

**VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
2024-8-27**

ATTENDANCE

Erica Nikolic, President	Gary V Gottschalk, Mayor*
Taunya Scruggs, Ward 1	Tom Haba, Service Director
Paggie Matlock, Ward 3	Dave Tapp, Fire Department
Mary Davis, Ward 4	James Climer, Law Director
Candace Hill, Ward 5(formerly Williams)	Brian Thompson, Finance Director
	Daniel Marinucci, Chief Bldg. Official
	Captain Freeman, Police Department

ABSENT

Ross Cirincione, Prosecutor	Carlean Perez – Recreation Director
Eloise Hardin, Ward 2	Matt Jones, Village Engineer

Johnnie Warren, President Pro Tem

** Arrived after roll call*

Meeting opened at 7:00pm by Nikolic
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call taken

Nikolic: Agenda item number four, meeting minutes.

Motion to adopt the meeting minutes for March 26th, 2024 Environmental Committee meeting made by Scruggs seconded by Matlock

YES VOTE: Nikolic, Scruggs, Matlock

NO VOTE: Davis, Williams

MOTION PASSED

Motion to adopt the minutes from March 26th, 2024, Finance Committee meeting made by Matlock seconded by Davis

YES VOTE: Nikolic, Scruggs, Matlock, Davis, Williams

MOTION PASSED

Nikolic: Moving on to agenda item number five, clerk correspondence. Joseph: I have none at the time. **Nikolic:** Moving on to agenda item number six, departmental reports. Our mayor is not here, is there anyone here reporting on his behalf? Okay, hearing none, moving on to law director.

Law Director Climer| **Climer:** Thank you, Madam President. You'll see on the agenda tonight an ordinance to correct Ordinance 2024-32. Which is the joint improvement with Glenwillow. We discovered after the fact that the wrong contract attached to that ordinance. I think it probably, in all candor, came out of my office and I'll take responsibility for that. This has been discussed multiple times with Mr. Henry and Mr. Jones. It's the exact contract and so that I would ask that we pass that. So, that we can get the contract executed and move forward. With that said, I'm

happy to take questions. **Hill:** Can you talk to us about what was different in the contract that we incorrectly approved? **Climer:** The previous contract was a previous joint contract with Glenwillow for the area around the Richmond Circle, I believe it was. And the two just got mixed up, it was executed in 2018. This is the contract that was intended for 2024. I think the one that is attached to the ordinance this time, I believe it was passed around. Uh, between the discussions with Mr. Jones and Mr. Henry, and that's the one that was in fact intended for this ordinance. **Nikolic:** The main difference after my review, Councilperson Hill, if you look at between the two sections C and the amendment includes the specifics for the payments. Whereas the one that was erroneously attached does not have the specifics of the payments that will be made by Oakwood. So for example, in the amended version of the legislation section C of the agreement, it specifically states. **Climer:** And my apologies for any inconvenience. **Hill:** So, the correct way to do this is to create another piece of legislation amending it, instead of just amending? **Climer:** Right. **Hill:** So, we would refer to two different ordinances when we talk about executing the project. **Climer:** Correct, ordinance 2024-51 amends 2024-32 and substitutes in the correct contract into 2024-32. **Hill:** And we don't need to repeal 2024-32? **Climer:** I don't think so, we can if you would prefer to do that as a plan. **Hill:** I'm just saying, if it's incorrect. It seems like we have two different pieces of legislation on the books to address the same thing, if one is incorrect. Can you look into that? **Climer:** I will double check as to whether that is a clearer way to do that. **Hill:** I'm just saying, if none of us are sitting here... **Nikolic:** Any questions for the law director? Hearing none, may we hear from our finance director? Finance Director Thompson| **Thompson:** Thank you, Madam Chairman, just a couple of comments, the finance department. We've been working with the state auditors. They contract out to another company, but they still report to the state. So we're doing our 2022-2023 biannual audit with them and also we're just working on closing out the financials for July and moving into August. And I just wanted to make those a couple comments. I can entertain any questions. **Matlock:** Are the auditors still present? **Thompson:** They were here on site for three days last week. They'll be back, maybe they say it in about a month. But we're continually giving them information as they email us whatever documents they want to pull, we send it to them through email. **Nikolic:** What is the status of the requisitions? **Thompson:** Uh, requisitions, I think we last went through was probably pre-June 20th. **Nikolic:** Are there any that need immediate attention? **Thompson:** Not immediate attention, I did try to address one was asked me about with some council photos today. So I touched base with Tanya and I think council picked out a package for the photos. And then we'll get a formal invoice to process that. **Nikolic:** Because I know our finance committee meeting was canceled. So, I'm assuming at some point we're going to reconvene and discuss all the financials once they're completed. **Thompson:** Yes. **Hill:** So, we don't need finance committee meeting to address requisitions. So, we'll start going through them now that we have the budget approved. But is this what we have as of 8/22? Did you include everything that seemed to be approved? Is this up to date or is this just for this week? **Thompson:** That would be just for this week so, yeah. **Hill:** So we don't have one compiled list. They're all in their separate list? **Thompson:** Yeah. **Hill:** The only question I have is as of June 27, 2024, the state of Ohio has the new enhanced fraud reporting and training that all employees and every elected official has to complete within 90 days. Do we have a plan for ensuring everyone completes that? **Thompson:** The clerk did pass that information out to my department. She may have distributed it to other departments as well. I know I talked to the service department, he had his. So, it was distributed to all employees so they could go on and get the certification. **Matlock:** Let me ask you a question once I get that certification. Do you have a

copy of everyone in the departments with that certification? Do you a copy on hand? I'll have mine and the department heads turn it in and I'll put them up to date for a second. **Matlock:** Okay, so we need a whole personal information file put into your files. The dating and sign that everyone took that certification and we are up to date on it. Every employee was supposed to take it. **Thompson:** Okay. **Hill:** So, you're going to create a spreadsheet that track the departments. **Nikolic:** Okay, may we move on to Service Director Haba?

Service Director Haba| **Haba:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson, just a couple of things out of the ordinary, probably going to break. The big storm we had, we weren't hit nearly as hard as Bedford and Walton Hills. But we did pick up from residence houses, it was probably about 25 truckloads of branches and trees. We had two or three blocking the roads that night happened. And the police and fire helped out on those too, we appreciate that. And a few weeks ago, we spent, on slower days, painting fire hydrants. We've covered most of the main streets, some of the side streets, repainting fire hydrant, which we do every few years. I'd be happy to take any questions. **Matlock:** First of all, thank you for all your assistance. Number two, do we have a contract person with the Illuminating company on the services for Oakwood? Because we do need to find out what grids each section is on. Because every time it seems like we have storm some sections... **Haba:** That section that was out over there, you probably talking about the Lynbrook. It was just Lynbrook, Millbury, and Buckthorn. Probably that came from lightning hit a tree right there. It was in Bedford Heights but right on the borderline of the last house in Oakwood on Buckthorn. That's probably why that area was out the longest. **Matlock:** Do we have anything like a graph or something that details? **Haba:** I do not, but we do have a contact person. **Matlock:** Yeah, because I want to get in touch with them, make sure that some of the... **Haba:** I'll give you his number or... **Matlock:** Thanks, that's all I need. Because I just need to find out the tree limbs that are on some of these electrical lines. **Haba:** They're going to be coming around again, I just met with them last week. They're going to be coming round again, which they do almost every year now and doing some of the streets. **Matlock:** Okay, well you're on top of it. I was just, you know, seeing some of the limbs on some of the wires. And that could cause transformers and stuff to go out, you know. **Davis:** Two things, one is, I wanted to commend Corey, you can tell him. We thank him for his activity that he gives us, the emails with all the activities. Not that we need to know where you guys are, but we appreciate knowing where you're having your time for the months. The second thing I had a question, I'm just looking over this financial request and you have for the service department we have two different garbage people. We have the waste management that picks up for your service garage and then we have for your service garage rubbish pickup for the Republic Service. Why do we have two different ones? **Haba:** Republic server, well, we have that contract that you guys just did a month ago or so with Waste Management for all the houses and stuff. And when someone else was here up City Hall. They even had a contract with Republic. That is the only one for the community center, that one. It was a real high, and I was taking it off like four years ago. And they talked to me, I said, well, you're way high, you charged us way high for, you know, eight years here. And they came down a price that, you, know, that was really good. So we kept it at that one. **Davis:** Okay, because it's under service, that's why I didn't know if you... **Haba:** No, that's for one at the community center. **Davis:** Okay, thank you very much for clarifying, I appreciate it. **Nikolic:** Service director I'd like if you could give an update on the project on Richmond. I know the last time we were here there were families inquiring about the removal of the pipes with the lead paint. I know you were in communication with the people at the County if

you can just... **Haba:** I couldn't get in with the water department, with the popular workers there. And they said they tested, it's been so long now. If they found any sign of lead which was frozen in the pipes, they were replacing the pipes. But they couldn't say if there was lead in the pipe or not, you know, for certain. But they seen any sign lead in pipes, and they were replacing them, even up going up the house. And I think at that time when I talked to them, which was pretty far into the, they still had their barrels out there by the way, try to catch them. To restore some of the drives and grass, but they still got their things out there. But at that time there was like one line going up that they found signs of lead. But they said they can't tell if there was lead or not, I don't know what size it could have been. **Nikolic:** Questions came up in the environmental committee meeting yesterday about whether or not the county has a plan. Or a track of all the areas in the community that they intend to... **Haba:** They probably do and that is a from a federal branch going on there. And that's not the County, I believe that's through Cleveland Water Department's that's doing that work there. And they're not doing it themselves they have subcontractors doing it. **Nikolic:** Okay, is there any way to find out which what all areas in the village? **Haba:** There may be none but I will check into that. **Nikolic:** Okay, just so we know which village which parts of the village... **Haba:** And like I said, that's from a federal grant. The County's not really kind of doing it. It's really the Water Department, they've got the federal grant. **Nikolic:** Okay, all right, any other questions for our service department? Hearing none, may we hear from Chief Tapp?

Fire Chief Tapp| **Tapp:** Thank you, Madam President, fire department related. Everything is status quo, our lines has been pretty high. We've had some issues over the past couple of days with the fire truck breaking down. So, we replaced the order for the other one. By the end of this week, we should have everything back up and running. (inaudible) truck broke on Sunday, and then (inaudible) broke down today. We've got one going back to service. We should have it back up running by Friday, that's about it. **Nikolic:** Any questions for our Fire Chief? Hearing none, we'll hear from Captain Freeman.

Police Captain Freeman| **Freeman:** Thank you, Madam President, we had our annual three on three basketball tournament this weekend. It was kind of, we didn't do a whole lot of advertising. Some passed out flyers to the kids in the neighborhood. But we had a good turnout down there at the basketball court across from Rome Baptist Church. We probably had, I said about 20 male adults that came out to play basketball. And probably at least 30 kids from 15 and under. So what we did, we cooked hot dogs, had pop, chips for the kids, and we also had backpacks with certain school supplies and things like that. So we also we had sponsors that helped us down there. We had Dick's Sporting Goods, Superior Beverage, Sam's Club of Oakwood, we also had Nickels of Oak wood, and also the senior centers of Ohio that also donated. So I'd say probably 80% of all the items that we have are donated to this. Also, we have had a lot of complaints of people parking on the grass for some reason. I don't understand it, but for some reasons people don't want to park in their driveway anymore. They're parking on their lawns and that's against the law. So, let's try to keep that in the driveway. And on a sad note, we had an employee that worked here for over 30 years, Sergeant Doug Kelly, he passed last week. Yeah, he was here from 1978 to around 2011, I think, when he retired, so yeah. He passed last weekend, he already had his service, so it was a private service. So, just to let everybody know, if you have any questions. **Matlock:** Who won the game? **Freeman:** Oakwood PD won, we got some good basketball players on the police department, but they were some intense games. So, we had a nice turnout, more man-chain than I thought. We had like at least 20 guys come out there to play.

Matlock: Yeah, I commend you guys for that because that's something that the community need. And that's that the kids look forward to, that they're with you. And then it gives them the sense to know you, who you are, and they're not scared of you, in case something happens. They know to come to you, but that's good. **Freeman:** We're going to probably advertise a little bit more now that we've got more time to see that it's working out good. That way we can get a whole lot more kids out there from all over the whole city, you know. That was just damn good. It seemed like mostly everybody just came out. Once they've seen us out there, they were involved. People were like, hey, they out there cooking and stuff, so it just worked out good, that's all. **Davis:** I just wanted to say, maybe we can put it on our billboard out there too, a couple weeks before you know it's going to happen. **Freeman:** Yeah, we can do that as well. The photos and some videos are on the Facebook page. **Nikolic:** Any other questions for Captain Freeman? Hearing none, may we hear from our Building Department head, Mr. Marinucci?

Building Director Marinucci| **Marinucci:** Mayor Gottschalk, it's good to see you, god bless you. I'm just here for questions, things are going pretty smoothly in the Building Department.

Matlock: I have an eyesore on my street. I know I just need to contact you in regards. This is the house that has all the cars in front. It keeps, you guys know the address, but I need something done. We have to have something done, these cars are not operable. They're there all the time, the Dumas home, with the dogs. I have to have something done with that home, period. We have been going at this now since I've been in council for two years. And it's getting worse, they have like a Corvette that's been parked out there for eons; it don't run. Then he has three or four vehicles parked there, they're not running. Then he don't cut his front lawn, that looks horrible. Then he doesn't do any maintenance to his home, that looks horrible. We have to do something with this, we have to cite him. **Marinucci:** We will cite him, he will be cited tomorrow, but he's been cited in the past. **Matlock:** That's what I'm saying, so it's now, citing is over with.

Marinucci: We'll get him, I'm not even going to send them to respond or something, I just want to send it to them. **Matlock:** And did we have a follow up with the other home that's next door to him that has all of the wood, like he has a junkyard behind his home. **Marinucci:** Is that the one with the stuff in the backyard? This is the one you talked about before. That back yard has been cleaned up, unless if it reappears. We had pictures before, when you first addressed it to us. And then we did a follow up on it. We took pictures of it, it was all removed. I was impressed on how much work was actually done on that. I'll check it again to see if it reoccurred. **Matlock:** We were going to have to keep checking that one because I do see trucks going up there offloading. **Davis:** First off the Gray Brothers, what happened? **Marinucci:** That's in court. **Davis:** Because he had a mess again, so we don't have a date yet? **Marinucci:** No, it's in court, and I can tell you, I received a phone call today from the court. The two prosecutors and Gray Brothers were there and that's going on, basically. We're in that phase, and it's continued for 30 days. I can represent that to you, so there's issues that have to be resolved within that time frame. **Davis:** Good, second one, I'm going to ask about the DCOMM. **Marinucci:** Just yesterday, we got an email from Andy Sparks, regarding the fence and the front of the yard. In fact, I don't even like some of the new stuff. I like the embankment with the trees on top, that's all been removed. And I believe that... **Gottschalk:** The house against the Macedonia, that's going to be taken care of. **Davis:** Okay, and also the backyard, I haven't seen the fencing yet. **Marinucci:** The fencing is in in yet, they have laid out real nice. And there's going to be fencing, there are trees, and a lot, there is a lot in it because there's five lots. And basically, he ends the email saying, hopefully, it will be done by the fall, is what he has in this email. **Davis:** So, if I want to see what these plans

are. **Marinucci:** I'll email it to you. **Davis:** Thank you, I appreciate it. It's pretty comprehensive, in fact, I don't like the front of it. I like the mounds and trees personally. And I think he's in this particular site plan it's talking about fencing with some trees no mound. **Davis:** I didn't know that DCOMM owned all that property. There's a couple of houses there, and then there's DCOMM's property. But now they've got their bales of cable all the way to Macedonia Road. So all you see through by Macedonia road, there's some trees, but you can see these gigantic bales by Macedonian road. **Marinucci:** And that's the part of this where you're going to see in this site plan, it's how to deal with it. Screening is a major part of it. And from DCOMM's perspective, and you know it's good when you're, you know, he's all over the country on this. So when he comes over here into Oakwood Village, his game plan was to have a hundred trucks by last March. And he didn't hit that number, I can tell you, there's nowhere near that many. But maybe a little bit overzealous, but it seems like it's picking up. Talking to the people over there, that business is definitely picking up. So, that ain't all the urgency, to deal with this issue. It's been going on too long and you know even speaking with the law director on this. Because we had a lot of conversations on this. It is nicer for him to be nice to the neighbors and everything because he might get a zoning change. That's a funny property because you have general business tied into a residential area, it's a nightmare. It shouldn't be happening like that. So it's better to be nice and we want it to be. **Nikolic:** Uh, Mr. Marinucci, could you give us a quick update on 21481 Forbes Road? **Marinucci:** Sure, it's going to be the biggest nightmare that you want to experience. Because, see, I didn't want to speak about this. I told the mayor, the mayor said don't speak on it see... The way a building department works is like this. My allegiance is to the higher-order building standards. So basically, if the zoning ordinance is in conflict with the building code. The building codes supersedes the zoning ordinances. So what this particular property, of course, there is no building code issue that exists, it's a zoning issue. You cannot weaponize the building code or the building department to achieve a zoning code. So basically, what you have there is you have a house. And right behind that house, you have another house detached. And then you have a garage. And it's a very narrow piece of property. So our zoning says, uh-huh, you can't have two houses in it. A lot where you're going to rip one of them out. So we're saying, you got to take that out. It's unconstitutional to prevent this buyer from selling it. And the building department would not be involved in any of that proceedings. Because what will happen is the High Board of Building Standards will be certified. Oakwood Village Building Department, and Dan Berenice at CBO, so we're not going down that path. So the very first email that I sent on it is the procedure upon which the building department will operate. Absolutely the only way the building departments want to operate. And that is he can sell it, he can fix it, the violations, or he sells it in the buyer, has to fix the violation. The problem with this, the violations exceed \$20,000. It may hit \$30,000 because of the configuration of the site. And what do you achieve? You achieve taking out a house, a building, only to look at the complaining neighbor's house. So I don't see it happening. I see them, I've been in touch with the realtor, and he put it in the computer in the listing that the house has to be demolished. I do not see anybody buying that house. And demolishing it so they could achieve a zoning code issue in Oakwood. I don't see it happening between \$20,000 and \$30,000. What happened is this, we already have a buyer that wants to buy it. But he wants to convert the house back into a rent property, which is against the zoning code. Now, the cheapest way out of this... Is converting that house into a garage. Because it already has the structure in it, it has electric in it. You just put a garage door in it and you got it, garage door, that's the cheapest way out. But then you have a zoning problem. You have two garages, one lot. This is what I see happening, I see everybody

walking away from it, I don't see that kind of money being thrown at it, we're going to see. But the calls we're getting on it is, hey, we'll fix it up. No, it has to be taken down, and the cost of taking down is way too much money. And it's a nightmare, and this is how it works. If you turn around and you said, we can't, flip it. But, hypothetically speaking, if you turn around and said yeah let's make it a rental property, now the zoning code. Now we go back into the building code portion of it. And now we have to put a roof on it, the electric has to meet, the plumbing has to be, you have all those kinds of issues. Which you don't have going on right now because it's not a building code issue, so that's 21481 Forbes. **Nikolic:** Law Director, do you have something to add? **Climer:** The point of sale ordinance and the pund case that I sent you do indicate that we can have a point of sale inspection. However, you cannot do it without the permission of the owner. And to hold up the sale because you haven't permitted the inspection is a violation of the fourth amendment. What can happen is the ordinance requires that there be an inspection. The building department can issue a certificate of non inspection. However, then be when the property transfers, the owner is obligated to bring the building up to code. All right and if they fail to do so, there are criminal penalties. It's a fourth degree misdemeanor for the seller, the escrow agent, and the purchaser to fail to abide by the point of sale ordinance; and so that is the remedy. **Nikolic:** Has a point of sale inspection been completed? **Marinucci:** Yes. **Nikolic:** Okay, and the seller is aware that this has to be done before they sell it? **Marinucci:** No, the seller does not have to do it at all. The board of building standards is firm in its position. Either he wants to make the repairs, he does it. If he doesn't want it, the buyer has to make repairs. So, that is how this Building Department is implementing this. We are not going to prevent the sale. We're not going to get involved in stopping the sale. We're going to allow it to go through. It's not going go through, so don't worry about it and let it happen. Sooner or later, the realtor is going to back out of this. Because nobody's going to throw \$30,000 to take down... And the reason why I'm saying \$30k, it's definitely going to cost you \$20k. But this is a hard lot, you have to go down a narrow driveway, turn to the left, take a building down which is really close to the neighbor. And then logistics makes it very difficult. **Nikolic:** My position and my concern is that what we want to make clear to absentee landlords is that you can't buy property in Oakwood and not fix it up. Because it's my understanding the seller purchased the property some 10 years ago. He's rented it ou, he's been allowed to profit from that, but he never fixed the problem. So, imagine someone bought the property with this massive hole. Or this building that should be demolished on the property. With the understanding that he was supposed to demolish it. **Marinucci:** No, that was never an understanding at that time. **Nikolic:** Well, that's what the realtor said. **Marinucci:** That property transferred because Oakwood Village allowed a piece of property that had two houses on it. And Oakwood Village allowed the second house to be a rental property, and the Oakwood village allowed it. So, if this guy comes in and buys it for whatever reason, if that back house was not vacant. It would be grandfathered in and he'd be allowed to rent it out. But because it's vacant and it's an eye sore, there's all kind of building code violations in it. If it wasn't vacant, he'd been allowed to fix it up and then he could continue to rent it up. So, now he can't do that because because we're not going to allow them to rent. **Nikolic:** Well, he's been renting it for 10 years, and let's assume that it wasn't the understanding when he purchased it. But given the complaints over the years, he has owned it for ten years. The complaints to the building department about the fact that the building had holes in it, animals living in it, infestation, stench of urine. You know, considering how close the properties are to one another. Even if it wasn't an understanding, when it was purchased over the years with those types of complaints. Wouldn't the building department have stepped in to ensure that it was

demolished and not allow him to profit for upwards of 10 years? **Marinucci:** I'm not going to get into profiting at all. **Nikolic:** Well, I am, because absentee landlords should not be allowed to profit when they're not getting involved. **Marinucci:** Alright, let me answer your question. **Nikolic:** Okay, well, go ahead. **Marinucci:** I'm not going to get into the profit aspect, because I had no idea if the guy was making any money. If he was making a lot of money, he'd probably take it down. And I don't believe you're making any one of it. And the other thing is this. If he's going to maintain it and stay there, we can rough him up. We can definitely get him into court. But I can see a bankruptcy on this, and it's our problem. The money is out of the line on this. If I own that property, I'm going to bankrupt this and move on. I mean, sure, Jim, we'll take him to court, I mean but he's trying to sell it. He's not in LLC, I checked that out. But I don't see anybody throwing this kind of money at this to take this down. I don't see it, I mean it makes no economic sense whatsoever. **Nikolic:** I just want to make sure that when people are buying investment properties in Oakwood. That they understand that they have a duty to maintain them, right. And next to people who've lived there for years. Because the person who lives next door to them, I grew up with him, right. And he's been on that corner since, you know, I was 12. So people, longtime residents who have to live next to investors who buy properties and then they don't maintain them. We have to have some more rigorous involvement with making sure that these absentee landlords comply. **Marinucci:** Welcome, you're not here long enough, but welcome to the LLCs. And this guy's not an LLC, but what you just said is the fight that we have ongoing with LLCs, they're out of town. They're, you know, some of them are from New York City, then the guy taking care of it's from Miami, Florida. (inaudible). This particular piece of property, we didn't even know about how bad it was until the point of sale came in. And then everything from your end started to surface, and he's trying to unload it. And, yeah, we could be more aggressive, and we are aggressive. Anytime we see, you know, we're... We've taken a lot of people before, and we're going on the court again with a guy on Pettibone. It's not that we close our eyes, this is a hard one. That's all I'm saying, there's not a magic wand that's going to make this one. **Nikolic:** There's no magic wand, but my question is if you've received complaints about the home within the past let's say five years. The property has been like that for at least the past ten according to his neighbor. So, was he ever cited? Was there anything done to ensure that he was going to demolish it? **Marinucci:** I could tell you, your statement is not true. And I could also tell you that I personally performed an inspection on that property years ago, when Davey Hobson was still involved. David Hobson, did the electric work there, that he told me years ago. And the main house is nice, I've been in the main house. And at that time, the rear house was just vacant and it was over here in condition. I mean, there was no complaints in the file regarding anything that you said. **Nikolic:** So, you're saying it's not true what I'm saying? **Marinucci:** I found out for the first time how bad it was two weeks ago when you sent me the email. It's not like we're getting complaints about issues like this and we're closing our eyes, that's not true. We wouldn't be closing our eye on these kind of issues. And I'm sure the neighbor is 100% correct on it because he's living there next door. **Nikolic:** And he's actually the foreman of the service department. **Marinucci:** It doesn't matter that he works for the city. It doesn't matter to me if we treat everybody the same, it's not going to get special treatment. **Nikolic:** A little bit, but I don't know. **Marinucci:** It's not going to get special treatments. So we're stuck on this, we can definitely file a lawsuit against this guy. We got to let the sale process complete. So, that's where we're in right now. Let it complete and see where we go. **Nikolic:** Okay, any further questions for our building department? Hearing none, I know our engineer Matt Jones notified us that he would not be available today. Recreation director Carlean Perez, Council Clerk, any notification

from Ms. Perez that she would not attend? **Scruggs:** I received notification that she's on vacation. **Nikolic:** Gotcha, thank you. Moving on to agenda item number seven, ward reports. **Gottschalk:** Myself. **Nikolic:** Oh, Mayor! Sorry, my apologies.

Mayor Gottschalk| **Gottschalk:** When you walk in faith, team Oakwood has been blessed with a marvelous array of economic development projects, it's kept me really busy. (inaudible) Tractor has just finished their expansion. Federal Metal is beginning their expansion... The Sports Training Center, on Free, is beginning its development inside. Starbucks, as you know now, is working on Broadway. Soon, within three months, I should report that either Chik-fil-a, Chipotle, or another of that type of restaurant will be coming to Oakwood. We should have that report within a couple of months. Swift Filter is going to be expanding. Chagrin Valley Engineering will be expanding University hospitals, ambulance service, rescue service, the doors will be torn down soon to get that ready for their ambulances. Uh, let's see what else I have here. Ah, the Patels over at the Hampton Inn. They are going to, they're interested in putting up an extended stay facility. And the reason being is, many of our, the companies that we do have here, their quality companies. And executives come in either from that company or other buyers. And need to stay for three days or five days. And rather than being at a hotel, it could be an extended stay. This will be behind the Hampton Inn, so that's going on. In addition, the Economic Development Committee will be meeting very shortly... I've submitted a report on the French company that will be locating in Oakwood Village that are in calibration and services worldwide. They're based in France, they're relocating here in Oakwood. And they provide these services worldwide to aerospace, to food and beverage, to life science. And so when we have the Economic Development Committee, we'll address that. In addition to that, we have... I have two or three that I don't even want to get into any more detail on that are beautiful. And so all this is happening, and as I said, it's kept me very, very busy. What I'd like to then do now is this for tonight. But I don't see we only have five people. I wish we would have all seven. I'd to have a special meeting on matters of personnel. It wouldn't take any more than 15 minutes, 20 at the absolute most. But I think it would be better when you had the whole everybody here. So if that's your choice, then we can again have it within a week or two weeks. **Nikolic:** We have a special meeting planned for Friday, so if there's anything you want to add to the agenda, perhaps you can add it to it. **Gottschalk:** No, we don't have to do it at that time, but that concludes my report. **Nikolic:** Any questions or comments for Mayor Gottschalk? Hearing none, maybe go on to ward reports.

Ward Report

Councilperson Scruggs: No report.

Councilperson Hardin: No report.

Councilwoman Matlock: Ward three we have done some things within the community. We did sign up, Mayor, I want you to hear this. We did signed up some of our seniors for the farmers market coupons and they are now starting to come in. And once our senior gets these coupons in, I would like to take them or have either our Oakwood van or transport system. Take them on a trip down to the West Side Market. And they can spend some, that's a nice area now in the West side market. And have them to purchase produce with those coupons, they were free. They get

like \$50 coupons. And then they also have the side where they can purchase meat. They can sit down for lunch. They could sit down for breakfast, whatever, but I thought it would be a nice trip. And if anybody else knows, right now, those coupons are coming. They did have a problem with the ones that were mailed out in the mail. But starting as of yesterday, I've been listening to residents, and they have been coming in the mail. Yesterday, about five individuals called me and said they got their coupon in the mail, so they are coming in. So, that's something that I thought was kind of good.

Councilwoman Davis: No report.

Councilwoman Williams: No report.

Nikolic: Agenda item number eight, committee reports.

Committee Report

Fine Arts Committee

Councilwoman Scruggs: No report.

Health Care/ HR Committee

Councilwoman Hardin: No report.

Utilities

Councilwoman Matlock: I should be having something once I get in touch with individuals their electric. It looks like they're starting now to switch over or do some new planning for our electric plants. Mayor you still had something that was going on where you were trying to get reduced payments for seniors? **Gottschalk:** I should have that before a council within about a month, month and a half. It would be reduced rates for electrical for our residents and our businesses in Oakwood, by 10 to 15%. It won't be right away, because it requires a few things to be done, but we'd be first in Ohio. And then what we'll do is we'll put into our newsletter what plan that Oakwood is involved with NOPEC. For like your gas or for your illuminating company, there's other services out there. That I do believe some of our residents should be able to get on, which is home serve, that is one.

Environmental Committee

Councilwoman Nikolic: I'm the chair of the environmental committee. I wanted to flag several dates that are upcoming. Tomorrow, August 28th, we're having the solar panel info session. Please come out if you have any questions about solar, any thoughts. This is an event put on by the County. It would be a County-wide co-op that would allow you to buy into solar, not just as an individual purchaser. So in years before, solar was something that was considered cost prohibitive because you were an early adopter. Now in Cuyahoga County, they have this co-op. Where if you buy in across the county. This will allow the cost to come way down. So, if you have any interest about whether your home is solar ready, thoughts about costs, any questions you may have, come tomorrow 6PM at the community center. September 26th at 7 p.m. There'll be a representative from the County Environmental Association, from the environmental landfill supervisor will be here. So, if you have any questions regarding the landfill, on September 26th

at 7p.m., you can come, and Mr. Brian Grisay from the County Environmental Supervisor board will be here to discuss any questions about the landfill. Because it is expanding and you know there's been a lot of concerns over the years. So, we just want to get out in front of it. And have a subject matter expert in front of the community to discuss anything that's come up lately. Any concerns about stench, smell, I know we've had concerns about noxious odors with the new trails. So, he will be year on the 26th, at the Oakwood Community Center to answer any questions regarding the landfill. On October 29th, at 6.30pm, we will start our first climate action plan community engagement meetings. So this is really to start getting the community thinking about how a climate plan could benefit our community. So we have stakeholders that work with Cleveland, Lakewood, and a lot of other municipalities that will come and present what's worked well in other places and how it can benefit Oakwood. That's on October 29th, so we need all of you to come and provide your input. Next, the Electrification Coalition has started a fleet analysis. All of the fleet, our entire fleet, all cars We've given them all the data. And they're going to do an analysis of which cars would be most beneficial to go electric. So as we move forward with budget in the future. We can take a look at which cars, their age, their value, and what's available, and which cars would be best to go electric. So that's something that we're looking at across the board. So, it's research towards trying to goelectric. I know that there are some opportunities, but right now we're just looking at that research. Lastly, with the tornadoes recently, I found a grant from BRIC where they provide money for safe houses. And with this grant, similar to municipalities like Bedford Heights, you could use the money for this grant to renovate the community center to be a safe house. So with that money, we could apply and make the community center a safehouse and that would allow for making it a multi-use facility. I know there's been thoughts and opinions about. Needing some type of rec center, classrooms, or any type of multi-use. So with this grant, you could use that to provide a safe house for anyone who does not have housing within their homes, a safe space. We could rehabilitate the community center and also make it a multi- use facility with this grant. So, that's something that we're looking into given what's happened with the tornadoes lately. So, that concludes my report.

Economic Development/Grants Committee

Councilman Warren: No report.

Safety Service Committee

Councilwoman Davis: I'm the chairperson of the safety, and I wanna commend our police, our service, and our fire department for their wonderful job. In fact, the fire department in the last two weeks, or last week, has taken my mother and my brother to the hospital and did wonderful care. Every one of those paramedics are fantastic, so professional, and I commend you all, so thank you.

Tax Incentive Review Council Committee & Finance Committee

Councilwoman Williams: I am the finance committee chair, we were on recess beginning of July, second meeting of July till today. So we did not have regular finance committee meetings. However, we did have to have some special meetings concerning finance to amend the budget. We will be continuing to figure out how we are going to meet. We used to meet every single Monday. We are not going to resume and meet every single Monday. We will likely move to once or twice a month on Mondays. So that is open to the public, we will also likely meet before

our regular council meetings. We are awaiting our July and August finance reports. We have June right now, we will be reviewing those. We mentioned earlier that the auditor of state has some new fraud reporting and training for all employees and elected officials. So we will be making sure we get that done. Especially in light of the fact that we are awaiting our special forensic audit investigation and outcome on that. And that should be wrapping up within the next few months. Last week, we had an audit with the regular audit. It's a regular audit that we have every two years, it covered 2022 and 2023. So, we'll be hearing the report on that very soon as well. And then on September 1, all of our department heads will be submitting their budgets. So we will begin to look at budgets for 2025 as we close out 2024, and that is it.

Nikolic: Thank you, Council, Moving on to agenda item number nine. The floor is now open for residents.

Open Floor Comments

Debra Hladky, Garden Rd| **Hladky:** I've been a resident for the village over 35 years. And I commend all the work the mayor has done and council that has been progressive in bringing in all of the six figure jobs into the village. When other communities were going down, Oakwood was building up, so I want to commend you on that. As a voter and a resident, I've had some concerns, especially this past year. The employees of this village have not received even a cost of the living raise in one of the highest inflationary periods in recent years. Their traditional health care was taken away from them by council. Employees now pay hundreds of copays, deductibles, prescription costs, and premiums. I understand, and I hope I'm wrong. But I did look at finance reports and I found that council travel to Washington D.C. in the Spring. To (inaudible) thousands of dollars spent in village funds and they've also made arrangements to go to Florida in the Fall. And it should be thousands of dollar spent there. If council is so concerned about finances, having meetings all the time. Why are the village residents being held hostage? That's my question... **Matlock:** In your statement, you said that number of employees have not been paid. **Hladky:** I did not say they haven't been paid. They haven't been paid their raises. **Matlock:** We had to do some research first on raises. The raises were, and I think we're going to go over this with the mayor. Because we do need to go over with the Mayor, okay. As far as the raise amount, nobody's questioning cost of living. No one is questioning any of their service, because we have some tremendous employees out there, okay. But I think basically in going over the finances. The finances was something that needed to be done. And I'm going to say this, I'm retired. And I am watching every penny, and I understand your concerns. There was many things that have been taking place. And let me go back and say this. We do have an administration issue that we do need to clear up. Okay, it's not the point of us basically not giving them a cost of living raise. They deserve a cost to living raise, okay. As far as healthcare, we've never denied them any healthcare whatsoever, okay. Never have we denied them any healthcare. Our plan was actually changed over, am I correct, Brian? You can talk to this, because I want you to speak up and I want to talk to them and tell them exactly why. I'm so happy this came up for the residents can hear exactly what's going on. Because I've always been taught this in my job and in management. There's always three sides to every story, our side, their side, and the truth. So Brian, do you want to address them about the health care? Because I want you to address him about the healthcare. Then I want to you to address them, about what raises and about the ordinance and things that we needed to have from you and kept requesting from you, and you did

not bring them to us. So, please let these people know. **Thompson:** This is not attached on me, Council is (inaudible) efficiency. We were supposed to get raises January 1st, but we didn't. The FOP was covered because they have a union. The other employees don't have a union. We are in a situation where inflation is really high and the employees have not gotten their raises. The healthcare Council did not deny. What happened was a utilization issue, where there came down to a decision where should the village save \$600,000. And have a affordable plan for the individuals. Or not have a plan that could have cost the village in particular bankruptcies. So, we chose to go with a plan to save the \$600k if worked. Employees have a health care, yet they have more deductibles. We tried to offset that with HSA utilization at that time, Council has been abreast of it. We brought the professionals out from Love Insurance. They're going to come back in October. We're going to work with this as a team. Council, Administration, Courts all branches of government to get a solution for the employees. So, that's where we are right now.

Hill: Let me supplement your response just in one area, and I'll reserve my comments till after. When you say we made a health care change, what you mean is yourself and the mayor. So when you say council made health care changes, council wasn't aware. The contract was signed and implemented before we knew. So when come to us and say, based off of hearsay, and not really understanding the actual facts of what took place. That council made changes, we weren't aware. And money was spent on health care expenses before we even approved them, which is illegal. And we just approved a contract for that in August, maybe end of July. But money was spend from January until July or August without our authorization. So when you say council made change, that's not actually correct. The administration, the mayor, and the finance director, who are on the administrative side and represent the employees and we are on the legislative side, those changes were implemented solely by them. Okay, so I just want to clear that health care up.

Thompson: We made the changes, it just says that we had to make a change to save the village for the \$600,000 that we would incur, and it worked. **Nikolic:** And to further that, the legislation that was passed regarding this matter specifically states what happened. So Council Clerk, could you please pull that and make sure Mrs. Hladky gets it? Because within that legislation, it specifically states the steps that were taken. How it was in violation of the processes that should have occurred, and what will not happen in the future. That legislation is very clear about what happened, i.e. Brian the finance director and the mayor made this change to the insurance policy without input of council, okay? Without input of council, without input of council, okay. Now in that legislation, which council clerk will get to you. Explains the entire process and what happened and what will happen in the future, i.e. No more insurance policies will be approved or put forth without council input. And we will review that policy annually. Okay beginning in September, October, we're going to review that. So, based on what's been happening, what's going on in the budget. We will review the policy that the finance director and the mayor chose. And we will continue forward working as a team from this point. **Hill:** Okay, so let me address the increases specifically. I've been here for seven years, and you've worked here longer.

Hladky: Yes. **Hill:** And just because there's been an established way of automatically granting increases. Does not mean that based on the finances that this village currently has, we can continue to afford to do that. So we had to take a step back this year. And before we could take that step back, the mayor and the finance director informed the employees that they would receive 5%, we were unaware. We have to look at the budget entirely because what could happen is we could grant increases and then have to let people go. So, you may not even have a job, but you want a 5% increase. We have look at entire budget and then make decisions. We had a fire chief that stayed on payroll for two years and bled almost probably \$200,000, \$300,000 out of

our budget. While we have other fire department personnel acting in his stead, that has affected us drastically. So, we have significant challenges, this is not easy by any means. We have to address all of these things in locality before we do things like grant increases. When we have HSA that he mentioned, that was an additional cost to the village. So, when we talk about all of this cost and serving our residents, expect services as well, we have to balance all of that. Because what could happen is we could grant increases and have to cut services. So, we have to be very careful about how we do this so we can do it all well, not just one day. **Hladky:** So, my next question to that would be... Did Council get their raises? I understand, the Council President, Council At-Large, and ward 1, were to get their raises this year. Did Council get their raises? **Thompson:** It's in legislation. **Hladky:** Was that adopted for this year? **Thompson:** It's been adopted, the legislation has been in place sometime, so it's a schedule... **Hladky:** Yes, 2012 is when it was passed. I know I was here, but was that put in place logistically? **Thompson:** Yes. **Hladky:** Did they receive their raises? **Thompson:** If you we're eligible part of legislation, yes. **Hladky:** Did they receive the increase? That's what I'm asking, Brian, I am asking, in their paycheck, did they get those raises? Yes or no? Simple question. **Thompson:** Yes, if you were eligible under legislation, you got to raise, because it was legislated. **Matlock:** I'm going to be honest with you Debbie, I didn't get a raise. **Hladky:** Council President, At-Large, and ward 1, those are the ones that were slated this year. **Scruggs:** I'm brand new, I'm ward 1, so I didn't get a raise. **Hladky:** No, you may not have known. You were paid, you might not have known that. **Hill:** Because she's new. **Scruggs:** Because I'm new. **Hill:** Exactly, because she is new. **Hladky:** It's all perception... **Hill:** It's not perception because you actually were here when that legislation was passed. So, you know that when it's passed, it's past because we can't actually pass legislation and say I'm going to give myself a raise right now. But we can do it for the future, when we don't know if we'll be in office. **Hladky:** Correct. **Hill:** So, you're talking about something that was set in motion 12 years ago, before any of us actually even got here... **Hladky:** My question is, I'm going back to my question. Council received increase, whether you knew it or not. And if this council was so concerned about the expenses of this village, \$20,000 was spent. I've seen the reports, in the spring for travel, and another who knows what will be spent in the fall. **Nikolic:** May I address you about that? **Hladky:** That our (inaudible) are concerned about finances. Should they take trips when travel is so expensive these days? And to what benefit to the residents? **Nikolic:** Sure, Mrs. Hladky, I'd happily address your question. Those conferences are professional development, that's like our education. All departments are taking trips to educate, so we are in a position to better serve you. From that travel, I've discovered grants that will help us in many departments, including the BRIC grant that I referred to you about, the contacts I made at FEMA from those travels. Is the one who communicated these grants to me. So those travels are our professional development. Me as a first time council person, Council Person Scruggs as a first time Council Person, that is our educational development. We're not going there for anything other. All departments have a budget for their professional development and education. And if we are not professionally developed and educated, we cannot serve you. How can I, who's never been a councilperson, who knows anything about municipalities, begin without some form of education? Councilperson Scruggs continued education, laws change in the environment, in all realms of government. There is no way that we as council persons can keep up with what's going on. And be able to better serve you if we aren't having that education. If we forgo our education, that's like forgoing the purchase of the fire truck. You have a bunch of dunces sitting up here who have no idea what's going on in the world. No idea what is going on with different governmental agencies so we can

better serve you, bring money into the village. How can we know anything if we sit here in Oakwood? The purpose of those conferences is to expand our network, expand our professional development. It's not a glory trip for us to tan ourselves and get spa treatments. Let's be clear, it is to educate us and make us more professionally able to address the needs of the village and to make this place a place that is beyond Oakwood Village. And you can't do that if you're not networking, talking to other municipalities from other parts of the country. You get ideas, you get news, you contact, you learn things. People doing things a certain way in Wisconsin, it's of value, trust me. **Gottschalk:** (inaudible) Washington that's why this country is where it's at. I want to say One thing, let me say one thing. **Gottschalk:** I haven't said a word yet, but the council it's my time. **Nikolic:** She's addressing council.... **Gottschalk:** Let me speak for a minute here. (inaudible arguemwnt w/ multiple parties). **Nikolic:** Order, Mayor, Mayor, Mayor, Councilperson Hill has the floor. **Gottschalk:** I've sat back for 20 minutes hearing this. It's time now as I say for the residents to know the money is there to be paying the wage increase. **Hill:** Here's the problem... **Gottschalk:** No, there's no problem... **Hill:** We have had a lack of accountability in our village for a very long time. And because we have council members that are trying to work together and also with the administration to resolve some issues. It has become very convenient to say that council is being a problem now. Or council is putting up barriers. Or council was making things difficult. Or council isn't willing to pay, it's become very easy. Residents have come out, we don't know where they're getting the information because it's not correct information. Just like many of the things you just stated that we gave you the facts about them. So, whatever discussions are being had are not facts that are being given. But what we're trying to do is we're in a special forensic audit because there's theft and misappropriation of funds in this village. And we are trying to address that so we have enough money to continue to move forward. But we are taking the blunt and the brunt of a whole lot of criticism for trying to do what's right to address our finances. Now I know it may seem very easy and logical to say you all take trips and you should just cut that. The trip was in the budget last year. The increase was not in the budget. It was not planned last year to give a five percent increase. And then when we find out that we have hundreds of thousands of dollars spilling out the door. Then we have to go back and say can we really afford all of these things at once? So it's taken some time, because it's a \$10 million budget, and it's several departments. And it is a whole lot of information. But what we are not trying to do is fail as a village. If you just expect us to keep approving everything without considering our total finances, that's going to lead to failure. We are already in a fiscal issue because we are under a special forensic audit. That's not normal, it's not not normal! The state could take us over, and no one is talking about it. We are in a fiscal emergency right now, and we are acting like everything is okay, and it is not. And that's the reality... **Hladky:** (inaudible). **Hill:** Oakwood is under a special forensic audit for several things right now and none of us are talking about it. **Hladky:** Okay, well that's different than a physical emergency, I know what that means. **Hill:** A fiscal emergency means we could be taken over by the state. I know we are waiting on an outcome to prove if we are actually at that level. **Thompson:** We're nowhere close to that situation... **Hill:** Oh, by the definition on the website, we are there. **Gottschalk:** No increase in 2021, only a 2% increase in 2022, and a 3% increase of 2023, and we've got nothing for 2024 yet. **Hill:** But you don't want to talk about the state of our finances. **Gottschalk:** The State of the Finances is excellent... **Hill:** No it's not... **Matlock:** Can I just say one thing? It's not that we have been leaving Brian white and dry. I've been up here every day almost, researching a lot of information. It's now like I'm sitting here trying to color code anything, play on anything, I need to find out facts. And the fact is they never updated the

pay ordinance since 2008. The pay was started off that I've seen some individuals started off with one amount. It is so far up out of whack that it is ridiculous. We have the intention of pay them, we have an intention of giving them a raise and backtracking on what we can. But this right here happened, let me tell you, we was going to do it in June. What happened at the end of June when we went to talk about it? Communications is very distorted because no one here talks to anyone about anything. And my thing is to be transparent and to talk to everyone, directors, mayor. Everyone has to sit down at the table and say and tell them what needs to be done. Employees need to be talked to, I have said it constantly. Every director should be talking to the employees and telling them what exactly is going on. They should be having a performance check on them or give us some type of evaluation on them before pay raises is going out. You do have a cost of living, but a pay raise is something that each department head would know about their employee. To say, do we pay them this extra amount or do we not pay them this amount? We do not reward employees who don't do their job. They don't come to work! They don't show up to work, they're still getting paid, they're not on a time clock, okay? You don't know what the heck is going on. If any of you call up here all week. For the past couple of weeks, did you hear anybody in there on that phone answering that phone? My thing is, it's coming from management, nine o'clock when your job starts, somebody better be on that foam answering them calls when they come in. I don't want to hear none of the extracurricular crap that you had going on. That phone service should be on. Now, getting back to you, Brian, do we not bring a guy in here? Did you not bring the guy in there now that's answering the phones? **Thompson:** Yeah, we got to get him. **Matlock:** Okay, I want to ask you this question because we've been going over this with you for a whole weekend, hoping that you got it all year. Where is there something that you put, where was it that you advertised this job? Has this job been advertised? Was it put into the paper like it's supposed to? Because I am a strong believer in following that charter. You are supposed to list that job. Everyone of us should have, or anyone should have records of that job being listed and can apply for that job. You've put somebody in position, and I'm going to be honest with you, I read in the charter. That jobs should be filled by an Oakwood person first before it goes to the outside. Am I correct? Well, put it like this, read the terms. **Thompson:** You're not going to sit here and (inaudible) because I am not going to go for it... **Matlock:** No, no, no, I just want to ask you because this is going be another thing. The job ordinance for that job, whatever that guy is to get paid. **Thompson:** (inaudible yelling). **Matlock:** This, this is what they do, **Thompson:** I take action to put someone in place you're still upset... **Matlock:** This is what happens when... **Thompson:** It's a real disconnect, (inaudible yelling). **Nikolic:** Order! Order! This is very unprofessional can we please (inaudible). **Matlock:** Okay, my thing is what I'm trying to get at you guys... I'm not trying to scream, I'm not trying to holler, I'm not trying to be disrespectful. But once they bought that individual on to that job in there. To my understanding a job ordinance should have been prepared for that guy, am I correct? **Thompson:** You just replace the same position. **Matlock:** Okay, but were we not supposed to have? **Hill:** You know that's not the protocol. **Nikolic:** Mrs. Hladky, we appreciate your comments. I hope the bulk of what you came here to learn has been answered. Me personally, when I think about the pay raises, my first thought is, why would you wait until January when two new council people were starting? He could have put the raises to council before December 1st and they could have gone through without a problem. You wait until January, you have two new Council people starting, they have to learn the whole, you've trained me, you know. Or all of what I had to learn when I started. So, how can you come with two new people and expect them to do something that grandiose? There needed to be time, and we asked for grace. And you, of all people, should understand what it

entails with coming into this position. So, if the mayor was truly... Truly really wanting to give them their raises, why not put it through before December 31st? Before two new Councilpersons, when you had people in place who had been here for 20, 30 some years. It could possibly have gone through quicker. That could have happened before December 30th and it could have started January 1st. **Gottschalk:** But you had health insurance issues, and we really couldn't until we knew what that was going to be... **Nikolic:** Well, there's always a reason why something didn't happen. You have your reasons, but we have ours. **Gottschalk:** But we had a legitimate reason, we didn't know what the cost for the insurance was going to be... **Nikolic:** We all have legitimate reasons, okay? So what I'm just saying is we have addressed it, we are looking into it, and we have not negated the fact that they will or will not, okay. We are still dealing with our finances, as you heard from my finance chair and our finance director. There's a lot of things we have to overview. This is not anything against the village employees, we support them wholeheartedly. **Hladky:** They need to know that. **Nikolic:** They do know that... **Matlock:** And we did say... **Nikolic:** If there's anyone telling them that otherwise, then that would be a true disappointment. But right now, what we are doing is work that has to be done. And we would appreciate your patience and your grace while we do that work. Thank you for your time. **Gottschalk:** One last thing, Mrs. Hladky, the directors of every department will be reporting to Council and go over their list of employees. I will be there to see which ones are going to get what raise. And that should be done within the next week or two weeks. **Matlock:** Thank you, that's all we ask, we have to work together as a team. One hand cannot feed the other hand we have two work together as a team. And that right there, one person I felt bad for... Is Fire Chief here? Did you get your raise? Did you get your... And I want to say this, this man's promoted. When you're promoted, he gets his increase. I don't know, I ain't understandin' that. But my thing is this, it is going to get resolved. It will be resolved, because I don't believe in playin' around with people's money. That's one thing, we'll get it together. But we did talk about it and we're going to sit down with each department director one on one and we'll go over everything. All of what we found, all of what disapproved of, we will let him know it and he can handle whatever situation it is. **Gottschalk:** Then it will be done within two weeks and it will be retroactive from the beginning of the year. **Hill:** See, there you go again, talk to council first. Because you control Administration, we control these purse strings. So you have to make sure you work with us, before you make public record statements that we may not be able to report. **Gottschalk:** What public record statement have I made? **Hill:** "It's going to be retroactive, and it's going to be done within two weeks." That's a conversation amongst us in an executive section. **Gottschalk:** No, we've been discussing this meeting. **Hill:** No, this is why we have these type of issues. **Gottschalk:** It was going to be the directors were coming before Consul, individually going over every one of their staff. And I would be there, and there would be an agreement on what each member of their step would be getting. And I can tell you right now, some would be getting nothing. **Hill:** And that's a conversation, that's where you need to be. And that could have happened months ago if you would have wanted to have a conversation. **Gottschalk:** No, again, because of the health insurance.

Sharon Macklin, Oakhill Rd. | **Macklin:** My name is Sharon Macklin and a lot of you know me, and some of you don't. I've been sick, I've had surgery, I'm doing better, I finally getting around and getting out. But my phone has been blowing up because they're supposed to be talking about a playground. What in the world, who took, first of all, where the playground is going to go? Wright Avenue and Booker, whatever, why? Who took a survey to see how many kids live in

Wright Avenue area? How many kids lived in Booker area? What about that baby that just left out of here that's living on Richmond? How is he going to get to the playground? My kids, would go to that playground and get chased home because people wanted to beat them up. My nephew was up there last year, and some boys was there playing basketball, and jumped him. The only thing that saved my nephew from getting hurt. Was somebody, I don't know who, and if I did I wouldn't tell it. Came out of their house and shot up in the air two times. So, the people who don't even live in this area. My son was at the playground on Booker and Arbutus. Some lady pulled in there and asked her son, which one you want to fight? He pointed to my son, before he could get out the car. My son had his shirt off, and the boy jumped up to him. He picked him up and slammed him and was beaten. When I got around there, the police told me, Sharon, calm down, calm down. No, that's my baby, this lady tried to make my son, we're talking about playground. What in the world is wrong with this? How are the kids from Broadway going to get there? How are kids from Hyannis and over there on Drake or wherever, how are they going to these playgrounds? If you're going to do playgrounds, do a survey. Put them where all kids can get to, it's not fair. It's no fair to that little boy who just walked out of here who can't get to that playground. And if he could, I doubt his mom would take him there. What is the problem with this? There's other things we could be worried on besides trying to get a playground on two streets that don't need it. I don't understand why we're worried about a playground. People are blowing up my phone, Ms. Sharon, why are they doing it? I don't know, but I'm going to find out. I don't understand why it's so important to get a playground on Wright. How many kids on Wright? How many little kids? And the kids on Free Ave, how are they going to get to Wright Ave? **Nikolic:** Walk or ride their bikes. **Macklin:** How? If I were a little kid, you're going to let your son walk over there by himself and ride his bike? **Nikolic:** The nature, are you finished with your comment? **Macklin:** No... **Nikolic:** Continue... **Macklin:** Because little kids can't do it. I don't trust my kids to walk from Free Ave to Wright Avenue the way people snatching up babies, no way. My thing is I'm going to fight this playground. If I have to get a petition up and get it done, I'll do it. I'm going to fight this playground issue because I just don't believe that's what we need. And if we need it, we need to work every kid can get to it. Not just those two streets, not just those kids. What about all the other kids? How the kids on Hickory going to get there if they want to go to the playground, what are they going to do? How we going to get over there? If I was their mother, I wouldn't let them go over there, I wouldn't. After what happened to my son, I told them I don't want you over there. After what happened to my nephew, don't go there. Because they could have hurt somebody. That lady, if she would have maced my son, they would have had me back there in jail. They would have, I was going to her house and the Police stopped me. I was going, but I couldn't make it, but my daughter and my niece made it, and she wouldn't come out the house. But if she hadn't maced my son, it would have been a serious, serious problem. Because she wants her son to fight somebody. You fight him, he picked the wrong one. Because my son picked him over his head and slammed him. And when he slammed him, he just started beating him. And that's what he should have done. My nephew over there playing basketball, all of a sudden here come three boys from Cleveland and jumped him. Only thing to save my nephew was somebody came out of their house and shot two times. There's always fights over there, there's always stuff over there. And I'm glad to hear that you had a game over there. But it went well because it was Police there, you know how it is. It went well, because they were playing police. Other than that, I'm going to fight this playground issue. I'm letting you know now, I'm going to get petitions if that's what I got to do. I'm going to get them, I'm going to have people sign them. And they're going to be homeowners, taxpayers. I'm not

going to be bothered with people who are not taxpayers, who don't give a ding-dong what happens to Oakwood. Our taxpayers, our homeowners are the ones who care, who has the word to say. Renters to me, I used to be a landlord. Renters to me, what they care? What they care about Oakwood, they don't care, they're just here. I've been here 24 years, I was raised here. 71 years old, I only left for four years out of 71 years. I came back to Oakwood to bring my kids back to where I grew up at, because I knew they would be safe here. But then after what happened to them, I didn't know if I made the right choice. But I know I did, my kids are not bad kids. The police say the only time they have to say something to my kids is when they riding. They'll pull up next to them with their music blasting, and they'll turn it down. And they say, Sharon, by the time they get to the next light, they got it up again. If that's all my kids can do, God bless, I've been a great mom. I made my kids do what was right. I didn't let them do what they want to do. There's so many people who let their kids do what they want them to do. And this playground stuff, it's just what's going to happen. These kids are going to be at that playground, somebody's going get hurt. And then what's going to happened? This playground stuff I'm going to fight it, I'm going to fight it, I'm gong to fight. I'm going to fight it from the bottom of my heart because it's just not fair that it goes in those two places when we have kids who live on Richmond Road, we have kids who lived on on Hickory, we having kids who live on Oak Hill, we had kids who were on Pettibone, we have kids we live on Tryon, Forbes, etc... What about those kids, they don't get a playground? No, they don't get one, that ain't fair.

Nikolic: That's your time, I'd love to respond. First, the reason why those locations were chosen, because there's existing playgrounds there now. They have not been updated... **Macklin:** They don't need to be updated because it's not fair to the other kids. Like his baby, that they be updated, and they have nowhere to go. If you want to do it, it needs to be where everybody can get to. **Nikolic:** So, the idea, first let me just let you know. There was a playground meeting that was held, a community engagement meeting. There were flyers circulated throughout the village, and we invited everyone to come to that meeting. At that meeting, the Mayor was there, and the plan for which playground would be addressed. Along with the mayor who suggested that we do start with these playgrounds. These playgrounds- **Gottschalk:** I did not know, I sugg.. If you wanted to apply for a grant you could. But you're talking about three phases that would cost a million dollars. **Nikolic:** But what you were saying is that, what you're assuming is that it perhaps should be at the centrally located. The mayor specifically did not want any development at the main playground. So he supported the idea of it being started.... **Gottschalk:** We have some ideas but I don't want to share them out... **Macklin:** Why can't the kids from Free and Wright Avenue, if they're so secure, why they can't go there? Why the kids over here can't get to the Oak Hill Park that's right around there? Why can they go there, if their parents trust them to ride their bike from Free to Wright. They should trust them ride their bikes from Free to the secure way. **Nikolic:** Well, the idea of developing playgrounds is not to, you know, I'm not sure why you would not want a playground. Playgrounds for children are a source of activity and development. **Macklin:** If it's located where all the kids can get to it. **Nikolic:** It's not really land in Oakwood where it can be... **Macklin:** You need to have somebody take a survey on how many kids live on Free and Wright area over there, and how many of kids live over there in Arbutus and Booker. Where's the survey to show how many children it's going to serve? There's not many kids over there that's going to play on a playground. **Nikolic:** Well the idea is where Booker is, there is nothing else there. There's a basketball court, there's a swing set, there are monkey bars. The kids now have nothing else to do there besides play. **Macklin:** And they took it all the way because the kids would go there fighting all the time. **Nikolic:** Well, I will

commend the police department because patrols have picked up and they have been patrolling over there. And the idea isn't you don't provide amenities to children and you don't build because of that. There are playgrounds in the middle of Huff in the inner city of Cleveland with bills of over \$700,000. Where people could get shot every day. But that did not stop them from building playgrounds for their children. **Macklin:** I'm not talking about stopping you from building a playground. The stop needs to be where it's not located for all children. That's the stop, you're going to take all this money. And put it on Wright Avenue and put it in Booker. And then what about the kids that can't get over there? Let's take a survey and see how many kids are over there. I'm going to survey and see how many kids are out there. **Nikolic:** Did you attend the meeting? **Hill:** I'll respond to you just quickly. Cause I know you just had surgery. I want you to calm down because you are trying to recover. But I want to say this, we are a council of seven, and it takes four of us to move anything. And sometimes that is a challenge, it's a gift, and it's also a burden at times. But when you're new to council, I think it's also difficult because you want to do new things and you have great ideas, but it still takes four people. And so what I can say from what I've heard in the community and what the gist of council is is one, we have a lot of pieces to work on right now, just as a council and as a village. And so while serving our children and our families is always a priority. We do have to prioritize which order we go in. And one, the budget is very, very important right now. We do not have the ability to pay out of pocket for playground renewal or restoration or any of that. We need grant money right now. That may change very quickly it may not, so I'll say that. I'll also say that I've heard a lot of resident input that they would like to see more surveys. I am a community person and I don't believe one community meeting is sufficient. And a lot residents have shared the same. So, I think there's opportunity for us to do more around making decisions together about where these things should go. What other areas they could possibly go in. I don't want you to, this plan is something that four of us have to approve together. And there will be a lot more talks about it before we make any decisions. First because of money, secondly because residents have a lot of different feedback. And I don't think it's all being heard and collected enough for us to make the I know I don't feel comfortable. I have children, I have a grandson now. Of course, I worked in education, kids and families is what I do. I volunteer all the time for the school district, but there's a lot that goes into it. And so I know it may look like we're far along. But we're not as far along as it looks. And we will have to do some more inquiry into it. I don't know when that is going to happen or how it's going to happen. But there's lot more to be done, so I just wanted to say that. **Nikolic:** There will be another community engagement meeting. And if you leave your email address with the clerk. I will put you on the email address to make sure you're notified. Because there is a playground planning committee. So if you'd like to join that committee, I would love to have your input, Ms. Macklin. The idea is to continue to get input from the committee. One engagement meeting is not enough. We're simply applying for funds and collecting the funds. We're not, nothing is written in stone. Your input is just as valuable as what we received at the meeting and we'll continue to collect that input. So thank you for your comments. We're going to continue to have these meetings so we can continue to apply for grants. And make sure that we are doing what's best for the village. So yes, Councilperson Hill is right, the playground's not going up tomorrow. Even if we apply for a grant, the money wouldn't come through until 2025. We have ample opportunity to hear your comments and your criticism before that. So please be well aware and also, the Police Department. Even though we understand that that is a problem area. We want to make sure that we aren't going to deny services to a particular area because of a few bad apples. We trust our police department to stay on top of it and make sure it will be safe. We're not going

to do deny any particular area, because of few bad apple. **Macklin:** I didn't ask you to deny any area. I asked you to take into consideration other children that can't get to those two areas.

Nikolic: Okay, well please give your email address and we can take all of it into consideration. You know, the initial thought was Booker because we only have three playgrounds, right? We only have 3, we started on Booker, because as the mayor suggested, he would rather start there as opposed to the main playground. Correct Mayor? **Gottschalk:** I have some other ideas, but I don't(inaudible). **Nikolic:** Okay, well, yeah, let's just be clear, the mayor said specifically he did not want anything happening at the playground over by Mount Zion. So with that information, with the only other two parks we have in the village. Wright Avenue, which is the smallest and Booker being the biggest, you have the police department out there doing community engagement. That seemed to be the best option. And that was what we went with based on input from the administration and people at the community meeting. So we will continue to collect information. Again, give the clerk your email and I will add you to the committee meeting. **Hill:** And I know you see that we have legislation and work session. And so I can't (inaudible) say that what you see in legislation is for a matching grant. Which means we would have to, as the village, put in funds. We are right now, as a council, majority decided to pursue grants that are 100% grant funded. So we won't be pursuing at this time, I can say with 100% confidence, anything that's a matching grant. Because we just are not financially ready to make that decision. If we got a 100% grant, we can have different conversations about how we move forward.

Nikolic: Right, and again, it's only one comment, and as she says, everyone would have to agree.

Hill: We have 100% agreed on not moving forward on the matching grant. **Nikolic:** No, that's true, now with new information from the finances going forward. Considering we have been reviewing them for months and months and months, and understanding what the matching might be. It will still be put to council for consideration. So, at that time you can still hold the majority vote to move forward, but it's still in work session The floor is still open for comment.

Unknown Speaker, nonresident| **Unknown Speaker:** Hello, my name is (inaudible), and I'm actually from the public, from a neighboring community. And I just want to commend, I sat through all of your business, and you guys do take care of business. And I just all of that to commend you on your recreational department, led by Ms. Perez. There's a group of us that go to her exercise classes three times a week, 45 minutes, Monday, Wednesday, Friday. And we have a class at the community center and we have couple at the public church. I want to commend you because it is a great thing that you are doing in your community. There are a group us that come from neighboring places, we're all seniors. And we found a safe haven, a safe, clean place for us to work out in a nice environment. And we have created a community because we're all retired. So we're seniors, or the old folks, or whatever you want to call us. And we look out for each other, we're all from different places, all from different walks of life, work all different kinds of jobs. But it's like a little family, and I just love it. I don't know where it originated from, or how to go on in the future, or whatever. But I just wanted to speak on that behalf that I'm appreciative of it. I've been retired for a little while now and I just love it. It's like you just found a little gem or a little diamond in some place, you know. Somebody invited you to come, and then you meet all these wonderful, wonderful people. And there's one lady in our class, she's about a... She's 80 plus and she comes and she just enjoys it, you know. But it's not just that, you know, some of us, a lot of us belong to faith communities and so we're sisters. And we're like, okay, you pray for me, my body is aching today. Or I pressed forward to get here, and a lot us press, we press to be there on those three days. So, I sat through all of your business and I just wanted to bring

something as a lighter note. That it is very much appreciated, all of our hearts are really in it. We love it and we just wanted you know, you even know that this is a great thing that you do. And I know you do a lot for your seniors that are here and they're appreciative. But you meet all these people even when you're at the community center you're exercising and different people come in. And then you see their faces and you get to know them as well. So I just wanted to let you know you're doing a wonderful thing.

Laurie Hoover, Macedonia Road| **Hoover:** we have a rental property here, butts up to DCOMM. I was guaranteed here in council, in May, that that property would be addressed by the end of July. I was GUARANTEED, and that's why I came to council, because I wanted it on the record. Again, it's not and then your building inspector abruptly left because he had enough. How do I get a copy of these plans that are being done? And why were they allowed to do the expansion, one property over from mine on Macedonia Road. Without finishing and addressing the first issue? Which is the front of the property and the back that butts up against mine? **Gottschalk:** You're up there, you're against DCOMM, right? **Hoover:** Yes! **Gottschalk:** Hasn't been anything being done yet? **Hoover:** Not a damn thing, and I have pictures that I took this morning that I will gladly hand out to everyone. **Gottschalk:** I leave your number with the clerk. **Hoover:** For what? Another promise? Another open promise? What do I need to do? **Gottschalk:** Don't be insulting, okay lady. **Hoover:** Why? **Nikolic:** Please don't disrespect the residents mayor, please **Gottschalk:** You know, as I say, it's going to be done. The plans have been submitted and I thought already that they had already begun putting the fence up over there. And in addition to the fence, there's going to be landscaping on your side of the fence. You won't see a thing. And I thought that already had begun. **Hoover:** A year and a half, how many times did I meet with you? How many times did I meet with Dee and give Dee pictures? **Gottschalk:** Well, I haven't been, I've been disposed, I have been on vacation... **Hoover:** A year and a half, I'm not talking two months ago, I am talking a year ago. I gave Dee pictures, a year ago. My husband and I sat with you in Debbie's old office. And you said, I'll take care of it. **Hoover:** What do I need to do? Every time I come into the building department, they are going to... **Gottschalk:** The plans have been laid out. Andy Sparks has said that they're done. So they just should be submitted to you. And I would have thought they already had begun doing it. **Hoover:** Nothing, and now they've started what I'll call phase two, and totally stripped another whole section. And they haven't even finished or addressed the first issue. **Nikolic:** So, what are next steps, Mayor? **Gottschalk:** Next day I would make my phone call. But if the plans are in place, then this thing is going to look elegant. **Matlock:** Can she get a copy of those plans? **Hoover:** Where do, who do I sign up with? Because every time I go to the building department, he walks out the back door with his dog. And he never addresses me when I go there. And then when I ask someone something, nobody knows anything. So how do I get a copy of these plans? **Gottschalk:** Yeah, you'll be getting it tomorrow. **Nikolic:** Any additional comments? Hearing none, the floor is now closed. Moving on to agenda item number 10, legislation.

Floor closed.

Legislation:

2023-55

Introduced 12-22-23

By Mayor and
Council as a whole

1st read 12-22-23

2nd read 1-9-24

Tabled 1-23-24

**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**

Motion to remove 2023-55 from the table made by Hardin seconded by Matlock

YES VOTE: Nikolic, Scruggs, Matlock, Davis, Hill

MOTION PASSED

Motion to remove 2023-55 from the agenda made by Scruggs seconded by Davis

YES VOTE: Nikolic, Scruggs, Matlock, Davis, Hill

MOTION PASSED

2024-37

Introduced by

Mayor and
Council as a
Whole

1st read 7/12/24

2nd read 8/27/24

**AN EMERGENCY SALARY ORDINANCE SETTING FORTH CERTAIN POSITIONS
OF EMPLOYMENT AND COMPENSATION AND BENEFIT SCHEDULES
THEREFORE FOR THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD COMMENCING WITH THE
FIRST PAY PERIOD BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2024**

2024-49

Introduced 8-27-24

By Mayor and
Council as a whole

1st read 8-27-24

A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF J.C. BLADE

2024-50

Introduced 8-27-24

By Mayor and
Council as a whole

1st read 8-27-24

A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF JOEL LEWIS, SR.

2024-51

Introduced 8-27-24

By Mayor and
Council as a whole

1st read 8-27-24

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2024-32 IN ORDER TO ATTACH
AND APPROVE THE CORRECT VERSION OF A CERTAIN AGREEMENT
WHICH THE MAYOR WAS AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE WITH THE VILLAGE OF
GLENWILLOW FOR PURPOSES OF UNDERTAKING JOINT IMPROVEMENTS
TO RICHMOND ROAD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Motion to enter executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of the public employers made by Matlock seconded by Scruggs

YES VOTE: Nikolic, Scruggs, Matlock, Davis, Hill

MOTION PASSED

Enter executive Session at 9:03P.M

Exited executive Session at 9:49P.M

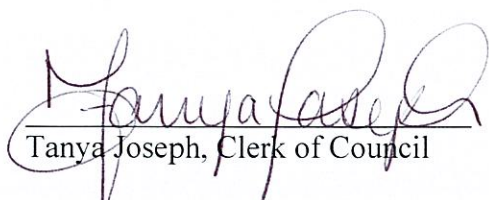
Motion to adjourn made by Davis seconded by Scruggs

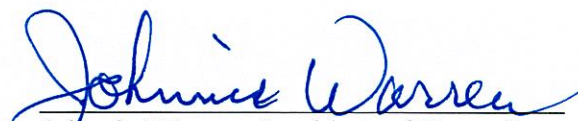
YES VOTE: Nikolic, Scruggs, Matlock, Davis, Hill

MOTION PASSED

Adjourned at 9:50p.m.

Approved 9-23-25


Tanya Joseph, Clerk of Council


Johnnie Warren, President of Council