

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
2023-05-09

ATTENDANCE

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

ABSENT

Chris Callender, Ward 1	Carlean Perez, Recreation
Ed Hren, Engineering	

Meeting opened at 7:03pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Warren: The Village internet is down so the agenda could not be printed. Mr. Callender contacted me; he is unable to attend.

Hardin asked if the minutes of February 14, 2023, could be deferred to the next meeting; I haven't read them.

Departmental Reports

Service-Haba: We sent the letter to Steve regarding a communication of appreciation for Steve at Animal Control. He read the email: "Appreciation & Commendation to Steve @ Animal Control. We would like to send our thanks & appreciation to Steve who stopped to help us when my dad fell in his yard. My Dad is doing fine. The fall did not injure him, but he needed help to stand up & Steve was there to assist. Please let him know that he is an asset to Oakwood Village in the service of its residents when he went above & beyond. He has our gratitude. Please contact my mom, Mildred, to let us know that you received this correspondence. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to contact your office. Regina Hardy, Daughter" **Haba** continued, I called the mother and Steve.

Building-Marinucci: No report. **Hardin:** I asked the Building Inspector if I could meet him prior to the meeting. Do we have any control over backyard debris. In our development our backyard becomes someone else's side yard. **Marinucci:** Yes. They are not allowed on the property of the abutting property owner. **Hardin:** That is how I explained it. Some issues are mattresses and other debris which is quite unsightly. **Marinucci:** We can get the address on that. **Hardin:** Do you have a list of vacant properties? **Marinucci:** I prepared a list but there are more we don't know about. We sited a person with high grass but do not know if the person is living there. **Hardin:** I will share what I know since Ward persons know their Ward. **Marinucci:** There are several properties. **Hardin** asked to be kept up to date. I'd like to see the list of rental properties. **Marinucci:** I sent that to you. **Hardin:** I apologize. **Marinucci:** There are rental properties we don't know about. We have a \$100 annual rental fee. We are on top of the LLCs. Some come in and don't know they have to get a permit. We shut them down. To the Council, the Booker house that is condemned, people want to move into it. We want to take it down. I am trying to get funds to do that. **Warren** asked him to get the address to him. **Marinucci** will do that. I want it demolished and a new house built. That is non-negotiable on my end. The owner is out of NYC. **Williams** asked the address. **Davis** asked the cost. **Marinucci:** It would be about \$20,000. **Davis:** Can we send a certified letter and get proof they are gone? **Marinucci:** Everything we do, we do it by certified mail; grass cutting, etc. Certified always come back even if people live there. **Davis:** The original owner is moving back into the Bugarcic property. **Marinucci:** We have had communication with them. I understand there is a good relationship there. Regarding the

Bugarcic property with all the chickens, the complainer is being cited because she has too many chickens. **Davis:** Mr. Bugarcic has his sign out for eggs to sell. **Marinucci:** He has chickens, I just don't know where they are. **Davis:** He is selling eggs in Oakwood again. **Marinucci:** He can't do that. **Climer** mentioned a resident fee. **Davis:** We could contact the Health Dept. **Marinucci:** We contacted them, and they said there are no health issues about the chickens. He also said the neighbor has a lot of chickens too. That started it and we are taking it to the next step. The ordinance says you can have only four chickens; she has eight.

Fire-Tapp: If a resident is home alone and needs us to get inside if an emergency arises, we can put a Knox box on the house. **Davis** asked about the program. **Tapp** explained it to her. **Davis** asked about I Schuman. **Tapp:** We haven't heard any updates. **Davis:** Does the police watch that? **Garratt:** It has been turned over to the state. **Warren** asked if mitigation was completed. **Tapp:** Investigation is ongoing.

Police-Garratt: As you know we have two officers retiring. We are going through the process of putting on new officers. In Independence, the U.S. Secret Service Uniform Division is hosting a job fair. We will be part of that as will Cleveland Police to recruit. We have a nice set up and will promote Oakwood. Channel 19 was at the missing persons unit with SEALE. We have two officers involved in that as well as K-9 officers. We are actively involved and have found 100 missing people over time. It used to be called the Child Response Team, now it is called Missing Persons. We have been advertising on all social media, our network, and police academies to get qualified officers. Sergeant Grant will leave June first. Officer Mitchell in July. The motorcycle is back on the road focusing on residential areas. We cover the truck route. We have a lot of issues on Richmond, Forbes, and Pettibone to curb that. We will begin a detail with the golf cart in residential areas as well. It is important to have the Police bridge the gap with residents. **Davis** asked about trucks on Richmond. **Garratt:** It is usually not repeat trucks. We don't give them a break. It is usually \$250 ticket. They damage wires and the roundabout. The roads are not made for trucks. **Mayor:** It is mostly Kindle and Republic. **Garratt:** Their main truck route is through Oakwood; they usually take Alexander to Pettibone. They can't do that. If they know, they are usually great about it. Generally, we get them one time. **Mayor:** East to I-271 there will be one lane rather than two as an extra discouragement for large vehicles. They have to take Fair Oaks. **Warren** asked about the business list. It might be a good idea to send each business a letter to tell where the restrictions are for truck traffic and weight capacity. **Garratt:** That has been done. The signs flash. We have multiple signs. We will help them turn around, but we take it seriously. Our local businesses know. We update the emergency contact information for our businesses regularly. We don't want them going out of Oakwood into Glenwillow either. We will give them the truck route. A lot of them have a regular GPS and not the truck route GPS equipment. That causes a lot of issues. **Warren:** The WIFI is down so we couldn't print agendas for tonight's meeting. It is the same as it was two weeks ago.

Law-Climer: We finished drafting a proposed contract for the FOP for Council consideration. A lot of work was done between Chief Garratt, the FOP Counsel, and me in clarifying a lot of things. That will be sent out for the next Council meeting.

Finance-Thompson: We hired a key position who will start next week. We will resume our finance committee meetings on May 23rd.

Mayoral Report; -Mayor: Caterpillar Ohio has a \$4.5 million expansion of which we are giving them 49% real property tax improvement. The State has increased that to 75% without notification to the school board. We will amend the legislation to project 75%. That will be on May 23rd agenda. Solfe will be 90%. They manufacture and dispense ingredients for PET scans. They are increasing their facility by \$4 million in Oakwood. It is incredible to have a brand like this in Oakwood Village. We have more research operations here other than Cleveland which has Cleveland Clinic. View-Ray just picked up a military contract at the Czech Republic for an MRI guided radiation therapy system. Three weeks ago, they picked up the Sideman Cancer Center in Cleveland. Two years ago, they picked up Louis Stokes VA Hospital. The Vatican bought one. It costs about \$6 million, and it takes 1.5 years to install. This is the 60th unit sold with 30,000 patients world-wide being treated so far. That will be a 90% CRA which will be before you at the next meeting. I just met

with GM Industrial which formulate, manufacture, dispense, and package liquid products. In USA Today there was an article about them stating 35 of their disinfectant and sanitary products were approved by EPA for Corona Virus. They are looking at expanding to double their \$40 million revenue within three years. I will meet with them again in a few weeks. The Vet Center had their ribbon cutting a few weeks ago which does confidential counseling to veterans and to the family if a combat veteran who may have been killed in action. It is a great federal operation. I was queasy asking them to include spiritual enrichment. The representatives from Washington DC agreed to it and they will promote it. It will take place Wednesday evenings at our Community Center from 6:30-7:30 pm beginning May 31st. We are talking about revival. It includes not only what the Lord has done but getting to know Him intimately now. This will be a great source of comfort. If anyone else is interested in attending, they can. Understand 22 veterans commit suicide every day in the U.S. Counseling is fine but spiritual enrichment will help them get a stronger come back and let go of the issues. I asked the Fire Dept. to put together an organizational chart and you have that before you. It is incredible Walton Hills left Bedford and Glenwillow left Solon both for Oakwood emergency services. We have all full-time paramedics working elsewhere and working part-time here. As paramedics they are licensed to provide drug therapy on scene. It is important to have a much stronger Fire Dept. In Solon they have 80 employees, we have 68. Solon payroll is \$9 million and ours is \$2 million. What a difference. Also, it is interesting with Captains and Lieutenants to support staffing ratio is 9/1 and ours is only 4/1 yet we are saving \$7 million dollars annually. Kudos to the Fire Dept. for the job they have done. They are recognized regarding the explosion at I Schuman with 13 departments responding with over 108 people involved fighting the fire. They all look up to Oakwood. We are beginning UH Hospital advanced training again in our meeting room. They are coming from Cleveland and surrounding areas. **Warren:** It isn't so much looking up to Oakwood but a collaborative effort of all departments. Our department provides support for other communities as well. **Mayor:** Bedford Schools end June 6th and the Janice Kenney Summer Camp begins Monday June 12th for 7 weeks through July 28th. The first three weeks will be as in the past, field trips; Cedar Point, Ziplining at Geneva, horseback riding at Bear Creek Resort, Cleveland Zoo, 5-6 scenic trail hikes through the Metroparks. Amish tours, 10 Clays Park swim resort, and Fun-n-Stuff. The first two weeks in July will begin the educational component building math skills with Kahn Academy, Developing Apps for older participants, Computer assisted design in 3-D printing. Bedford is getting their first 3-D printer, but we have been using ours since last year. Student ages 8 through 16 will be in the camp. The older kids will do data management, artificial intelligence, high-tech programs of engineering, thermos dynamics, creating boats from carboard then floating them, exploring careers in STEM for girls, robotics and electronics, exploring careers in health and medicine with UH Ahuja, Paul Mitchells hair and beauty school, cooking classes with an expert chef and others. One-third of girls commit suicide, and we have a program called girl talk which has been appreciated by the young ladies. The lady who hosts this has had talk shows in both Cleveland and Chicago. The girls love this class. For boys we have Jr. Police Academy, wood craft, google program in 3 dimension and tumble books with math and geography. There are narrations by students. speed reading, and for the first-time constitution 101 with debates. Martial arts, gymnastics, hip-hop, sports dome, fencing, bowling are also part of camp. I mentioned that Chris Ronayne of Cuyahoga County was here in the Village with Ohio Senator Jerry Cirino because we received \$1 million between this and next year form the County for our projects with half-million for Fair Oaks and Oak Leaf as well as \$250,000 for County Road program this year, which is usually \$100,000 each year. We have the Tryon Road project from Richmond to Jean Drive \$237,000 next year. We have helped the County a lot. Interstate McBee was looking at Houston, TX to relocate but they came here from Cleveland. The building is up, and the annual payroll will be \$7 million beginning in September. They make components for diesel engines for military and locomotives. They have been in Cleveland since 1945 and will remain in the County, Other programs are going on; Kroger will begin the road project at the end of this year with the building in the spring of 2024. My patience is running out. Premier is wanting to purchase the land back and have another company be involved. We will have another meeting on how much more we can get from the County on this project. They are interested in the Kroger deal with 700 employees which was to be only 400 employees. Kroger will have small, refrigerated vans delivering west of Pittsburg, north of Columbus and East of Sandusky with the hub in Oakwood Village. Other items of interest are a new 501C3 for advanced learning center tied in with a fiberglass sports complex domed including 4-5 tennis courts, 2 basketball courts, 6 pickle ball courts, an indoor walking trail for residential use. We are looking at the

Tartabini property adjoining Mt. Zion. This is not a charter school but a non-profit that works with Bedford Schools providing a lot of free electives. No taxpayer money is involved. Students would attend the mandatory courses for graduation. Our electives will be accredited for graduation as well. We hope to begin next fall with 9-12 grades with the funds being raised. This will involve our students and grandchildren. Electives may include exploring careers in health and medicine with Ahuja involved. Additionally, we are looking at evening classes and free use of the sports complex for residents. I will have more news on this in six weeks. It has been a busy two weeks. **Hardin:** What legislation was passed allowing us to bypass the schools for tax abatement or has it always been there. **Mayor:** Only if it is 49% or less the school board just has to be notified. However, the State just increased it to 75% in the last month. **Hardin:** Ok. So, you will go to the board. **Mayor:** For Solfe at 90%. **Hardin:** I thought it was View Ray. **Mayor:** No, not them. **Hardin:** I would like to see the figures on the percentage you are asking for. **Mayor:** It varies on the payroll, the percentages, the jobs they are bringing in, and what they are making, or service they are providing. **Hardin:** I would like to know the overall mindset used when you ask them prior to giving it. What went into that, and the actual dollar amounts involved. **Mayor:** That will take some time. The Finance Dept is inundated. Using their base of 1995 as zero, anything coming into the Bedford School District for property taxes, Oakwood brings in more than the three other cities combined because of our incentive program. **Hardin:** You used that statement in the past as to why we do what we do. I'd like to know the actual dollar impact. Then you said we saved \$9 million. **Mayor:** Solon expends \$9 million for their Fire personnel \$9 million with 80 personnel. Ours is \$2 million with 68 personnel. **Hardin:** It is population. **Mayor:** No, between Walton Hills Glenwillow and Oakwood, it adds up. There might be 300 more calls a year. You are looking at a difference of \$7 million. We now increased what we are getting paid by Walton hills because of inflation and will look at Glenwillow as well. **Warren:** They may have 80 and we may have 60. They may have 50 people active 8 hours a day working whereas we have 15 or less. The number of people isn't a direct contributor to that. **Mayor:** The big key is their medical benefits where in Oakwood they are all part time and have no medical benefits. That is a big savings. **Warren:** We are comparing apples to oranges with the reality of service. **Mayor:** At the same time Walton Hills and Glenwillow still want to be serviced by Oakwood rather than where they were prior. **Warren:** We can talk about that later. **Mayor:** The point is our Fire Dept service is second to none. **Hardin:** The other thing is, I want the CRA in any abatement, I would like to know the rationale for the percentages, and I want to see the numbers involved we are asking the board to consider. **Mayor:** We don't have much developable land in Oakwood. **Hardin:** I understand why you do it, to maintain them but these are numbers I want to see. **Mayor:** We have the fourth lowest property tax in the County, **Warren:** We understand that. **Mayor:** I want to tell her why we do it. **Warren:** You need to have that information. If you need an executive session. **Mayor:** There is no need for that, but it may not be done for a month. Brian's plate is full right now. **Hardin:** Also, the schools, I see you moved quite far in projecting the school with the diagram. You mentioned you met with the County and State. Have you met with the board? **Mayor:** Until it is finalized there is no need to. We are talking a sports complex, then the timing, the land, and as it evolves then I can go to the board. **Davis:** You mentioned revivals. **Mayor:** Those will begin the 31st of May. **Davis:** Who will be running it. **Mayor:** Wes Geiger, Cleveland Revival Center. **Davis:** You have the cost, what are we paying for it? **Mayor:** Paid out of the 501C3. **Davis:** The summer camp, who provides insurance for these kids when they are in our possession. **Mayor:** They sign a liability waiver form. **Hardin:** What room are you using? **Mayor:** Every Wednesday. **Hardin:** Does the Council not have it on the third Wednesday? **Mayor:** That won't be happening. Dealing with our vets is much more important. **Hardin:** Oh. **Mayor:** You can have them once a month or every third month. **Hardin:** We have never done that before, why have it now? I have a problem. **Mayor:** Eloise, it is for our veterans. **Hardin:** Mr. Mayor. There is no reason to raise your voice at me. Here is a newsflash just in case you didn't know. There is another branch of government here too. **Mayor:** Let's worry about our veterans. **Hardin:** Then you want to go ahead. **Mayor:** Wednesday nights. **Hardin:** You are the boss. There isn't anyone more patriotic than myself. I have a grandfather, a father, and an uncle who served in WWI and WWII. By the way, don't play politics with me. Pick somebody else. **Mayor:** If you want to play politics with me, it would be interesting to see the number of things that you have voted no on that are very important to Oakwood Village. I have never brought it up so don't bring up politics. It was amazing for me to believe the federal government was willing to have this happen in a federal operation. That is the most important thing. Let's worry about what damage has been done to our veterans. This is a great opportunity to

assist our veterans. **Williams:** Part of a democracy is voting yes or no. Not because you want us to. I don't know what that comment was about. **Hardin:** Unbelievable that you would do that. All the years I have worked with you and never worked against you; you should be ashamed of yourself. I have had.. **Warren:** let me just...(hit the gavel). **Hardin:** He speaks to Council; I am going to leave. **Warren:** You can discuss this with the mayor without holding up the residents' time. There is another room there. I appreciate you bringing that up. Far more important is residents and I respect the fact you have an interest in the veterans. We have an interest in the residents. **Williams** commented on a committee meeting having residents ask questions and get information when they can't make Tuesday meeting. It is political and shameful. **Mayor:** I find it interesting that it hasn't been done in 30 years but now before an election. If they want to do that, that's fine. The Point is Wednesday nights is reserved for the revivalist. **Williams:** People don't always. This is a small space. **Mayor:** I didn't say anything about that. **Warren:** May I comment. One thing we may consider is to evaluate the occupancy for both and I would think you would be at least considerate enough to maybe accommodate the smaller room for the veterans. **Mayor:** I anticipate this being a growing event. **Williams:** If you want the residents, other residents would have come to our community. **Warren** hit the gavel. **Williams** continued: That is a very important point. You are telling the residents they are not able to use a facility they pay for with tax dollars but you're inviting residents from other communities. That is an issue. **Mayor:** We are talking our veterans. Why can't they come here. **Hardin** Mr. Mayor with all due respect, you can call our former Clerk, Debbie, or ask Dee for several years there was a meeting, a standing date. This is not something happening because of an election coming. Trust me. That has nothing to do with what you are thinking. **Mayor:** It was told to me it was every Wednesday. **Hardin:** No. **Mayor:** It is one Wednesday a month. **Hardin:** For years I have done this. At my last meeting we had information. **Mayor:** We can use the small room and see what happens. There is no reason to debate. **Hardin:** The issue you said was we couldn't use it. **Warren:** Ok. **Hardin:** I want your apology. **Mayor:** I apologize. **Hardin:** Thank you. Moving right along. **Warren:** We know we have the third Wednesday of every month. **Williams:** Do we need to review this chain of command? **Tapp:** No. **Mayor:** I thought it would be good for you to see the organization plan for the Fire Dept. that's all. **Warren:** It was brought up at a Council meeting, so we have it now. **Williams:** I asked you for three things. I don't see Assistant Chief; all I see is Chief. I don't see the acting chief. I don't know if there was a promotion since the last meeting. If our former Chief, Jim Schade, is still being paid as chief. These individuals as acting. **Warren:** You have to ask those questions in an executive session. **Williams:** I just want my questions. **Warren:** I am not saying anything specific to personnel. **Williams:** I'm not saying anything specific. I am saying what my second question is. **Warren:** We don't talk about personnel in open forum either. **Williams:** My third question was, if each individual is being compensated in these roles they are performing. **Warren:** That is executive session material. Those could be addressed in that forum. **Williams:** It isn't on the agenda. **Warren:** We have always called for an executive session when warranted As I said last week when you asked about that. **Williams:** It doesn't matter. **Warren** hit the gavel. We are opening the floor for public comment.

Open Floor Comments

Pat Malone 22796 Drake Road: The house at 23300 Drake on the right-hand side isn't taken care of. The grass is usually cut once a year and there are dead trees on the property, He is elderly, but I think something should be done. Nobody lives there and has been empty for years. **Davis** asked if she called the Building Dept. **Warren** suggested the Building Dept inspect the property. **Malone:** The trees are falling and are dead. **Warren:** We may find some assistance. The last thing we need is a deteriorating house from the outside. **Malone:** It is just the property itself not the house. **Mayor:** We had a program in which we can do the work and tack the cost onto the property tax. **Climer:** A notice can be placed at the property and give the owner time to cut the grass. If he doesn't then we can move forward. **Haba:** We have done that on other properties. I will talk to the Building Dept. **Malone:** Regarding Kroger, you said you are tired of waiting. **Mayor:** It is time for them to put up or put someone in there. That is why the County is coming in. I am not waiting two years. They owe us some money. We promised the people the screening would be appropriate, and it is. They owe us money for our youth program. **Warren:** Have you talked to them? **Mayor:** The County is making an agreement on what they will do, what Team NEO is doing to get Kroger off first base and what will happen thereafter. **Malone:** You were very interested in the Albertson deal a few weeks ago. **Mayor:** That is the delay. **Malone:** How much more time will you give them? **Mayor:** I want to see something happening by the end of June, **Warren:** May I say something? **Malone:** Sure.

Warren: The situation with the County and State is, they have asked the mayor for a list of the requested funds and abatements. They will review those. They said they would move on sometime in July. I was at that meeting. **Malone:** Ok. **Warren:** Chris Ronayne is very interested in the project and assisting as is the State Senator and Director of Community Development for the County. They said if we get it timely, they will respond by July. **Malone:** You can have four chickens but no ducks. **Warren:** Ducks are more aggressive. **Malone:** I have seen ducks and chickens back in the day. **Warren:** Do you know someone who wants a duck? **Malone:** No but if I wanted one. **Warren:** This ordinance has existed for a long time. **Malone:** You mentioned one lane, where will that be? **Mayor:** East of the bridge to Macedonia Road, one lane in each direction. **Warren:** How will that work with all the businesses. **Mayor:** There is only one lane going north on Fair Oaks. **Warren:** The traffic jam. **Mayor:** We are timing the lights on Broadway as well. It will be worked out. **Malone:** But **Mayor:** We will not have trucks going on Alexander in neighborhoods otherwise. In addition, we delayed so we could save \$200,000. **Malone:** When you tell me the end of June are your fingers crossed? You have told me we are going to do something year after year. **Mayor:** The project has to begin this year. **Warren:** It is our request you investigate the law to see the administration making a monolithic decision as far as traffic. **Malone:** It will start in June so who will do the work. **Mayor:** The project will begin by the end of June, **Malone:** You have said other things. **Warren** hit the gavel. Can you send a reminder to Ms. Hladky, to send a letter to the Engineer to ask them the status of the bidding of the project. Has the RP gone out and when is the bid opening date. **Hammett:** Ok. **Malone:** All the bid companies are booked. **Warren:** How did we save \$200,000 by waiting? **Mayor:** Chagrin Valley Engineering stated we can save over \$200,000 in the delay. That can be in writing. **Malone:** We had half-million dollars for Fair Oaks. **Mayor:** A quarter-million for Fair Oaks and quarter-million for Oak Leaf. **Malone:** Again, we are dragging our feet in construction. Nothing is being done on either of those. **Warren:** Thank you.

Karen Howse 7201 Glenshire: Is it required to have registration to go out to bid? **Warren:** There is legislation. **Howse:** Has legislation been presented? **Warren:** I believe it has. **Howse:** Was that advertised? **Warren:** The Mayor said the bids came in high, so we are going out again for bid. **Howse:** It was advertised in the paper. **Mayor:** It is over \$50,000 it has to be advertised. **Warren:** The Engineer does that. **Howse:** What was the start date for Fair Oaks. **Mayor:** End of June project will begin, and it will be completed in nine weeks. From Broadway to Alexander can't be done until you have the realignment of the entrance to the cul-de-sac across Alexander to Fair Oaks. That is another reason for the delay. **Warren:** Based on the bid and the contractor, 85% will be done then after the realignment has been achieved. Is that correct mayor? **Mayor:** Yes. **Howse:** Ok. Next question, for the law director. If I am a public official and I have a legislative platform to advertise a personal business, is that ethically proper? **Climer:** I would need more information. **Howse:** Would it be proper for you to use this platform to discuss your personal business. **Climer:** I am not sure what you mean. **Howse:** If you have a grocery store and you come to Council and you talk about your business, is that proper to discuss that at a Council meeting. **Climer:** To my knowledge that wouldn't be anything illegal. Whether it is relevant to public business, that would have to be on the agenda as long as public resources are not being used. **Howse;** it is ok to discuss your private business for profit during a public forum. **Climer:** I am not aware a discussion about that is illegal. It is whether the topic is pertinent to public agenda, that is up to the rule making authorities of Council. **Warren:** Is it ethical. **Climer:** I am not aware it is unethical by the Ohio Ethics Commission, but I would have to research that. **Howse:** I would like to find out what your findings are on that. If you are a public elected official, is it ethically proper to discuss personal private companies that you may be indulging in a public sector in a public form such as a Council meeting. **Climer:** I believe I answered the question. The answer is, I am not aware it is ethically improper. **Howse:** You said you would research that. **Climer:** I said I would need to research that with the Ohio Ethics Commission. **Howse:** Mayor, you mentioned a new 501C3 you have. **Mayor:** it doesn't exist yet. **Howse:** You said a new possible 501C3 is going to be created to create a domed facility, open to the public, in collaboration with Mt. Zion. **Mayor:** No collaboration with Mt. Zion. **Warren:** He originally said it would be, but later said it would not. **Howse:** It is adjoining. **Warren:** It is adjoining. **Mayor:** This is on the Tartabini property. **Howse:** I want to understand why you say in conjunction with when someone is inquiring about something that Oakwood is the fourth lowest residential property tax. It is a good thing but when questions are asked you bring that up often. I am just saying that has nothing to do with Oakwood, **Mayor:** It has to do with the companies that are here and pay their taxes. With having the right companies here. **Howse:** Does it have

anything to do with the County with the property tax? **Mayor:** Yes. The company is spending \$5 million inside the building. **Howse:** They never go inside. **Mayor:** We try to be careful; knowing the people will come into work vs remote working and paying taxes at home. **Warren** explained, based on the property taxes which sufficiently support the operations of the Village. It isn't necessary as other municipalities have to increase property tax pay for expenses of the community, I believe that is what he is trying to say. **Howse:** We know property taxes support the school district. **Warren:** Correct. **Howse:** We rely on income tax. The correlation between property taxes vs income tax. It happens often when talking about CRA. **Mayor:** The whole point is getting the companies with big payroll. **Howse:** That has nothing to do with you. **Mayor:** That's right give all the glory to God but believe me. **Warren:** What he is trying to say is he pursued the businesses to increase the 2.5% with a significant number of employees. It enables us to pay for village expenses. **Howse:** I understand that. It doesn't hurt anything I just was wondering why he says that. I have been quiet but have casually brought it up before. There are various religions. **Mayor:** That is what I would like to see happen in our advanced learning center. The differences between Catholicism, Judaism, Messianic Judaism, Islam. and Mormon. As long as there is no favoritism but getting out the exact facts. **Howse:** It would be compelling; you may not have said it exactly this way, but the federal government gave you approval to have a spiritual connection. **Mayor:** They said they would support having it promoted. They aren't paying for it and it is being done outside their building. They agreed it would be a nice adjunct to the counseling itself. **Howse:** People are free to believe how they want to. What if they are atheistic, they aren't welcome? **Mayor:** It is their decision, they are welcome. They don't have to participate. **Warren** gaveled.

Erica Nikolic 7230 Wright Ave: I have a question about the Janice Kenney Camp. **Mayor:** Janice Kenney was the one in charge of the program. **Nikolic:** I have known parents pulling their children out because of bullying. I wanted to suggest adding team building, social skills, or anti-bullying in front of the camp to get the kids on board, so personalities don't spiral out of control. Kids with special needs as well. **Mayor:** We have a girl talk program but that is later in the program rather than the beginning. **Warren:** she is speaking of an introduction for the kids so that they can understand the harmfulness of kids bullying and being bullied establishing a collaborative between the kids. She is thinking about the one administering the program be mindful of that. **Hardin:** This is the second time. I am leaving here. It is personal and maybe a lot don't care. I try to do my best mayor. I understand but when I respect you to the utmost, I am so disappointed in you. I am taking it personally. We can do this without what occurred here today again. Two of my residents have left. Until and unless we can be civil, and we are going to disagree, and we may think politics is part of this game. Mr. President, I thank you for calling the meeting to order. I want to ask going forward, you address me with the same respect I try to give to you. Yes, I get upset. We are going to talk tonight but this is not worth my health, mayor. I am sure you know; you have worked with me long enough mayor; this is not how we work. I want to go on the record. The things you are bringing to us are awesome, it is a lot of work but to ask you questions about it seems to upset you. That is not how this can work, and you cannot tell this body what is going to happen. Mr. President, thank you. I hope we are all here for the people. I had to get that off my chest. Last time, I had to go to the hospital. I can't keep doing this. You are better than this. **Mayor:** At the same time, in years past, you had a Council President break the gavel pounding it down because people brought food in here and thought it was a joke. **Hardin:** Right. **Mayor:** Very loud and sometimes these Council meetings are now with people screaming. **Hardin:** We aren't going there. **Mayor:** This is completely uncivil. **Warren:** Maybe if you hear the tape again, you may have the revelation it was not a proper response. The whole situation got out of hand. Moving forward we are going to have to maintain the decorum we had and to take over as we did in 1996 putting people out of Council meetings.

Close Floor

Legislation

2023-14 An emergency ordinance appointing Dionna Hammett as Assistant Clerk of Village Council and setting forth the duties of such position

Second reading

Hardin: I want an executive session to talk about this including. **Warren:** This has nothing to do with the conversation now. **Hardin:** The position itself. **Warren:** I think we should move forward. She is working in a position that has not been legislated. **Hardin:** You keep saying she, is this specifically dealing with Ms. Hammett. **Warren:** Yes, it has her name on it. **Hardin:** What do we do with that position if she does not want to do it? **Climer:** She can. **Warren:** She can resign, and we can create legislation for another person. We have nine resumes we have all received to review. We may need a special meeting. I will prepare to discuss it. **Hardin:** I have picked up the resumes and we need to do that. Why haven't we set compensation in it? **Warren:** Because we don't always put compensation with every position. We are just creating the position. It is up to her to accept it because she is already doing it. I talked to her about it already. **Hardin:** The objective is to create the position, so we are legislatively correct without compensation in it? **Climer:** When it was originally created. I did not have compensation information. Then, as I understand it, compensation has to be passed by Council about any additional compensation. **Hardin:** When you said additional. **Climer:** I am trying to finish my thought. **Hardin:** Yes. **Climer:** Whether additional compensation should be paid for the position. I don't remember if I received a final word on that from Council. Council has to amend the ordinance if that is even necessary. It seems the position is being established. We have someone in the interim who can sign legislation when the Clerk is absent. I am sorry if I was short. **Hardin:** I apologize, I understand. I have watched this young lady. It is almost impossible to do both jobs. **Warren:** Ms. Hladky is doing a lot of this including legislation. Dee is just attending Council meetings for the most part. **Hardin:** We have legislation for Hladky. **Warren:** We do. **Hardin:** Ok.

Motion to suspend made by Davis seconded by Paggie Matlock

Hardin: Another question. Back to Dee. I am going on record. Anytime you can't do this, this lady has family. In all fairness, I am asking, the only thing she should do is attend these meetings and record it if she has time. We should not be asking her to do more. **Warren:** That is what she is doing. **Hammett:** I am not doing much now.


Vote: Yes: Warren, Gaither, Hardin, Davis, Matlock Williams asked why compensation was not included. **Climer:** I have not been advised on compensation by Council. **Hardin:** How is she being paid now. **Warren:** That is a matter of personnel. We should have a special meeting immediately to discuss the pay and move forward. It will be presented to her if she wants to continue. If not, we will be without a Council Clerk except for Ms. Hladky. **Hardin:** I don't want to spend a half hour in a work session discussing this tonight. Vote continued: NO: Williams
No motion to adopt was made. **Warren:** We will have it on the next agenda for third reading. We can talk about your contingencies.

Motion to adjourn made by Davis seconded by Gaither.

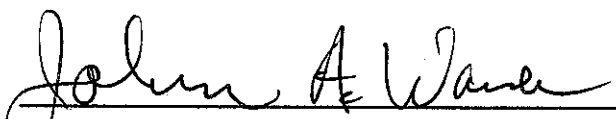
YES VOTE: Warren, Gaither, Hardin, Davis, Matlock, Williams

Adjourned at 9:00 pm

Approved June 13, 2023



Debra L. Hladky, Interim Clerk of Council



Johnnie Warren, Council President