

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD MINUTES  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026

ATTENDED:

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

ABSENT:

James Climer-Law
John Montello-Law

\*=Late Arrival

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Meeting opened: 7:00 By Hardin

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

*Minutes*

Motion to approve minutes of May 26, 2026, made by Bliss seconded by Sims.

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

Approved.

Motion to approve minutes of May 30, 2026, made by Davis seconded by Bliss.

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

Approved.

Motion to approve minutes of June 2nd, 2026, made by Sims seconded by Scruggs.

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

Approved.

### *Clerk Correspondence*

Shred Day event recap (48 cars, 38 bins shredded). Announcement of September shred day coming.

### *Departmental Reports*

Mayor Nikolic- Summer Camp: Camp is underway with 52 campers. Kids going to United States tomorrow. Looking forward to a great summer. Communication Issue: Apologized for not communicating camp information well. Previously hung signs on mailboxes, but this stopped after elections due to complaints. Service department no longer does this. Didn't budget for mass mailing for camp. Going forward: Will budget for mass mailing to notify everyone in advance. Registration is now closed Oakwood Reading Corner (Pilot Program): Success: Pilot month program at Central Elementary School. Participants: Police, fire, and senior volunteers read with children. Activities: Children had choice boards for extended learning at home with parents. Details: Police read to students. Fire read to students. Seniors read every week (except when they went downtown for senior day). All grade levels participated. Future Plans: Hope to expand to other elementary schools. Goal: Support early literacy ratings in the community. Monthly Town Halls: Format: Showcase of a different department each month (or special guest). Timing: Last Wednesday of each month. Purpose: Learn tips, ideas, and what departments have going on. Next Topic (This Month): Data Centers and Climate Action: Will discuss what data centers are. Residents can ask questions, share thoughts, concerns. Goal: Inform community before any data center proposals come to Oakwood. Described as "a really hot topic". Key Quote: *"So if there's ever a data center that comes to Oakwood, we'll already be informed about whether or not it's something we want to do here."*

### Police

Freeman- Summer safety tips: July 4 fireworks only 8-11 PM. Garbage can violations (residents not bringing cans back in). Vacation safety: lock doors/cars, don't post vacation plans on social media. Vacation checks available upon request. Three guns were stolen from unlocked vehicles.

### Fire

Tapp- CPR classes offered to employees (10 attended). Planning public CPR classes for fall.

### Service

Haba- Trash/garbage can issues being addressed through community policing. Water main break on Richmond and Forbes (being repaired). Flowers and mulch are being planted around village. Telephone poles leaning—will report to utility company.

### Recreation

Gaither- Summer activities are running well. Day trip to Put in Bay planned for Friday. Community center transformed into a PlayStation gaming event. Concern Raised: Lack of female counselors at camp; residents requested at least one female counselor for girls' personal needs.

Engineer

Jones- Arbutus project paving complete; restoration and final walkthrough pending. Try-on Phase 2 striping complete. First Place Phase 2 and Garden Hickory projects out to bid. 2026 Road Program (Millburn, Red Fox Trail, Winterberry Crossing, Wigtail Run) to be advertised Friday.

*Open Floor comments*

Deb Hladky- Thanked council for resolving a records problem. Very relieved and grateful. Said it fixed "a great problem". Thanked the council clerks for their work.

Sharon Matthews- Issue: Lack of female counselors at summer camp. Concern: Girls need female counselors for personal/hygiene issues. Specific Problem: If a girl has her period or personal needs, she won't feel comfortable going to male counselors. Request: Need at least one female counselor. Worry: What happens if the female recreation director (Karen Gaither) is unavailable? Response from Council: Councilperson Scruggs defended the male counselors as "phenomenal" and mature. Mayor Nikolic suggested putting feminine products in bathrooms and having "girl talks" with female staff. Council agreed to work with recreation director to find solutions (possibly having Karen Gaither available as backup)

Lucretia Maloney- (directly across from vacant property) Issues: House stripped with debris left in yard for 7-8 months. Grass is overgrown. Windows open. Property transferred/in foreclosure, and debris needs to be picked up. Question: Why don't they just tear it down? Response from Service Department (Tom Haba): Owner was contacted, debris will be picked up this week, grass will be cut, and building inspector issued violations for grass and debris. Follow-up scheduled for 6-11-26.

Barry: Why is the clerk's position reorganization classified as an "emergency"? Questions Raised: Did the village lose a bunch of money? Did a big business leave? Why is this urgent? Shouldn't it go through normal legislative process (3 readings)? Resident's Request: Remove the emergency clause. Outcome: Council voted to remove the emergency clause.

A vote was taken to remove the emergency clause from 2026-50 the motion was made by Matlock and seconded by Scruggs.

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

Motion passed.

A letter from that was given to the mayor was read by Police Captain Freeman

Letter from Clerk of Court Office: A letter was read in the record from the Clerk and Deputy Clerk of Mayor's Court. Their Position: Two full-time employees are necessary because: No checks and balances with one person, no one to help clarify problems, no one to assist with

phone calls, can't answer emails timely, case backlog issues, and need coverage for vacation, sick leave, emergencies. Request: Council gives mayor support to revisit and secure proper personnel

*Legislation*

2026- WS-50

Intro by council as a whole      AN ORDINANCE REORGANIZING THE CLERK OF COURTS  
OFFICE

A motion to suspend the rules for 2026-50 was made by Hardin and seconded by Evans-Warren.

Vote YES: Evans-Warren, Sims, Davis, Scruggs

Vote NO: Bliss and Matlock.

Motion has not passed. There will be a second read at the next meeting.

Emergency Clause Removal At resident request, council voted to remove the emergency clause the motion was made by Matlock and seconded by Scruggs.

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

Motion passed

First Reading:

Because rules were NOT suspended, the ordinance went to First Reading only: The ordinance was read into the record with amendments. Status: Passed first reading

Current Status: Work Session 2026-50 is now Ordinance 2026-50 and is in the legislative pipeline awaiting second and third readings before final passage.

Motion to go into executive session made by Davis and seconded by Bliss.

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

Motion passed to go into executive session at 8:18pm.

Motion to get out of executive session made by Davis and seconded by Sims.

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

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Sims and seconded by Bliss.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:53.

June 23rd 2026

Approved (date)

Eloise Hardin

Council President, Eloise Hardin

July 1st 2026

Posted (date)

Nina Curry

Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry