

**VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
2024-1-9**

ATTENDANCE

Erica Nikolic, President
Johnnie Warren, At- Large
Taunya Scruggs, Ward 1
Eloise Hardin, Ward 2
Paggie Matlock, Ward 3
Mary Davis, Ward 4
Candace Williams, Ward 5

Brian Thompson, Finance Director
James Climer, Law Director
Tom Haba, Service Director
Dave Tapp, Fire Department
Mark Garratt, Police Department
Daniel Marinucci, Chief Bldg. Official

ABSENT

Ed Hren, Village Engineer
Ross Cirincione, Prosecutor

Carlean Perez – Recreation Director
Gary V Gottschalk, Mayor

Meeting opened at 7:04pm by Nikolic
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call taken

Nikolic: May I have a motion to approve the minutes of Dec. 22nd, 2023, finance meeting.

Motion to approve finance meeting minutes of Dec. 22nd, 2023, made by Hardin seconded by Warren
YES VOTE: Warren, Hardin, Davis, Matlock, Williams ABSTAIN Nikolic, Scruggs
MOTION PASSED

Nikolic: May I have a motion to approve the minutes of Dec. 22nd, 2023, regular Council meeting.

Motion to approve regular minutes of Dec. 22nd, 2023, made by Hardin seconded by Warren
YES VOTE: Warren, Hardin, Davis, Matlock, Williams ABSTAIN Nikolic, Scruggs
MOTION PASSED

Nikolic: May I have a motion to approve the minutes of Dec. 28th, 2023, special Council meeting.

Motion to approve work session minutes of Dec. 28th, 2023, made by Hardin seconded by Warren
YES VOTE: Warren, Hardin, Davis, Matlock, Williams ABSTAIN Nikolic, Scruggs
MOTION PASSED

Nikolic: Do we have any correspondence from the clerk? **Joseph:** A few councilmembers have a letter from Legal Aid Society requesting a contribution. **Nikolic:** Ok, agenda item number six we will have the departmental reports. May we please hear from Fire Chief Dave Tapp.

Departmental Reports

Fire-Tapp: Tapp: I provided each of you a yearend report. It's broken down by calls from all of your communities, as well as mutual aid calls. Here to answer any questions you may have. **Nikolic:** May we hear from Building Director Daniel Marinucci.

Building-Marinucci: Marinucci: No report, here for questions. **Davis:** We talked at last month's meeting that you were going to have activity reports. We have nothing from Aaron, nothing from anybody else. **Marinucci:** I sent it the day after. Do you send it out, or do I have to send it individually? **Joseph:** Yeah, I sent it out when I got it. **Marinucci:** We'll get that out tomorrow morning. **Nikolic:** May we hear from the Police Chief, Mark Garratt.

Police- Garratt: Garratt: Thank you, Madam President, just to bring you up to speed on a couple things. The Mayor's office, along with my office, received a letter from the County. Fiscal officers will be coming out to Oakwood, reviewing all the parcels in the municipality and reevaluating everything. The appraisers will be working in the next upcoming weeks. It takes two to four weeks to finish. The cars will be identifiable with markers in the front and back windows. Along with IDs with pictures on them. So, if you're seeing those vehicles, give us a call if there's any questions; we'll check them out. We had shop with a cop December 16th. It went very well thanks to Nikki here, she organizes it. She does a fantastic job for every year, along with the Officers to help out. They bring their spouses along and friends and it really works out well. Mr. Callender was here also, he helped wrap presents, it was a good time. We took nine kids, thirteen of them signed up. Four of them couldn't make it. So, I ended up taking nine of them to Target in Bainbridge. They just had a fire last night and closed down indefinitely. **Nikolic:** May we hear from Service Director Tommy Haba.

Service- Haba: Haba: Thank you, Madam President, welcome new Councilmembers. Just following up on the controversial change of days with the waste pickup. It was the day after New Year's. So, with the holiday and the change of date of Tuesday and pick up on Wednesday, there was a little confusion. We probably had about 25 calls. But in the end that went understood today, we didn't have any problems really. So, I think it will be fine. It'll actually make it easier down the road being on Tuesdays because most of the holidays are on Mondays. We did pick up leaves again last week. That will be the last time because the weather stayed nice. Because of the mild winter so far, we will probably save on salt again. Not this year, but 2025 when we order for that year. That's all I have; I'd be happy to take any questions. **Williams:** I have a resident on Arbutus Ave., that asked about the streetlights being out. Do I call the electric company for that? **Haba:** They Illuminating Company asked us about five years ago. They rather have the residents call, but you can call. They can call us, we'll call it in, or the Police sometimes. And you can do it over the phone. **Warren:** May I make a suggestion, that maybe we call so we can document it. So, if there's a conflict between the residents saying that I called a week ago and can't verify. If we call, we can verify when we called and be able to follow back up with the Illuminating Company. **Haba:** We can, we don't get that many. Police go out and if they notice they'll make a list and have a dispatch or whoever call them. **Warren:** Right, we want to make sure we also call so that we can document that we did make the effort. **Haba:** Ok, thank you. **Nikolic:** May we hear from Brian Thompson, our Finance Director.

Finance-Thompson: Thompson: Thank you, Madam President, just a quick recap. At our Finance Committee meeting the healthcare representative went in depth with a lot of issues. I'm hoping that helped out everyone and I'll be working with them closely as we move into the 2024 outlook on the healthcare. Also, as we rounded

out the meeting. I reported that we began the year at \$236,000 approximately in the general fund. The unexpended balance, and by the end of 2023, we had moved to a little over \$405,000 in the general fund. All funds we had approximately \$421,000 in cash and all funds. And as we rounded out the end of the year of 2023, we had little over \$1,000,000. **Williams:** Do you know the approximate or actual cost of the stop gap loss that we typically pay off? **Thompson:** We paid them probably about two hundred and something thousand for the stop loss. **Williams:** This year we will not have that expense or is there some? **Thompson:** No, we won't have that. **Williams:** They presented a lot of information and numbers. Do you have a document with all of these by number? **Thompson:** I'll get a recap from them and forward it to the clerk. **Nikolic:** May we hear from our Law Director.

Law- Climer: Climer: Thank you, Madam President, and welcome Ms. Scruggs. I'd like to wish everybody a happy New Year. There is going to be some upcoming legislation concerning the Engineer Department. Which I'd like to discuss at a later point. I'm happy to answer questions. **Nikolic:** The floor is now open for comments from Village residents. Please step up, state your name, comments, and address if you so desire.

Open Floor Comments:

Joe Fouche, Unknown: Fouche: I'd like to welcome the new Council members here. I'm here for a couple of reasons. One, I am the president of senior centers of Ohio. Which is a new adult day facility for seniors that are 60 years and over. We've been recently blessed because of our hard work with a grant that provides free services to seniors that are over 60 years old, and we have transportation. We have adult day services and facility. We provide home delivered meals and we also provide concrete meals. I wanted to make that public announcement to you all as Council members and residents here in Oakwood Village. If you know of any seniors, there are a lot here in Oakwood Village. That are looking for a place to have some activities and be able to do some things outside of their home. My facility can provide that. I will work with each of the Councilmembers here. To help register people in your ward that you think might need the services or want the services. **Matlock:** Do you have any literature on that, that we can have? **Fouche:** Yes ma'am, at the end of the meeting, I'll get some of your numbers and emails. I'll make sure I e-mail that over to you. This is a free service, some of the services ask for donations. I am also in the process of talking to other cities and villages to see if the Mayors and our City Council want to allocate funds to help supplement some of the food and or some of the services. So, that would be something that I would be bringing to Council to see if you all and the Mayor will consider. **Hardin:** This is funded how? **Fouche:** Through the Older Americans Act through the federal government. **Hardin:** Excellent and you'll give us a copy of all the services you offer? **Fouche:** Yes, ma'am. **Davis:** Did you mention where your facility is at? **Fouche:** Our facility is in Maple Heights. In the former Southgate bowling alley at the corner of Northfield and Southgate Park Blvd. The address is 21400 Southgate Park Blvd. **Davis:** What are your hours? **Fouche:** Depending on the service for the most part, it's 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. But we have some extenuating circumstances where some family members need care before that time and after that time. So, we've made some special accommodations in certain situations. **Hardin:** May I ask you to come before Council, maybe in the next few months or so. To give us some feedback because as you know, we have a large population of seniors. I'd like to know how it's working out. And to maybe partner with you to get this, if that's an option. **Fouche:** Well, if you would allow me, I would like to not wait a few months. I'd like to wait maybe a couple weeks if at all possible. There's a big push right now to get people registered. The funds start in January, and we have finite set of services that we can provide. Oakwood is my home; I would like to have as many of the seniors here benefiting from the services. Surprisingly, there's a lot of seniors that aren't getting certain things. They can receive services from us for free. To come and be able to take care of your loved one while you do whatever it is that you need to do. This money from the Older Americans Act is basically like a stopgap. It

helps in rare situations and situations where you maybe don't qualify for some other money. That all you have to do is be 60 years or older and basically have some minor disability. All of the people that are older than 60 years old can talk about some ailments they may have. Which will probably qualify them to be able to receive services. The other reason why I was here is in light of the information about insurance changing for your employees here in Oakwood Village. I wanted to inquire because I know that this is probably going to be a hot topic. What does that actually mean for the workers here? What does it mean from a raise perspective for the workers? Is there any way of offsetting that increase that you all are anticipating they may have to pay. I wanted to know from the Council members if each one of you all support a raise. And at what amount do you support raise for the workers? **Warren:** Well, at this point, that issue would be a discussion in an executive session.

Williams: We kind of approached this a little bit within the last few months when we started budget discussions. We haven't been given the full numbers of what a total budget would look like until just now at this meeting. So, it's difficult to make that decision without all the information. Once we have it, then we have some time to take a look at it. Even though we've been going through these budgets for months. To just get this today and make a decision today, it's very difficult. For me, if I can look at everything in totality and I have information, I can make a solid decision. Of course, we want to pay our people that serve our Village. But we also need the numbers in front of us to make sure that when we're making those decisions, we have all the information. We don't want to give a raise and we don't have the funds. So, that's what I've been looking at personally. **Nikolic:** We have a scheduled work session for Council after this because we just had a presentation from the insurers today. So, we're all getting up to speed. Once we have an overall better understanding of where the plan sits. We will be better prepared to answer those questions. But we need to workshop it a little bit more within Council. **Fouche:** The budget that you received today, is that made public? Also, is that proposing a certain percentage raise right now? **Williams:** What I have in front of me is a spreadsheet that tells us what 1% to 5% will look like for Police, Fire, non-union and a total. **Fouche:** From a budgetary standpoint and this is for the Finance Director. Is a 5% raise feasible in your mind? **Thompson:** Yeah, I did a compilation with the numbers and the 5% number is feasible for the Village. Of course, just like budgeting for anything, you go through your budgeting process. You look through your upcoming year, you have to evaluate things to take into account when you're doing that. But overall, feasibly the number that I came up with, the five percent is feasible to get a raise. **Fouche:** All right, thank you. **Hardin:** The document that my counterpart Councilwoman Williams was referring to is this piece of paper. This was just handed to us to vote. We understand you've already been covered on some aspects of healthcare. You're welcome to step up and tell us what's on your mind. Because we're only now getting these numbers and that's what's going to dictate what we can or cannot do. So, when Joe asked specifically, is the 5% feasible and you asked the Finance Director. He has maybe seen some things that we have not, but everything is public record. We are going to work through these numbers, and we will where it is by law, do it publicly.

Shirley Stevens, 7251 Linwood Dr., Stevens: Congratulations to the new Council people that take their seat today. Thank you for the old Council people. I want to make a public comment because a lot of people sitting and standing here. And I felt like I know what they were all about. I want to make this quick and to the point because Americans are very spoiled, I'm spoiled. And I say that because I'm the owner of a business. I have a business called the tax doctor. The Internal Revenue some people don't even know, it's not even open. Do you know that you can't file tax returns? It's scary because it's like going to the bank at 9:00a.m. It's supposed to be opened but they are saying they don't know when there're going to open. That's scary and they're not telling us. My point is that it's scarier out there than you realize. Because we go on our way every day and we expect these institutions to be in place and take care of us. My point is to the workers in here and to the Council because you got to be tough. Because I said well before unless you're looking at that budget. And seeing what you can cut,

doing what you got to do. Then you don't need to be up there because I had to make some decisions. I had to work within a budget. The money is not there. I love the Fire Department every time I have a problem, and my friend over there that gets the driveway done; I need these services. I fell in the driveway; I was in the hospital for two days because I fell on ice. I don't have that problem now. My point is we got to toughen up people, I'm saying that to everybody, it's all our responsibility. The numbers don't lie, you make the numbers line up and you can move mountains. But we're all responsible for the numbers on the paper. So, my hat goes off to you, you're going to have to manage that budget. Because the numbers are not there and nobody's saying anything. You have to just look at what we got here and make sure we work with those numbers. And I tell you, work those numbers, the numbers take care of you. Whatever we have to do to make this boat float. I thank you for indulging me, I love this community. My community has been good to me. Every time I have an emergency, they're right there. So, I feel like I owe them allegiance and everything. But I also know, as a tax person working with numbers. Stay, see what's on the pieces of paper, it may surprise you. It may surprise you that the numbers are not as thick and wide as you think.

Sylvia Johnson, Bedford Heights Public Library, Johnson: I just wanted to let you know about some programs. We have an entrepreneurial program starting. It's 12 weeks, it's going to be available via zoom and it will be in a couple of different locations. It starts with creating a business plan, testing your idea, obtaining permits and licenses, marketing and so on. I don't know if everyone is aware, but Cuyahoga County Public Library. We offer career services and a job center. It is mainly housed at our Maple branch, but they will make appointments and see you everywhere and it's called Cuyahoga Works. The library has employed a social worker who will work with anyone on any subject. There's a phone number and I have program guides. The food distribution at our location will not start again until March. But for now there are food giveaways at our Warrensville and our South Euclid branch. We have computer classes that are available, and I will leave all of the material here. Thank you guys so much.

Floor closed

Climer: Proceeded to read...

Legislation:

2023-55

Introduced 12-22-23

By Mayor and

Council as a whole

1st read 12-22-23

2nd read 1-9-24

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF
ROSS CIRINCIONE AND JOHN MONTELLO TO THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT LAW
DIRECTOR/PROSECUTOR WITH THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD**

Williams: Why are they sharing this position? **Climer:** John Montello formerly worked as the Magistrate in Oakwood's Mayor's court. The Oakwood Mayor's court is no longer conducting hearings. Summonses are now being issued to the Bedford Municipal Court. The violations bureau is still open and so there's still an Oakwood Municipal Court for that purpose. But Mr. Montello is no longer sitting as the Magistrate. He and Ross are willing to share that job. Basically, the division of labor would be that Ross would handle the boards and commissions as he has. John would handle the prosecutions. **Williams:** So, they're just opting to share this? Just because he doesn't have a position somewhere else. **Climer:** No, there are advantages for the Village. I would like to discuss that in executive session, since we're getting into the reasons. **Williams:** Would the budget for

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
WORK SESSION MINUTES
2024-1-9

ATTENDANCE

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Erica Nikolic, President | Brian Thompson, Finance Director |
| Johnnie Warren, At- Large | |
| Taunya Scruggs, Ward 1 | |
| Eloise Hardin, Ward 2 | |
| Paggie Matlock, Ward 3 | |
| Mary Davis, Ward 4 | |
| Candace Williams, Ward 5 | |

ABSENT

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|--|-------------------------------------|
| Ed Hren, Village Engineer | Carlean Perez – Recreation Director |
| Ross Cirincione, Prosecutor | Gary V Gottschalk, Mayor |
| James Climer, Law Director | Tom Haba, Service Director |
| Dave Tapp, Fire Department | Mark Garratt, Police Department |
| Daniel Marinucci, Chief Bldg. Official | |

Meeting opened at 9:21 by Nikolic

Scruggs: The timeline for receiving the minute. I wanted to request that we get them before Friday of the meeting. I currently serve on boards where I am the Recording Secretary person. I have to type up the minutes and I have to submit them to my board a week before. To let them know what the minutes were of that meeting. To let them know what the agenda is for the upcoming meeting to give them time to actually review. It took me some time because I was new to it, of course. But it did take me some time to really read through all of the things that were sent to me. Then I wanted to reread it again to make sure I was understanding things clearly. To get it on Fridays really only gives me maybe two days to try to figure that out Saturday or Sunday. And if I have any questions about it beforehand. Monday is the only day that I get to even reach out to anybody to ask any questions. So, my question or recommendation is that we get this before Friday. So that we can have a little bit more time to read through it. So, that we can come here, and we can just move a lot faster. **Nikolic:** I agree I've had this conversation with Tanya. She mentioned that before there had been no complaints. But I'm glad you brought it up. What day do you think would be feasible for you? **Scruggs:** So, my thought is, and this is just my thought, and you can let me know and let us know what your responsibilities are. When we meet, like tonight, we've had all of this going on. The very next day really should be dedicated, the whole entire day. To making sure that the meeting minutes are already typed up, get it done. If you got to spend 6/7 hours, get it done. So, within 48 hours of a Tuesday meeting, the minutes should be done. If that is not able to be done. You have all these different technical systems that we can put in place that can actually type up stuff for us. For instance, when you do zoom, zoom has a feature within it. The AI will record your voice as you're talking and type out the meeting minutes for you within the zoom. You could just take it and adjust it, read through it, listen to it, make your grammatical corrections. But it's already typed. You don't have to guess who's saying anything because you're talking into your zoom computer. From what I'm told everybody has a laptop, so we can log into our zoom. That AI could have recorded, it could be in that manuscript and that would save Ms. Joseph from actually having to type every single word. But just having to go back and just kind of edit it. That's one way, but if that's not an option for that zoom. Then physically sitting down and typing it up is the only other option. But basically, giving her an opportunity to sit down and focus on writing. Because we meet for an hour for whatever

our Council needs. And then that hour maybe should take a couple hours to transpose. And I'm just saying that because that's what I do. **Warren:** Well, we had Debra Hladky, who was former Council Clerk and was President of the Municipal Clerks Association. We've never, I've been on Council since '96 and we've never had minutes two or three days after our meeting. As a matter of fact, Debra Hladky, like I said, is second to none as far as municipal clerks and has the ability and recognition throughout state. She gave us our minutes every other Friday, and since '96 I've been able to read them and haven't had a problem with it. **Scruggs:** Well, I'm going to have a problem with it. I don't know if just because it's been done that way for 40 years that that's ok. But I really would like to, if we want to sit here and be here in this meeting for hours and asking 10,000 questions, then ok. But I really feel like we can make a more efficient way to get this done and get it to us before Friday. **Warren:** The 10,000 questions is not the issue. The more we talk, the more you have to take minutes and the more you write. Whether it's specific to the issues or whatever. If there's technology that we can introduce to the Council Clerk that works then we should pursue that. But as far as saying that you can have your minutes from what I've seen in my past experience with the Council Clerks. I'll go and talk to some of the other communities to see how fast their meeting minutes go. But again, like I said, I've never had a problem in digesting the minutes. Because a lot of this stuff is already what we've discussed anyway. So, all it is, is a revelation of what was already discussed. **Williams:** Well, let me say this. We can set the expectation for how we want our Council to be conducted moving forward. We don't have to go off of what's been done in the past just because it's been done. We can set a new expectation. I do think it's reasonable to have those minutes earlier. It is a lot to digest minutes with reports and budgets. We get 2 to 3 inches worth of stuff. So just to say it's been done that way, it's not a sufficient response to say we can't do it a different way. The other thing is I think that's going at it in the wrong direction. The question that needs to be asked is what are the roles and responsibilities that are done in the days following a Council meeting. And how can that be shifted or rearranged so that the minutes become the focus in those days following and this can get done. Whether that's with technology or what, but it's time, we have to be better at governing. We can only do that if we're able to digest the information and make sound decisions. When we're digesting reports and minutes on a Friday and expected to make a decision on a Tuesday. That is not and has never been in my opinion sufficient time. **Matlock:** The information that you receive in order to put on the agenda, not the minutes. Do you get that in a timely fashion? For instance, how late do they give you that information of what's going to be on the actual agenda for our following meeting? **Joseph:** Well, the deadline that I gave everyone when I first came was the Thursday before the Friday that I would send out the agenda, at 12p.m. That would be the deadline for them to get it to me. I mean, I get it at a decent time. As soon as I get it is when I send it out. As far as the minutes, for transcribing the minutes. I do utilize Microsoft Word. They have a transcription section where I can put the audio that's being recorded, and it will transcribe it. However, it's not going to pick up everything that's being said correctly. So, I still have to go through and listen to all of those minutes. I have to make sure it's correct, get it in the correct format, make sure there's a name to the person speaking, etc. It still takes a process and then you have to go back through and edit it. But I do understand what you're saying. And, you know, if Council feels like it needs to be quicker, that it needs to get to you guys more efficiently. Then that's something I'll make sure that I get done. As far as working on the minutes the next day. That is the first thing that I do behind getting all legislation signed and getting it posted in its correct location. So, the next thing I do after that is work on my minutes. **Williams:** Can you tell me why it doesn't record it accurately? **Joseph:** I mean, if a million people are talking or if it's picking up feedback in the background. Or if you say something, it might switch the word to something completely different. So, it's just not clear when it's transcribing. It's picking up and relying off of the audio it's getting. **Williams:** I asked that question to get to, we've requested microphones for Council before. Most Councils when you attend their meetings, there's a microphone in front of everybody and it helps with the clarity of what that recording is picking up. **Joseph:** I mean the recording on this is pretty clear, especially with the extenders that's around. It

picks up everyone's words, but that's the thing, it picks up everything. It would pick up conversations in the audience, just whatever is happening, especially again if multiple people are talking. Then I have to go back through numerous times to decipher who's saying what. When it's being said, make sure it's in the right order.

Matlock: Do you think that if we put it on the zoom like she suggested. Then have zoom transcribe the minutes or whatever is the part that we need to have for the minutes. Would that help? **Joseph:** I haven't used it; I don't mind trying it. I can reach out to the other Clerks and see what they're doing to get it to you guys quicker and try to have it in two days. **Williams:** If we have microphones speaking into that, it won't pick that up more loudly than it's picking up other things. **Joseph:** I personally wouldn't know. When we did it at the Community Center for the moments that we used the mic. It picked up, but I feel like a microphone is going to pick up feedback regardless. Unless you have soundproofing, that's around it to keep it from bouncing everywhere.

Nikolic: The other point I'd like to make is sometimes when we're in Council. We're talking, someone may address a question to the person that's speaking. And someone else may chime in to sort of answer the question for them. I think one way we could help is if we let that person answer the question. I think we have a tendency, if we know the answer, someone may pipe up and answer. If we get stricter about if someone's speaking. We can wait, we can raise our hand and have that input. I understand the technology is there and if we can just explore that. Because like Taunya, I have a lot going on. So, I like to ask Councilwoman Scruggs, what would be a good day. And we can kind of make a balance between what you think is fair now without any new technology and what you think might be fair. Just to throw some days out there. **Scruggs:** I'm thinking if we have a meeting on Tuesday, within 72 hours we should be able to at least have the minutes. Being able to have the minutes is one, great to be able to read it to kind of see what happened. But also, to make sure if there were any action steps that needed to take place that we were responsible for. We can make sure that we're doing that. So, we can come back to the table and have a productive session. Anything is better because again, I want to read it and then I want to read it again. Even if I'm in the meeting, I still want to make sure that I'm clear. That's why I didn't have to ask so many questions today because I spent time and I reread stuff to make sure. I feel like if we get an opportunity to do that a little bit more ahead of time, we'll be more effective. **Williams:** Can we do Monday at noon? **Joseph:** Its whatever Council wants me to do, it's my job and I'll do it. **Hardin:** Do you feel that that's reasonable or do you want to try it and then lets reconvene. Or do you want to start looking for the technology? **Nikolic:** Put feelers out like immediately and we piloted for a couple weeks. By that time, you'll have the technology then we could cut it back to 72 hours. Brian, my follow-up question would be for the microphones, is there a reason why, was that a cost? I know we talked about that line item for extra equipment that could be ordered. Do you have an idea of a cost for microphones? **Thompson:** We would charge the equipment under Council so she could shop around and let us know the price. **Williams:** Who's our IT person? **Thompson:** Tom Souza. **Williams:** That's who needs to do it. Tom needs to find us adequate equipment for this environment, this setting. We need a tech person to tell us what microphone we should have so that it picks us up, gets to that recording. You should be able to communicate the context of this conversation. So, that he knows what we need to fix and what we would like to purchase. You shared that you're getting signatures for things. What other things happen immediately after Council meeting. That might take up your Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday. **Joseph:** I mean well, first of all, I just started, and it's only been five months. So initially I was trying to get a feel as I do my minutes. You know, just finding my way, which I think I'm improving on. However, immediately after I get those legislative things complete. I'm doing the minutes, unless like I'm helping with a newsletter or helping get an envelopes out or something. Then I might step away for a second and help to get that out. Because it may need to go out sooner than my minutes. Then I go back to my minutes. That was before I knew Council's concern on getting their minutes earlier. If I knew that in fact, I would have tried to make sure that I got it even sooner. I more or less was just working with what I saw in the Charter. I know I have 10 days to get it done. So, anything that I had to do, I was just fitting it in within getting those

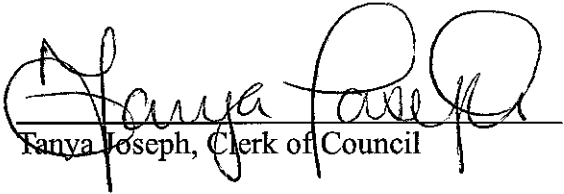
minutes done and getting the other jobs done. When I came in, I had other things I had to complete that, I just stepped in the middle of. As far as the grant programs for shred days and working with the Soil and Water Conservation District and everything. I was just more or less learning my roles and getting acclimated to that. So, it's a new year, I can find out from the other Clerks how quickly they get their minutes done. What they do to get their minutes done quicker and what technology is utilized. **Williams:** So, if our focus and priority is meeting minutes. The first three days after a meeting, then what we're saying is we're not asking you to be stressed out to do this. We're just asking you to make it known that this is first. So, maybe you can't help some people do some stuff. **Joseph:** I understand. **Williams:** Monday 12:00 PM, and I just think Monday at 12:00 PM is good. I suggested because sometimes you come in Monday morning and Mondays are different days of the work week. So, at least that gives you a few hours to tidy one last thing up. You still got till noon. It's not a hard deadline like you going to lose your job if you don't have it by 12:00 PM. It's just a hey, this happened, and I'm going to get them to you by two or four. But Monday 12:00 PM is kind of the goal. **Davis:** Mr. Thompson, you know, I have requested this before. I'm going to request it now that we're speaking about our Clerk getting our paperwork to us early. We don't even get it the Friday before; we get stacks of the budget stuff and I expect to look at all that stuff. I even want to see those credit card things that we've been asking about. If we can do the minutes by the Monday before our meeting. We should be able to get our finance information too. That gives us time to look it over. So, is that possible for you because we've been asking. **Thompson:** I'm on track for 2024, I hear you loud and clear. **Davis:** Then you promised me the Senior Center rental. What we took in and what we spent out. There's no way we only made \$220 profit if they pay \$150 each time they rent it. It was rented every Saturday and Sunday, so that doesn't even make sense. There is something wrong there, somewhere, those numbers are wrong. **Warren:** Or something that somebody is not collecting. **Thompson:** I mean it's showing here what you collected the \$14,805 they paid. A large portion of it goes back to the center, if it's in good condition. **Williams:** You pay a fee and a deposit. The deposit comes back, but the fee is a fee. **Thompson:** Right, the fee is collected, but you offset the payment for the return of the same fund. **Davis:** No, but the fee was \$250, it was \$100 deposit. So, \$350.00 to rent it, I got the \$100 back and I still pay the \$250. There's a \$250 profit, this doesn't even show, it's only a \$220 difference. **Thompson:** It's not there to make a profit, it's just the ins and outs... **Davis:** No, it's there to make a profit, that's a profit for our city. That's how Walton Hills does theirs. **Thompson:** It's not a problem to run it in detail. I'll flush out every name that paid under that fund. **Warren:** Right, but do you understand what she's saying? She's saying that the refund is contingent only on \$100, but the rental is \$250. We should be getting \$250 clear, notwithstanding the one or two times that the people don't clean it and we hold back another \$50 bucks. But there should be no reason why the \$250 isn't a profit. And you're right, it's not to make a profit, but it is to maintain the center. Because the whole purpose of renting it is to cover the expenses of the of the center. **Thompson:** I'll run these details, and take a full scale look at it. **Davis:** So, we're getting all of your reports, when did we say? **Williams:** When January 5th came, you knew you didn't have it done. Send communications to the Council Clerk so she can forward them to all of us. There should still be communication about why you don't have it. I've heard you say if your boss doesn't make you do it, we're responsible for this budget. And we can say just like we just said with the Law Director. Maybe we look at paying him hourly instead of salary. Like, we can start cutting budgets, we would not like to do that. But if we're not getting the outcomes and people are not meeting their job descriptions. We don't have to make full payments for salary. You can be part time, you can be hourly, like we need the work to be done. So, that when we're making payments with taxpayer dollars for salaries. It's because the work is getting done, you follow that. So, to say you don't have to do it because your boss isn't on you. Or to say you are a victim of... **Thompson:** I never said that. **Williams:** Or to say you are a victim of not getting the information. You know what you're responsible for, you know what we need in terms of budget. Because you've been doing this for so long, you got to communicate. **Thompson:** Ok. **Matlock:** I was informed NLC is in Washington. March 11th

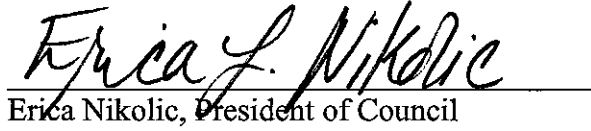
through 13th, the hosting hotel is the Marriott where all the conferences are in that one hotel. Everybody now has started to book because this is like their 100th year, their anniversary. So, everybody, every city is going to be there. We want to make sure that we do get in that host hotel and we're not somewhere in our hotel away from Conference Center. and you got to walk in. So, is it ok that she goes ahead and makes that call to at least get us the reservation for the Marriott NLC right now? If we are planning on attending it as Oakwood Council. I like this one because of the fact you get to go in the capital, and you can meet with your representatives and stuff while you're there. **Nikolic:** Does everyone anticipate going? **Warren:** We usually just take a role of who wants to go, and then she'll register you. While we are all here we might as well. **Hardin:** Remember if you don't go, I personally feel you should pay the Village back, so, make sure. **Matlock:** And it is the 11th through the 13th. And normally we'll go in the day before. So that'll be the 10th and we'll come back the date after which is the 14th. **Hardin:** Now the one other thing is there are classes too, especially newcomers. You go online and check classes and make sure you avail yourself of it. The objective is education, and it's invaluable. **Williams:** I would like us to return back to having legislation put into our work session before it goes on to the agenda. Like we used to for a long length of time. It helps with the being able to process if it's in the work session. You can review it; you can ask your questions here. You can talk about what you think about it and then you can get a response before it even goes on to agenda. So, I think we should return to that and request all the directors or whoever gives us legislation, to start putting that in our work session. **Hardin:** When we had a hard and fast rule. Nothing goes on that agenda unless it goes through the work session. We had a more efficient situation going. So, if we're going to do it, it has to be hard and fast. Whatever time frame you set, if it's not given to her timely, don't even think about it. **Warren:** Just to let you know, just like you're saying. The Mayor does have a right to put things on the agenda without consent period. But then what we can do, if he is combative about it. We can as Council move it to the work session. **Williams:** What we did was we kept with that pattern, and he wasn't combative. Because he knew we weren't looking at it unless it was in that work session. So, it wasn't a combative situation. But when we started making exceptions, that is our rule. So, we can process and make a decision. Gives you a chance to know what you're looking at. **Nikolic:** On this work session document, it says Hardin municipal complex, disaster recovery plan, HR, and five-year plan. Is this something we still need on here? **Hardin:** Those are ideas and areas of concern that go back. We never go forward with those ideas. To me, that's why it didn't get lost. But nobody here knows anything about a five-year plan. Every community should have a five-year plan. It's a part of an organization through the County that will help you set up your five-year plan. We need to avail ourselves of that, we need a five-year plan. **Williams:** If you just read the things that are on here. For instance, it says legislation, there should be a fiscal officer certificate present whenever we do anything with dollars. So, you should have a certificate certifying that you know we have those funds. It is there, it's been there. Those are just routine things that we should always have. That should be common practice and they are best practices. You should always be able to tell us with that certificate yes, we got this money and I'm telling you, yes, we got this money. **Matlock:** When are we going to have another meeting for the employees and what percentage of raise they get? Because I'm quite sure they want to know. **Nikolic:** Ok, so my thought with things like this. And please fill out your surveys if you haven't. Things like this could go in committees. Committees with specific interests could workshop these ideas and we can get them moving along. **Williams:** I'm not sure municipal complex and five-year plan can go into committees. Just because we should all be present for that. I also want to make a recommendation. Like when we don't need to use emergency ordinance that we stop using it. Because we don't have to have everything as an emergency ordinance, everything is not an emergency. This legislation right here is not an emergency, and so we should use it appropriately. **Nikolic:** The rule that we're workshopping legislation that will take that off. That would eliminate that because we would have had that discussion. **Hardin:** Before we go, at the next meeting, we would like a financial breakdown of what's going on in the Mayor's court. What costs were involved in that

decision. **Davis:** And the Clerks, how much are they being paid. **Matlock:** Brian, this is no big thing but when Joe asked you do we have the money. That's not for him to know if you have the money or not. **Thompson:** It's something he needs to request. **Matlock:** To me I would have never said we have it or not. That's not for him to know if they have it or not. Because the first thing when you said we have it. They're going to sit there and say, well, how come they didn't give me 5%? **Warren:** The answer should have been and going forward, we'll know that. This is what we're in the process of doing now. We're reviewing our budget, and we haven't approved our budget. **Williams:** Because yeah, I think they have a right to know. But Council has to make that budgetary decision. Would have been more of a reasonable response to say. I do believe Council just got the healthcare numbers. I do believe they just got the amount of the increase. Like there's information that we didn't have and after they take a look at all of that. They can probably make a better decision. But to just say yeah, we got it. When we may look at these, you got to give us the healthcare numbers. Because I saw you write numbers when I was writing them. So, I don't know if you don't know. We got to talk about the lump sum for these fire people because they're likely going to get that money in 2024. That's going to be a part of the budget. We haven't received the sick leave or vacation for people that are right now eligible for retirement. That could impact our budget. So, we're kind of putting the cart before the horse when we tell the entire staff. Hey, you're going to get raises and we haven't looked at all these other things holistically. **Hardin:** That was why I became pretty defensive. I didn't show any anger, just frustration. That's why it seemed a little ignorant and I did it intentionally. You can read it along with me. I have no idea where we are with this, and I left it at that because the room was packed. **Thompson:** So, somebody's doing something like that. It's not so much a special request, it's just... **Williams:** I think it's ok to tell him we have the money. You have the statement of cash in front of you. I think that's perfectly fine. We're a government entity, everything we do is public information, except for executive session. So, you should tell them that. But also, what you should have said is all of these other things factor into that decision. You just made it like, oh, they got the money in addition to all these things. We haven't looked at all of it yet. I'd like to make a recommendation for Council to consider adding to our budget the microphones. Adding to our budget an individual, preferably a lawyer, to review our Charter with the Community. A possibility to explore having our own legal for Council. I think we should consider those things, given the situation that just happened with respect to legal. I think we also need legal counsel for ourselves with the rest of that playing out. The fourth thing was having our Council meetings recorded. If people can't make it here, they can't make it here. We should have them online available. Everything is recorded now and available. **Davis:** Our minutes are online, correct? **Williams:** Yeah, but you got to go back and read them. You should be able to sit and watch a meeting from anywhere as it's occurring. Considering legal counsel, microphones, having our meetings recorded and someone who can review our Charter with the community independently. **Nikolic:** I sent out an e-mail asking for us to have a meeting. Somewhat of an organizational meeting to discuss things like that. So, it was contingent on whether or not they were going to do the hearing. So, since we know that he cannot prepare the witnesses by the 23rd. Everyone can agree if we come at six and have this meeting we can discuss things like that and other topics that we'd like. Everyone can present whatever ideas they have. We could kind of workshop at that meeting. **Davis:** Is this a work session? **Nikolic:** It's a special meeting that would happen before Council meeting. **Williams:** Do we need to do it earlier or like 5? Because the 2nd meeting is typically finances and we haven't received those reports. I'm just asking, or we want to make finance separate. **Nikolic:** So, is there another day? Because these are things that I kind of think we should probably get on top of. We don't want to keep pushing them into February. So, we can do a different day. **Hardin:** Monday the 22nd. **Warren:** Yeah. **Hardin:** What time? **Davis:** Have to be 6pm because I babysit until 6:00pm. **Hardin:** Ok, Monday, 6:00pm on 22nd. **Hardin:** They have to announce what it is, what is it? An organizational meeting? **Williams:** Council organizational meeting. **Nikolic:** Can I get a motion to adjourn?

Motion to adjourn made by Davis seconded by Matlock
YES VOTE: Warren, Nikolic, Scruggs, Hardin, Matlock, Davis, Williams
MOTION PASSED
Adjourned at 10:32p.m.

Approved 1.23.2024


Fanya Joseph, Clerk of Council


Erica Nikolic, President of Council