

**VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
2025-3-7**

ATTENDANCE

Johnnie Warren, President Pro-Tempore	Tom Haba, Service Director
Taunya Scruggs, Ward 1	Gary V. Gottschalk, Mayor
Eloise Hardin, Ward 2	Brian Thompson, Finance Director
Paggie Matlock, Ward 3	Dave Tapp, Fire Department
Candace Hill, Ward 5	James Climer, Law Director
Erica Nikolic, President	

ABSENT

Mark Garratt, Police Department	Recreation Director
Mary Davis, Ward 4	
Ross Cirincione, Prosecutor	
Sam O'Leary, Assistant Law Director	
Daniel Marinucci, Chief Bldg. Official	
Matt Jones, Village Engineer	

** Arrived after roll call*

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

Nikolic: Moving on to agenda item number 4, the meeting minutes. May I have a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 13th, 2025, special meeting minutes?

Motion to approve 2/13/25 special meeting minutes made by Hardin seconded by Warren

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

ABSTAIN: Nikolic

MOTION PASSED

Nikolic: May I have a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 21st, 2025, special meeting minutes?

Motion to approve 2/21/25 special meeting minutes made by Hardin seconded by Warren

YES VOTE: Nikolic, Warren, Scruggs, Matlock, Hardin

ABSTAIN: Hill

MOTION PASSED

Nikolic: Agenda item number 5, Clerk Correspondence. **Joseph:** Well, soon the residents should be receiving postcards in regard to when the next Shred Day is going to be, and that's about it.

Nikolic: Thank you, Council Clerk. Moving on to agenda item number 6, departmental reports. May we hear from our mayor?

Department Reports

Mayor

Gary Gottschalk, Mayor| **Gottschalk:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Matt Jones, he'll be at the next meeting, we've already been in collaboration; and on the 21st of April, he will have the timeline for section one and section two of the Broadway reconstruction. In the meantime, I've been notified by some of the big businesses on Broadway already have a heads-up on what will be happening very soon. Secondly, you have on the legislation Trescal, and I'd like to see this get passed tonight. I submitted to Ms. Hardin a request for numbers for both Trescal as well as Home Instead Senior Care. I think it was passed out to all of you, so I'd see that happen tonight. And thirdly, I think I might have missed it. It's great to be having Thermo Fisher Scientific, [inaudible] they're expanding. They're the fifth company now that is expanding. What's so great about it is the people that come to work, as all the companies that we do have all come to work, this is what's happening in these other cities where there's no [inaudible], no workers, no homes. And they're withholding where they live and not where they're working. It's been a big hit on many cities and that's why you see so many buildings, they're moving to smaller buildings, even out here in Oakwood. So, it's quite exciting that they're number five now and expanding. Other than that, I pray for a safe trip for those who are going to Washington to get there safely as well as to get back home safely. That concludes my report. **Hardin:** I apologize for arriving late. Mayor, I'm looking for clerk's...Is this what you're referring to? **Gottschalk:** One is Trescal and one is a Home Instead Senior Caretaker. **Nikolic:** Clerk, has that been distributed to all of Council? **Joseph:** I don't know, I don't have a copy of it. **Hardin:** I didn't see it, that's why I'm [inaudible]. **Thompson:** That's the one, your exhibit for the numbers, Mayor? **Gottschalk:** Yeah. **Thompson:** Yeah, I sent the email to everyone. [inaudible] No, it was last week I think it was. **Gottschalk:** Yeah, it was a week ago. **Hardin:** Can you...We got to have that, because that's...And it should refer to it in the legislation. **Gottschalk:** Eloise, it's time to pass this, come on. **Hardin:** Gary, let me say something. Gary, not tonight, I beg you, not tonight. There's nobody here for the horse and pony show, so not tonight. **Gottschalk:** That's why we're doing it, where there's no dog and pony show. **Hardin:** And don't direct it at me. You don't want to do that tonight. **Gottschalk:** Well, I'm going to ask for a vote. **Hardin:** You can do whatever you want to do. May I still... Excuse me, do you want the clerk to give...Mr. Finance Director? It's on you, you can pull that... **Thompson:** She's pulling it down. **Hardin:** Okay, copy it. And the legislation, Mr. Law Director, if the rest are interested, and I'm sure they are, the legislation should refer to the attachment. **Nikolic:** Thank you, Councilperson Hardin. Mayor, does that conclude your report? **Gottschalk:** Yes. **Nikolic:** Okay. Thank you, Mayor. Moving on to Law Director.... **Hill:** I have questions. **Nikolic:** Oh, Councilperson Hill? **Hill:** Mayor, I have a lot of residents bringing up concerns about the new business on Free Avenue, the athletic center. **Gottschalk:** Yes. **Hill:** I remember when they came to get approval for that, they said there would be no more than 20 cars and there's been upwards of 70 cars there. **Gottschalk:** On the parking lot, they have their own clients. All we're saying is we don't want the cars to be going down Free Avenue, that's all. **Hill:** Well, they have to go to Free Avenue. **Gottschalk:** That's right at the top, into Free, not drifting down into the middle of Free or downward where North

Lane is. **Hill:** Well, I think the concern is that they said no more than 20 cars and there's been 70 cars. **Gottschalk:** That could have been...Remember, that's a zone for light industrial to begin with. You could have had a trucking operation there, you could have an Amazon there, you could've had anybody. **Hill:** That's not the residents' concern, the resident's concern is that they attended a meeting where they stated no more than 20 cars and there's been about 70 cars. So, is that going to continue? **Gottschalk:** Yeah, those are their clients. When we're using it... **Hill:** I just need to know so I can clearly communicate with the residents. **Gottschalk:** Communicate with them as long as those cars are not going through, the parking lot can... Whatever it takes. **Hill:** So, that parking lot doesn't hold 70 cars, they're just making spaces. So, that's one concern. **Gottschalk:** Well...we're not going to let them park on the street either. **Hill:** Okay. Second concern is... **Gottschalk:** Okay, yeah. That's a fair point. **Hill:** ...apparently, there was a deal or a conversation that the children on North, Free, and Wright would be able to attend the center for free for some specific amount of time, so two concerns from that: one, the residents haven't been notified about that at all. So, is that true or not? **Gottschalk:** It's true and it will be happening very soon. **Hill:** Okay, because they've been there for a while. Two is, why wasn't that extended to the rest of the village? **Gottschalk:** Because they're the ones that were affected by this, that's why it was important for them and their parents and their grandparents, okay? The rest of the village will be paying for it with a much smaller fee when we're using it for the summer. **Hill:** So, we have the residents on the three streets going for free, and our other residents will be made to pay for it? **Gottschalk:** Yes, but we're getting a better price for it, okay? **Hill:** I just wanted you to state that on the record so I can direct them to your comments. **Hardin:** I know that we have not had an effective building department for quite a while, so my question is directed at the Law Director. Mr. Law Director, when a company comes in as a part of the permit, based on footage and certain parameters, are there no parking space requirements to be defined, the number of parking spots? **Climer:** I think that would be part of the occupancy permit process. **Hardin:** Yes, sir. And since that doesn't happen under this administration, that was not effectively carried out. My question, and I haven't talked to the Council lady, but my understanding is that you should have someone go over... Those parking spots should be designated. We have a fire department here that, if there's a fire, 18 people jump out the window, and only one can get their car out. So just for fire safety and for the law, those parking spots should be designated; and if there's 70 spots, so 70 people, if there's two spots, two people. So, my request is that the parking spots be designated as defined in our ordinances and no more than what's allowed, thank you. **Nikolic:** Any further comment or questions for the mayor? **Hill:** I do have another. So, I just want to let you know that stack that you pointed out last week that the Finance Director gave us, the Council people went through it. There are several cover letters in there where they say this is the report and there's no report behind it. It's just a cover letter; there's no actual information. **Gottschalk:** What are we talking about? **Hill:** That right there. **Thompson:** I'll go back through. I had Heather assisting with that, so it's not missing. We'll continue to present at the Council. She put all the copies together, so I'll go back through and take a look. **Nikolic:** Any further questions or comments for the mayor? Hearing none, we may move on to our Law Director.

Law Department

Jim Climer, Law Director| **Climer:** We've had some discussions over the last several weeks about interest in land bank lots. It appears that one of the land bank parcels, or four of them

actually that Wallace Builders is interested in, is viable. We're in the process of getting an appraisal of those lots. There's going to be a requirement that they be consolidated; that will actually make a buildable lot. So, we're getting an appraisal as to the...fair market value of what that would be before we float anything with him. Two of the other lots are not something the village, or the administration at least, is interested in selling at this point. And two of the other people who have expressed interest in other lots appear to no longer be interested, or at least are not responsive at this point, so that's sort of where we are. On that, you'll have on the agenda tonight legislation to adjust building department fees, which as the new personnel in the building department pointed out, have not been done for some time. These are based on studies that SAFEbuilt did or their knowledge of mid-range fees from around the area. I'm not able to speak to that, but I've got to rely on their expertise for the actual fees. So, with that said, I'm happy to answer questions. **Hardin:** I have a question, the lot off of Forbes, is that still one of those that's being considered? **Climer:** No. **Gottschalk:** The reason that's not in play is because it leads to the poor lots on Suwannee, and Suwannee is a serious wetland area. Michigan Valley Engineering advised us long ago not to have that developed. But on the other matter, on the one on Booker, I can go with that now. **Climer:** Okay, so there are two lots... **Gottschalk:** There's one lot, if you're turning onto Booker from Kentucky right off of Rome, there's an empty lot, the second lot, and that can now be developed. Also, obviously the lots to the right of Arbutus on Lamson, can those be developed? **Climer:** Yes. **Gottschalk:** Okay. **Hill:** Are those the plots that you sent us or are those additional ones now? **Climer:** No, I think they're the ones that I sent everybody. **Hill:** Those were included? **Climer:** Yeah, those are among those. **Hill:** Okay, he's saying they can now be developed. Are we going to seek out developers or is there someone already interested? **Climer:** No, these are the ones that Wallace had expressed interest in. And as I've said, there are four on Lamson that adjoin Arbutus. When those are consolidated, they qualify as a buildable lot, and any contract would require him to do that and not re-split them and develop it only for residential purposes. The one on Booker is not quite a developable lot, it would require a variance in the Planning Commission. **Hill:** And is that what they're planning to seek out, the variance? **Climer:** I would assume, yeah, if he wants to continue. Once we establish a price, we'll decide if he wants to continue with it, and if so, he'll need to get a variance. I would suggest that it would make sense in that area because the lot is really bigger than lots that are already occupied on that road. **Warren:** What is the frontage? Is it the issue with the frontage that makes it non-compliant? **Climer:** The frontage and the square footage. It's not too far off in frontage as I recall, but the square footage is about 7,000 square feet under our requirement. **Warren:** 7,000? **Climer:** Yeah, it's a 15,000-foot plot. **Nikolic:** Law Director, what is variance? When you say they could seek a variance, what does that mean? **Climer:** When you have a hardship that is because of a certain configuration of the lot or an area or whatever, you can go to the Planning Commission. There are certain specified criteria for granting a variance, and if they can make the argument that the variance ought to be granted, then the Planning Commission can grant it, and they can build on more. **Nikolic:** So, a variance is an exception to the rule exception to the rule meaning you can build on this lot... **Climer:** Even though it doesn't technically meet our minimum requirements. **Nikolic:** Okay, thank you for that. **Gottschalk:** Again, familiarizing yourself with...Down on Booker there, after Rome Church, there's a house that is there and it's the second lot on that side. Initially, I was against it, but... **Climer:** This lot is actually bigger. There's the church, then a house on a small lot, and then the one of interest here and that this one is actually bigger than that first house, or the house that's farther east. So, the lots... **Hill:** So that's not... **Nikolic:** I'm sorry, Councilperson Hill, can you please wait to be acknowledged

before speaking for the sake of the record? It's for the sake of the record; it's not for argument purposes. **Hill:** Yes, that pink house is that part of...Are they knocking that down or is that totally separate? **Climer:** I'm not aware of that. This lot is a vacant lot. **Gottschalk:** The first house, there is a resident there, and as far as I know they're continuing to want to stay. **Hill:** No, that's not the house, that's a yellow house. There's another house that's smaller; it's a very small, pink house. There's no one that lives there, it's just a structure there. It used to be a house a long time ago, but I'm guessing that's not the property because we're not talking about knocking it down, so... **Climer:** No, this is a vacant lot. **Nikolic:** Law Director Climer, What's the status of the...When you talked with SAFEbuilt Cheatham about the request for bids for the demolishing of the properties? Did you have that conversation? If so, where are we at? **Climer:** We had a brief conversation about that, but he was headed out of town, and I'm going to take that conversation up with him this week. **Nikolic:** To be continued? **Climer:** Yeah. **Nikolic:** Okay, Any other comments or questions for the mayor? Hearing none, may we hear from our Finance Director?

Finance Department

Brain Thompson, Finance Director| **Thompson:** Thank you, Madam Chairman. Last week, I had to revise the exhibit for legislation tonight to have it reflect 25% of the 2024 ending budget. And in response to my letter, I did receive some additional budgets from a few departments that are in my possession, so we could probably get some scheduled out to get the law department to get yours, Jim. And I got the Mayor's Court, we can do Council clerk and Council simultaneously; I can assist Tanya to work on those, and we can probably schedule a few more budget hearings upcoming soon in light of those budgets being presented. And that's all I have, entertaining questions. **Hardin:** Question, you said there's a change in what so far? **Thompson:** For the exhibit? **Hardin:** Yes, which piece of the legislation? **Thompson:** For 25% recorded budget on the legislation. **Hardin:** Okay, what number is that, please? **Thompson:** 2024-139. **Hardin:** Okay, and this is for? **Thompson:** First quarter. **Hardin:** And what did you change? **Thompson:** Initially the goal was to do 25% of 2023's ending, but in light of that we had finished 2024's budget, I went back and revised the exhibit to reflect 25% of 2024's ending and that's what you have before you that I sent out last week. **Hardin:** Okay, that is what we asked you to do. Oh, for the record, the documents that we received last Tuesday in this stack, are you on record saying that the payroll information that you supplied is accurate? **Thompson:** Oh yeah, I think I gave you the year-end payroll report, so it's accurate. **Hardin:** I mean, the weekly register, what everybody's pay was for a given week, it's in that stack? **Thompson:** Well, I did a year-end summary. If you want every single week, I think it's quite a few pays in a year or so. I'd have to go back and give you every individual week, which would be quite a bit. But you do have the year-end's summary of what everybody made, what they got paid. **Hardin:** And help me, I don't remember, I guess I'm remiss in not being able to go through that much in such a short time. Since you did not include the sick and vacation time in those pay records, did you indicate, not by pay, but did you indicate sick and vacation time? Or you just showed hours worked? **Thompson:** No, it will show year-end balances, accrual balances per employee that they have at the end of the year. **Hardin:** I thought I saw and I might be wrong, you had...the weekly payroll? **Thompson:** Yeah, you would have a hearing summary in there of every single employee, it would have been the payroll register. **Hardin:** Okay, so that was in there, right? **Thompson:** Yes. **Hardin:** On that payroll register, did you document everybody's pay and their sick and vacation

time? **Thompson:** Yes, that happens per payroll period. **Hardin:** That's what I thought. So that is an accumulated figure in those records? **Thompson:** Yes. **Matlock:** Is that accumulated figure on what is left from the end of the year, 12-31-2024? **Thompson:** I gave you the year end 2024, I have to get it updated since we just had another payroll. I can provide you with another updated report as we are in 2025 after this last pay, so I can forward that to the clerk. **Matlock:** So, when looking at some of this leave balance that they have at the end of of the year of 2024, shouldn't leave balance be...You have to explain it to me, because I don't know how you guys do your leave balance. **Thompson:** They would start the year, they would accrue, they would be used, and then the year end would be what's left. **Matlock:** Okay, so then what's left, what do you do with that? **Thompson:** Per the handbook, they can't carry over so many hours. It's a clause in the handbook that you can, if you put the request into the mayor, you could carry over more balance, that's in the handbook. So otherwise, whatever they end up with at the end of the year, following the procedures for the handbook, those are the new balances for your year. And we have the police department; they accrue at the first of the year pretty constantly. Other individuals are accruing per anniversary date. So, if they end a year and the anniversary day is not until June, they don't get a new accrual into that time. But the Police department always accrues theirs since the first year. And of course, the fire department doesn't receive any because they're part-time with no benefit. **Matlock:** Okay, so you're saying from anniversary date to anniversary date, that's when the leave accrued on their...That's when you issued them the leave they should have. **Thompson:** Yes. **Matlock:** And then by the end of their anniversary date...it should be depleted, what they had from that year, or either carry over the 40 hours stated in your handbook. **Thompson:** Yes. **Matlock:** Because your handbook says it's only 40 hours; now, the question I have on that is, once you have that, because it says it has to be approved by an administrator...do you document that leave which they got the approval to carry that...40 hours over? **Thompson:** Yes, we document it and then we put it in a personnel file. **Matlock:** Is there any reason why some leave we see is more than 40 hours, or is that just something coming from your computer that's wrong? Sometimes your data, I know you were saying... **Thompson:** Yeah, previously when we were dealing with the one incident...But we have some long-standing employees like Tommy for example, you may have quite a bit of hours in there. So, those would be hours pending his retirement coming back to work, so certain select employees, but the majority are just following suit with the anniversary dates and when they accrue. **Matlock:** When you approve these hours, is there a set amount of hours that they can keep? **Thompson:** It's a longevity schedule in the handbook. Like, if you get so many years on the job, that's how many hours you can get: two weeks, three weeks, four weeks. And the sick time is 4.62 hours of pay. **Matlock:** But we know sick time, you really can't do anything with. What about vacation time, how's that handled? **Thompson:** Vacation time is based on your longevity on the job, how many weeks you get. **Matlock:** So, for each year from anniversary date to anniversary date, then you use it or lose it other than the 40 hours that is approved by your administrator, stating that, okay, you can carry this 40 hours over, but it has to be used during that during that year. **Thompson:** Yes, and we document that. **Haba:** I can explain mine if you're on mine. **Thompson:** You can go ahead if you want to try. **Haba:** Mine started, I know mine's absurdly high right now, but mine started in probably when Ms. Molly Black was here 25 years ago. **Thompson:** Molly Black, so that was about 1996, 1998, somewhere around that year. **Haba:** Yeah, so I was there and I told her, hey Molly, I got whatever. Of course, in case you left, it's December 1st. It's [inaudible]. Next week, she goes, well, Council and mayor, both told me that if you go out and snow plow, you don't get compensated for it. You can take all yours and save yours up if you want, so that's

why I started doing it. That's my side of the story. **Nikolic:** Thank you, Service Director Haba. **Matlock:** How many years ago? **Haba:** I would guess 45, around there. You said... **Thompson:** 1998, 1996 is when Molly was there. **Haba:** [inaudible] ...27 years ago. **Gottschalk:** I think it was before 1990. **Matlock:** But my thing is that individual is no longer here, so I didn't even check your hours to see what's going on. **Haba:** I never intended to take all of it; I'm just here every day. I'm here every Saturday, I'm here every Sunday, and I'd like to sit down with Council someday and say, what do you want to do with it? **Matlock:** Yeah, we need to sit down and discuss a thing. **Haba:** I'm not in the...And I understand it's in the book; the other point is it's always been carried over forever, so that's...my side of the story. **Hardin:** May I ask for the record, Brian, after the meeting, there's a couple questions I have and I'm going to ask you to help me find it in that stack before we leave tonight. **Thompson:** Okay, no problem. **Hardin:** Thank you. **Nikolic:** Anything else for our Finance Director? **Gottschalk:** Madam Chair, I'll just add there was a mention again of the Mayor's Court and it's going to be changed. We had a director's meeting the other day and it will be changed in time to the Traffic Citation Bureau. The reason is Mayor's Courts are...outdated. I was one of the last mayors still to even have a Mayor's Court because of the potential conflict of interest between the mayor citing people and having it accrue into the reserves. So, I was the last of hardly any mayors, but to make it more appropriate...And Jim, I was mentioning that we're looking at changing the Mayor's Court to a Traffic Citation Bureau. **Climer:** Yeah, my understanding, and I haven't researched it through the vines, but my understanding was you technically still have a Mayor's Court, but the only part of it you operate is the Violation Bureau. **Gottschalk:** Yeah, but there's really no mayor...I don't believe there's a mayor anymore having a Mayor's Court. **Climer:** No, I understand that it's still there in name, but not in practice. And the Violations Bureau is operated as an adjunct to that Mayor's Court. **Gottschalk:** It's not happening right away, but it'll be happening within the next couple of months, two, three months. It'll be before you, when we do it. **Hardin:** Mr. Law Director, you found some documentation that's been submitted to this Council. Did you get a copy of it, a job description and give some overview of how it functions at this point in time? **Climer:** The Mayor's Court? **Hardin:** Yes. **Climer:** I did not review it. **Hardin:** I'll make sure you get what I was given. Also, Ross...my understanding was, Ross is going to be submitting his docket to you. Is that correct, or no? **Climer:** Yes, that's going to be coming with the budget request, which Brian has. It will be in your hands very shortly. **Hardin:** He has it? **Climer:** Yeah. **Hardin:** Will that become a practice, that we'll get that through you, his docket, or...I think that should be ongoing. **Climer:** I'm happy to provide it. **Hardin:** Well, that's my suggestion, and we can meet as a body as it relates to finance, but it gives some credence as to what he's doing and how much he's done. **Climer:** You're going to see in that a detailed letter from Ross describing the job in general and then also a copy of his docket at the Bedford Court. And in terms of my activities, I think Brian has assembled and distributed my billings, and so it's all right there. **Hardin:** One other thing before I forget: one of the things that I found interesting as a part of that operation, when those citations get to a certain point, they're uncollectable to a certain extent. So, I have the list, there's over \$100,000 in uncollectable money in that drawer. I'd like for you to look into a procedure, maybe in conjunction with The State of Ohio, that will allow us to go after and collect those dollars. **Climer:** I will also look at potential referrals to collection agencies, but I'm not sure that's viable. I mean, because if you've got a \$100 fine, you're not going to find too many attorneys willing to pursue that on a contentious basis, but we'll look at it. **Gottschalk:** Usually, you get your money when they get stopped again and you see that there's a citation against another city, that's when they have a problem: that's when you have a chance of getting

your money back. **Climer:** Yeah, there may be some potential for reporting it when it shows up when they try to renew their license, but I have to look at that. **Nikolic:** Any other comments or questions for our Law Director? Hearing none, we'll hear from our Service Director.

Service Department

Tom Haba, Service Director| **Haba:** Thank you Madam President, it's two things, I don't know if I need to put it on the agenda or not. I just got specifications a couple of days ago, trying to get it on, not sure if I'd need to or not, but for the roof here, it needs total replacements, and I'd like Council's approval of the offer bid. The price should be, I would say, between \$45,000 and \$60,000, probably in the lower-mid fifties I'm guessing. I don't know, Mr. Climer, if I... **Climer:** I just got it a day or two ago. **Haba:** Yeah, that's what I understand. but I just got specifications at that time. And that's why [inaudible] **Climer:** I'll take a look at it. **Hardin:** My question to either the Law Director or the mayor or the Finance Director, that expenditure would come out of what fund, Mr. Finance? **Thompson:** Capital under 401. **Hardin:** And we have how much in there now? **Thompson:** It's not a running balance. We have to make the expenditure and accommodate with a transfer for the expense from the general fund. **Hardin:** Is that the normal process? So, we'll wait until the roof or something needs doing and then we run it and see if we have it, that's basically what I think you just said, right? **Thompson:** No, I didn't say that. I mean, of course you could have planned, I don't know, the condition of the roof started leaking this year. But it's always charging a capital account for an expenditure of that level. **Hardin:** Let's take it a little further. We have known that...This is not directed at you. It's to the administration, Council, whoever has been sitting here with umbrellas. I can recall one Saturday, one of the highest... **Matlock:** Max Miller. **Hardin:** ...Our state representative, couldn't get much higher than that, was sitting right where you are chief and it was a little embarrassing because Councilwoman Matlock went and handed him an umbrella, he was getting so wet. So, we have known for a while that this needed to be done. That being said, Mr. Mayor, as the chief administrator, do we have a set plan for capital improvements here? **Gottschalk:** For this project, we'll have the money for it, yes. **Hardin:** Oh, I'm sure we will. We're going to run down the street and deposit bottles and then run the...No. My question is, do we have plans that, as things started to happen before they happened, do we have a capital improvement plan for this municipality? **Gottschalk:** Yes, as we were working on the police station as well. **Hardin:** Beg your pardon? **Gottschalk:** As we were on the working on police station. **Hardin:** Bingo! **Gottschalk:** This has been going on for some time. This has not been only a month. This has gone on for over half a year. **Hardin:** When will Council be officially involved or know what's going on? **Gottschalk:** There has been involvement, okay? **Nikolic:** Mayor, so what I hear Councilperson Hardin asking, and I think per our charter that each year you're supposed to present a capital improvement plan or master plan. And I think last year you did it, and it largely had the roads projects. And I think it's supposed to happen, we're supposed to receive this plan by sometime in mid-March. So, that should be coming up soon that we have this plan, so I think what Ms. Hardin is saying is we'd like to see an exact plan for the police station for these repairs and for anything else that has come up as being necessary. So, could you have a capital improvement plan spanning for at least the next three to five years? **Gottschalk:** No. **Nikolic:** You cannot...As per charter, it's required if I'm not mistaken. **Gottschalk:** We do many things that are a little different than many other communities. Having a five-year plan is absurd, okay? And it's absurd because things change. **Hill:** So, there is a difference between a five-year plan and a three-year capital improvement

plan. The three-year capital improvement plan is required by the charter, our charter, not any other municipality. So, we are required to get that every year for three years for capital improvement; Five-year planning is something different. We don't have that either, but the three years you are required to give us yearly and we did not get that last year; It wasn't for three years.

Nikolic: I recall seeing it was a one-pager with some streets projects that I think was your submission as the three-year capital improvement plan when we were looking for it and it largely just had streets projects on it. So, this year, what I'm hearing from Council is that we would love to see a capital improvement that's more inclusive of all the projects: capital projects that need to be done in the village including the municipal complex, the police station, etc. **Gottschalk:** The municipal complex is a couple years away. **Nikolic:** Well, whatever it is, we just would like to see that play as per charter. **Gottschalk:** I think it's essential to have the police having their own station. And it's been worked on, you've been at a couple meetings, I think Mrs. Davis has been at one. And... I'll have it probably, give me, I just have too much on my plate. You'll have it within a couple months. **Nikolic:** No, the charter is due mid-March. **Gottschalk:** Eloise, I have too much on my plate. **Nikolic:** Mayor, let's make sure we retain decorum in how we speak to one another, please. **Hardin:** Excuse me. If the mayor calls my name one more time, if he calls me out one more time, I'm going to ask you to ask him to leave. I am not going to sit here and deal with Gary Gottschalk. I have no patience with this nonsense. Do not call me out. Whatever you do, fight the feeling, do not call me out, okay? I don't know what your problem is, but you better work on it. **Nikolic:** Now... **Hardin:** Excuse me Madam Chair, let me finish, you are very diplomatic in how you smooshed that over. Thank you, and I'm not upset with you, but understand what was said. Whatever you saw, I don't know about anybody else, I haven't seen it, okay? About some streets or whatever that was. But I appreciate you going on record with requesting on record whatever this administration has planned for this community. **Nikolic:** Finance Director Thompson, do you recall preparing a three-year capital improvement plan from the administration last year? **Thompson:** No, Madam Chair. **Hill:** It was a street plan. It's not a three-year plan. **Hardin:** Street improvement is what you saw. **Nikolic:** Street improvement? Okay, that's why I [inaudible]. **Warren:** Just for the record everybody, know that you can't pick and choose what compliances you're going to do as far as the charter is concerned; you have to abide by the charter. Your plan can be amended, which it will be in most cases because things change financially, whatever, but the purpose of the capital improvement plan is a continuation of the goals of the village in order to see...Achieving Council knowing where the village is headed. And as everybody is saying, it's a requirement of the charter and you can't say, well, I don't have time to do it, because that's a real big issue. Because the charter doesn't present itself to be something that would make it impossible for you to have time to do it, and there's no reason that we couldn't have a capital improvement plan and when it's received, it's reviewed, and as I said it could be amended. So, it's important for you to consider doing that. **Hill:** I'm not quite sure of this police station you keep bringing up, and I'm also not quite sure how you're selecting which Council members that are involved. I do believe that's highly inappropriate because you're going to need four Council members to pass anything. But if you look across the state, no one is building a separate police station and a separate village hall; they're building municipal complexes where everything is together. Our village is also very small, we don't have money sitting aside for this, nor have we been saving any money for this. I'm not sure what the conversation is, but that does not even sound like a good plan. I mean, we have literally \$600,000 in the bank. We just talked about increases, HSA, roof repair, streets that need to be done. It's \$600,000, it's not \$6,000,000. So. I would like to hear more about the police station

immediately, but I'm not sure how there's been talks going on for six months. **Thompson:** I don't know, I haven't been a part of it. **Gottschalk:** The only people who are involved... What was your title, Madam Chair? **Nikolic:** The chief said they formed a committee, they said they added the safety chair. Mary is the Safety Chair of the Safety Committee, and he asked for myself as Council president. **Hill:** And then the Council president has a responsibility to inform the rest of the Council. **Nikolic:** The chief was picking his committee, so I left it to the chief to decide what he wanted to do. **Hill:** The police chief, as a director, under the direction of the mayor going out to seek to build a building for the police department, that means every director we have could do the same; and we could have a new service building, we could have a new Fire Department, we could have new Building Department building, we could have a new community center for the Recreation Department, we could have new buildings for every director here. I don't even understand how this is remotely okay, but that's my piece. **Gottschalk:** [inaudible] You have no understanding of the... **Hill:** No, you have no understanding of our charter. **Gottschalk:** [inaudible] ...Police department in quarters that is appropriate for them to be able to keep them and keep them around. **Hill:** What do you think this is? Do you think this is appropriate? Look at this. **Gottschalk:** And we're taking care of it, okay? The first step was to take care of our roads. The major roads are all going to be taken care of. So, the next step now is, as I say, we're talking about the roof, with the police station, et cetera, and you'll be having that information soon. **Hill:** Okay, thank you. **Nikolic:** Councilperson Hill, have you finished your comment? **Matlock:** Can I say something? You said it would be \$60,000-\$80,000 in order to repair this roof? **Haba:** No, I'm guessing \$45,000-\$60,000. **Matlock:** Let me ask you a question: electrical with this building, do you have to look at that? Because you have so much water coming in here. **Haba:** It's okay, the electrical is okay. But it could all be updated, all the electrical. **Matlock:** Exactly, because with that water coming through those electrical lines up there, I was kind of nervous about them actually cutting the lights or whatever. You just don't know...fire chief, am I kind of correct? **Tapp:** [inaudible] ...To LEDs there, as soon as we get [inaudible] **Matlock:** Yeah, you got water coming through the light fixtures, it seems like it should have been a main switch or something, they should have been shut off. When you have water coming through like that, those electrical breakers should be shut off, wherever it's coming in from. That could be... **Warren:** Just to let you know, the breakers are supposed to shut off on themselves. **Matlock:** They would shut off on themselves, but they should stay continuously off since...you have water coming through your lights. **Warren:** Just to let you know, no matter what you want to think, the bottom line is that once that breaker trips, it's designed to trip for whatever possibility of a problem. You don't have to take it out. If you turn it back on, it'll trip back off. It is a surge protector, and that's what it's designed for. So, to say you're going to turn the breaker off means that you may have one breaker with five sets of lights; you turn that off, you don't have any lights. Some of those lights, who knows how this building is designed, some of those might be tied in there, Eloise...rental property...Some of these lights might be tied into outlets...on the same breaker. Switch the breaker, now you're missing outlets and light. But I thought that the whole purpose of what we're talking about now is how to consider avoiding that possibility. And I think what has been said is that we're talking about putting a roof on it. So, all of the electrical and all the other stuff, we may find out that we have to make some changes and some upgrades. But right now, we're talking about putting the roof on which abates that situation with the electric. **Haba:** The electrical will be okay when the new roof is on. I said these new LED lights are ready, they get damp and they go off. **Hardin:** For the record, going down memory lane... **Warren:** We can only go so far now, you and the mayor might be a little more mature. **Hardin:** And we used to ride,

take the horse and buggy up to the meetings. Elaine Gaither and I were at, and I don't know if the mayor or maybe even you might remember this, we had formed a committee of two, and we were looking into...other municipalities, how they were designed. And I don't know how many people have ever gone to a fair in Euclid, Ohio, and gone to their community center, how that whole layout the fire, police, they're all on the on the same... **Warren:** Like a complex. **Hardin:** ...the same complex, And it's lovely. So, I want to go on record by saying I commend the Police Chief and anyone that will take the initiative because this community is looking for direction, and we're at a...I call this a reform time. This is a great time to put things in order starting with practices and procedures, and then I'm going to go all the way left with...As a result of this [inaudible] that goes...Everybody, I hope, has the right idea of what's best for the for the community and for the village, and I'm hoping, I've been praying that we will understand we're not going to make it as a community unless we start dealing with...The first year I got here, Johnny, what was my mantra? Mutual respect: I came in saying it, I'm going to go out saying it. When you don't have mutual respect, this is what you get. The right hand doesn't know what the left is doing, and the snide remarks, including my part. You just don't know where you stand. So, I hope, with this being my last year on this Council, I hope that you're learning some valuable lessons along with what it takes to run this village with not just dignity, but ethically, because after a while you start drifting and it gets real ugly. And I won't call anyone by name because it's just not the way we're going to operate here. But unless and until we un-label people here and start working together, and this is the time to please listen to each other, make certain that when you have a comment or a thought, think it through, look at the facts and understand what is truly at stake here in Oakwood Village. What is truly at stake, and I am willing to bet you, Mr. Law Director, if the community knew what it has taken this last year, they would be utterly amazed and shocked that we're still afloat. So please continue to work together. I promise that whether I'm here or not, and this is not my farewell speech, but...My heart is full, that's why I can't take too much more. Unless and until we understand, whether you're making \$112,000 a year or taking home your little \$600, if you don't want to be here, if you're not going to do this right, then let it go for the sake of the people, and I'm done with it. **Nikolic:** Thank you, Councilperson Hardin. So just to summarize...One moment, Service Director Haba. So, Mayor, I just want to say that Council would expect the capital improvement plan. Law Director Climer, would you please look at the charter and review with him the deadlines... **Climer:** I will do so. **Nikolic:** ...to ensure that we get that in the timely manner. And I believe Service Director Haba, you have finished your report? **Haba:** It's on the roof, it is an embarrassment, I'm embarrassed by it. We knew it was leaking last year. We tried to fix it because we didn't know how long we were going to be in this building. We thought we had the problem solved and did it for a month or two months. It started leaking again, so we had the roof come back out and we took a big chunk out. We know the insulation is wet, that's why it all seems...It's not so much when it's raining, when it does leak is a little bit in the snow, but when you get the thaw from the snow after it's leaking, that insulation is old, it's saturated. So, for same reason...that money doesn't cover the entire building. This roof just goes back to the dispatch area and police department, that's what it covers. We're not doing that front part, it's not leaking. I don't know when we're getting a new building, I'd hate to spend another whatever it would be, \$35,000 over there right now. Next, building departments. We've been taking stuff out of there for them and moving stuff for them. They used our phones, which is expected. I asked them, they originally said they had a copy machine, but I guess they don't. So, right now they're using our copy machine, that's your guys' decision. I asked Mr. Cheatham about that...I told you we're going to use a copy machine that we

take out on a lease, but he said all the cities they're in, let them use their copy machine. So, just so you're aware of that, that's up to you guys. **Matlock:** How much copying is he doing? **Haba:** I don't know, they seem...I'm hoping that works out, I think it might work out, you know, hopefully the fees and stuff going...They're running it well it seems, but...You might ask him, it didn't come from me, but it almost seems like they're using that nice building there as a hub for their, you know, because they go, expect you might do a special here, and then he goes to wherever, University Heights or wherever. **Matlock:** Only if he's using that for us. Yeah, he can't use this.... **Haba:** Yeah, and I'm not sure of that. I think though it may work out, hopefully if the expenses aren't so much, it could very well work out. Another thing is Perez, she left and she was working on the fees for the community center. I was going to go over what she had, finish him up, maybe go over with Brian and Heather, and then present to Council because you eventually have to pass them anyway. I'll talk to the mayor about it before I give it to you guys before we finish it; show it to the mayor and then if he agrees, give it to Council if that's okay. **Matlock:** What kind of fees? **Haba:** The fees for the director of the community center. **Climer:** And Tom, when she left, she and I were working on amendments to the rental agreement. So let me get to you...**Haba:** Yeah, I think Heather might have that copy if you haven't read it. I was going to call the department [inaudible] might be the one bother for that. So, if you have that... **Scruggs:** I have it. **Haba:** Good, that's great. This week, we've already called around other cities and looked on other websites, neighboring cities to see what theirs is and we have it way low. **Climer:** You're going to send it? **Scruggs:** I can send it to both. I do have...Mrs. Perez and I met as well about the fee adjustments as well, so we can converse and then put it all in that document. And there were a couple changes that she and I looked at when we sat down together and met the week before. **Climer:** Yeah, I was going to say, I wouldn't mind. **Scruggs:** So, I can go I can sit down with you and just see if it's the same. **Climer:** Okay, we'll all be on the same page then, because I don't think I saw the part you submitted. **Haba:** And I did okay for Denise Tufts, she lives on Cambridge. She didn't go down last weekend, one day, so it was left a mess. I gave her the okay to keep doing that. What she was doing, Ms. Perez, she would go down there the morning after the parties. [inaudible] You know, I get a picture on Sunday morning, can you come clean this up? Okay, well, she didn't pay, but she only gets paid half an hour when she goes check, so that's nothing. So, I don't expect her to clean anything up. So I okayed for her to keep doing that, to go to the day after, check on it, if anything's wrong, take a picture, send it to Heather there, send to me, and we'll decide right now, you know, what deposit gets back and doesn't get back, and until Heather gets on the same page, just so you know I okayed for this stuff, so keep doing that, and that is it. I won't be here, so at the next meeting I won't be here. I'll be at next week's. **Gottschalk:** Madam Chair, Tom had one of...I know he had some salting going on tonight, didn't you? **Haba:** Yeah, we had a guy on the shifts. In fact, today's the last day of the shifts, you know, the 50¢, I think they're trying to get a dollar, but it's 50¢ and today's the last day. I told the guys the weather is supposed to be nice next week and there'll still be times where we have to come in for overtime, but it's less and less. So, I took the guys off the shifts after today. We had a guy until 7 O'clock, it's supposed to snow until about 11 O'clock, but it's not going to be a lot, but the roads will probably freeze up after the snow ends and it went down like 25° at night. So, he was pre-salting Forbes Road, a couple of bad hills; [inaudible], Buckthorn, Richmond Road. **Gottschalk:** He did Tryon over there. **Haba:** Yeah, he did Tryon, parts of it. That's all I got. **Nikolic:** I know we mentioned microphones. **Haba:** Yeah, we have the [inaudible] I know I still have it; I can give it to you. I know Tanya asked for it probably three or four months ago. I do have it sitting right there, I guess I probably forgot to give it to you, so I'll

give it to you on Monday. **Nikolic:** Would that be something that will go out for [inaudible]? **Haba:** I don't think so. **Nikolic:** Because it's not that expensive? **Haba:** No...for that, we can install them. We would find the best price, we had found the best price at the time, three or four months ago; when Ms. Joseph asked for it, we got the prices we thought would be best, and we can present that to Ms. Joseph, and she can present to you, and we can sell it ourselves. **Nikolic:** Okay, and my other question is about Ms. Tufts coming in there the morning after. Is there not a cleaning protocol? So, if there's an event, there's just automatically someone that comes in and just cleans up? **Haba:** No, the people that run it have a list of what they have to clean up, and they clean it up. **Nikolic:** Okay, and then Ms. Tufts is the one that goes behind them to see if they did it? **Haba:** Yeah, you're supposed to see if they did it. If they don't do it, if there's an infraction, if there's beer cans in the garbage cans in the bathroom or a bunch of crumbs on tables and floors, she takes a picture of it and sends it. **Nikolic:** And then service goes in and cleans it? **Haba:** A couple of times we have a cleaning person come in and we have to pay an extra \$100, \$125 for cleanup. But we've always had people have the hall, keep the price down, they clean it up, if there's no infractions, they get their whole deposit back. **Nikolic:** Okay, but when service has to come in, they are charged something? **Haba:** They are charged something. **Nikolic:** Okay, what are they charged? **Haba:** Just on how bad it is. **Nikolic:** Okay, any other questions for our service...? **Matlock:** What do you think about a security guard down there? **Haba:** We've had that before. I mean, I've always thought...good, but it's going to jack the fees way up. A security guard, you know what a lot of states have...You have to have one, you have to pay them. We used to charge them \$15 an hour back when we had them. But if somebody has it for seven hours, that would probably be \$25 an hour I'm guessing. **Matlock:** But then we used to have like auxiliary police that would handle that? **Haba:** That was \$50. **Matlock:** Yeah, why wouldn't we just have that? **Thompson:** I don't think we have auxiliary police. **Matlock:** I know we don't have that. We only have one. **Haba:** Our auxiliary did it, and sometimes full-time police officers, but even when the auxiliary did it... **Matlock:** The full-time officers, sometimes they get called away or... **Haba:** Well, they're not on duty when they do it. **Matlock:** I was thinking more like auxiliary police or whatever. **Haba:** Well, they did, the auxiliary guys did it, but it was on their own time when they did it. They weren't working for Oakwood at the time, they were auxiliary. They were working for Oakwood, but it was kind of like off duty, and whoever rented the hall had to pick up that \$15 an hour. **Matlock:** Because I know when we were down there for the Super Bowl...Because I walked in and got a contact high. **Haba:** Yeah, I mean, most of us have to be down there. Bedford, I know has someone from their Recreation or Service Department down there, Bedford where they have it. And a lot of cities will have someone like that, just a regular worker or anyone to do it. But most of [inaudible], they have only 75 people, then they have a police officer down there that people have to pay for. **Matlock:** Yeah, I think that's something that we should think about, because you got Denise Tufts going in there, afterwards, or I don't know how when... **Haba:** She goes the next morning, there's no one else when she goes. **Matlock:** But I think we should have somebody on that down there, because we need to have somebody down there. **Haba:** I've always thought there'd be so many, but that's...where I think your fee is up. I think you guys have seen fees for the other cities, and we're not even... **Warren:** I think that years ago when we used to do that too, and Eloise might remember, I think that a lot of times it was dependent on the event. Like a baby shower, they wouldn't have it, but a party or something like that, they would, you know. But nowadays, who knows, some baby showers do it. **Haba:** I think that's why it's always booked up, because it's so cheap that someone who lives in Macedonia doesn't want to pay there. so they might know a second cousin that lives in Oakwood.

So, they use that Oakwood person's name, the Oakwood person signs it out, but it's really for the Macedonian people because our prices are so cheap right now. **Nikolic:** So, I don't know if I heard you say this, but for example, when I've rented out venues for other events, they add on that fee. Is that what you were saying? So, if we for example say, when you rent the hall for whatever amount of hours you use it, we require you have a police officer in place and they cover the cost of the officer and it's just what we require. I mean, that's one way to do it then it would, you know, allow that person to open and close the center and, you know, take care of any other... **Matlock:** You need to have that. **Haba:** The police used to do the walk around with people, but they're rather busy now. They'd rather not be responsible like they used to... When it was over there, they would come in and do the walk around with people, okay, you did this, you did this, sign off on it, and then lock up. You know, it does take 20 minutes sometimes. **Nikolic:** Anything else for our Service Director? Thank you, Mr. Haba, may we hear from our fire chief?

Fire Department

Dave Tapp, Fire Chief | **Tapp:** Thank you Madam President. Fire is working diligently right now; March 25th, 26th, we have ISO coming out. Every five to ten years, ISO comes out and does an insurance rating on the Fire Department. They go through all our vehicles, go through our station, go through our train, budget, water supply, dispatch. So, it's a two-day event which will affect insurance rates for those, obviously. The average in this area is a five; last year, we were around a four. [inaudible] So, that's coming up at the end of the morning, and we'll work on that and other than that I'll get to questions. **Hardin:** Whenever I get a chance, I thank you for your professionalism, thank you for your patience, just hang with us a little bit longer. **Tapp:** Yes ma'am, don't worry. **Hardin:** What do you have over there to get fixed? **Tapp:** Fire station wise, our front apron we're going to definitely fix eventually. Concrete out the front is cracked pretty badly. We don't want to see a fire truck fall in there. I believe Tom said these guys can actually do it. **Haba:** We can do it for a lot less, you know... **Tapp:** So, other than that, we had our roof repaired last year, year before. Nothing major, a couple garage doors possibly, but we have the money and our budget to fix those, our repairs and maintenance. But I don't see any major repairs going on. **Matlock:** hey Tommy, this is for you. Do we have any plans to have this parking lot paved? **Haba:** There are no plans for it right now. **Matlock:** Because it's kind of bad out there now. **Haba:** Especially some areas. **Hardin:** That fire station is old. **Haba:** In front of it, in the back, the [inaudible] will just take care of last year, two years ago, but the price is terrible. We can do it; I gave a price a couple years ago when a contractor wanted. We could do it for about 40% of that cost, that's due to the labor ourselves. Just one more thing on the roof here, just give me an okay, or a no, or whatever you want on the... As soon as possible, the roof's like, with the weather changing, they can get to it now. In the winter, I didn't really want them to do it, they don't want to do it, I didn't want them doing it in the winter. But with the weather changing, we can get it done pretty soon. **Nikolic:** Did you say there was a request for bid that needed to be done, and if so, who started that process? **Haba:** Yeah, I don't believe that we would have to go out for bids, but I want to for that price. You're getting close to that... it's a pretty high price, but I just, you know, okay from Council to go get the bids. **Nikolic:** So, what's that process? **Haba:** I would still come. I would advertise it out and get bids and I could do that within, you know, once I get it okayed, within a couple of weeks. And then... **Nikolic:** Do we need to do legislation or just... **Haba:** I don't think you have to at that price. **Nikolic:** Law Director, what's the process? **Climer:** I don't believe so. I've got to reconfirm that, but I'll have you an answer Monday. **Haba:**

Yeah, I think just if you give me a verbal okay...I'll get it. But before I do it, I would present the price to you. **Scruggs:** I have a question concerning just potholes because of the wear and tear of winter. Is there a schedule that you are already following where you just kind of go and just fill in as it relates to Ward 1? We did have some streets that the holes are there now. **Haba:** Yeah, you let me know, we just kind of went through there. Now Richmond, now we just changed the season, they're going to start making hot patch soon, so I told the guys...In fact, the last two days, we had a little bit of a break in weather, we've gone over [inaudible] as far as we know, we're out there today doing it again. I told them don't hit every little one because they pop out of [inaudible] with this cold patch. When we get the hot patch, they'll hold for a year or two, possibly. So, I told them hopefully we get some hot patches in a couple of weeks and do everything good. But if you have certain holes, just call. We get calls once a week, as soon as we're notified, we'll go take care of it as soon we can. **Nikolic:** Anything else for our Service Director? **Hill:** Down at the building department, I think that's where they talked to Corey. I think I sent you an email, is that something you all can do? **Haba:** Yeah, we can do that, we had a chain over there and then they didn't want it. **Hill:** They didn't like the chain, but they do want a swinging door that you latch or something. **Haba:** Yeah, well, [inaudible] that'll be a problem. **Hill:** Okay, thank you. **Nikolic:** Moving on to agenda item number 7, ward reports, Councilwoman Scruggs. **Scruggs:** Ward 1... We missed recreation. Is that after this? **Nikolic:** Well, that was a departmental report, and since we don't have a Recreation Director, did you want to report in her stead? **Scruggs:** Would you like it now or would you like to with the fine Arts? **Nikolic:** Well, if you make it with the departmental report... **Scruggs:** Okay, so this is Councilperson Scruggs and I am working in partnership to assist with the Recreation Commission in lieu of our employment vacancy. So, I'm working on a recreation budget that I do have a copy of to submit to Council. It is not entirely complete, but it does have a list of events that the Recreation Commission, along with partnership with Ms. Perez before she left, where it works on things that they wanted to do for 2025. What we did was, we listed out potential pricing for this year so that Council can take a look at it, and I did just today...Mr. Thompson has not had a chance to really look through it and see what is missing. I'll submit it to Mr. Thompson, and I asked permission of the mayor if I could just kind of support in that area. So, what you have in front of you would be something just to look at to consider for recreation activities and events. So, there's still some pieces missing but we did know that today we need to submit something, otherwise we would just go based off of the 2023 budget. So, this is for Council's consideration to review when you get an opportunity for upcoming events for 2025 in recreation. One of the things also in recreation that has been going on with the support of Councilperson Matlock is making sure that our senior lunches continued the last two weeks and so Councilperson Matlock has been running the sit-in, making sure that the lunches have been ordered, making sure that our seniors are taken care of. And we knew that Council wanted to make sure how many lunches were being served throughout each event. So, we have a sign-in sheet that we have created for the senior lunch, and it has ended up being about 53 people in person that showed up for March 5th. There were an additional seven people who got a to-go, so these might have been people who were at home. So, the number is currently 60 people that we served for March 5th, and we're going to continue to get that sign in list and with their addresses. They're filling in their addresses so we can make sure of who is there; it looks like from this list, it's all residents. And that will help us to know how much money we're spending on the senior lunch, and we need to spend on the senior lunches for the remainder of the year. So, that's 60 people that attended this past week. I want to publicly say thank you to Ms. Matlock for jumping

in and taking that on. We've used a vendor for the last two weeks that is here in Oakwood, right down the street, and they delivered the food for free, so we did not have a delivery cost. And they are very excited that we are working with them, so the goal is just to try to minimize the costs but still allow for the seniors to have their senior lunch and also activities. So, that has not stopped. So, that's been going on for the last two weeks and we want to make sure that we keep up with that information for Council. So, we'll get this to you as soon as it's typed up nicely. It's kind of in written form right now for the senior lunches. And there's other things, but I just wanted to make sure that you at least got this to deliberate, discuss at a later time. But...

Gottschalk: And just give that to Heather and she'll type it out. **Hardin:** So, the meals were \$20,000? **Scruggs:** So, the line item that says senior lunch, if we were to look at senior lunch for the next however many months up until December, from April until December, that's 33 days. If we were to use \$600 as our rate is what we were going to spend, that's \$10 per person for 60 people, it would add up to be \$19,800 just for the food we did \$600 for 60 people. **Hardin:** How much are those luncheons from...What's the name of the company down the street? How much were those? **Matlock:** They were \$8 a person, that's what they charge us. We kind of add it in just a little bit, just in case, because the cost of food has gone up, or is going up. And we just want to make sure that we...And on top of that, we didn't, even though it was \$480 for this week, we did get Giant Eagle to donate to us a \$50 gift card and they said they'll donate it once a month. So, we did calculate in desserts for them to be added into this cost. And then once a month, we could probably go to Giant Eagle's \$450 gift certificate. And that bought them cakes and stuff and they sliced it up. **Hardin:** If we just want to...Because we have a specific number now, you don't have to guess. So, again, the question is, for the people down the street, how much was it per just one event? **Matlock:** \$8 per person times 60. **Scruggs:** but that did not include your drinks. **Matlock:** And that did not include the dessert, just the food. **Hardin:** Okay, so no drinks, And... **Matlock:** No dessert. **Scruggs:** There's no paperware, no plates, and no napkins. **Hardin:** So how much did you spend? **Matlock:** Well, really, we just have to kind of look at that just a little bit on how much they're using as far as paper products down there. That's something that we really have to...Because if you're buying in bulk, they shouldn't be utilizing a lot of that, because when we're buying them, we just went out, we bought some, it was like 280 plates inside of an actual bulk that we purchased. And we know that there are only 60 people that are eating, so we have to watch the supplies. I did see a lot of waste on that, you know what I'm saying? But it's something that we just have to talk to Denise about and have her kind of roll it, and I'll kind of keep an eye on it when I'm down there just to see exactly...Because those are things that can get away from you. **Scruggs:** So, Council can decide if we would like to stay at that amount. That is just what we have spent so far. So, if you see at the top, it says past events, what we believe has already been spent, and then upcoming is projected and Council can approve, adjust, deny anything that's underneath that first line. So, for recreation, that would what has taken place since our last Council meeting. **Hill:** So, for technology where it says computer cart platform for charging laptops, we had put money in last year's budget to buy...Did we not buy it, did it walk away? **Scruggs:** So, it was not purchased at all. I asked Ms. Perez about the laptops and their charging cart, and it was never purchased. Even though it was approved, she didn't know anything about it, so I know it wasn't purchased. But she did recently purchase three within the last month. She went to Best Buy, I don't believe it was the same one that the mayor asked us to get when he had the discount last year, but she got three so that they could do that computer class. But there's no cart with it, it's just three...I don't know what they are. Are they Surface. I'm not sure. I haven't seen... **Thompson:** I'm not sure of the brand, but she

did get three. **Hardin:** How much and where are they? **Thompson:** We have them in the Finance Department. **Matlock:** Okay, let me ask you a question Brian... **Hill:** So, in the summer, when the kids had summer camp, they didn't get the laptops to work on at all? **Gottschalk:** We got them from the school last year. **Matlock:** she said she went to Best Buy and bought three computers, correct? Isn't there a vendor that you guys can go through in order to get those computers cheaper? I mean, instead of going to Best Buy, shouldn't there be a... **Thompson:** Everything can be state bid, but a lot of times finding them on Amazon or Sam's Club is competitively the same quality as you can get at a good price. **Matlock:** It's no such thing as the same quality. I mean, HP or whatever, but I'm just saying you have an IT guy. Does your IT guy have access to computers they can get at a lower rate? **Thompson:** Yeah, definitely. He can shop it on... **Matlock:** Right, because the name of the game is saving money. And Best Buy, I know because I just went to Best Buy to buy a computer, crazy. I mean the price, it's crazy, but I'm just saying there should be a vendor that we use to purchase those computers. **Thompson:** Moving forward, we'll pose that to IT to take a look at it. But we've bought a lot, and we go through Mr. Souza to shop it out. But moving forward, definitely moving in that direction. **Gottschalk:** He would definitely be involved. **Matlock:** Yeah, because there should be a vendor. And then question; when you go down to the computer room, they do have some computers in there. What computers are those? **Thompson:** We had a gentleman there, he passed away. I'm not sure what the brand is, but I'm sure they're outdated at this point, because it was a long time ago. Straight answer, I am not sure what computers they are. **Matlock:** But what I'm trying to get at is we have...computers that seniors would use, desktop. And my question is, can we get IT to set up those computers? There's nothing really wrong with those computers, we just need IT to set those computers up. **Thompson:** Okay, I'll have them assess them. **Matlock:** Have them set them up, because really to run those computers, I mean, computer class basic... **Scruggs:** He needs to assess them to make sure that any updated programs and software can actually work on them. **Thompson:** I'll have them check and do a report for us. **Haba:** Yeah, we took a few computers out of the Building Department that they weren't going to use and talked to Mr. Souza yesterday morning, and he's going to wipe them clean, and they can probably use them down there if they want. They usually tell you which ones he's taking down. **Thompson:** Recycle a few. **Haba:** Yeah, he said he got some older ones in the back there, but they're really old, but using them is better. **Hill:** How many did you give to him? **Haba:** I want to say there's four or five in total. **Hill:** How many did you request to go in the Council room in the community center? **Hardin:** Two. **Haba:** I know that they're probably there. **Hill:** Okay, so do we need to...who's going to [inaudible]? **Haba:** Check with Brian, maybe once the tech guy wipes them clean, then Brian can do whatever he feels best. **Matlock:** And then we can set them up. **Haba:** And I could be wrong, I didn't see them, but for the seniors, I thought they got some notebooks in there just recently. **Matlock:** See, we didn't see them. We don't know where they're at, and if so, we need to locate where those notebooks are at. **Haba:** I'll check on that. Yeah, because I've never seen them. **Matlock:** But then those desktops, if they could wipe them clean and see if they can update those, load new software on them I would love to have that room set up; and I can even come help, as a computer setup room for the seniors. **Gottschalk:** Well, that's the plan, very soon. **Matlock:** That we could set it...Yeah, have it set up for them to just... **Gottschalk:** In a month. **Matlock:** Yeah, they could just go in because they could see the little...not good for seniors. **Hardin:** I hear there's three over here, there's five wiped over here. Every piece of equipment that belongs to the village should be inventoried. There should be a... **Haba:** Yes, we just took them out this week from the Building Department. **Hardin:** One more time? **Haba:** We just took

him out this from the Building Departments. **Hardin:** Mr. Finance Director, would you make that, practice and procedures, any device that belongs to the village should have an inventory number. **Thompson:** Yeah, I'll fix that [inaudible]. **Hardin:** However often you want to, because I think I told you... **Haba:** I didn't tell him I'd have it. **Thompson:** Yeah, some green tags that he assembled on the machine. **Hardin:** So it should be, so just because they're there, we're still not tracking, so who knows where what is. So, the expectation is between you and Tommy, find out where these things are and inventory them so we can keep up with them. She just brought three from Best Buy, how much did they cost? **Thompson:** I don't have the cost with me, but I can get the information to you. **Hardin:** And I think I told you; I found in one of those cabinet drawers down there at the center: some kind of deposit slips with a number on it, an account number. I don't know what that was about. **Thompson:** Okay, are they still down there? **Hardin:** Yeah, I guess. **Thompson:** I'll go take a look and see what it is. **Hardin:** In that TV room, Tommy, in one of those drawers, there's deposit slips. **Nikolic:** Any other report? **Scruggs:** That would conclude the recreation report at this time. **Nikolic:** Okay. And I'd like to thank you, Councilperson Scruggs, for the work that you're doing, stepping up and taking on that work as well, so thank you. Moving on to Ward Reports, Councilwoman Scruggs.

Ward Reports

Taunya Scruggs, Ward 1| **Scruggs:** No Report.

Eloise Hardin, Ward 2| **Hardin:** No Report.

Paggie Matlock, Ward 3| **Matlock:** No Report.

Mary Davis, Ward 4| Absent

Candace Hill, Ward 5| **Hill:** Oh, she's gone, Ward 4. Mayor, can you touch base with the engineer? He owes us some reports for streets. **Gottschalk:** Say that a little louder, please? **Hill:** The engineer said he would get us some reports for the streets; he said he will get us the cost. **Gottschalk:** Yeah, he just got back in town, so he'll be working on it. **Hill:** So, the cost of Tryon, the cost that he estimated to finish Tryon, the cost that he estimated it to fix Arbutus, and he said he will estimate a cost for Suwanne so that we can start looking at that. And then he said he would give us the PCR. So, we need all of those because Suwannee, they want that street done. **Gottschalk:** Right, he's back in town. **Hill:** That's it for Ward 5. **Nikolic:** Thank you, Council. Moving on to... **Hardin:** For the record, I'm still saying Somerville, mayor. **Gottschalk:** I hear you; it will be reviewed, we'll see what the review is. **Nikolic:** Thank you, Councilperson Hardin. Moving on to agenda item number 8, committee reports.

Committee Reports

Fine Arts, **Scruggs:** No Report.

Human Resource, **Hardin:** No Report.

Environmental Committee, **Nikolic:** We have a couple updates, Earth Day is April 26th this year. Save the Date from 2-4, have more details on that. Also, the climate action plan drafting sessions will take place on March 20th. On April 1st, we'll send out an email to everyone who's shown up to all of the community engagement meetings as well as to Council and to the village-wide email to ensure that anyone that wants to participate can participate and come and ask any questions. So that's happening, that concludes my report. **Hardin:** In your one report, did you say it, or did I read that there was an assessment of the number of cancer cases or something? Did I dream that or was that said? **Nikolic:** No, you did not dream that. We discussed that at work session and that report will be attached to the CREtelligent legislation. It is scheduled to be completed by the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, and it will be attached to the CREtelligent legislation in addition to the environmental covenant for that same area, and it will be amended and those two documents will be an attached for Councils review; and that should be mid-March when those amendments should be added. **Hardin:** And that area is Wright? **Nikolic:** It's the area for...The Environmental Covenant or for the Cuyahoga County Review? **Hardin:** Where is it checking for the cancer? **Nikolic:** That is over on Wright, Free, and North Lane. It's these same areas that were referenced in the CREtelligent legislation, so same area. It's all related to the legislation that was proposed. So that's why it will be attached as an amendment to the Legislation once it's completed.

Economic Development/Grants Committee, Johnnie Warren| **Warren:** The only thing that we really have is...two items, 2024-128 and 2024-129, on the agenda at both tables. And we would like to have Council to at least review them and to make a decision as to which work direction we're going to go with 2024-128 and 2024-129. **Hardin:** Johnny, you made the remark that the 5050 was not quite how you wanted it. What was your expectation, and using the example that we received, what is it that you feel...? **Warren:** If you look at this tax thing here for the King Group, the mayor increased it from 25% to 50%. It made that, the second one, \$1,000,000 net profits tax. **Gottschalk:** And it's a job, right, that's the... **Warren:** you have it as net profit. **Gottschalk:** No, it's a job creation tax credit. It was 25% and Mr. Warren advised he'd like to see it go to 50% for the village share, so we did. So, this legislation is exactly the recommendation that I approved from Mr. Warren. **Hardin:** Johnnie, my question is still addressed to you, and the mayor is referring to this \$1,000,000 net profit at the 2.5% Times 50. Is that the 50 that... **Warren:** Yeah, it was 25% and I said it needs to be 50%. And I'm not saying that for me to approve the legislation, but I'm just saying that we need to have it 50% at least anyway for everybody. **Hardin:** Okay, why did you not feel the same about the payroll tax? **Warren:** Well, I just didn't feel...Because of the fact that the mayor had talked about whether the payroll is going to be stagnated or fixed, whereas the profits could change and increase, which is anticipated. **Hardin:** Why would the payroll, it's what it is currently...Why would it be stagnative? I don't understand your explanation. **Warren:** Well, what I'm saying is that the people that are working there are going to be the same number of people they may get 2% raises every year or something like that, but... that wouldn't be a significant overall impact on the revenue that Oakwood is getting. But again, I would like to further discuss it, especially when we get to the...We could do it now without taking it off the table. Before we take it off the table, I should say if that's okay. **Nikolic:** Well, it's the committee report. We can discuss it during legislation further if you want to get into a more detailed discussion during legislation. **Warren:** Okay, and that's it. Finance Committee, **Hill:** There was a newsletter that went out to the community and there is another finance committee meeting on March 31st at 5 p.m. **Nikolic:** Thank you. **Matlock:** I

want to talk to Brian for one second and ask him a couple of questions. **Nikolic:** I was going to move on to agenda item number 9, floor open for residents. However, we have no residents present. **Warren:** We have two. **Hardin:** Excuse me, you didn't ask the clerk, does she have...Did we ask her already? I might have missed it. We asked you for your report? **Joseph:** Yes. **Hardin:** May I ask her a question, ma'am? This Council is supposed to attend a seminar in Columbus. What date is that again in March? **Joseph:** From March 10th to the 12th; you guys leave on the 9th. **Nikolic:** No, the OML, the 19th. **Joseph:** Oh, on the 19th, that's in March. **Hardin:** And that's in Columbus, correct? **Joseph:** Correct. **Hardin:** Do you have any literature on that, anything special sent to us or not? **Joseph:** Nothing currently, I believe they might send it out to you when it's closer to the date. **Hardin:** Okay, I urge all of us to make sure we go there. We go to D.C., we definitely get to Columbus and know what we're going there for. Thank you. **Nikolic:** Thank you, Councilperson Hardin. So, moving on to agenda item number 10, legislation. Oh, I'm sorry Councilperson Matlock, continue. **Matlock:** Brian, there's a couple of things that I want to ask you about. Right now, there needs to be a pay ordinance for the new individuals that got hired into the city. We never got one for the girl that sits in the back by Tina, am I correct? Mayor, we've never got for Tom. We never got one for Heather, if Heather is going to stay with you, because I know Heather was temporary. We need that pay ordinance put into play, we need to know what they are doing. These are new procedures that we set up. I don't want to go backwards, we need to follow the procedures as they come into play, because this is going to be done all the time now, okay? And also, we have the individual you have in the Building Department, are you planning on keeping that person? **Gottschalk:** No, I told you, within three months there's a review of the department. We'll have already had a flyer to see who the person would be. **Matlock:** Okay, but right now, since she's in that department, we do need to pay for ordinance on her too to find out. **Gottschalk:** It's \$19 an hour. **Matlock:** We know, we just need to follow the procedure. That's all we're trying to do is follow these procedures. **Hardin:** Which "her" are you talking about? **Matlock:** This is the lady that's inside of the Building Departments that they're going to evaluate in three months. **Gottschalk:** Rather than Corey Craig, she's now replacing him. **Hardin:** Who's she? Is it somebody...? **Gottschalk:** Her name is Connie, I don't know what her last name... **Haba:** Scarborough, I think. Connie Scarborough. She lives on Garden Road. **Matlock:** Was that position ever put up or is it just somebody you know? **Gottschalk:** Well, we needed a replacement for Corey Craig. This will only be temporary though until we review the entire department and its operation, at which time we will have a permanent person to replace her. **Matlock:** So, we do still need to have something for that, okay? And then also, this is what I want to clear up. There was some money that was supposed to be given to Dee at the end of her separation from Oakwood. And I think there was confusion thinking that Dee got, perhaps it was like \$16,000 or whatever; that's not so. Law Director, there was Mr... What was his name? **Hardin:** O'Leary. **Matlock:** And we went over how much Dee was going to get. The mayor had recommended that she get \$5,000 for assisting us with Tanya, and we agreed with that in addition to whatever amount that she got for what raise is or whatever back. It came up to like \$5000, \$2000; it wasn't much over that. I'm not sure how much it was, but Dee was never given this bonus. Can you tell me why? **Thompson:** That \$5,000 language was never memorialized in the legislation. I could dialog with the Law Director to see what was actually memorialized. **Matlock:** Do you remember this? **Thompson:** Yeah, we can act on it. **Matlock:** Okay, she was never paid that, and it's been hanging out there. But with all due respect, we need to make her right on that. **Hill:** She got them like October, November...So the legislation was passed. I know that because we passed it, he vetoed it, and we had to come back and override the

deal. So, I know it passed, but we asked for a report out of all individuals that received raises and increases of what they received so that we could check and make sure people actually receive what we legislated, and we never got that. But that's been some time ago. That should be...

Gottschalk: We're talking again about...She had done work for Council in addition to me, and the idea, I think she was getting at the time was about forty-six to forty-seven, it was agreed to go to sixty-five; I thought that might have been a little high, and so I recommended \$5,000. But as you're saying, she was never paid anything. She did work for Council and has not been given a penny for doing that extra work other than when she was just working for me, and that's what she's talking about and that should be rectified. **Hill:** No, she's talking about both. She's talking about...If she was not paid as a clerk for doing the work...Assistant clerk is what it was. So, if she wasn't paid as the assistant clerk, she should have been paid for that. This is a legal matter, right? You can't have people work and then not pay them. We also legislated the increase, so they both should have paid out. You can't pick and choose which you comply with, when we pass legislation, you have to comply. **Gottschalk:** And I don't disagree, at least I wanted her to get paid something. As it's turned out, she hasn't been paid anything other than the minimum 3% raise and that was it. **Hardin:** Why is that? **Nikolic:** Finance Director? **Gottschalk:** Yeah, I've asked to get it taken care of. **Thompson:** I know that [inaudible] \$5,000 was never memorialized in the actual legislation to pay her. It was just, like, in minutes... **Gottschalk:** She should be recognized for the work she did. [inaudible] **Hill:** But we're not talking about the \$5,000...we legislated an increase. All you had to do was calculate her pay and the increase and give her the difference when she left. So, the \$5,000 for Council work is entirely separate, there should have been two separate payments; we're asking why you all made a choice not to pay for it.

Thompson: I gave her the raise, and I gave a retro for what was passed through legislation. She did get that. **Hill:** But it wasn't the full amount, he just said that. **Climer:** Well, didn't she resign before, I mean... **Hill:** No, we passed it before that happened. **Climer:** Yeah, I understand, but was it all retroactive? I know there was a pay raise given, but... **Hill:** Yeah, it was retroactive, it was all retroactive. **Warren:** It was supposed to be a pay raise given... **Hill:** It was retroactive like everybody else's was. **Climer:** Let me get with Brian, we'll sit through the legislation and get this figured out. **Matlock:** It was only supposed to be \$5,000-something, because we didn't retroactive the \$65,000. **Warren:** You said we did not? **Matlock:** I don't think we did. **Warren:** We did, it was passed through legislation that, from what I understand, I think I was the only one who voted against it, but I think it was passed in legislation that she gets the \$65,000 from what her regular \$45,000, or whatever her salary was, prorated from January up until the time that she left, and she gets the difference between this, with the salary being \$65,000 over the \$40,000-something. She gets that prorated, and then the \$5,000 for working for Council. Is that right? **Matlock:** Oh no, we need to redo that, because...I don't think that's what...**Hill:** That is what we passed. **Warren:** That was the legislation. **Hill:** And we went through it with the Assistant Law Director, and he showed us that the amounts were not that much different because she wasn't working through the end of the year. But here's the issue with this: we are now talking about new increases for employees for 2025, and we haven't even made people whole from 2024, which means this money is going to affect our general revenue fund, the same \$600,000, we keep acting like it's such a big number. Now we're going to have to take that money out of there, including the fire chief raise. So, this money just keeps taking hits to it from things that we still haven't resolved from previous budgets. **Scruggs:** You need to resolve that. **Climer:** So, let me get with Sam, I was unaware of that conversation with Brian. We'll get all of the legislation together and report it out to everybody. **Warren:** May I ask one question? Finance Director, you remember

the issue as far as...Are you aware of the proration of the increase from the \$65,000 to the \$40,000? **Thompson:** I think there was a legislation that mentioned \$65,000. I did over 3% and I took a retro for all her hours for 2024, that's what I completed for us. I did do all the retro, I took her total hours... **Warren:** The only retro you did was for 3%, right? **Thompson:** Yes, that's it. **Warren:** But let me just say, did you remember that there was legislation? **Thompson:** For \$65,000 for the new position. **Warren:** No, it wasn't for the new position. **Thompson:** It's the Executive Secretary to the Mayor and that never existed. Dee left that position once it got signed, it was only a small time frame that the new position existed. But I'm going to leave this up to the Law Director to help interpret the legislation. **Hill:** So, here's mine: it's like you are all are blatantly and purposely trying to block just finishing this. We passed legislation, we said what we said, and all you had to do was carry it out. It was not that difficult. I'm not sure why you all were trying to mince words, you need to talk to the Law Director, it was very simple legislation. **Gottschalk:** Tanya, the clerk... **Hill:** And we went through it for several weeks because you vetoed it. **Gottschalk:** ...I think you were asking about that legislation, and you couldn't show it, did you? **Joseph:** Who, me? **Gottschalk:** Yeah, Brian asked it from you. **Joseph:** Brian didn't ask me for any legislation. **Thompson:** We had a total timeline on all the legislation, so it's in the record. **Gottschalk:** Guys, come on, I was talking to the Law Director, and I want to get at least the \$5,000 showing versus nothing. **Thompson:** Now she was doing the... **Gottschalk:** All I was hearing was that nothing has been signed. **Thompson:** Now, I never got any documentation for the quantification of the \$5,000. So, if she was mayor's secretary 9-5, when was she doing the clerk work? Was it during 9-5, which you can't double up like that? I had never had... **Hill:** We don't have Council meetings 9-5. She was being an assistant for Council. **Warren:** In the evenings. **Thompson:** So, I never got documentation of any additional hours for that work. **Warren:** So now you're questioning the \$5,000 too, now? **Thompson:** Right, I never got documentation... **Warren:** No, I'm asking you, are you questioning the \$5,000? **Hill:** And if you had a question about it, why didn't you come ask us about it? Why would you wait until now? **Thompson:** Don't make this a [inaudible]. **Warren:** Because the mayor himself is... **Thompson:** [inaudible] Council Matlock is saying no, that's not what we agreed to, so let's get full clarity with the Law Director, look at the documentation that was passed [inaudible]. **Hill:** It's not Matlock's job to do finance, it's your job to know the facts. **Thompson:** It's not, but she's making it sound clear what the message was. **Hill:** Okay, but it's not her job to know whether it's clear, it's your job to know when we pass the legislation, read this, what does it say, and make the calculations. It's not all her. **Thompson:** Right, so she's the mayor's secretary 9-5. She's doing clerical work for Council during the 9-5. **Warren:** No, she isn't. That's what we're saying is that she was working in the evening. **Thompson:** So, where's the documentation? **Warren:** Where's the documentation for her? **Thompson:** For the evening, she turned the taxes in. **Warren:** Where's yours? **Hill:** [inaudible] Her meeting. **Thompson:** Well, mine is there, too, but you said she's doing additional [inaudible]. **Warren:** Let me ask you this, how many people are not swiping in, especially then? **Thompson:** It's not about the swiping. **Warren:** Yes, it is, because you said the documentation, you just got through saying that her documentation was her [inaudible]. **Hill:** When did you ask for the documentation is the question. When did you ask for documentation? **Thompson:** It was something additional she was doing. It was asked for, but it was never provided. You have to ask from Dee to turn in the documentation, it never came in, for the work she was doing as a clerk. **Hill:** Well, Dee isn't here to verify that, but you sure could have asked Council if she wasn't here. **Warren:** Well, may I suggest that we stop beating this dead dog, okay? Nothing's going to happen until we have the legislation in front of us, and then

at the next meeting we should have the legislation, be able to review it, and move forward.

Matlock: And that was additional. And we can go based off of what we had stated. It was like \$5,000... What was it, \$5,000? **Scruggs:** We just want to look at the legislature. **Gottschalk:** I think that's what your Law Director thought. **Warren:** Why are we beating a dead horse?

Nikolic: Mayor, you have [inaudible]. **Gottschalk:** How long have I been on this with you?

Climer: What? **Gottschalk:** Dealing with Dee and getting her paid, at least four or five months. There's been an issue... **Climer:** With me? No, this is the first I've heard of this issue, okay? So, what we're going to do is we're going to gather all the legislation that has been passed and the dates Dee was working, we will get a report to Council and get everybody on the same page.

Thompson: That's what I said. I agree, there isn't any need to beat the devil. **Climer:** Is that acceptable? **Thompson:** Yeah. **Matlock:** And then the last thing, last thing because I'm tired of this dead horse too. This budget we put in place, as stated, the budget should have been done starting in September because we did not want to go down this road again of waiting up until the end of March, because your budget has to be turned in by March 31st, am I correct? Okay, we've got the Fire Department's budget, we've got service budget, police budget, we now have recreation's budget. We have... Tanya needs a budget for her being our clerk. **Thompson:** I haven't received that yet. **Matlock:** Okay, so we have a deadline of today, because we want to give you a deadline of no more than a week so you can get everything put together and get your report in on time on March 31st, okay? There was supposed to be a deadline today for all budgets to be turned in, did we say that at the last meeting? **Thompson:** I put my letter out for the budgets to be turned in [inaudible]. **Warren:** He can't be held accountable for people not turning in budgets. **Matlock:** I know, I understand that. So, my question is this, or what is... If it's not in today, like we had stated, that's what it was supposed to be, when did you put that date on there for final? For you to move forward, everyone that is in the system for 2024, who has not turned into you a budget, that's the budget they're going to get. **Thompson:** Okay. **Matlock:** Because you want to know something? We can't keep knocking this horse down the road and then you end up missing reports. We don't know what the consequences are going to be of that, and we've put it out there since September to have your budget already going so we can approve these budgets; and they should have been approved before December 31st or January 1st of 2025. **Thompson:** Try to get the message... **Matlock:** I'm ready to move forward because we've got people waiting for what they need, and we need to know are the funds there and available, okay? That's what we need. We also need that cost comparison of each one, how much it's going to cost for us to give those raises that they have requested, and then next year for the directors: in order for anybody to receive a raise, you will be doing an evaluation on that employee twice a year. Just because you come up with a raise does not mean everybody is entitled to that raise, because their work levels are different. **Scruggs:** so, what I'm hearing is that you are given permission, you have permission to move forward with... 2023's budget numbers, correct? **Thompson:** No, it's going to be 2024's. **Scruggs:** Whoever has not turned in their budget, you use 2024's numbers and that's final as of this moment. What time is it? **Matlock:** As of 8:53... **Scruggs:** March 7th. **Matlock:** It's not fair for the ones who have turned their budgets in on time. **Scruggs:** So, then we can review it, whatever numbers you have from that, so you don't have to wait and ask anyone else for a number. That's what we'll put into the review. So, you have permission. **Matlock:** Then we can go ahead and get this stuff done. **Nikolic:** Okay, if there are no other questions or comments in general, we can move on to agenda item number 10, legislation.

Legislation

** Second Proposed amendment to Resolution 2024-128 to be voted on by Council**

2024-128

Introduced 10-22-24

By the Mayor and
Council as a whole

1st read 10-22-24

2nd read 11-4-24

3rd read 11-26-24

Tabled 11-26-24

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH
FINANCIERE ESTEREL d/b/a TRESICAL, INC. FOR THE PROVISION OF A JOB
CREATION GRANT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Nikolic: Excuse me, Law Director Climer? **Climer:** Yes, ma'am? **Nikolic:** I'm looking at the numbers, and Councilperson Hardin, correct me if I'm wrong, I thought that what the request was supposed to include was, since they have been here since July, these numbers were supposed to include the actuals from 2024 to substantiate your 2025. **Gottschalk:** No, the 2025 numbers are the actual numbers that they gave us for payroll. **Hardin:** How can I give you [inaudible]? **Gottschalk:** So, we did \$2,000,000 for 2024 for the first month. **Hill:** No, I'm asking for actuals from 2024 because they've been here since July, and I believe Councilors... And I sent an email I believe following up when you sent these saying I believe that the request was to see the actuals to substantiate the 2025 numbers. **Hardin:** These projections, yes. **Gottschalk:** Right, but remember, you went and collected \$19,000... **Hill:** I know, but the request came from Council to see... **Thompson:** Yeah, \$19,000, which we equated to about... **Gottschalk:** And that was put in the general fund, they're asking for that. **Thompson:** Yeah, about \$760,000 in payroll, so it was about \$19,000. So, I'll pull a [inaudible] report, and I can list it by month. Actually, that would've collected from July to December 24th. **Gottschalk:** So that was before the agreement. **Hill:** I believe that was requested, so if you could include that. No, I believe it was requested. And when you sent this, I sent a follow-up email asking that, I believe it was requested to be included by Council, was that correct? **Hardin:** You are correct. **Hill:** Okay, so if you could update that. **Thompson:** I'll wait for the first couple of months of this year too, just to make it fully complete, but I'll get to 2024. **Hill:** I didn't hear you, what was the first part? **Warren:** He's able to do this for the next couple of months too, for January and February. **Climer:** Frank, can you add that to the exhibit and then copy me with it? Copy me so I can then attach it to the amendment to the legislation for Ms. Hardin's request. **Hardin:** And thank you, Chair. **Warren:** Now that we're on item number 10, do we have to read the legislation before we talk about it, or can we just talk about it? **Climer:** These have all been read three times. **Warren:** Yeah, I know. So, the reason I ask and I'm reconciling, and I'll ask the mayor because I just was running over these things myself. When I looked at this and originally it looked really good, but when I look at this, they got a \$2,000,000 payroll, if everybody could look at theirs; \$2,000,000 payroll at 2.5%, \$50,000, we get 25% which is \$12,500. Then the net profits tax, we get \$1,000,000 or whatever net profits. **Gottschalk:** With the new numbers. **Warren:** Yeah, with the new numbers, \$1,000,000. **Gottschalk:** So, we've gone from only taking 25% to 50%. **Warren:** Mayor, we know that. We're talking and I'm talking right now to... **Gottschalk:** It amounts to \$25,000 a year in new money. **Warren:** Both of them, as you see, amount to \$25,000. The question I have, just to let you know, is that I was doing a calculation; and when I do the calculation on the \$2 million payroll at 2%, we get \$40,000. So why would we settle for 25%? **Gottschalk:** We didn't, we're going for 50% now. **Warren:** No, we have \$25,000. \$12,500 and \$12,500 is \$25,000. **Gottschalk:** No, but it's been changed, we're talking like 50% of the payroll. **Warren:** That's what this has, it's 50 percent. **Gottschalk:** What? **Hardin:** And you're still at 25%. **Warren:** Do you see it, Brian? Could you explain to the mayor? **Thompson:** Why'd you do 2% when our rate

is 2.5%? **Warren:** I just did it just to make it easy for me. I didn't have to figure the other half, I just think that just adds more to it, right? **Thompson:** Yeah. **Warren:** Okay, so what I'm saying basically is that we create an incentive to get less money. If you add the two together, we get \$25,000. If we went with a straight 2% of the \$2,000,000 payroll, we get \$40,000. So, if we get 2.5%, then we're getting a half a percent, which is...Let's just say about another... **Gottschalk:** Then we're taking 25% of that, now we're taking 50% of it. **Warren:** Mayor, the total with getting the 50% of the net profit only gives us \$12,500. **Gottschalk:** Again, all right, so if we have a 2,000,000 payroll times 2.5%, all right, Jim? **Thompson:** That's \$50,000. **Gottschalk:** And then with that, we're now going to take 50% of that and not 25%. So, what's that difference? **Warren:** No, we're taking 50% of the net profit, that's what this has. **Gottschalk:** We get 50% on the job creation tax credit, too. **Warren:** Well, everybody listen. You got two 25-percents. **Gottschalk:** Oh, come on, I don't have my glasses. **Matlock:** You want mine? **Warren:** Just take your Finance Director's word. **Climer:** Yeah, no, it lists 25% of the payroll, job creation tax. **Gottschalk:** That's what it was. **Climer:** And you're saying it should be 50%? **Gottschalk:** It should...Johnny had recommended 50%. **Warren:** Wait, well then, let me ask you this... **Climer:** We'll make that correct. **Warren:** Okay, so we'll make that correction now. **Gottschalk:** That wasn't corrected? **Scruggs:** No. **Matlock:** You want my glasses? **Warren:** It was 50% of the net profits tax. **Gottschalk:** Right, that stays the same. But on the job creation, it was only 25% and you recommended 50%, I agreed. **Warren:** Right. **Hardin:** And it's still showing 25%. **Gottschalk:** It should not be. **Thompson:** So, we might as well leave these two on the...Well, that's up to Council. I'm not going to... **Nikolic:** Tax Incentive Chair, Councilperson Hill, did you have any insight or suggestions regarding this legislation? **Hill:** No. **Nikolic:** If there's nothing else regarding 2024-128 and 2024-129... You still have to read 2024-129 into the... **Climer:** No, we don't need to read them. **Nikolic:** Okay, then table. **Climer:** And I just did that out of force of habit.

Climer continues reading...

2024-129

Introduced 10-22-24

By the Mayor and
Council as a whole

1st read 10-22-24

2nd read 11-4-24

3rd read 11-26-24

Tabled 11-26-24

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH FINANCIERE ESTEREL d/b/a TRESICAL, INC., FOR THE PROVISION OF A NON-REFUNDABLE NET PROFITS TAX CREDIT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

2024-139

Introduced 12-30-24

By Mayor and
Council as a whole

1st read 12-30-24

2nd read 1-28-25

3rd read 2-11-25

Tabled 2-25-25

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO MAKE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD, OHIO FOR THE YEAR 2025

Nikolic: Finance Director, did you attach the new exhibit for this legislation? **Thompson:** Yes, I emailed it last week. **Nikolic:** Council, I believe that's what we were waiting for. Were there any other questions or comments about this legislation? **Hardin:** That he cleared up...you used 2024 figures. **Nikolic:** May I have a motion to remove this from the table?

Motion to remove 2024-139 from table made by Warren seconded by Matlock
YES VOTE: Nikolic, Warren, Scruggs, Matlock, Hardin, Hill
MOTION PASSED

Motion to approve 2024-139 made by Matlock seconded by Warren
YES VOTE: Nikolic, Warren, Scruggs, Matlock, Hardin
NO VOTE: Hill
MOTION PASSED

2025-02	AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE REAFFIRMING THE PROHIBITIONS AGAINST
Introduced 1-28-25	DISCHARGING, IGNITING OR EXPLODING FIREWORKS IN THE VILLAGE OF
By Councilwoman Hardin	OAKWOOD AS SET FORTH IN CHAPTER 1519 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF
1 st read 1-28-25	THE VILLAGE NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF H.B. 172.
2 nd read 2-11-25	
3 rd read 2-25-25	
Tabled 2-25-25	

Nikolic: I had a question, Councilperson Hardin, were you going to out a poll, and if so, did you talk to IT about that? I know we had discussed, or maybe I had heard that you were going to try and put out poll to the village about this legislation. Had you talked to IT? **Hardin:** I'm working on it. As if our clerk has nothing else to do, she was helping with that. **Warren:** So we can leave it on the table.

2025-16	A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF CARRIE MAE MCSWAIN
Introduced 3-7-25	
By the Mayor	
1 st read 3-7-25	

Motion to suspend 2025-16 made by Matlock seconded by Warren
YES VOTE: Nikolic, Warren, Scruggs, Matlock, Hardin, Hill
MOTION PASSED

Motion to adopt 2025-16 made by Warren seconded by Hardin
YES VOTE: Nikolic, Warren, Scruggs, Matlock, Hardin, Hill
MOTION PASSED

Hardin: Going back to 2024-139, this is to the Finance Director; we approved the first quarter, is that correct? Is that your understanding? **Thompson:** Yes. **Hardin:** Could you give me another copy of the correction using 2024? **Thompson:** Say it again? **Hardin:** The appropriations, can I get a copy of it? **Thompson:** OK. **Hardin:** When did you give us that? Last week, right?

Thompson: Yes. Okay. **Hill:** We do appropriations as our permanent budget, not a quarter budget. **Hardin:** One more time? **Hill:** We approve a reduced budget as our permanent budget, not a quarter budget. **Hardin:** Okay, and they were reduced based on? **Hill:** The number we chose to reduce is approximately a quarter. **Hardin:** That's where that quarter came from, that's why I got a little... **Hill:** It's not just a quarter budget, it's our permanent budget. You follow me? It's our permanent budget... **Hardin:** For 2025? **Hill:** ...But the amount we approved is about a quarter. **Hardin:** And I want to go back and make sure everybody, you do know that we just approved 2025 without all of the...Only what we had from information from 2024. **Hill:** We're going to do a revised budget because Councilwoman Matlock wants to do...with new increases, the column that is missing again is the 2024, it should be there so we can...find what 2024 looked like next to 2025 and it's not there. **Nikolic:** Thank you, Councilperson Hill. Next, Law Director.

2025-17

Introduced 3-7-25

By the mayor and

Council as a whole

1st read 3-7-25

Formerly 2025-WS-09

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING UPDATED FEES FOR THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT, AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 1305.07, REPEALING EXISTING CODIFIED ORDINANCES 1305.08 THROUGH 1305.19 AND 1305.21 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

2025-18

Introduced 10-22-24

By the Mayor and

Council as a whole

1st read 10-22-24

2nd read 11-4-24

3rd read 3-7-25

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

Motion to suspend 2025-18 made by Warren seconded by Hardin

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

MOTION PASSED

Motion to approve 2025-18 made by Warren seconded by Hardin

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

MOTION PASSED

Nikolic: Are there any other questions or comments, Council? **Hill:** Yes, what was the discussion around 2025-WS-09? Did that become 2025-17? **Climer:** Yeah. **Hill:** Why wouldn't we leave that on first read? What was the discussion? **Climer:** The Council apparently didn't want to move to adopt. **Hardin:** What was 2025-WS-09? **Hill:** We left it on first read. **Warren:** Because we didn't see the fees, they don't have the fees memorialized. They were talking about increasing the fees... **Hill:** They should have been in the legislation? **Climer:** No, they should have been attached. **Nikolic:** They're in the legislation, but we discussed the increase; Cheatham hasn't had a chance because he's on vacation. Councilperson Matlock wanted to see some discussion about municipalities, so when Cheatham comes back from vacation, he was to submit Matlock's requested information as well as adjusting the fees to include the increases. Right now, the fees do not include the increase that were suggested for the commercial permits and fees. **Hardin:**

When is he going to work on that? **Nikolic:** When he gets back from vacation. **Climer:** And there are some legal issues with that. **Nikolic:** Like what? **Climer:** Well, I don't want to start giving legal advice on a public record. **Hill:** I'm asking you, you said there were legal issues with...What were you speaking to? **Warren:** In generality. **Climer:** Generally, you're really only allowed to cover your expenses, you don't have to make a profit off your building code stuff. It turns into due process issues and everything else. Sometimes you can attach user fees, so to speak, to them to fund certain things, like parks and all that, but they've got to be proportional. **Nikolic:** So, you're talking about the fees specifically? **Climer:** Right, and that's the point he was trying to make in his email. **Nikolic:** Yeah, I didn't know that it was tied to legislation, he did reference that. He mentioned that those fees covered operating expenses. But to me, I don't understand that it was regulated to increase only to the extent you couldn't cover your operating expenses. **Climer:** I understand that you run into issues with the Department of Commerce, but there are also constitutional issues involved. **Nikolic:** Okay, so I guess my request would be, let us know the highest that we could increase them. If it's just up to operating expenses, what would the additional fees be? So, we talked about parks and playgrounds, but you're talking about any other individual fees we wanted to add on? **Climer:** Just right off the top of my head, there's some Supreme Court decisions that basically say that when you try use a user fee to fund municipal improvements, they've got to be proportional to the cost that you think that particular development is going to add to it. If you've got like a 1,000-house subdivision in a city that develops 2,000 houses a year and maybe attach 50% of that... **Nikolic:** Okay, that's helpful. **Hill:** It's not a matter of setting fees so that they cover something, it's a matter of...When we receive fees stating as a village how would we like to utilize the money that's coming into that department as opposed to saying we're using these permit fees to fund X Y or Z. **Climer:** Yeah, I'm happy to sit on these discussions with John if you want. **Hill:** Yeah, we didn't have...This is something the Councilwoman Nikolic brought up. **Nikolic:** Right, I brought it up because we didn't have that piece of the puzzle, so thank you for giving us that additional information, but when he gets back, I guess we can all sit down and figure out what the limitations are and how we can go forward. **Hardin:** I just want to make certain that we know what we just did. Mr. Finance Director, what...should we understand of what we've just passed? **Thompson:** You're talking about the budget? Permanent budget at around 25%, based on 2024 numbers. **Hardin:** Okay, and you're still waiting for budgets from how many departments? **Thompson:** It could be six or seven, but it doesn't matter. I'll give you a message and I'll put whatever you had in 2024, whoever turned theirs in, that's what's going in my report, and I'll present it before Council. **Hardin:** I want you to understand what just happened from my perspective. I'm going to support the Council lady that gave you the okay to use those figures, but you do know that we do have a finance meeting on the 31st and we can still amend that, okay? Make sure you know where we are. You told them he could use those figures. **Matlock:** If no one has turned in their budget yet, right? **Warren:** Budgets can always be amended, but we just got to make sure that it's done by the 31st. You can submit your budget and on April 1st, we can amend it. **Hardin:** So, everybody knows the process, what we just did. That's all I'm saying. **Nikolic:** Are there any other questions, or...Councilperson Warren? **Warren:** Yes, I make a motion that we adjourn.

Motion to adjourn made by Warren seconded by Matlock
YES VOTE: Nikolic, Warren, Scruggs, Matlock, Hardin, Hill
MOTION PASSED
Meeting adjourned at 9:16pm

Approved 2/18/2020



Evan Garrett, Assistant Clerk of Council



Eloise Hardin, President of Council