

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
2023-05-23

ATTENDANCE

Johnnie Warren, President
Elaine Gaither-At-Large
Chris Callender, Ward 1
Eloise Hardin, Ward 2
Paggie Matlock, Ward 3
Mary Davis, Ward 4
Candace Williams, Ward 5

Gary Gottschalk, Mayor
Jim Climer, Law
Brian Thompson, Finance
Mark Garratt, Police
Dave Tapp, Fire
Tom Haba, Service
Ed Hren, Engineering

ABSENT

Carlean Perez, Recreation
Dan Marinucci, Building

** Arrived after rollcall*

Meeting opened at 7:01pm
Pledge of Allegiance
Attendance

Departmental Reports

Police-Garratt shared a report from SEALE. He explained, which encompasses Bedford, Bedford Heights, Maple Heights, Garfield, Oakwood, Solon, and Walton Hills. This is from the narcotics unit which conducted a search warrant last week. We found 40 lbs. fentanyl pills, additional fentanyl, cocaine, and 1# meth which equates to 113 grams of meth. That is one of many. We have had a ton of SWAT team calls, this one was on the news. If you need to give an anonymous tip, the number is on the report. You can always call us too. **Davis** asked if the number can be put on the marquis. **Garratt:** Good idea, I can ask Dee. **Davis** thanked him for all the hard work.

Fire-Tapp: One of our firemen was involved in a bad motorcycle accident. He was hit by a suspected drunk driver. He is at Metro and may never walk again. He had a brain bleed, fractured skull, fractured liver, broken ribs, and broken leg. He has been here 18 years. Keep him in your thoughts and prayers, Chief Garratt has more on this. **Garratt:** We made an arrest that night. He did blow over the legal limit. We also reconstructed the accident. The motorcycle was stopped at Fair Oaks and Broadway. The vehicle was coming off the highway. There was no turning of the wheel. The impact was 44 mph. It was extremely devastating. Last I heard he was out on a \$50,000 bond.

Law-Climer: I am here to answer questions.

Service-Haba: A new letter is going out via Waste Management. There is a new schedule after July 4th. Rules are posted on it. He wanted to check with me prior to going to the printer. **Hardin:** There are several cans in violation in my Ward, I think. One was way over the brim. They left the can. Are they leaving them now? **Haba:** Per the contract, they are beginning to implement the rules. **Hardin:** Going forward if they are enforcing the rules, they need to give them assistance. **Warren:** We need them to know if they are reinforcing the rules, then do it for all. There are different drivers too. One may have a great relationship with a resident and may do more for them. **Haba:** I will talk to him. If there is only one bag outside the can, they usually pick it up. Also, a truck broke down on Oakhill. They missed a lot of streets but finished up today. **Davis:** Was there information about bringing cans back from the road? **Haba:** No. **Warren** asked about lawn clippings. **Haba:** They can be put into the green can. **Warren:** I had several bags out. They took them but left a note. **Hardin:** That is a good reminder if it is a violation. **Haba:** The solution is to get another can for \$4 a month through Waste Management. It isn't on this flyer, but I will ask them to include it. There is a family on Forbes Road by Wright Avenue where the neighbor's kids are taking trash from their house and putting it in someone else's can.

Finance-Thompson: At the Finance meeting tonight, we reviewed revenue and expenses through March 31, 2023. One highlight on the revenue is, during the same time last year in comparison, we are up by \$200,000. A couple departments were over ratio but overall, we are under ratio. We started the year at \$236,000 and at the end of March, we are at \$296,000 in the general fund.

Engineering-Hren: I request Council to amend this evening's agenda to include two pieces of legislation. The first authorizes the mayor to accept a grant from the Cuyahoga County Department of Development for Tryon Road Pedestrian Safety Trail Project to construct a walking trail from Lamson and Broadway. There are two separate grants we were awarded: one for \$150,000 and the other for \$50,000. The next Council meeting is in three weeks. I would like to get this project designed, out to bid, and constructed this year. The timing is critical. The second piece is to authorize the mayor to submit a grant application to NEORSD for the Alexander Septic Tank Conversion Project under their 2024 MCIP program. This pays up to 75% of the cost of construction and design. This will extend the sanitary sewer from Painter Road onto Alexander to service the last remaining properties in Oakwood which are on septic tanks. We had a resident come to us earlier this year who received a notice she had to replace her septic tank. I reached out to the Board of Health. They are backing off in recognition that we are seeking funds. I am seeking funds from OPWC but that application isn't due until September. In the meantime, another program we became aware of, the MCIP program, is also a funding source for this. We met with the NEORSD. We are applying for 75% of the cost. They also allow funding for residents to make that connection. No other entity does that. The total project cost is \$438,000 and our request is \$328,500 to NEORSD. The balance would be the Village responsibility. We will apply to OPWC for the balance. The goal is to get as close to zero as possible. This is the first year they have required legislation. They required legislation to accept the grant, but they want this as well for the submission of the application. **Williams:** Is there a percentage the Ohio Public Works covers? **Hren:** They will cover up to 90%. We look at the scoring criteria which are various proponents; number of residents being serviced, overall cost, the fact we are getting 75% of the funds from elsewhere is a big bonus for us. We will most likely go to the small government subcommittee which serves Villages under 5,000 populations. We will not be competing with the bigger communities. We have been very successful every year. I am optimistic. **Warren:** Oakwood is known to be successful every time we have gone to them for funding. That is how we got the one phase of Richmond done. We were on a contingency list for Lamson. The money they didn't award to other municipalities, they gave to Oakwood the following year. It is because we perform. I didn't know we had septic systems in Oakwood. **Hren:** There are about a dozen. **Davis:** Where will the Village get the money to pay the difference and it is for this year or 2024. **Hren:** Good question. Funds will be available January 1, 2024. It used to be a reimbursement program but is now a direct disbursement. Much like OPWC we authorize the payment. It comes directly from them. The Department of Development Departmental Grant and Supplemental Grant have always been reimbursement basis. We will be applying for OPWC funds which typically do not become available until July 1 of the following year. We would use the NEORSD funds to design the project and have the plans ready to bid July 1, 2024. That benefits us because one of their criteria is readiness to proceed. When we apply for this project, we will let them know these plans will be ready July 1. We will indicate we will bid this project June of 2024 and not wait to award contract until July 1st. This works for our benefit. As Council President indicated, they are looking for communities to take the money and perform. **Davis:** Has the resident been cited? **Hren:** We have been working with the Health Dept. There are several tanks on Alexander which failed their inspection. They are benevolent and are working with us. They won't force these residents to replace their systems. **Warren:** Usually the resident has to pay to tie into the line. It is good this grant will supplement that. **Hren:** Residents who tie in the first 90 days will receive the benefit. This gives people an incentive to take this money. **Davis:** Will we send out all that information to the residents? **Warren:** We will have estimates for the residents. We can get the cost from the contractor doing the lateral for the tie in. **Hren:** We have done that before on other projects. **Hardin** asked about Forbes project. **Hren:** Forbes is scheduled for 2024. That project is being funded 80% by the county and the balance split between Oakwood and Bedford Heights. Last year we applied for OPWC to help reduce the 20% even more. We secured about \$400,000. It is a joint application between the county, Bedford Heights and Oakwood. We also petitioned the county to take that improvement all the way to the bridge. It previously ended before the concrete section which is the worst part of that roadway. **Hardin** asked about the bridge. **Hren:** The walking bridge was inspected last year. One of the pads is deteriorated, nothing dangerous, and some planks have been replaced. We will inspect it again this summer. We inspect it

periodically. **Hardin:** Has the 80% been obtained? **Hren:** Funds are available July 1, 2023. We applied last year because the county is on a different bid timeline. Plans will be ready to bid in November. He continued: Broadway is slated for 2025. **Hardin** asked about Somerville. **Hren:** We have not received direction from Council or the Mayor to prepare plans or specific actions for Somerville. **Hardin:** We had Ms. Williams here, and the Mayor did say Somerville was in line. **Hren:** I do not have legislation to do Somerville. **Warren:** You evaluate the streets. What about Arbutus. **Hren:** That was one my team looked at and they said that is the worst street they have ever seen. **Warren:** Booker and Arbutus were done at the same time, but Arbutus is horrible. **Hren:** We prepared a list because Cleveland requested all our streets be evaluated and rated before they perform the lead service connection replacement program. We just completed that evaluation a week ago. I can put that in an attachment and distribute it to Council. **Hardin:** I am serious, a couple residents called your office. **Hren:** Remember I am not the money guy. I ask for permission to apply for money. **Hardin:** We will deal with the inspections. **Davis:** Thank you for your hard work in getting grants. What a money saving for our village. We appreciate it, it is hard to do. **Hren:** Thank you. **Warren:** It is expensive too. We get 80—90% grants for our infrastructure. We are now going back to the streets we did in 1996. The deterioration never ends even though we maintain them. **Hren:** Fair Oaks bids were opened Thursday. The lowest bidder was Vandra. The letter of recommendation was sent to the Board of Control and Council with those bid tabs. It is a local company. It came in a lot cheaper than we thought. We set a completion date. There is still a 60-day closure date on the project. We allowed them to start anytime they want as long as it is completed by November 1. Once we award the contract, we will establish a schedule and calendar. Last year, that project came in at \$1.3 million. We removed the realignment and signal portions until we get additional clarity from the funding agencies. This is a stand-alone project. The \$800,000 of which \$250,000 is from ARPA, our County Council Representative assisted. We have a \$500,000 20-year zero percent loan from OPWC and \$300,000 from OPWC. Obviously, it exceeds \$800,000. OPWC allows you to tap into all the grant funds first then utilize the loan funds. We will get \$550,000 in grants and the balance of \$250,000 or a little more will be the loan. About \$12,500 a year. **Hardin:** Can we get a summary of the projects you reviewed today and a breakdown of the funding. **Hren:** I've done that before. **Williams:** When does Fair Oaks bid begin. **Hren:** We advertised it end of April. We opened bids Thursday. **Williams:** When does that end? **Hren:** It's done. The highest bid was \$869,000 and the lowest was \$809,000 which is a local company, Vander Brothers. **Williams:** When are they expected to start? **Hren:** We don't know yet. We will talk with the contractor. They indicated they would meet the completion date of November 1.

Open Floor Comments

Erica Nikolic 7230 Wright Ave: I have a question about the Tryon walkway from Lamson to Broadway. Are there plans to do it from Lamson to Richmond? **Hren:** Not at this time. **Nikolic:** Will that be in future plans? **Hren:** Potentially. We may do other grants for those costs. **Warren:** We did Broadway from the bridge to Tryon. The next year we went from Tryon to Pettibone. The following year we did from Pettibone to Richmond Road. It was in three phrases. It is a lot more expensive to go to Tryon due to the bridge.

Close Floor

Motion to add resolution 2023-17 to today's agenda emergency resolution to authorize the mayor to apply to Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District for a grant funding capital improvement project made by Davis seconded by Gaither
YES VOTE: Warren, Gaither, Callender, Hardin, Matlock, Davis, Williams

Motion to add resolution 2023-18 to today's agenda a resolution accepting funding awards for 2023 community development supplemental grant program 2022 community developmental block grant and authorizing the engineer to begin preparation of plans and specifications to advertise for bid for Tryon Road Safety Trail Project in the Village of Oakwood and declaring an emergency made by Hardin seconded by Gaither
YES VOTE: Warren, Gaither, Callender, Hardin, Matlock, Davis, Williams

Legislation

2023-14

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE APPOINTING DIONNA HAMMETT AS ASSISTANT CLERK OF COUNCIL AND SETTING DUTIES FOR SUCH POSITION

Third Reading

Warren: The wages are not included in the legislation, so we will table it and act on it at a later date.

2023-15 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD AND THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, LODGE #67 THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR 2025 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

1st Reading

Hardin: Is there anything different from the previous contract. **Garratt:** Yes. This contract deals with longevity. Some officers were getting percentages while others were getting fixed rates. They have negotiated for all percentages. They added Juneteenth as a holiday. The FOP agreed not to increase the clothing allowance but did increase pay rates for the next three years. The first is this year for 3%, next year 5% and the following at 6%. **Climer:** We cleaned up a lot of unclear language with no substantial changes. **Warren** suggested giving Council time to digest it and compare it to the previous contract. **Garratt** agreed.

2023-16 A RESOLUTION OF GRATITUDE FOR DEDEDICATED SERVICE OF ALFRED GRANT TO THE VILLAGE OAKWOOD

Motion to suspend made by Hardin seconded by Gaither

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

Motion to adopt made by Hardin seconded by Gaither

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

2023-17 AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY TO THE NORTH EAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT FOR A POTENTIAL GRANT TO FUND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Motion to suspend made by Davis seconded by Gaither

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

Motion to adopt made by Hardin seconded by Davis

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

2023-18 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING FUNDING AWARDS FROM THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY UNDER THE 2023 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT PROGRAM 2022 COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE ENGINEER TO BEGIN THE PROPARATIONS OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE TRYON ROAD SAFETY TRAIL PROJECT IN THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion to suspend made by Matlock seconded by Hardin

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

Hardin: You are good at what you do. Thank you sir. **Hren:** Thank you, that means a lot.

Motion to adopt made by Gaither seconded by Matlock

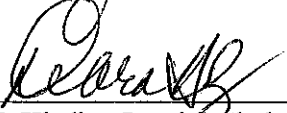
YES VOTE: Warren, Gaither, Callender, Hardin, Davis, Matlock, Williams

Motion to retire into executive session for the matters of fire personnel compensation made by Davis seconded by Williams. YES VOTE: Warren, Gaither, Callender, Hardin, Davis, Matlock, Williams

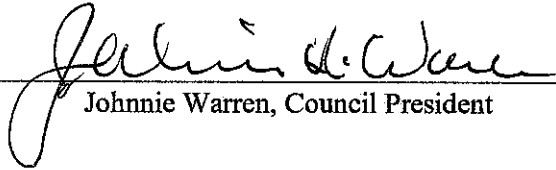
Adjourned to executive session 8:47pm
Reconvened meeting at 8:47p

Motion to adjourn made by Gaither seconded by Matlock
YES VOTE: Warren, Gaither, Callender, Hardin, Davis, Matlock, Williams
Adjourned at 8:47p

Approved June 13, 2023



Debra L. Hladky, Interim Clerk of Council



Johnnie Warren, Council President



The house where the guns, drugs and money were seized is in the middle of a residential neighborhood close to a playground, library and church.

The SEALE Narcotics Task Force is a multi-jurisdiction drug task force that includes the cities of Maple Heights, Garfield Heights, Bedford Heights, Bedford, Solon, Walton Hills and Oakwood.

Anyone with information about illegal drugs is encouraged to call 440-735-6595