

**VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
2023-09-12**

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
James Climer, Law Director

Gary V Gottschalk, Mayor
Dave Tapp – Fire Department
Tom Haba, Service Director
Brian L. Thompson– Finance Director
Daniel Marinucci, Chief Bldg. Official
Mark Garratt, Police Department

ABSENT

Ross Cirincione, Prosecutor
Carlean Perez – Recreation Director
Ed Hren, Village Engineer

Meeting opened at 6:58pm by Warren
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call taken

Motion to approve Council minutes of August 22nd, 2023, made by Callender seconded by Matlock
YES VOTE: Warren, Callender, Hardin, Matlock, Williams ABSTAINED: Gaither, Davis
MOTION PASSED

Motion to approve special meeting minutes of August 28th, 2023, made by Gaither seconded by Matlock
YES VOTE: Warren, Gaither, Matlock, Davis ABSTAINED: Callender, Hardin, Williams
MOTION PASSED

Motion to approve special meeting minutes of August 29th, 2023, made by Davis seconded by Matlock
YES VOTE: Warren, Gaither, Callender, Matlock, Davis ABSTAINED: Hardin, Williams
MOTION PASSED

Warren: Any correspondence? **Tanya:** No, sir. **Warren:** Ok let's start with our departmental reports, Mr. Haba.

Departmental Reports

Service-Haba: Yes, sir, thank you Mr. President. Preconstruction begins today on the pedestrian safety trail on Tryon. They are starting on the 18th of this month and completing in forty-five days maybe sooner. I'm sure the Mayor will have more on that, he's been up and down Tryon a few times in the past couple weeks talking to residents. Our computer, paint, and tire pick up was today and it was a lot less than previous years. We don't know why but we only had about 120 tires today. Paint and computer parts were less than normal. That is all I have. **Warren:** Your paints had to be oil based though, everyone is mostly using latex. **Haba:** Yea that's true but they still have latex they put out there. **Hardin:** So, if I saw paint on my way up here that means that... **Haba:** It's probably latex. **Hardin:** And you left it? **Haba:** Yea we left it. On the paper it says all they have to do is just pop the lid open if it's out already and just throw it in the garbage. If it is not solid, take the lid off, let it dry out for a weeks or two, or put some kitty litter in it, then throw it in the regular garbage. **Hardin:** Is it not going to impact certain homeowners? **Gottschalk:** I'll answer that question when it gets to me. **Warren:** He said that he had talked to the residence and everything. Tommie did in his report the Mayor talked to the residents

about the trees and their driveway and things of that nature. **Hardin:** I will reserve my comment after the Mayor speaks then Tommie I would like to go one record, could you officially ask Waste Management not to compact the trash...

Haba: I called them and left a message this morning. **Hardin:** Ok, but like what else do you need? That is unacceptable to keep doing that, it's nasty. **Haba:** I mean they have to compact it every so often. The way she explained it wasn't right on the message, but I am not so sure. **Hardin:** My understanding is he compacts it there because it's just before he goes in for the evening. A few more feet he would be at their property. **Haba:** I'm not sure if that is the case but I will talk to a supervisor. **Hardin:** We don't want him compacting in our streets it's nasty. **Haba:** Sometimes I think they have to compact it though. **Warren:** Ok, may we hear from our building official.

Building-Marinucci: I have no report, but I can answer questions if you have any. **Davis:** The house on Drake Road, that Mr. Rhodes brought to your attention about a month ago, has anything been done to it? **Marinucci:** There's nothing we can do about it that's number one. Number two, I met with the architect, and I think the contractor stole the money and ran personally. Not that long ago the architect, very skilled, dropped a completed set of plans off and I approved them. They were very well done but I have no idea if the contractor is going to do the work. I was in contact with the homeowner and met with him personally and my heart goes out. We can't make the contractor do the work. Only thing we could do is, and I did it, I expanded his permit without charging him any fees. Because I don't want to put him in bankruptcy. He got one year with the permit, and it's still not started. It's open and I fear the worse. Before this particular project started I sat down with the homeowner and the contractor, we had everything on board. His architect had good plans, everything was first class, he spent a lot of money for blinds. I could call him again but that is the only thing I can do. The homeowner is a very nice gentleman. **Davis:** So, they haven't done anything since before our break? **Marinucci:** I think the contractor is running away and he's going to lose all of his money. Those kind of lawsuit don't return, so I don't see a good result there. **Davis:** We just had a new house put up for sale on Garden Road, a Policeman's. **Marinucci:** He was in the other day; I think for a point-of-sale maybe. **Davis:** Do you guys go in for a point-of-sale? **Marinucci:** We are not allowed to go inside unless the homeowner allows it. I don't know if he's allowing it. If he fills out the form and allows it, we will go inside. **Davis:** Now he's the one that has the gutters draining to Mr. Schuster's. So, can that be stopped at all? **Marinucci:** That issue is not going to go away. It's never going to go away; the complaint is low in elevation. What they both should do is, they both should get together and put a drainage system in. he likes to complain, the house on the left. There's a lot of water going down into the separation of the two parties. What makes a drain as well impossible is there's a huge tree right on the line. A part of the tree is on the complainant's side and part on the property that's being sold. But that has been going on for years. **Davis:** If the gutter is being aimed towards the lower property, you're allowed to do that. **Marinucci:** No, it's a gutter that's on the... **Davis:** Garage, I'm talking about the garage gutters. **Marinucci:** There's a lot of water going in there just from the difference. **Warren:** Does the gutters have a splash block? Why don't he have the splash spot go away... **Marinucci:** Agreed and I will make that happen, but the issue is not going away. **Warren:** We know the issue is not going away, but at least it will reduce it. A down spout, drainage and water can be directed as much as you can with the splash block. **Marinucci:** We went out there when it's raining, and the complainant is not correct on a lot. But I agree with that issue. **Davis:** So, you will take care of that? **Marinucci:** I will tell him to take the splash block and turn it 90 degrees. **Davis:** Ok, I have not seen reports from you guys driving around, have we had one for a long time? **Marinucci:** I'll get it of in the morning, he's been doing that every week. **Davis:** Ok, thank you. **Warren:** Any permits recently? Have you received applications for permits? **Marinucci:** Yes, all the time, a lot is commercial land, and the commercial land is beautiful. Just to give a moment on *Agmet*, we allowed them to go fast track and the demolition before we got the plans to do the steel. It's going well, they got the steel drawings, they've been approved. It's a \$10 million project and it is on schedule; it might be \$11 million to be honest with you. The game plan is to be operational January 1st, 2024. If they don't meet that, they will be in final testing on that date. That as you know is all about pollution and I'm impressed with the drawings. They are putting two steel buildings up, but they are more housing to house the equipment. They are a great company, and it is going very well. We recently received permit request regarding additions and stuff like that, but you don't care about stuff like that. **Warren:** We care about them, it's nice to hear people are adding on to their houses instead of just moving out. **Gottschalk:** We'll get into that in a minute too. **Marinucci:** I am going to just send you this because it's bothering me personally. I want you to take a look at a recent small home. It's something that I really want to fight against. **Davis:** You said we have one of these coming in?

Marinucci: No, but they are coming. The manufacturers at the state level in the industrial unit division of the Department of Transportation are going to get these things approved. Once they get that stamp on it, they come in. You don't want that next to your home, I don't want them anywhere. I think it's going to demean the value. I think there is going to be a reduction. There's enough, we still have vacant homes, still have houses that are going to be taken down in this village. If you are going to spend \$15,000.00 just to take down a home, they are going to jump on that. We have been doing some research and we found out the cost of these things is realistically, not a savings. The contractor is charging the same amount of money to build so there's a lot of profit here. The selling point is they get it up in two months verse six months. So, the selling point is time, but they are not giving you a break. You know when I told the Mahoning County Justice Center what we did. We had a manufacturer from Virginia to build these cans, and they were just tin cans. There were 432 of them and you run them on a crane, and you set them in place. That's all the cells and everyone had a toilet, all the amenities. The reason they did it that way versus building them in Cleveland, is the cost savings. It's cheap to build, these things are done by \$15.00 an hour in a factory. So, you don't have weather delays, you don't have the labor portion you are dealing with, so they are cheap to make. So, the contractors are charging a lot of money on this. So, that's what's going on and we are trying to keep them out. **Warren:** Do you have a blueprint or plan of them? **Marinucci:** I didn't see blueprint of them yet. **Warren:** I'm just trying to figure out what width things are. **Gottschalk:** There are fifty different models coming, I will get into that as well. We are counting on the Law Director and Dan to get regulations in place to not have this happen in Oakwood. Believe me this is only the beginning, it's happening everywhere. I will expand on this in a minute. **Hardin:** Give me a call on Somerville, I've been told any number of times a permit is good for a year. I want to know how close we are to a year. The house on Somerville where the Police had to serve them notice. **Marinucci:** The one with the gutters and all that kind of stuff? **Hardin:** Yea, what's going on there? **Marinucci:** I don't know, I do know we served him. I do know there has been correspondence, so I will check. **Hardin:** Today is Tuesday, by Friday I would like a follow up. **Marinucci:** Yea I'll mention it to Aaron. I know something is going on, they have been notified in court, they have got to figure it out. **Hardin:** I know this is not my work but what's going on, on Tryon? The house that was brought down, who paid for that? **Marinucci:** I don't know we didn't pay for it. **Hardin:** Ok, as long as we didn't pay for it. **Marinucci:** I do know we had all kinds of issues associated with that. It was taken down, you needed the demolition permit, stuff from the County with the sanitary and stuff like that. So, I know that was an ongoing issue for a while. It's completely down and everything. **Hardin:** It was seeded, it's a lovely lot. **Matlock:** What about the house next door? **Marinucci:** Don't know, there's more that has to come down. Trouble is if I want to pay for it. **Hardin:** But that house is occupied isn't it? **Matlock:** Which one? **Hardin:** The one you asked about. **Matlock:** No, it's not, it has been empty for a while. **Marinucci:** The one you are talking about I wish I knew somebody was living in it. **Hardin:** Ok, thank you. **Warren:** May we hear from our Police Chief.

Police-Garratt: **Garratt:** I reported to you guys a couple weeks ago that since June we've had over 8500 calls. A lot of the cities around us have been plague with some serious crimes. Fortunately, we kept a lot of those crimes from coming into our town. We helped out Maple Heights with a triple homicide at Stafford Park they had last week. In a nutshell, there was a church picnic where an ex-boyfriend came and shot the ex-girlfriend. She was pregnant, she passed away, the infant died. The boyfriend ran and hid in a bathroom, where the shooter chased him down and killed him in the bathroom. he was taken into custody. It came out as an active shooter, we sent two cars out there, we had four of them. That's generally how we work things out. It's been very, very busy. Maple if you remember this year, had this picture of someone shooting out of the car in the middle of the day. They really have it rough over there. Their staffing is extremely low. They were forty-eight officers at one point now there are twenty-six of them. When they do get people they move on so quickly. The other thing is if you heard on the news we deployed our MPU unit. As you know we are one of the seven cities in S.E.A.L.E., and within S.E.A.L.E., we have a missing persons unit for a twelve-year-old girl that ran away. There were actually two twelve-year-old girls that ran away. They were looking for the most dangerous areas of Cleveland and Chicago because they wanted to hang out. We worked with the F.B.I and U.S. Marshals office. We did locate her a day and a half later in East Cleveland in a house. She was unharmed and hopefully we can get her back and get counseling, it's just been very busy. The Captain and I just want to keep them out of our borders. We used to be named a high traffic enforcement town and we are, and there is a reason for that. If you come through Oakwood usually you'll see a Police Officer. **Gottschalk:** Be truthful Chief we were considered the speed trail. **Garratt:** That was because of Interstate 271,

but we still enforce the laws and other violations too. You see Police stopping traffic, I like that, and want to continue that. Because if you think about doing something ill and you see a lot of Police cars, you will go to the next city. We keep that reputation and I'm not saying we are not going to get crimes like that. However, we have been pretty good at keeping it away from here. For example, Bedford right next door had three or four homicides alone this summer. It's just busy and that is just the big stuff you hear about, there's stuff you don't. I don't want to bring doom and gloom, but everything is going well. The Police Department we are taking care of ourselves and our residents. We don't have anything signed up for Citizen Academy yet, but we are looking to do it in the fall. If we get enough participation, we'll do it again. **Matlock:** I just really want to thank you and your staff. Since my incident, they are up there all the time. I really want to thank you because right now I may be living in a hotel for four months. They come on the premises, luckily they did on Sunday. My car was locked with the dog in it, and it was on. The dog was in the car, and I was like oh my god the keys are in the car. He got in and he got it out so thank you so much for checking on us. **Hardin:** I will make this quick, I think we in Oakwood invented the saying "if you see something, say something". Along with our services here, I think the citizens have been conditioned to the type of services we receive. The reason I say this is, there was something that I observed, and I said I wasn't going to say anything. Come to find out another resident observed the same thing and contacted the Police Department. If there's anything suspicious or out of the ordinary, we pay attention. As a result, your Officers were on it because we are aware of our surroundings, so thank you. **Garratt:** We can't solve crimes without the participation of the public. We really can't, this is why one hand washes the other. For us to do our jobs we need input from you guys and assistance, it works well. We have a core group of Officers; they are very obligated to Oakwood. They very much care for and about this community. **Hardin:** I gave you your compliment last meeting, with the storm. They stayed in the neighborhood; they did not go back to the station. They were available, they were actively looking for situations that they could be of help with and again, thank you. **Garratt:** Speaking of active looking. Service Director Haba did not brag about his detective skills with the concrete dumping. It was all the way down Pettibone and around the roundabout. It took a team effort with the service and us to find out who was dropping the concrete. He cleaned it up as usual and he was down chasing this truck all over the place. It wasn't even a concrete truck. It was actually a regular utility truck that a concrete company nearby poured it in the back for them, and it was pouring out. **Hardin:** Thank you. **Davis:** Thank you, thank you. **Callender:** I also wanted to give you guys props as well. No job is too small. There was a missing dog in our neighborhood and you guys came out, in the dark, with flashlights and found the dog. You made the people very happy so, thank you. **Gottschalk:** What was the name of the dog? **Callender:** I don't remember, but I do know it was the first day that the family had that dog. **Gottschalk:** We have been getting a number of calls from the residents in the Meadows appreciating the presence of the Police. **Garratt:** Well, that's really what I want to continue to do, that keeps the crime out. **Warren:** Anyone else? May we hear from our Finance Director.

Finance-Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, just to recap, we had a finance meeting today. Some of the highlights we looked at are our cash position, we are approximately \$236,000.00 at the beginning of the year. We ended with an unexpended balance of \$683,000.00, after encumbrances it was at \$465,000.00. Total of all funds was approximately \$420,000.00 and I ended through mid-year about \$1.2 million dollars. Quite a bit attributed, our income taxes were up from prior year by about 7.15%. All of our general fund departments are within their budget over all as a collective general fund. Just on a final note we close out our note bill at approximately 4.0% interest rate, which is pretty good. So, that's all I have to report thank you. **Hardin:** I apologize, I wasn't at the last meeting when legislation 2023-29 was passed. I talked to the Mayor and because it involves finances, that's why I'm bring it up now. I would like for the Law Director to look at that legislation again. When we went over that particular legislation, it was stated, and it's a matter of record. That Oakwood had an obligation to pay a certain amount. The Mayor made the comment that, that would be recovered with the project that came in. Do you recall Mayor? **Gottschalk:** Yes. **Hardin:** Ok, I would like for the Council to think about this. I think it should be in the legislation Mr. Law Director, that our portion should be recovered by the project. **Warren:** Any other questions? May we hear from our Fire Chief.

Fire-Tapp: Thank you Council President. Just like the Police Department, call lines are through the roof. A lot was due to the storm that came through. We had a lot of down power lines, a lot of false fire alarms, thank god no bad fires. COVID-19 is on the rise, so we are back up 20% on ambulance calls right now. So, we are taking all precautions over at

the station and the squad to protect ourselves from COVID-19. That's about all I have to report. **Warren:** May we hear from our Law Director.

Law-Climer: I am happy to answer questions. **Warren:** May we hear from the Mayor.

Mayor-Gottschalk: What adjective do you normally use before you say Mayor that you didn't use this time? **Warren:** The illustrious. **Gottschalk:** Ah, there it is. First of all, I would have facetious with being perceived as a speed trap. It's great having that perception, it keeps a lot of troublemakers out of Oakwood Village. Secondly, excellent news from the Finance Director in terms of much higher level of receipts from taxes coming from Oakwood. This is reflected in some of our neighboring communities. The property taxes are a percentage of residential market value assessed by the County. For example, Orange is 13% higher than Oakwood, Glenwillow is 19% higher than Oakwood, Bedford and Bedford Heights are 28% higher than Oakwood, Warrensville Heights is 40% higher than Oakwood, Maple Heights is 60% higher than Oakwood, and Garfield Heights is 80% higher than Oakwood. Again, Oakwood is a very nice place to live and work and that is what you see reflected. In order to maintain this, what we originally call container houses are now being called tiny houses. You asked about the size we are looking at three hundred and fifty square feet, to maybe four or five hundred. With additions, and additions you could get up to maybe eight hundred. But the normal size is three hundred and fifty square feet. Again, this is the answer to the affordable house crisis, is what it is being promoted as. Tin cans is what we call them, but they are hardly that anymore. You can have a gourmet kitchen, big loft bedroom, living room with a fireplace, unique green cabinetry, and they no longer have to be built there. They are now being built on wheels, we are talking triple axel trailers and they can wheel them in from anywhere. They buy the land, and they can wheel it right in and it's up. Oregon and Maryland alone have a fleet of over fifty tiny houses in their warehouses. Now even more worrisome is the idea of these prefab factories that are now being put up. To put add-on's to homes in these operations that don't even match. That is why it is really important that our Law Director and Building inspector can get something that will be as tight as it can be, to try to avoid some of this. I think I have pointed out already before in Bedford they have 40% of their homes being rented out. So, it's really essential that we being the lead, and fortunately we don't have a whole lot of land left available for this but would be on top of this. Areas that do have land like Pepper Pike could be open to a lot of problems. This could be big trouble and it is becoming bigger and bigger and bigger. **Warren:** Now that our home values are escalating because of the types, quality, and size of the homes. We can't let these types of homes come here because it's going to decrease your property value. **Gottschalk:** It's just not fair to the homeowner next door that spent a lot of money on their homes. When all of a sudden there is something coming in that is far, far less than that, or looks like it. Lastly, we were talking about the all-purpose six-foot-wide concrete safety trail. First on Broadway to Lamson. We received \$150,000.00 from County in a block grant and \$50,000.00 in supplemental grant from the County. We are looking at probably \$39,000.00 estimated for what Oakwood share would be. It is essential, we nearly had a young lady clipped the other night, a close call from a car coming down the from Tryon Road. It is a very narrow strip. Police Chief has been very helpful with putting together a letter that I've given the residents who are being affected on this. It lets them know the essentialness of having this there, it's really a safety issue, there's no doubt about it. I think some of you that use this pathway coming here, particularly in the evening and when it's bright out. You can easily get distracted, and you can nearly clip somebody. **Hardin:** I guess my concern is you made some inroads already moving right along with this, I can only speak for myself. I would like to see the actual proposal. **Gottschalk:** This is already far beyond; this was discussed by Council some time ago. In fact, this Monday, every resident that is affected is going to have twenty feet of their drive turned into concrete, rather than whatever it might be, whether it's asphalt or cinders or whatever else. This is from Broadway to the fire hydrant before you get to Lamson. At the same time, within a few days of that, there will be a trail. A pathway, a midpoint of the trail will be three feet on each sides. **Hardin:** Stop right there, you have to bring the people with you. **Gottschalk:** There were only three people I haven't met that this will be affected. **Hardin:** But everybody is going to have it happen, right? **Gottschalk:** No, we are talking about the people who would be affected with the trail. Again, this is a huge problem here we have to deal with. **Matlock:** You said you only have three more residents in that area who are going to be affected by this walkway. **Gottschalk:** Yea, they weren't home. **Matlock:** You said you have a letter that was made up, I wish I was involved with that. I know we already put everything in, we got the grants for. The decision was going to be made on which side of the street would be more feasible to put this walkway on. But before this

walkway was going to be put on. I thought we would be able to talk to the residents to let them know this is what's going to take place. Also, to get some feedback from them on which side of the street do they feel, they need to be brought into this process. So, everyone is one board with it. We all know it's needed because I almost hit a person on the street. I almost hit a kid, who had headsets on and couldn't hear and it was fog outside. Then they walk with dark clothes on, and when you turn you can't see them. I know it is very important and we need something there for their safety. We were going over figures \$39,000.00 is nothing compared to a life because you can't bring a life back. I would of love to have those individuals brought into this process, so we can all discuss and talk about it. I know they are going to have some concerns because the easements on their property, whichever side it's on, is going to be taken away. **Gottschalk:** There isn't any easement, there might only be two residents have easement issues. All the others are on Oakwood property.

Matlock: It is still going to affect basically... **Gottschalk:** That's why I went down the street three times. First, I'm dealing with trees, drainage, and engineers. Then, with the landscaper on the trees and finally, with the residents to explain to them exactly what happened. There was only one person who initially had an issue with it and now he is all in. The only person I didn't meet one owns a rented house that isn't being used, that's the first house on the right. One of them I know won't have an issue. So, there is really only one house left that I haven't been able to discuss it with.

Matlock: It was just something that I felt because eventually, we are hoping to get it all the way down. It may take some time, but at least we are starting. It's a starting point from here up to Lamson Road. I don't mind if it's causing safety with individuals. It's fine with me but there's other homeowners that may just want to know what's going on Tryon Road.

Gottschalk: They now know, that's why it was three different days out there, about two hours each, walking not driving. I mean you really had to walk. **Matlock:** So, is it possible? **Warren:** I guess the conclusion, or the end result would have

been if each Councilperson would have been able to send out a newsletter to the residents. To let them know what was going on, this way everyone is informed. This way when we are stopping at Lanson Road, rather than going all the way down. Everybody from Lamson Road all the way down east to Richmond Road is wondering when it would be put in their area. So, these are the things that we would like to have addressed as a Council and more specifically, as a Ward person. **Gottschalk:** I was trying to put this project off until next year. Unfortunately, the way it was drafted and approved; it has to be done this year. **Warren:** We knew that from the engineer. **Gottschalk:** I was hoping still to get the County to put this thing off. It wasn't seeming to be possible. Then all of a sudden I was hearing that they're going to be putting concrete on the drive, twenty feet of the drives. This actually is going to be tomorrow, and we haven't talked to the people yet. So, this thing has been put off until Monday. In the meantime, on Friday, they will put the marker out for where the trail is going within their property. Eighty- five percent of the time it is on the Village's property, on the right of way. The one or two that will be easements, they are aware of it, but you're going to see it before and they're going to have to approve it before... **Warren:** They have to sign it. **Gottschalk:** Exactly, so again they are getting a second chance to just hear it, but they are going to see how. As I said there are about thirteen trees going down. The biggest was the first house when you are coming down Tryon Road from Broadway, on the right-hand side. Because no one ever lives there, there's more trees over there and it's all going down. So, there are only about eight trees left and one of them is full of poison ivy. **Matlock:** Asked for a copy of the Mayor's letter. **Hardin:** Mayor, we are not going to come kicking and screaming, we would like to go with you. So just share the letter, let's get it out this week. So, that everybody's on the same page and knows what is going on. I appreciate what the president has been saying, even projecting if and ever you're going to go any further down. But everyone has known for years we needed to do this and wanted it. Especially, with the group home. Remember at one point the safety force offered reflective clothing for people it was so bad. So, this is nothing new but... **Gottschalk:** I don't see it being feasible to going all the way down. **Hardin:** A letter needs to go out tomorrow, so the community knows. **Warren:** I guess we are on a going forward position right now. Going forward be cognate, be aware of extending... **Gottschalk:** We'll have a letter going out to the rest of the residents. **Williams:** It's not a curtesy though. **Warren:** It's a curtesy and respect because everyone would have the curtesy of knowledge. So that's what I am saying, it's expected... **Williams:** It's not a curtesy every resident should be aware of what's happening around them. We can't pick and choose which residents we think we need to inform. Everybody should be brought along as part of the process. **Matlock:** I mean honestly, everyone needs to know the plan. **Warren:** We are going to look for and seeking funding to go all the way down Tryon Road no matter what you think. **Matlock:** Right and I only say it because I live on a hidden hill, and you cannot see going pass that hill. **Warren:** It's no more than Forbes Road, bike trails, peaks and valleys that were there. **Hardin:** I guess what we are saying is, there's more than one person that can make a flyer.

We can help, Tommy can help but we need to get that out as soon as possible. **Gottschalk:** Ok, one other trail that will be happening. We have a trail on Richmond Road that goes up Buckthorn and down Bedford Reservation. We are now working with Glenwillow. Glenwillow got the grant, the trail will extend, they will cross at that point. Be on the other side of the bridge and extend all the way to South Chargin Reservation entrance. So, pass the picket fence. Our share will be \$5000.00, for the next twenty years. What I hope this will then lead to would be the Gresley Landfill would be bought by the philanthropist or by the Metroparks. And turn it into a trail going up and down the mounds over there. With the T.D. financing some of the greening space and the beauty. This will be a great tie in with the trail that's going to be happening.

Hardin: Who are we paying the \$5000.00 to? **Gottschalk:** Glenwillow. **Hardin:** Glenwillow because they received the grant, ok. **Warren:** How much is the trail's total cost? **Gottschalk:** All I care about was what our cost was. \$5,000.00 a year for twenty years isn't a problem. **Williams:** We can't get a grant? **Gottschalk:** That ties in with our residents and not just with walking but with biking. So, there is much tying in with the idea of getting the landfill into a trail. **Hardin:** I don't want any surprises. So, my question is, what time frame? **Gottschalk:** That is on a pretty fast track too now.

Hardin: Well, you need to let everybody know. **Williams:** Are you going to have total numbers for the project? **Gottschalk:** Your numbers is \$5000.00 a year... **Warren:** No, what we want to know is how much the total project is. It could be \$5,000.00 a year for the next twenty years and \$5,000.00 times twenty is \$100,000.00. What if the project is \$125,000.00? **Gottschalk:** Don't be ridiculous. **Williams:** Can I finish my point? One of the thing we hammered in with the intersection between all four communities was what the total cost was. And how we figured out our share according to what part of our property. It was in that entire thing, so I think the same applies. We need to know what part is Oakwood's, what part is Glenwillow's, and the total cost. I don't know why that would be a problem. Especially if they have a grant. **Hardin:** You good with that time frame Mr. Mayor? **Gottschalk:** I'll have it in time. **Davis:** I have a question, for the Law Director maybe. On this container thing. If you draw up legislation for what they are building. Does it have to be voted on through the City? Through everybody? Or can we just approve it through Council? To prevent these container houses from coming. **Climer:** If it is a zoning change then yes, we would have to go around. They are other things; we are still working on a way to do it and still keep Dan's certificate. Because the Board does not have a sense of humor about people not accepting their standards. So, we want to do it in a way that our Building Department remains certified. **Warren:** They will de-certify you if you don't. **Climer:** I would prefer it not to go on because it gets expensive. It gets time consuming, so we are looking for a way to thread the needle. **Gottschalk:** At the same time, I broadly support getting it on the ballot in time. This needs to be an urgency and for the reason being, we have a much better chance in court. When people make the decision instead of when public officials make a decision. But there's no rush, I would like to see this happen in the spring or summer of next year. **Warren:** It could come up in May. **Climer:** We are getting close to get it on for May, because there's a big lead time. So, it may have to be next November. **Warren:** Anything else Mr. Mayor? **Gottschalk:** No. **Warren:** Anybody got any questions for the Mayor? Ok, I'll open up the floor for public comment. This is the time residents can come up to the podium, give their names, address, ask whatever question.

Open Floor Comments

Erica Nikolich, 7230 Wright Ave, Couple questions for the Law Director. My first question would be regarding the use of the Village's property opened free to adjournment of residents. Is there anything in the Charter or Legal Governance that would prevent a resident from using commuting property reserved for residents gathering in any type of way. **Climer:** That's a very open-ended question. For instance, there are curfews in our parks. **Nikolich:** Ok, curfews for example. **Climer:** There are stipulations that are attached to renting out the Community Center and other. **Nikolich:** Let's say for example the basketball court. Which is open to residents, I believe maximum capacity of twenty perhaps. Maybe the only restriction I've seen. Are there any other restrictions that you could think of. **Climer:** I honestly have not looked at any of the restrictions to the basketball court. I am not sure what is there. **Nikolich:** Ok, would you be willing to research that? Or are we just going to go with no restrictions. **Climer:** No, I'll take a look at that. **Warren:** And get back with her please. **Nikolich:** The other question I have was about C.M.H.A housing. Is there any authority we have or mandate we have that can ensure that they are keeping up with those properties? Does the Village have any authority over what C.M.H.A. does with their properties? **Climer:** To my understanding this has been a long-standing issue with C.M.H.A. I think we do have the authority to enforce our building standards. To get them to comply and cooperate is the issue. To my understanding of the past history with them. **Nikolich:** Ok, is there a way for that to be clarified and communicated to the community?

Climer: Sure. **Warren:** C.M.H.A. housing, the Building Department can site any housing that is in noncompliance with our codes. Gutters falling down or anything like that, you can identify that and send a violation notice to the owners. C.M.H.A housing has just as much as a responsibility in compliance with the local code and Ordinances as any other house. **NiKolic:** Thank you.

Charlotte Stevens, 7251 Linwood Dr., I too would like to thank the Police because we are getting good surveillance in our area. Every morning between five or six, I open that door and the Police are coming around the corner. We like that, we have a lot of older residents, it makes a difference. This was a Fourth of July in Oakwood like no Fourth of July we have ever seen. We don't want another one. They partied from July 3rd, 4th, and the 5th. I thought they were sending off cannons, not just firecrackers. I don't know who was in town, but I was here. There's a lot of widows and widowers. There's a safety factor, we don't want the young people to not have what they want. But we won't want to lose our life. It was unbelievable, I thought they were sending off cannons. I went into the homeowners meeting; I got a copy of the new law. Has every Council person seen the new law, in red? because we don't have to put up with that. I read the law and I highlighted some of the things. I am not going to go into it because we only have five minutes. But we have a right to opt out of this and on page three of this slot, it tells you everything about it. I do want this into the minutes, what are some safety tips for discharging fireworks: "Fireworks are extremely dangerous- so, please be safe and follow basic safety protocols. Each year, thousands of people are injured in fireworks- related incidents and sadly, many die as a result. In addition, fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires each year, resulting in extensive damage to structures, vehicles, and property. The Consumer Product Safety Commission offers the following guidelines for safety". It's very intense and it lets you know how important this issue is because I was afraid my house would start on fire. That's why I didn't go to sleep. I sat by my window, I'm there by myself. I'm a sound sleeper, I would wake up in heaven. So, I tell you very seriously, I'll make sure to get a hard copy to Ms. Hardin, or Council Clerk to see she gets it to everyone. I would like a follow up. I ask the Council and Mayor to bring in legislation that would consider the following: 1) Put something in the budget that will cover an event we can have in one day on the 4th of July, and everyone can go up there and enjoy them. I thought someone had sold tickets because they had so many cars on their property. It was so loud, and it went so long. I couldn't believe I was in Oakwood Village. I have been here over forty something years, never experienced something like that. Our community is changing, I'm not moving, my house is paid for. I don't have my husband no more, it's just me and I am not going anywhere. We are about to stop the madness in Oakwood. The Mayor I always call him and tell him when he has done something good. I'm very likeable, but I am not moving. We can opt out of this; we have good residents. If you tell them they can't, they will poke their mouths out for a while, but they will find somewhere else to take it. We don't have a lot of little kids anyways. So let the old folks retire and enjoy. That is my request that I would like you to have considered. Write something into the budget, so that we can have an event just like we do recreation. The landfill worries me, I would like to know the last time it has been inspected. I would like to know if there is methane gas running under those houses. They tore down a couple of houses and there is a reason why. **Gottschalk:** That's the Solon side. **Stevens:** The house I'm talking about, if you leave my house and make a left on to Richmond and when you get to the landfill that house right there is gone. There is a reason why. I'm concerned I don't want to move; I can't give my house away. I am afraid for my safety. So that's why I have been saving for a long time because we follow that landfill. Debbie and I went to every meeting they thought about having on that landfill. I haven't gotten any reports or data. I don't know if the land is good for planting my flowers or vegetables. Several of them are saying they are going to put a trail there. I'm not worried about the trail; I am worried about the value of my home. I'm worried if there's methane gas under my house, the property value based on the fact if that thing blows up. Or years from now, it's contaminating the water, the spring is contaminated. Nobody has checked, I believe it's too high. I was in the bathroom brushing my teeth and the mirror reflected out the window and I couldn't believe it. That was the landfill at eye level. You know the implications, and then I have to come up here because I am afraid that my house, instead of being worth \$250,000.00, my house may be \$25,000.00. I ask Council to look into that. Are Airbnb's coming, people do not want Airbnb's popping up. You don't know who's coming in, there's a lot of traffic on my street now, at all times a night.

Karen Howse, (unknown address), I was hoping to be able to ask these questions at the finance committee because I didn't want to hold up too much time, so I will be quick. As a concerned resident, I feel that certain people have a

particular interest in what they want to ask. Seems like when I ask anything about finance it appears that I am picking on people, or I bring discomfort about financing. That's an interest of mine. So, when I come up here and ask I shouldn't be told that sometimes I can ask certain questions at committees and sometimes I can't. **Warren:** I'll give you your minutes, I said that you couldn't because of the fact of the Finance Committee meeting. We extended you, and appreciated your input on finding out where our village was, because there were rumors about the Village and the finances and everything. But now we know where we are at, and you can ask questions in the Council meeting. Just like any other resident, they have the right to say anything they want to at a Council meeting. But because of the fact I did mention to you that you could not participate after you asked one question, you were going to another one, and I said no. This meeting is for the body of Council. **Howse:** Ok, in the previous finance committee you had no problem allowing me to ask multiple questions. **Warren:** That's cause we were concerned about what the truth of the financial picture was. Because they were rumors around here that the financial picture, and everyone can tell you if you want us to pull Council. We had concerns about the financial picture of the business, we went through that, you asked all the questions you wanted to ask. You were allowed to do that, and we appreciated it because you are a resident, and you have a financial background. You were formerly a Finance Director here, working with me at that time. All I am saying is I have the upmost respect for your financial knowledge and that's why we wanted you to ask any and everything you wanted to. Now we are at a point where we feel the questions are answered. If any other questions, this is the venue for a resident to be able to ask the questions they want, which you are. **Howse:** Going back to what I was saying whether you felt comfortable at one point and uncomfortable at another point. **Warren:** It's no comfort, it's compliant with protocol. **Howse:** I'm just stating what you just said. I'm repeating what you said. **Warren:** I didn't say anything about comfort. **Williams:** You did. **Warren:** I did not say comfort but go ahead. **Howse:** I am not here to cause dissensions. This is my interest, and no one is going to stop me from asking questions of my interest. So, again you did say at one point, when you felt uncomfortable collectively, it was ok for me to ask questions. Then when you became comfortable now I can't ask questions. **Warren:** With the financial position of the Village, yes, that's the comfort. **Howse:** So, it is your comfort, but if it's not a resident's comfort, then we because you representing the residents, are not allowed to ask questions? **Warren:** Yes, right here at this Council chambers, just like I told you. At the regular meeting you can ask whatever you want. **Howse:** But you didn't apply that rule, Johnny, at the finance committee previously. All I am asking is that you be consistent because you can't pick and choose what I'm allowed to ask. One minute you say I can and now today I cannot because you feel comfortable with the reports presented and that's unfair and fine. Thank you for providing the financial report. I'm not sure why we are happy since this is only up until May. The summary statement is from 5/31/2023, right? **Thompson:** There was a report passed out today for half of the year. **Howse:** The statement of cash you prepared right? But they don't have the actual expense report where the summary statement as of today. **Thompson:** They have it, not as of today but it was discussed 6/30/2023. **Howse:** The statement of cash right here represents as of May, the close of May. **Thompson:** It was a report passed out today with the close of June. **Williams:** He did add June on. **Howse:** So, does anyone know where we stand financially as far as where our cash position is as of July, August, and September. So, my point is Brian, I understand you have had some challenges with staffing and stuff like that in your back log. I'll give you that, but you cannot be uncomfortable when I ask a question. Because it is a question I think everyone should be interested in. the reason I ask the questions is one, because I am a resident, and to speak to the previous resident. I am a concerned citizen that is concerned about the future. The future of the condition of our finances going forward. This is not to imply, indicate, or accuse you that you are doing something nefarious. I am a concerned citizen that has a right to ask questions. Now if this is not the best form, you said I could talk to you one on one. You have opened your door with that. Sometimes I feel like you are taking it as a personal attack. Again, this is my interest, I will continue to come. I am not operating on rumors; all you have to do is look at the document. It does not have to be a rumor. If you are reading it and council's reading the report, it shouldn't be you acting on, I'm ok with you talking now. Because there were rumors versus I am ok now so you can't talk no more. This is not a pick at you, this is what I want to know, and I will continue to ask. My question is this, regarding the sanctuary for Mt. Zion. We spent over \$9000.00 for that project. The contractor was A&S, this is news to me. I don't come to all Council meetings; how did we get in the business of doing a meditation garden for a specific entity. We have multiple churches here. I am trying to figure out how this particular church got selected to have a mediation garden expensed out. It was expensed out of the 201 fund, which would be subsidized by the general fund, and we are already in the negative in the SCMR fund. How did that happen, was there an ordinance? **Thompson:** I can't attest to why that

location was picked. **Howse:** That's probably not a fair question to ask you. **Thompson:** It was something eligible that we could expend. We normally do our landscaping expenses out of the SCMR fund. SCMR fund can normally run negative because we have a lot of reimbursements to come back to make it whole. She's right about transfers that can happen. The Village is doing well now, we have seen a 7.15% increase in our income taxes, started the year at about \$236,000.00, now to \$683,000.00. All of our indicators are trending well in the right direction. So that is some of the explanation. There's a vendor that did that work and he had to get paid. **Howse:** Maybe you do not hear me. I don't think this is for you because you are handling finance so it's not you to make the decision right? The question for Council, \$9000.00, almost \$9300.00, why was it Mt. Zion? **Gottschalk:** They had the acreage. **Howse:** They had the acreage, is this a right of way, is it a public domain, where it is open to the public? **Gottschalk:** They had the acreage but more importantly than that, just look at what's happening to our youth in this Country. \$9,000.00, for a place to be able to get sanctuary and some peace. **Howse:** My question is why was Mt. Zion selected? You said they were the only ones with acreage. Did any other church have that kind of property? **Gottschalk:** No. **Howse:** That was all that I asked. Did that upset you that I asked? **Gottschalk:** What upsets me is that you don't look at the bigger picture. The bigger picture is what's happening with the youth. The car jackings, two girls merely committed suicide here. **Howse:** What does that have to do with the meditation garden? Can you tell me the statistics of how many youths have attended the meditation garden? **Gottschalk:** I know that many days, there's people there. **Howse:** The question you spoke on, can you explain to me how many youths have gone there? **Gottschalk:** It's an opportunity for people to be able to go. **Howse:** What means of notification have you sent residents to inform them about this sanctuary? **Gottschalk:** None. **Howse:** Ok, next question in regard to the pedestrian trail, which I love. If it's Glenwillow having the trail and there's a \$5000.00 share. I think Council has the right to know what they will be paying and how long. What is the agreement? **Gottschalk:** There is no agreement, it isn't ready yet, it's now being put together. **Howse:** So, this is the first time Council heard about this? **Gottschalk:** Yes, it was brought to my attention by Glenwillow. I would like to see whether this would make sense for Oakwood. So, the agreement is being put together to be put before Council. **Howse:** So, I apologize for directing that to you, it should have been directed to the Mayor. **Gottschalk:** That is where the questions you have will be answered, in the agreement. It will be drawn up in the next couple weeks, maybe even at the if not next meeting, certainly before end of October. **Howse:** SCMR fund is street, construction, maintenance, and repair. How is \$9300.00 of sanctuary landscaping? How does that relate to that? **Thompson:** That's where we charge our landscaping, even the beautification you see around the Village. **Howse:** How does Mt. Zion, meditation garden apply to the SCMR fund? It is an improper expense. It could be under general fund, miscellaneous contraction. The reason why I am saying this Brian, is because you are going to have to do a subsidy. You are going to have to transfer money to pay for that \$9,000.00. It interests me and I will continue to ask questions even though it irritates. Brian I know you are trying your best, but it's my right to ask questions. You can be sometime with me, sometimes you let me ask questions, sometimes you don't. But I am going to continue to come randomly, I may come every blue moon, but I will have questions. I hope I get answer and not yelled at all the time. **Thompson:** I never contested your question, I tried to answer them. **Howse:** I wonder why that's a deterrent. Why did I get deterred? **Thompson:** You've always been given the ability to ask those questions. **Joseph (Clerk):** Asked for the resident's name and address. **Warren:** Can we have your name and address; the Clerk is asking for it. **Howse:** Karen Howse. **Warren:** Address please. **Howse:** When you provide a rule, I'll give it. **Warren:** Provide the rule for what? **Howse:** Provide the rule that I am required to provide my address. **Warren:** The reason that the rule exists... **Williams:** It doesn't exist. **Warren:** the rule exists to verify that you are a resident. **Howse:** For safety purposes in this day and age, I am not required to provide an address. **Williams:** She's not required. **Warren:** In the past you have. **Howse:** In the past you let me ask questions. **Warren:** You still asked questions. **Williams:** It is not required by law so we should take a look at that as a council. We are asking people if it's required, there's no lawful requirement. We should stop saying that. **Warren:** We can verify whether the person coming up is an Oakwood resident or not. **Howse:** It's not a law Johnny. **Warren:** We didn't say it was a law, it's a procedure.

Pat **Malone, Drake Road, Malone:** Inquired about Kroger. **Gottschalk:** Stated he met with them but is very disappointed. **Malone:** So, it is not a go? **Warren:** It is not a go so far. **Malone:** Last time I was here you said nothing was moving forward and that they owed us money. Do they still owe us money? **Gottschalk:** Their legal team is saying we don't owe the money until they begin the project. Again, we are talking to the County and the State on this matter dealing with them.

We are giving them our final response on our position, very shortly. I am meeting on Friday with them. **Malone:** You talked about our Officers, and yes, it's very nice. I see the Officers when they come down Drake Road, it's nice to see them. How about staffing? Are we ok as far as staffing? **Garratt:** We are doing fine, on the agenda coincidentally, I have something coming up. I asked for an increase of two, that will put me at full staffing. We are doing fine right now.

Malone: Which is how many? **Garratt:** It's fourteen full time Officers, four Sergeants, one Captain, one Chief, and two of the fourteen are assigned to the Detective Bureau. **Malone:** You talked about this walkway, this fabulous walkway. Which we need dearly. You're only going up to Lamson Road, right? **Gottschalk:** Right. **Malone:** What about when you go pass Oakhill Road and you're going past Richmond Road? Someone talked about almost getting hit and not seeing people in that. My problem is there is a resident who manages to park cars and trucks in front of the house, and close to the street. That scares me, because if there is a car going this way and I am going that way, you know. It's not a driveway. **Garratt:** Asked where. **Malone:** On Tryon Road, before Richmond Road. You know who it is. The walkway down Richmond Road, why are cars allowed to park on that in the evening? **Garratt:** They are not. If you see it, call us.

Malone: There's cars, the driveway is full, and there are cars on the walkway. **Garratt:** We chase them off all of the time. We give them one or two warnings and then we cite. We don't like to cite our residents, but when it comes to something like that, we have to. If you see that please let us know, you can remain anonymous. I have six complaint from January 1st to now of firework complaints, and 2 dozen of those, because people are parking there. **Malone:** Yea it's like, you're trying to make the Village look nicer. **Garratt:** It's usually not the residents, usually the renters we have issue with.

Malone: I was disappointed yesterday, I took a walk-up Alexander, I see all these holes, markings and all this stuff. I'm like "what's going on?" this cannot be a finished product. **Gottschalk:** Of course, it isn't, they are way ahead of schedule. **Malone:** You said that would be opened in October. **Gottschalk:** It will be done well before the end. **Malone:** You did not give us a date, so I am thinking, at the end of October that will be done. I took another walk today because I saw them working. These potholes that they did are filled with asphalt. Plus, they did the end of Drake Rd., and the end of High Rd., they cut that out and I hope that they are going to fill that in. I understand there are more layers to be put on there, am I correct? I looked over my notes, I don't know if I understand this correctly, but something about polymer. **Garratt:** I spoke with engineer; we hate closing roads down because construction crews aren't working on it daily. It gets upsetting when people come by because I feel the same way. I talked to Ed Hren about it, and he talked to Vandra. They have to let the concrete set before they can pour the coating on it. They cut down, where they find that needs to be pulled out. They poured the concrete; they have to let it set before they put the overlay on it. **Malone:** Ok, so how long, if they are going to put two more layers on it. How long do they have to let that sit before it would be opened? **Malone:** Are we getting asphalt put on top of that or are we getting concrete? **Garratt:** You have concrete underneath it, that is what supports the weight. **Warren:** The road is going to be asphalt; the finished surface is going to be asphalt. **Malone:** Good luck Tommy. So, there again, that isn't what I was led to believe. I misunderstood, but I thought it was going to be concrete. So, this asphalt will have polymer in it? **Garratt:** I don't know the details of that. I know it is fancy asphalt. **Malone:** How much money did we pay for this? **Gottschalk:** \$800,000.00. **Malone:** It's kind of, pardon my French but half***. Thank you for listening. **Warren:** You know the Interstates are asphalt. **Malone:** I271 is asphalt? **Warren:** Yes, it has concrete underneath it, but it is asphalt. The reason they put concrete in spots, especially when they are taking it out, is because they find these soft spots. They have to do an engineering analysis of where the soft spots are in the road and fill those with concrete. The concrete has a twenty-eight-day test that the inspectors from the state would do what's called, the slump test. Which is strength, structural integrity, and the strength of the concrete. They make concrete in a five-sack mix, five and a half, six, six and a half mix. The higher the sack mix the more concrete is mixed with other things like water, etc.... most of the time, in all of the streets in Oakwood, except in some areas of ward two, everything is asphalt. **Malone:** Mayor, you said that at the end of Fair Oaks Road when it hits Alexander Road, you weren't going to be finishing that because you wanted to... **Gottschalk:** Now we are, we are paying for it. That is what Ms. Hardin brought up. The cost would be anywhere from \$30,000.00, our share would be \$13,000 to maybe \$35,000.00. She wanted to make sure in the end, as I had said, that would go to whoever is the owner of the property where Kroger was. **Hardin:** We never heard those numbers. **Gottschalk:** Yea, I said \$11,000.00 to about \$35,000.00. **Hardin:** No, no, no, no, don't slide it up \$30,000.00, we were at \$11,000.00. **Gottschalk:** Yea, I said from \$11,000.00 to as much as \$35,000.00. It could be that we don't know. The point is, whatever it is, it will be drafted to where in fact, whoever is going to be the owner or developer pays for it in the end. **Malone:** Like I said, I'm talking about Alexander Rd., what does Kroger have to do with

it? **Gottschalk:** They should have already put a road leading from that intersection into their site because it wasn't. it's difficult to understand what the realignment is going to be on that intersection. At the same time, it wasn't right to not complete that road and have only 85% done. So, we are completing the road, it's going to be appraised and given to the developer. They are responsible for the lighting as well as the realignment. **Malone:** But it will be somewhat finished now? **Gottschalk:** Yes. **Warren:** It's going to be completely done just to let you know.

Silvia Johnson, Bedford Library, 70 Columbus Rd., Johnson: Our mobile pantry will be Wednesday, September 20th from 1:00p.m.-3:30p.m. The library and RTA are just rolling this out, but our library system has a career center. It has had it for forty years and it is called Cuyahoga Works. RTA is partnering with our career center, and they are expanding and diversifying their workforce. RTA needs more than drivers. If you don't have your G.E.D., they partner with organizations that help people get their G.E.D and then train them. If people want to become drivers and they do not have their CDL's, they will pay for CDL training. They are also looking for mechanics and office workers. If you have had encounters with the criminal justice system, depending on the offense. They are partnered with an organization to help with expungement, depending on what it is. These are union jobs, I will leave flyers, they have specific career fair date. The first one is at Fairview Park, September 13th, but there are other locations. **Warren:** A lot of companies are hiring people depending on their level of crime committed. **Davis:** Is that on your website? **Warren:** She is giving us copies. **Johnson:** Post pandemic, the library has hired a social worker. Open for anyone, for any reason and there are self-referral forms. Please utilize this, we also have Digital Navigator who can help with basic skills. You can also see if you qualify for free or reduced internet service or possibly even a laptop or app. **Warren:** Anyone else? I'll close the floor for public comment.

Floor closed.

Legislation:

2023-32

Introduced 9-12-2023

By Mayor and

Council as a whole

1st read

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 125.01, 125.04,
AND 125.05 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF
OAKWOOD RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE POLICE
DEPARTMENT.

Hardin: Chief, why are we changing this and are we budget for this? **Garratt:** We are not getting any more part time; we lost four minority officers in the last seven months. when we have a good officer come by, I need to have a good position to offer them. Minority officers are difficult to find, just because there's not many out there. If we can get them I want to grab them and offer a full-time position. The second reason is there's three officers that can leave right now. They can turn their papers in to me tomorrow and say they are taking off. I want to be able to back fill that. This allows me to have three Officers per shift, and a Sergeant per shift. I already have a sergeant per shift, but the problem is, we have four officers per shift, that's four twelve-hour shifts. If I have one guy call off because they're sick we are down to two guys. That makes it difficult to cover calls. I need more Officers and two more will give us four per shift. With this said, I've budgeted for three part-time Officers for 2023. I don't intend on putting in two full-time Officers by the end of the year. I would be fortunate to put one on, I don't know if that would even happen. Either way I've already talked to Brian on this. We are way under here, my budgeted amount because I budgeted three part-timers **Hardin:** Help me with the math. You budgeted three part-timers right? **Garratt:** Yes. **Hardin:** We have three part-time, but you want three... **Garratt:** Two. **Hardin:** How does that play out money wise if he does two full time instead of three part time? **Thompson:** We worked on the worksheet for his expenses, so he can go into dialogue. **Garratt:** This is what I want to tell you, by the end of the year I would like to get another full time around. I want two, but I am not getting them filled this year. Even filling one of them will still put me way under my budget. **Hardin:** One I can see Chief, but I still want to know from Finance... **Garratt:** You'll have restructuring from a new budget for 2024. So, you will see all of that in my new budget is what I am saying. **Hardin:** We are kind of teetering here; we need to know what the exact dollar amount is going to be when we change this out. **Warren:** What we need to do is see the original 2023 budget that was approved. The Officers full-time, costs and expense, and then the Officers part-time cost and expense. Then see what the difference is between what the

chief is proposing as far as three officers. **Garratt:** I have those figures in front of me. **Williams:** Those three officers are now under a different contract right? Wasn't there a new contract negotiated? **Garratt:** No, there is a staging step when you are hired. There are three levels to go through. They will start at the lower level of hourly rate and then move up as the years progress. **Williams:** So, the new FOP contract, you didn't increase all those levels? **Garratt:** They all increased by 2%, but they will start at that level. **Williams:** I follow you, but what I am saying is that 2% is not attached to the individual. **Garratt:** It is because I budgeted ahead of time. I budgeted after 2023, I budgeted 3% in my budget for the three part-timers. In fact, we are in the highest rate for one of the part timers because he was here, twenty something years. My two-part timers that would have started would have been at \$19.17/ hour. We'll the part timer that left was at \$25.58. so, those are the three figures I would use to offset. Multiply that by 72 hours a week, 72 hours per pay period times twenty-six. **Hardin:** That's good for just one then. **Garratt:** What I am saying is, I'll do the numbers, I know exactly what you are asking for. But I am going to give you a heads up, we'll still be under because I'm not going to fill position by the end of the year. Even if I have great candidates. Just because I have it on the books and it gives me freedom to put them on doesn't mean I'll do it. **Williams:** Three-part timers are always going to be cheaper than two full timers, correct? **Garratt:** Correct. **Williams:** Ok, so I know you have the numbers. But anytime we have something like that, cost analysis is pulled out of the budget. We should have something written. **Garratt:** I'll get you a breakdown. **Warren:** That will be our first reading. **Williams:** I want from Brian, a breakdown of what it was, versus what it will be. **Warren:** To add to that, what it was for 2024, what it would be for 2024 with three-part timers versus 2024 with the full timers. **Garratt:** Here's the issue, if you ask any Police Department, probably in the country, you don't find part timers. The Fire Department, that's a different story. The workers in the Fire Department are full-time somewhere else. This is their secondary job. **Warren:** Right. **Garratt:** The Police Officers here this is their primary job, period. That's the difference on full time. I'll take part timers right now, there's not a single application. I can't get any, no one wants to do this job. Not nobody but most don't want to. The problem I have with some of the part time when it comes to Police stuff. It's different than the Fire Department. We have time that is considered "downtime" that has to be obligated to do things like traffic enforcement. We require them to be proactive and do different things. Sometimes when they have a full-time job and consider this a part time job, this is answering calls job. I've seen that for thirty years, I understand that. I can't get any part timers and I am running out of guys. I've lost four guys in the last seven months; I've replaced two of them. **Hardin:** Before we got here tonight, the news, I was wondering how long before it hits Oakwood. You're aware of what's going on with the Sheriff's Department, the new project? It's so bad that the news, this particular news item, took twenty minutes to cover. They were giving us an update on the fact that the new Sheriff, along with the Governor, is here today. The County is going to step in and help Departments like ours short term because of what you're going through now. So, I was just wondering why it hadn't hit Oakwood. **Garratt:** Well, we have been fortunate. There's a variety of reasons, a lot of it is our officers going out and recruiting other Officers. I don't want to snipe people from other departments that need help, that's not my goal. But when your Officers are working hard, doing their jobs, and recruiting other people over, there's a reason. We getting the productivity, giving proper training and everything else, they are just coming through like crazy. But, if you saw it from my point of view, it's great to have part time, but we can't get them. Walton Hill use to have part timers, they don't have it anymore. No one wants to do the job unless it is full time with benefits. **Warren:** There's a huge shortage. **Williams:** Our part timers did not have benefits correct? **Garratt:** They didn't have pensions; they didn't have the same level of benefits I would have. They have no medical. **Williams:** So, even that cost breakdown will be different from us for full timers? **Garratt:** Correct. **Williams:** You're not going to keep any part time workers next year, is that what you are saying? **Garratt:** Probably if I can fill those two full time. Makes no sense anyways because I can't get any part timers. **Williams:** What are the big differences here? **Garratt:** We found an error. The big change is going to be where it says twelve to fourteen. If you go down and look under composition 125.01, lower section, first page at the bottom where it says C. Police Department should consist of a Chief of Police, not to exceed one Captain, not to exceed four Sergeants, not to exceed fourteen full timers. The previous one, up above there says twelve. **Williams:** This says no to exceed three or four Sergeants, so is it three or four? **Garratt:** It was always four. **Climer:** We are amending these three, so we have the old version immediately above the new version. That's the way an amended ordinance is generally. **Williams:** So, there were four Sergeants before and we stay at four, they were 12 full time before and now we are moving to fourteen? **Garratt:** Yes, only change is two full time patrol. When we put the captain position in. In 2013, there's a note from Debbie to Steve Klaus. "Per our conversation 125.04 has been eliminated from title not to exceed fifteen

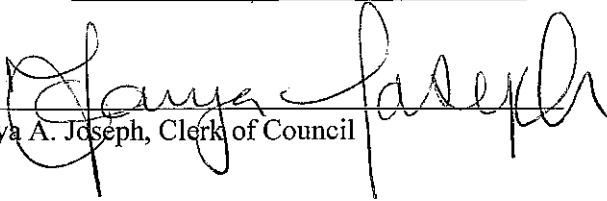
Patrolmen, is that correct?" Deb said to Steve Klaus, and he answer, "that is correct". He omitted my part time job; we didn't catch that until this year. I talked to the Law Director, and we put that back into what we have now. I only have so much money to work with and I only need so many staff. What I am saying is I am not budgeting for part timers next year as long as I can fill these two full time position. **Williams:** If you know you're not going to have part timers why are you keeping that in the legislation? **Garratt:** Just in case. **Williams:** But your budget will only allot for what you can afford and there won't just be three extra part time Officers. **Garratt:** I always had fifteen available. I always budgeted for three because that would have worked out well. However, I am looking at current, and I can't get part timers. **Davis:** The one that is part time, would he consider full time? **Garratt:** He is retired already. **Hardin:** Here's where my head is if something happens, and everyone is gone. To have it available is one thing, to have confidence it will be used in the manner you used it, that bothers me especially with finances. You see where the hesitation flies? **Garratt:** Well, you control the purse strings. When they bring the budget, whoever the Chief is, if you don't like what you see in the budget, you don't approve it. **Climer:** The position is not created until it is funded. **Hardin:** I hope everyone understands the nature of the beast. **Garratt:** I'm not asking for the Officers because I think it would be a better party, I want to protect the Village. I want to keep the level of service up to where's it's at. I want an organized structure; I want job descriptions and you'll be able to see that. **Williams:** Can I clarify 125.05, so, the main changes are just that everybody is under this probationary period now? **Garratt:** Our contract supersedes, the contract for probation is eighteen months. The contract that you guys voted in the Police Department, there's an eighteen-month probation. This could say twelve months, six months whatever, that supersedes it. They have to follow what that contract says. **William:** So, this brings it in alignment with the contract? **Garratt:** Correct, it didn't before, the Law Director made those. **Climer:** The ordinance conflicted with the contract and it's difficult to change the ordinance. So, we just simply granted it, essentially, compliance with the contract. **Davis:** 2504, all it changed was the part time Patrolman to part time Patrol Officers, is it? **Garratt:** Yea, the terminology changed. **Davis:** Ok, can you give us that information for the next meeting? **Garratt:** Yes. **Williams:** The Bedford City School District has issue four on the ballot for November 7th. I had a resident make a statement that they received from the public officials stating that the bond levy would increase their taxes on their home by \$1,000.00 per year for a \$100,000.00 home, which is not correct. The amount is somewhere between \$100.00 per year, so I wanted to make sure that was clarified on record. I also wanted to make sure that individuals know there is a message document. If you have specific questions about the bond levy that clarifies a lot of nuts and bolts of the bond levy for supporting building of new school in the district. There will be a community forum held sometime in the next two weeks and you should receive a notice about it. **Stevens:** But our property taxes are going up 34% already. We have an older community, and I can tell you the taxes are out of control. There's got to be a revolt, no one is saying anything. Nobody can live because of taxes. Unless you can tell me how much you're saving this year, how much you're putting in the budget, you are not doing your jobs. Because you cannot survive on the same budget. You have to be able to say, well we cut \$1,000,000.00 out of budget because there's no way. Especially with dollars coming in based on tax. **Warren:** Well, the taxes that our dollars come in, are predominantly the payroll tax. The taxes on real estate, the majority of that goes to the schools. **Williams:** Those are two very important issues. I do agree taxes are out of control, especially for someone with a fixed income. But in regard to the school district, when we talk about property taxes, when schools go down, the community goes down and so does your property value. We have very good reasons to support the issue, but I would just direct people to that document. They can get factual information as opposed to just hearsay. **Stevens:** Well, I see they got new buses. Maybe they need to make sure they are learning something, getting good curriculum, and getting good test results. Without someone buying a billion dollars' worth of new buses. What's more important is teachers, books, education, or the buses. **Williams:** This is not operating levy; this is a bond levy. So, no learning, no staff, that's the difference. It has nothing to do with money for you, it's bond levy, buildings only. **Stevens:** But we pay for it. **Williams:** It's a bond levy. **Stevens:** I'm not saying I'm for or against it. I have to be the ugly person in the room because I do taxes. I have to put it on people, you can't do it the way you did last year. It's not working, taxes are out of control, food, lights, gas, utilities out of control. You have to have a budget; you have to cut. **Hardin:** We are going to have a brief work session here Mr. President. **Warren:** Can I get a motion to adjourn?

Motion to adjourn made by Hardin seconded by Davis

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

Adjourned at 9:04pm

Approved 10.10.23


Tanya A. Joseph, Clerk of Council


Johnnie Warren, Council President