

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 26, 2026

ATTENDED:

Eloise Hardin- Council President	Erica Nikolic- Mayor
Norman Bliss- Council at Large	John Montello- Law
Taunya Scruggs- Ward 1	Matt Jones- Engineer
Yvonne Evans- Warren- Ward 2	Tom Haba- Service Director
Paggie Matlock- Ward 3*	David Tapp- Fire Chief
Mary Davis- Ward 4	John Freeman- Police Captain
Malcom Sims, Jr. – Ward 5	Roland Walker-CBO
	Karen Gaither- Recreation

ABSENT:

James Climer- Law
Mark Garratt- Police Chief

*=Late Arrival

Meeting opened: 7:05 by Hardin

1. Meeting came to order
2. Pledge
3. Roll Call

The work session ends with a motion to adjourn, followed by a **5-minute recess**. After the 5-minute recess the regular session started.

Vote for recess before regular session

Made by Davis seconded by Sims.

VOTE: YES Hardin, Bliss, Scruggs, Evans-Warren, Matlock, Sims, Davis.

Open Floor Comments

Councilwoman Evans-Warren introduced **Sheryl Thaxton**, a new business owner in Oakwood Village. Business Details: Business Name: Synergy Therapeutics, Health, and Wellness
Location: 26025 Broadway (shares property with Circle K) Credentials: She is a Board-certified family nurse practitioner Board-certified psychiatric nurse practitioner holds a doctorate degree the services she offers are Mental health and physical health services (blood pressure checks,

etc.). The hours for this are mostly by appointment, only the grand opening was the previous Saturday. Sheryl thanked the council and community for welcoming her to Oakwood. Council members congratulated her and welcomed her to the village.

Scholarship Committee Recognition

Councilperson Sims Jr. presented the 2026 Oakwood Village Scholarship recipients. The scholarship committee was recently reactivated to provide aid to students furthering their education. The Evaluation Criteria was discussed there are five things the students needed to be a part of the interviews and to be rewarded with the scholarship. The five things were GPA, extracurricular activities, community service, essay, and an interview with the committee. The 2026 Recipients were Camille Young, her choice of university is Howard University, and she is majoring in Biology. Mark Holness, choice of university John Carroll University, majoring in Computer Science Zach Harris, choice of university is Ohio State University, majoring in Child Development Sidney Lee is a previous and future recipient. Jacora Goode, her choice of university is Ohio State University. Special Recognition was given to Councilwoman Evans-Warren was thanked for starting the scholarship process. parents and families were acknowledged for inspiring students. Students were recognized for their community contributions. A motion to have a 10-minute break for photos with the scholarship recipients and their families.

VOTE: YES Hardin, Bliss, Scruggs, Evans-Warren, Matlock, Sims, Davis.

Meeting reconvened at 7:22 pm

Minutes

May 12th Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes made by Davis and seconded by Sims

Vote YES Hardin, Scruggs, Matlock, Bliss, Evans-Warren, Davis, Sims.

Motion passed.

May 14th Finance/Budget Hearing Minutes: Approved with corrections

Motion to pass with the amendments made by Davis and seconded by Sims

Vote YES Hardin, Scruggs, Matlock, Bliss, Evans-Warren, Davis, Sims.

Changed "Matlock" to "Evans" in one reference

Changed "Matlock" to "Hardin" in another reference

Removed word "private" from one section

Motion passed.

February 13th Minutes: Approved (late approval)

Motion to approve minutes made by Sims and seconded by Evans-Warren.

Vote YES Bliss, Scruggs, Hardin, Matlock, Davis, Sims, Evans-Warren

Motion passed.

Department Reports

Police Department

Freeman

Speed trailer is being moved to the Meadows tomorrow. Participated in Memorial Day Bedford Parade with motorcycle and police car. VFW hospital visit: About 20 Oakwood residents attended; veterans were served lunch. New Fireworks Ordinance (First Year in Effect): Fireworks

can only be ignited on July 4th, 8 PM to 11 PM. First violation: Warning. Second violation: Citation and confiscation of fireworks. This replaces the state law which allows 20-30 days.

Fire Department

Tapp

There was good news that all vehicles are now operational and back in station for the first time in a long time. Participated in Memorial Day parade with good turnout.

Service Department

Haba

Community Garden: Opened successfully over the weekend with great turnout (sold out). Lift Truck Issue: Clutch failed on 40-year-old lift truck (purchased from Bedford 15 years ago); won't be available for a couple of weeks. Flags will be up for Flag Day once truck is repaired. Equipment is shared with Walton Hills Flower Beds: Started prepping today; \$1,300 flower order placed; Mr. Petitti is donating flowers they should arrive next Wednesday. Not all corner beds will be addressed due to cost. Weed Control: Spraying program started today. Veteran Banners: Planning to place veteran banners on Broadway bridge with First Energy approval. Four light poles identified for placement. Banners will include photos and information about veterans. First Energy diagram and approval process underway. Morning Glory Speed Limit Sign: New 25 mph sign installed; appears to be leaning and needs checking.

Engineering Department

Jones

Arbutus Road Construction: Major construction began today. Road surface currently gravel (pulverized existing roadway). New asphalt has not yet been installed. Residents asked to drive slowly and carefully. Expected completion: 1-2 weeks depending on asphalt truck availability. Upcoming Bid Advertising (June 5th): First Place Phase 2: Concrete repairs and asphalt overlay on Matt Road. Garden Road: Private property repairs (basement flooding elimination project) Bid Timeline: Advertise June 5th and June 12th. Bids open: Monday, June 22-23 at noon in council chamber. Projects should be awarded by end of June. Sewer/Septic Tank Project: Still on hold; targeted for fall, advertising planned for August, work to start late fall. 2026 Road Program: More details at next meeting.

Recreation Department

Gaither Senior Trip: 25 participants attended event at Public Hall downtown; \$1,600 bus cost; will become annual event. Music in Motion: Friday at 6:30 PM on stage (residents encouraged to attend). Juneteenth Celebration: Play called "The Chair" at Mount Zion. Summer Camp Program: STEM program focus (not just fun and games), arts and crafts included Meet and greet: June 3rd for registered campers Put-In-Bay Trip: June 12th, \$45 per person Includes transportation and museum/butterfly house/train ride. There were some questions regarding prices and how many people came to a certain event that happened last year. Senior trip cost: \$1,600 for bus, Music in Motion attendance: 20-25 people

Law Department

Montello

Gray Brothers Property: Building official James Decker researching whether conditional use permit was issued. Property zoned as general business. Exterior auto sales may be permitted with conditional use permit if granted. Requires buffers (concrete curb or precast barrier at least 40 feet from front lot line). Need to verify lease documentation for auto sales operation. Property is delinquent on taxes; taxing certificate to be sold June 1st DCOM: Pulled permit for fence; researching compliance. Demolitions: Service issue on 5 properties; only have service on 1 property. Other mails came back unclaimed. Will pursue regular mail or hand delivery.
Building Department

Walker

Undergoing new software training; should be completed after this week. Land Bank Partnership: Met with land bank for assistance; they have pre-approved contractor list at good rates.

Mayor's Report

Nikolic

Mayor went to the Memorial Day Parade it was her first time attending; very impressed Encouraged all council to attend future parades. Councilperson Davis also attended Community Garden opened successfully plots are now sold out. Community Partners: County Board of Health, Riddle Petitti, USDA, NOPEC, Classic Designs. There was special recognition to service department, especially Ethan for building the door. Master Plan Application was submitted to county last week. There were Over 21 letters of support from local businesses, non-profits, and elected officials. Town Hall was discussed and it is the last Wednesday of each month. This month features police department. Guest speaker: Crime Stoppers from the county will discuss community watch groups. Summer safety tips (parking, fireworks, etc.) The mayor has drop-in hours every Wednesday, 3-5 PM. Residents can come without appointment, or they can schedule appointments if unable to attend. EV Car Show is on June 27th it is open to residents with EVs. Dealers will showcase vehicles (Hummers, Ionics, etc.). Community Garden Mural Project Muralist: Mr. Soul 216 (known for literacy murals in Buckeye) we need 10-15 kids to participate in design and painting a documentary will be filmed that will focus on art as a workforce development tool. This will be held in the community garden behind the village hall. Seeking kids 10 years and older. Applying for Cleveland Foundation grant. The 75th Anniversary Celebration will be held June 24-26. The Celebration will have concerts with a carnival atmosphere. Bike with the Mayor does not have a date set but there will be a time before then collecting bikes for the refurbishment program. The service department will help kids repair and refurbish the bikes the ride will be 2 miles one way then a party stop then 2 miles back. Everyone is welcome, bikes will be provided if needed.

Council Comments

Councilperson Hardin on Veterans/ Memorial Day parade

She expressed strong commitment to community. Missing only 2 parades in many years brings family members (father, grandfather in WWI uniform, uncle) to parade each year. Emphasizes importance of understanding the price paid by veterans. Committed to attending Fourth of July parade. Councilman Sims addressed the search for a Finance Director. The Search Update was given by the mayor that it was posted on 6+ websites and that it be posted to village website if not already done but the search is still on going. Law Director Search is still underway Jim Climer is currently serving and is Montello (assistant prosecutor) stepped up duties.

Public Comment

Vet Center Landscaping Issue Resident asked about TIP (Targeted Investment Program) funding for landscaping. Fencing is the next phase after trees. \$2,000 TIP available for property screening Four-year-old commitment still pending the mayor will follow up with CEO Brad for specific timeline. Discussion about finding documentation of original agreement. Suggestion to use TIP for bushes/trees to block parking lot view from backyard. Mayor agreed to pursue; will contact owners in Colorado

Finance Committee Meeting Request

Council requested meeting with mayor to discuss financial status
Mayor agreed to meet with all council members
Will contact administrative secretary to schedule

Correspondence- Clerks Office

Clerk Training Update New clerks doing wonderful jobs. Described as "answer to a prayer". Lots of information but very informative

Shred Day Announcement Saturday, June 6th 9 AM - 12 PM. Community Park, Oakwood and Mount Zion Circle. Stay in vehicle; staff will handle shredding
Limit: 4 bags or boxes per resident. Looking for volunteers. Contact: 440-210-1020, ask for clerk's office

Committee Meetings Finance Committee meeting requested. Council to contact administrative secretary to schedule

Legislation

Work Session 2026-22 → Legislative 2026-41

ORDINANCE RENAMING THE OAKWOOD VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTER TO THE GARY B. GOTTSCHALK COMMUNITY CENTER.

Intro: Matlock/council as a Whole

Davis made the motion to suspend the rules seconded by Sims

Vote YES Hardin, Bliss, Scruggs, Evans-Warren, Matlock, Sims, Davis.

Motion passed.

Comments: Resident praised Gary Gottschalk's legacy of service to seniors, children, and families through the community center.

Work Session 2026-23 → Legislative 2026-42

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$915,000 OF NOTES, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING COST OF (i) IMPROVING STREETS AND ROADS IN THE VILLAGE BY RECONSTRUCTING, AND RELATED FACILITIES AND MAKING OTHER IMPROVEMENTS AS DESIGNATED IN THE PLANS APPORVED OR TO BE APPROVED BY COUNCIL, (ii) ACQUIRING, REMODELING, DEPARTMENT FUNCTIONS AND IMPROVING ITS SITE. AND (iii) RESURFACING FORBES ROAD FROM NORTHFIELD

ROAD TO BROADWAY AVENUE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLANS APPROVED OR TO BE APPROVED BY COUNCIL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Intro: Mayor/Council as a Whole

Scruggs made a motion to suspend the rules seconded by Evans-Warren

Vote YES Hardin, Bliss, Matlock, Scruggs, Evans-Warren, Davis, Sims

Motion passed.

Scruggs motion to adopt seconded by Bliss

Vote Yes Hardin, Scruggs, Matlock, Davis, Bliss, Evans-Warren.

Vote NO Sims.

Motion passed.

Discussion: Clarification on numbers and payment structure.

Work Session 2026-24 → Legislative 2026-43

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INITIATION OF A NO-COST FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR AN ENERGY SAVINGS PERFORMANCE CONTRACT WITH LEOPARDO EFFICIENCY AND PROVIDING NOTICE TO THE MAYOR, DIRECTORS, AND VILLAGE STAFF TO ASSIST IN THE COORDINATION OF SITE VISITS AND DATA COLLECTION.

Intro: Sims/Council as Whole

Davis made a motion to suspend the rules seconded by Sims

Vote YES Hardin, Matlock, Evans-Warren, Davis, Sims, Bliss, Scruggs.

Motion passed.

Motion to adopt made by Evans-Warren and seconded by Davis.

Vote YES Hardin, Scruggs, Evans-Warren, Matlock, Davis, Sims.

Vote No Bliss

Motion passed.

Significant Debate: Councilman Bliss's Concerns: Questioned what "no-cost" truly means

Raised concerns about administrative capacity without finance director. Wanted more due diligence and vendor comparison. Worried about hidden costs in later phases. **Councilwoman**

Evans-Warren Response: Supported the feasibility study as informational. Noted it's no financial obligation. Compared to master plan process. Emphasized its opportunity to assess buildings

Adjournment

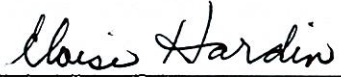
Motion to adjourn made by Sims and seconded by Davis.

Vote YES Hardin, Bliss, Evans-Warren, Matlock, Davis, Scruggs, Sims.

Adjourned at 8:56pm

6-10-2026

Approved (date)



Council President, Eloise Hardin

June 10, 2026

Posted (date)



Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry