

**VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
2025-10-7**

ATTENDANCE

Johnnie Warren, President
Eloise Hardin, Pro-Tempore
Taunya Scruggs, Ward 1
Paggie Matlock, Ward 3
Mary Davis, Ward 4
Candace Hill, Ward 5

ABSENT

Ross Cirincione, Prosecutor
Matt Jones, Village Engineer
Roland Walker, Chief Bldg. Official
Carlean Perez – Recreation Director
Mark Garratt, Police Department
Brian Thompson, Finance Director
James Climer, Law Director
Sam O’Leary, Assistant Law Director
Erica Nikolic, Mayor
Tom Haba, Service Director
Dave Tapp, Fire Department

* Arrived after roll call

Meeting opened at 5:35pm by Warren

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call taken

Warren: Okay, so that's it, and now we will begin with today's agenda. Item four on the agenda is an executive session, Did someone request or need an executive section? **Hill:** I don't think we need one at this time. **Warren:** I didn't think so either. I think that's why I asked her what was it even on the agenda. Okay, let's go with today's legislation

**2025-65 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING YVONNE EVANS-WARREN TO THE
Introduced 10-7-25 POSITION OF WARD TWO COUNCILPERSON AND DECLARING AN
By Council EMERGENCY
As a whole
1st read 10-7-25**

Motion to suspend 2025-65 made by Hill seconded by Hardin
YES VOTE: Warren, Hardin, Scruggs, Matlock, Davis, Hill
MOTION PASSED

Motion to adopt 2025-65 made by Davis seconded by Scruggs
YES VOTE: Warren, Hardin, Scruggs, Matlock, Davis, Hill
MOTION PASSED

Hardin: Mr. President, may I swear her in, please? **Warren:** We can't. **Hardin:** Why can't we? **Warren:** Because we have to sign the legislation and I mentioned that to everybody. And it has to be signed by the mayor. **Hardin:** Ok. **Warren:** That's why I told her that she couldn't come because the Mayor would probably not be here. **Hardin:** Ok. **Warren:** So, after the legislation has been signed, we can arrange her. I text her after when she wanted her ceremony. So, when you want to arrange it, we can be assured that it'll be signed by tomorrow. Councilperson Hardin will confirm that the Mayor signed it. And then you can just let us know or let her know when you want to have a swearing in. **Hardin:** Can we, for the record, so that we don't waste a lot of time. After the meeting, can we ask the Clerk to contact the Mayor to verify that she will be here tomorrow to sign it? **Evans:** Now, if she doesn't sign it, then I don't come to a council meeting until she signs it? **Hardin:** It has to be officially in law. **Warren:** You can come to the Council meeting; you just can't sit in your seat. You're looking at me, right? **Hardin:** Yes, sir. **Warren:** I'm signing it, so I'll get this to the Clerk and have her to get what she can to get the Mayor to sign it and confirm the signature, okay. Right now, do you guys want to look at the budget that's been presented? **Hill:** Don't you have to be sworn in? **Warren:** Yeah, but that's near the bottom. Appointment and swearing of appointment officials. So, it says review council's budget and matters related to the village transit. And then the appointment and swearing in of appointed and elected officials. **Hill:** Is yours happening today? **Hardin:** Yes. **Warren:** Yes it is, it's at the bottom of the agenda. **Davis:** Didn't we do it when that gentleman was here? **Warren:** We had to redo it because of some... **Hardin:** Something from the board, just the technicality, just for the record. **Warren:** So wait! Why don't we jump ahead of that, and we can look at the budget because you would like Yvonne to hold the Bible for you for your swearing in. That's fine. Okay, but why don't you do the Swearing-in.

Swearing in of Eloise Hardin

Thank you Madam Clerk, and it's not even six. Could you put a call into the Mayor, please? Verify that she'll be in tomorrow to sign. **Warren:** Now, the only thing else that we have, if we want to delve into it right now, we can, and that's the village of council's budget for 2025. There haven't been any significant changes between that you can see the difference between 2025 and 2026. **Hardin:** Do we deal with percentages or? **Warren:** The changes were the council wages and that's related to the incoming council persons increase that they get starting 2026. And the related costs like the PERS and stuff like that and Medicare. **Davis:** Wait a minute I'm confused because it said 2024 wages were \$95k, but... **Warren:** Wait, wait, 2024 the wages were \$88k. **Davis:** Okay, see, it's opposite on this yellow and green. It has it wrong, okay, I got you now. **Hill:** So, the final amount was for 2024, but that's not what's on here. What you see on this one is what was budgeted. I don't know why he presented it like this. **Hardin:** So, this is one being presented? **Hill:** He's presenting them both, but the one with the yellow and green on it is the year to date of the final expenses for 2024, it's what we actually spent. For some reason when he did the other sheet, it's all the budgeted amounts. He should have switched 2024 to the actual amount. Which would have been the same as this yellow and the green sheet. **Warren:** Well, those numbers are different anyway for 2024 because of the fact that one is \$95, 379 and one is \$95, 801. **Hill:** I just clarified that these are the final expenses on this sheet. For some reason he gave us what was budgeted for this, he didn't present us an actual... **Davis:** What we spent. **Hill:** Yeah. **Warren:** Because right now, 2025 is still projected because we haven't got to the end of the year. **Hill:** Correct but he also put the 2024 in as projected instead of the final. Which is why

you're seeing different numbers. **Hardin:** So, why would we need to project it? **Hill:** We don't. **Warren:** We don't need anything, the bottom line is that if we want to compare 2025 to 2026 to see what the Difference is... **Hardin:** Mr. Chair, the clerk... **Joseph:** I was just going to say, because I'm the one who put those there. Just because you guys said you were doing it. For reference, I just printed the page pertaining to council from the exhibit that was passed, the budget exhibit. And the other one that's from the excel spreadsheet is the typical budget review that we would do... **Hill:** No, it's not, let me, because this is just going to confuse people. What he should have to us right now is this final expenses should be in for 2024, which is what we usually get. So, he might have just cinched, but this is not what we should have gotten. **Joseph:** He didn't send anything, is what I'm trying to say. I just printed the old budget, the previous budget that was passed, the most recent one, so you guys can have something to work off of, is what i'm saying. He didn't send me anything and the only thing that I touched, if you look on the excel sheet under 2026. Was because there's going to be increases for the ward council people's wages and that would increase the payers of the Medicare. But if that is confusing, that is not on the Finance Director, that is on me. **Hill:** Okay, have him send us what we should have to go through the budget. Tell him to send you what we need to project to do 2026. What he'll give you is the end of 2024 and 2025 and then whatever you have budgeted for 2026, we can just use this sheet. **Joseph:** Okay, I get what you're saying. Just to note, I did reach out to the mayor. She said once she looks at it and sees what it is, she'll sign it. **Hardin:** Thank you so much. **Hill:** Um I'm sorry, one more thing, tell him to give us our actuals for 2025 like where we're at right now. Whatever's been reconciled so we know how much of 2025 budget we actually spent. The only other thing since we're not going to go through this, is for codification. Can you ask him if we expect this to increase? Because we're about to do the charter review amendments, right?

Joseph: That's why I had a meeting with the company; it's a 5% annual increase. That's why I added \$1,100 something. **Warren:** \$1,151 for codification. **Joseph:** We had already anticipated charter changes needing an increase. So, last year we put the money in for it. That is why it's at \$11,000 right now. But because our actual amount that we pay to the company is going to increase, that is why I added \$1,100 in there. So, that is going to increase. So, I already put in what the anticipated cost of that is going to be. I got the exact numbers from them. **Hill:** So, just to clarify because this is the question. So, they're automatically going to increase five percent, right? **Joseph:** Mm-hmm, without the supplemental... **Hill:** We increased due to the charter review commission, right? Will they increase again, or is it the same cost, because we're going to do a whole charter change. So, they'll have to make changes to a lot of things. Will it be even more? **Joseph:** So, our subscription right now that we have is based on per page type of thing. So, it would depend on how many pages are going to be affected. **Hill:** So, that's my question, find out... So, you guys are doing a full restated Charter? Because I know you guys... **Hill:** Let me tell you what I want you to do. The charter is going to be revised sometime next year can you tell us how much it's going to cost per page so we can just budget for all those changes? Because it's definitely going to happen. **Warren:** Well maybe every change won't happen, but it'll be presented. **Hill:** I'm not saying every change is going to happen. I'm saying we know it's definitely going to happen. So, it makes sense for us to budget for it as opposed to not having it in the budget. **Joseph:** It's, um, well that per page change rate is subject to change, it was \$18. It's going to be between \$19 to \$20 next year. **Warren:** Figure \$20. **Hill:** Okay, so that would be the only other increase we need to see. But I'm about to jot these questions down because I also want to know what's in this other expenses line item. Yeah, so that would make a huge difference. Are there any other questions you might want to clarify before we just adjourn? So,

he can answer them before we come back. **Davis:** And the person that took our pictures, did we already pay that bill or do we still owe that person? **Joseph:** That's already paid. **Davis:** So, we need to get, if we can, ASAP, our new group picture, because it needs to be, we paid for that. **Joseph:** Are you guys doing new group pictures this year? Or waiting until elections is over? **Hill:** We're doing a budget for 2026. **Hardin:** Not budget, she said pictures. **Joseph:** She was asking about photos, and I was saying, are we going to do a group photo or are we going to wait until after the elections? **Warren:** We should wait until the after the elections. **Hill:** Well, no, what should happen is when you have a new council member, you should take new pictures. So, we've got two people that have moved seats, so we should be taking a new picture. **Seruggs:** My picture is not up on the website. **Joseph:** It is, I don't know why they never did it, but I saw that they didn't, and I made sure they did, so it's on there. **Hill:** Yeah, but that's going to fall into 2025. **Davis:** Yeah, we already paid it, the videographer, or whatever. We have nothing in that spot. **Joseph:** I have nothing there, that's how Brian had it because I think... **Hill:** Brian said he would like for us to have our own mailing and postage line now because we started doing more mailings. So, he wants us to put it in our budget so we can see more concretely which department is spending what from mailing and postage. **Davis:** Okay, so printing and reproduction is not any of that stuff, it's just... that's just for here, I mean us. **Joseph:** Yes. **Davis:** At-Large Council printing and reproduction, what's the difference? **Joseph:** Because they sent to the entire village and you guys just sent to your ward. **Davis:** So, why don't we just... They wanted something separately? **Joseph:** She stated that Brian wanted it that way so we could see. **Hill:** No, last time we did budgets, we all agreed to do that. So, we could see not who was spending more, but just so everybody had their own budget line item so we could see what was being spent. **Davis:** Okay. **Hardin:** So, it behooves everybody, wards, and At-Large's to have to have a running account. So, that way we know what we're staying within it. **Joseph:** Well, everyone has a different code now. They have it set up so now we can see who's doing what. **Hardin:** Okay, but again, so this way we know if we were going over budget. Because before we just... Did we keep up with that? **Hill:** No, because before he didn't have it itemized, he didn't know who was spending what where. So, now I'm back to my statement. So, make sure you, so it gives you some, as an individual, you have some responsibility and then kind of track where we are. **Warren:** That's what she said already, that's how it is going to be. So, anybody send anything, it's set like that now going forward. **Hardin:** Okay, that's my question, who's going to track it, thank you. **Hill:** The only other thing I'm catching is that videographer, now that we're doing it's, probably going to have to increase it. **Davis:** How much is it per meeting? **Hill:** I don't know, I'll have to check. **Davis:** So, I have a question also. Did we pay the attorney, Mr. O'Leary, for doing the charter thing? Has any of those ever come through? Because I don't know if he worked for us. Has that gone through and paid out of this? **Joseph:** You're going to have to ask Brian about that. **Hill:** That wouldn't come out of our budget though. **Joseph:** That's the Law Department's. **Hill:** Any other questions you all want me to write for Brian? **Davis:** Yeah, we do need it, because we don't even know how much we spent on travel and transportation. So, I wondered if we're in budget or not for that. We need all of them, what we have, what we owe, and what's in budget, please. **Hill:** The only other thing Brian is asking for is dates. We can meet next week to start calling the budgets. **Davis:** Yeah, he asked for this Thursday, I'm not going to make Thursday. He asked for this Thursday meeting with police and fire. **Hill:** I can't either. **Hardin:** Okay, so let's do a date for next week, lets commit to it. What date's good? **Warren:** So, we can either do it before or after the council meeting or we can do it the Monday or Wednesday. **Hardin:** How about if we do it before the council meetings, we'd have one thing to remember.

Davis: Because what about all the things, we're going through the budget. We haven't even talked about our, not budget, what we talked about, we haven't talked about all that finance stuff that he gave us that needs to be accounted for. So, before we go, well we can listen to their budget, but okay, I understand. We still need a meeting for finance because he's got things in here that need to be checked and asked for. **Hardin:** Okay, so when do you want a finance meeting? We done with the two budgets, we're going to do that before the meeting. **Hill:** So, we're going to do a work session at 5:30pm and then... **Warren:** I suggest that we do the budget meeting and figure it from 5:30pm until 7pm. Because we don't know how long this goes especially with police and fire. **Hill:** So, we're not doing a work session? **Warren:** We could do the work session after the council meeting and just have a short work session. **Hill:** Can we do budgets from 5:30pm to 6:30pm and then work session from 6:30pm to 7:00pm, so we can leave. **Warren:** Did you say from 5:30pm to 6:30pm? That only gives us an hour, we can always adjust the word session too, because we don't have that much on it. **Hill:** I mean after the meetings we are kind of done with everything. **Hardin:** Okay, so what are we agreeing on? 5:30pm to 6:30pm and 6:30pm to 7:00pm for work session? Is that what I just heard? **Hill:** mm-hmm. **Hardin:** Okay, and this is on our regular, next Tuesday. **Davis:** And I have one more question on the budget. If we're going to hear the police and they haven't did their negotiation for how much they're getting or how much that it's going to cost for this. How can we approve or even... **Warren:** We got to project it because you got to have funding for that year. So even though they haven't... **Davis:** Because it's not due to the end of this year, correct? So, let's start January 1st with the budget that they're going to get. So, they probably will project what they're thinking about... **Hill:** that's what they're going to do. **Davis:** Okay. **Warren:** We're projecting, but I think the police and fire, the negotiations is for 2027. **Matlock:** December 31st is the last day of the contract. **Warren:** I thought it was next year. **Matlock:** No, it should be January 1st, that's why I was asking him when did the negotiations start? **Warren:** Because we usually start the negotiation a lot earlier. **Matlock:** So, they started but they haven't told us that, the last meeting they said they hadn't started yet. **Hardin:** They just started this week, he said. **Matlock:** Okay, so they started this week, and who in council, like they stated, should be in that negotiation. **Hardin:** Let's be clear, the statement, verify with the law director that whoever is going to sit in understands that you're listening, and any questions, you... **Warren:** We're just there to listen. **Hill:** I don't know if we can sit in. **Warren:** Yes you can, you can sit in. We already said that, we already discussed that. We can sit in; you just don't have any participation. **Matlock:** You can pass him a note... **Warren:** Well, we aren't even talking about doing that, that complicates the situation. **Evans:** What meeting is that? **Warren:** That's the negotiations between the police because they're the only unionized entity in Oakwood. **Evans:** You can't talk. **Warren:** Not during their negotiations with them, we just sit in on it. And then the mayor comes in presented to council. They make a meeting and then we have one. This is the first time we'll have a Council sit in during negotiations. **Hardin:** All right, so who's that going to be? Let's go back to that. **Warren:** I'll be that. **Davis:** And then, so this is all I negotiate with Climer, the police and the Mayor, right? **Matlock:** Climer is the police attorney... **Hardin:** Our attorney, now, there's a different attorney than Climer. **Matlock:** Exactly, there's probably whoever their union head is. **Hardin:** But back to us, it's another firm that specializes in negotiating and you can check with Brian for the name, but it's not Climer. **Davis:** I thought Climbers said (inaudible). **Warren:** Climer might sit in on it, but the one that really orchestrates it is this third party. **Hill:** I know we're talking about this by way of budget, but we are in a special meeting. So, we can't go too far

down the FOP conversation. We were trying to figure out a date for the finance committee meeting. **Warren:** Okay.

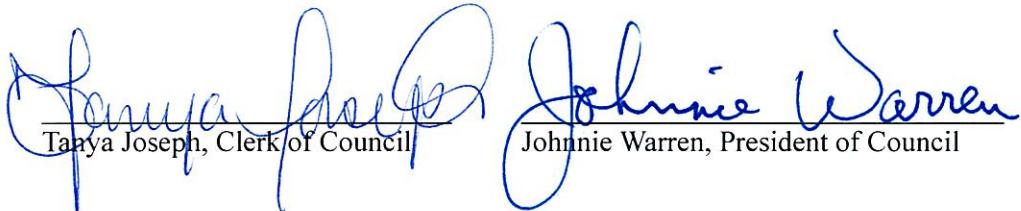
Motion to adjourn made by Davis seconded by Scruggs

YES VOTE: Warren, Hardin, Scruggs, Matlock, Davis, Hill

MOTION PASSED

Adjourned at 6:13p.m.

Approved 10-28-25



The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The signature on the left is "Tanya Joseph" and the signature on the right is "Johnnie Warren". Both signatures are written in a cursive style.

Tanya Joseph, Clerk of Council Johnnie Warren, President of Council