends to hold a "de minimis amount" with the bank going forward pending the results of SVB's closure and receivership. Secondly, a prominent State Legislator is interested in our new model of education implemented for eight years in the summer camp program which is potentially extending to a year-round learning center. I am excited over this project. It will include classes in mobile video development and management which segways into artificial intelligence, robotics, electronics, exploring careers for girls only, exploring careers in health and medicine, Young Rembrandts painting on canvas, Paul Mitchell hair and beauty class, woodworking, introduction to welding and contracting. I have two institutions interested in providing classes credited. I have to raise \$13-\$15 million, none of which comes from taxpayers' money. He shared a photo of a proposed building which includes bleachers for basketball, pickleball etc. as part of the advanced learning center. A hotel developer is interested in building a third hotel in Oakwood. The Patel Group already has Hampton and Quality Inn. He introduced me to a broker who is looking to build a Starbucks in front of the Hampton on Broadway. I met with five key players from Kroger regarding the movement forward. The roadwork going into the site will be late fall this year and fulfillment of the center will begin spring 2024. I am meeting with top officials of Cuyahoga County Dept of Development and Team NEO. It has been an active week here. **Warren:** The original ViewRay machine in 2003 was \$1 million. It now sells for \$6 million. **Davis:** Does Kroger intend to fix the landscaping on Macedonia Road? **Mayor:** I am meeting with them in about three weeks. That is one of the issues; fertilizing, replacing, seeding, maintaining, irrigating the ground there and

extending it 150 ft. north. If the people hadn't approved it, this wouldn't be happening. We are one of the few communities that tried commercial operations in a residential area. The only reason it happened here is because we are able to screen it all. I expect that to be done by mid-summer. **Williams** asked about the handout. **Mayor:** That is what the educational facility might look like if we secure funding. **Warren** asked about a location. **Mayor:** To the left of Mt. Zion on the Tartabini property. This will be called the Oakwood Advanced Learning Center. **Williams:** Are you saying Oakwood will have a center of learning? **Mayor:** Yes, but financing will be out of Oakwood, and we are getting our children and grandchildren in this as well as sharing it with students in Bedford school. **Williams:** Is this for adults? **Mayor:** Our summer camp is for 8–14-year-olds. Because of our older youth, 9-12 grades, in careers that will be in demand. Last year was the first year we explored careers. A State Legislator is interested in what we are doing. We use the Kahn Academy website with our youth for two weeks. This is phenomenal. The teachers we work with release creativity in the kids they work with. Things have to change in the public schools. We are bold enough to move forward. **Williams:** You are saying Oakwood Village will finance this? **Mayor:** No, not one penny. It will be a non-profit. **Williams** asked the hours. **Mayor:** That is still up for discussion. We will work with the schools on that. Also, at lunch time students will learn to prepare heart healthy menus with Kroger being here for the lunch program. Everything in this facility will be different. **Matlock:** The state should not be running the educational system. This is up for discussion. **Williams:** I don't understand. **Matlock:** Have we discussed this? **Mayor:** No, I haven't raised the money yet. **Matlock:** Have you discussed this with any of our Bedford, Bedford Hts., Walton Hills partners? We need to talk to the school board to utilize this facility. **Mayor:** This will be a model where they can send some of the students to the classes. **Matlock:** We have to invest in our school with the board to make it better. **Williams:** I am not clear, is this separate from the school? **Matlock:** This is separate. Perhaps make this work with the Bedford Schools. **Mayor:** We can in the future. This is not a charter school. Only 5.7% of our doctors are black. Why aren't the schools providing the exploration of health and medicine with our students? My own grandkids would never have been exposed to those fields. My grandson is graduating from Kent after four years will be getting \$100,000 a year for 6 months going to operating rooms assisting them. My daughter is finishing her education at Walsh Jesuit in medicine. The Finance Director's two daughters are going into medicine. Our Ward 1 Councilperson's daughter is interested in medicine. This should be promoted in the schools. Hospitals don't have enough people. This should be an elective for credit. The trades have all been forgotten as well. **Williams:** This should have to do with access – where we invest our dollars. We should invest in African American demographic area. You are looking for \$13-\$15 million dollars for this when you could be getting that money for the school district. **Mayor:** I am not getting \$15 million from the Bill Gates Foundation to put into the School System. **Williams:** You will be in competition with the schools. **Mayor:** We will be working with them. You have to have a bigger vision on this. This could be a model for Bedford and other public schools in the State of Ohio and the country. We could have a class on Police Academy. Cities are hurting for lack of officers. This is only a proposal and I have to raise the money. **Williams:** Has the school district agreed to this? **Mayor:** We are going one step at a time. I have touched on this with them. Our kids could spend half a day at the school and half a day at this center. Why isn't there a class on the U.S. Constitution 101 and the difference between free enterprise and socialism? Very few people understand that. This will be a model. I would think Bedford will tie into this to work together. **Williams:** You have said in the past, Maple built new schools but yet they are still underperforming. Building a new facility but you expect it to. **Mayor:** Maple built new buildings when the population dropped from 38,000 to 22,000. When people are leaving, they are looking for a stronger school district. We can work with Bedford adding things to their curriculum. **Williams:** You expect to partner but haven't gotten partnerships with them. **Mayor:** We have to see if this can even happen. I have to raise the funds first. If this doesn't happen, we will just continue with our summer camp program. **Williams:** The schools have been talking about new schools for a while now. **Mayor:** I can't support that for this year. You can't go to the senior citizens in the district in this financial climate and inflation. **Williams:** How did you determine the location at Mt. Zion? **Mayor:** It isn't going to be at Mt. Zion but to the left of it. **Williams:** How did you determine it would be there? **Mayor:** Like I determined Gods will we brought in ViewRay, Thermo Fisher Scientific IBM Molecular or Oakwood Laboratories. **Williams:** You are going to go for the funds but what if the school doesn't want to be part of it? **Mayor:** Believe me when you see the institutions involved, you would jump at it. I don't want to get into that. **Williams** asked the timeline. **Mayor:** Next fall. **Williams:** I am trying to follow. **Mayor:** We are looking at grades 9-12. Our children, grandchildren, 30 students to a grade with 15 in a class and a total of 120 students plus 50 from Bedford. **Warren:** We can talk about this at a work session. **Williams:** He

presented something in competition with our school district. **Mayor:** You have no vision. It is not in competition. **Williams:** You don't know that. **Mayor:** It will help our inner-city youth. **Warren** stopped the discussion and hit the gavel.

*Open Floor Comments*

**Kevin Williams 7296 Free:** I am elated about how things are shown to me as far as financials and how the city is progressing. I have been here 46 years and watched it grow. I have watched our children go through the Bedford Schools and I think about what the Mayor and Council talk about. Our children do need to expand themselves any way possible. **Warren:** In my generation, we had woodshop, metal and nursing in the Cleveland Public Schools. We can work together to define the possibility of this happening. If the school could adopt the concept without being competitive kids can then come out with a skill. Our market demands skills. I develop contractors. I remember public schools having specific trade training. **K.Williams:** Our school system needs to realize it isn't expanding. You need a skill. We have to implement programs, so they don't go to a different school system. We have to develop our system in whatever possible way. **Mayor:** Artificial Intelligence will take about 45% of jobs in the next five years particularly repetitive jobs.

**Erica Nicholas 7230 Wright:** Regarding the proposal, can you expand on the aspect of recreation. I spend extra money in other programs. **Mayor:** We will see tennis, basketball, volleyball, soccer, pickleball. **Nicholas:** I go to Twinsburg Recreation, and they have a track. **Mayor** asked if she takes advantage of the village discount program. **Nicholas:** I didn't know about it. **Mayor:** Talk to Dee. We encourage our residents to be fit. **Hardin:** The governor is bringing back phonics. **Mayor:** We need math and reading. **Hardin:** That made the news. The worst thing they could have taken out of schools is cursive. The doctrines this country was founded upon. **Mayor:** This model will make our district stronger if it can happen.

2023-8 An emergency ordinance to make appropriations for current expenses of he Village of Oakwood Ohio for the year 2023

First Reading

**Warren:** Once we have the amended exhibit, we can add that and act on it. **Hardin:** Do we have to reference that it is amended? **Climer:** It will say amended.

Motion to adjourn made by Hardin seconded by Gaither

YES VOTE: Warren, Gaither, Callender, Hardin, Matlock, Davis, Williams

*Approved April 25, 2023*

*Debra Hays, Clerk*

*Johnnie A. Warren*