

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD MINUTES

WORK SESSION

January 13th, 2026

Attended

Eloise Hardin- Council President	Erica Nikolic- Mayor
Norman Bliss- Council at Large	James Climer/Sam O' Leary -Law
Taunya Scruggs- Ward 1	Brian Thompson- Finance
Yvonne Evans-Warren- Ward 2	Tom Haba-Service
Paggie Matlock- Ward 3	Dave Tapp-Fire
Mary Davis-Ward 4	Mark Garratt- Police
Joseph Lastery- Ward 5	Roland Walker- Building
	Karen Gaither-Recreation

Absent

Matt Jones- Engineer

1.Call Meeting to order

2. Discussion by Mayor and Department Heads of matters to be brought to the attention of Council if present.

3. Questions of Mayor and Department Heads concerning Legislation or potential Legislation to be considered a future Council meetings.

4. Discussion of items of draft Legislation or potential Legislation to be considered at future Council meetings.

Legislation: Fiscal Officers Certificate Present.

Meeting called to order by Hardin at 6pm.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call.

This work session mostly had legislation either moved or remained but the focus for the work session was about the community garden and the health insurance review.

2024-WS-43 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH CEP RENEWABLES OH, LLC FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE VILLAGE AS A SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT WITH ATTENDANT RECREATIONAL USE

Remained on WS.

2024-WS-45 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CREtelligent AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Remained on WS.

2025-WS-16 A PAY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF AN EMPLOYEE AND SETTING FORTH THE DUTIES AND COMPENSATION FOR THEIR POSITION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Remained on WS

2025-WS-28 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REBATE PROGRAM FOR RECREATION FACILITY MEMBERSHIP FEES ESTABLISHED BY ORDINANCE NO.2001-05

Remained on WS

2025-WS-43 AN ORDINANCE TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTIONS OF THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD THE QUESTION OF ADOPTING A PROPOSED AMENDED CHARTER FOR THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

2025-WS-43 (Charter Amendment) → moved to regular agenda

2025-WS-62 A PAY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT DARYL HARRIS IN THE POSITION OF COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND SETTING FORTH THE DUTIES AND COMPENSATION FOR THAT POSITION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Remained on WS.

- **Action:** Law Director to redistribute options for council review before next meeting; moved to regular agenda for first reading

2026-WS-01 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF AN EMPLOYEE DISHONESTY AND FAITHFUL PERFORMANCE OF DUTY POLICY OF INSURANCE IN LIEU OF SURETY BOND PURSUANT TO RC SECTION. 3061 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

2026-WS-01 (Employee Dishonesty Policy) → moved to regular agenda (became 2026-05)

Motion to move to regular agenda.

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

Motion passed.

There was no clear first or second.

2026-WS-02 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CYBERSECURITY POLICY AS PROVIDED IN RC SEC.9.64 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This legislation did not come up in the meeting. It may have been skipped.

2026-WS-03 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRACT WITH MEDICAL MUTUAL COVERING ELIGIBLE OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY Moved to regular agenda for first reading (became 2026-06)

2026-WS-03 (Medical Mutual Health Insurance) → moved to regular agenda (became 2026-06)

Motion to move to regular agenda made by Hardin and seconded by Bliss.

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

Motion passed.

2026-WS-04 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ANTHEM BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD TO PROVIDE VISION AND DENTAL INSURANCE

COVERAGE FOR ELIGIBLE OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE AND DECLARING
AN EMERGENCY

Motion to move to regular agenda made by Hardin and seconded by Evans-Warren.

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

Motion passed.

2026-WS-04 (Anthem Dental/Vision) → moved to regular agenda (became 2026-09)

RESOLUTION 2026-02

A resolution to honor Mark Garrett on the occasion of his distinguished service of 30 years

Status: First reading

Motion to move to regular agenda made by Hardin and seconded by (inaudible).

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

Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2026-03

A resolution to honor John Freeman III on the occasion of his distinguished service of 30
years

Status: First reading

Motion to move to regular agenda made by Hardin and seconded by Bliss.

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

Motion passed.

The work session focused on two main topics:

1. HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL (Primary Focus)

Presenter: Jim Love, Love Insurance agent (by phone from Florida)

Insurance Marketing Results:

Contacted multiple carriers: Summa Health Services, Anthem, SummaCare, Etna, United Healthcare

Most declined due to health risk assessments

Only Anthem and SummaCare provided quotes (both higher cost)

Final Recommendation:

Renew with Medical Mutual at 8% increase (negotiated down from initial 24.5% quote)

Anthem dental/vision at 2% increase with no increase on vision

Plan: SuperMed \$2,500 health savings account (same as prior year)

Total 2026 projection: \$619,000 with \$29,731 increase across all categories

Key Issues Debated:

HSA (Health Savings Account) Funding:

City pays 100% of HSA contributions (no employee contribution)

Union: \$3,175 single / \$6,350 family

Non-union: \$1,250 single / \$2,000 family

Concern: Unused HSA funds stay with employees indefinitely; city never recovers them

Supplemental Dental/Vision Insurance:

City pays 100% premium (employees normally contribute \$5/month)

Councilwoman Matlock questioned why city bears full cost

Alternative HRA (Health Reimbursement Account) option available at \$3,700/year to administer

Life Insurance:

Current: \$25,000 coverage at ~\$250/month

FOP (police union) requesting increase to \$100,000

Exact cost for increase pending quotes (high-risk business)

Part-time employees (25+ hours) could be added at no rate increase

Council Concerns:

Councilwoman Davis: Questioned why council wasn't provided comparison options earlier (requested in September, received only tonight)

Councilman Matlock: Expressed concern about conflict of interest in negotiations; questioned who negotiated HSA terms

Councilman Bliss: Suggested getting total compensation view for employees (salary + benefits)

Councilwoman Davis: Questioned Anthem coverage starting January 1st before council approval

Action Items:

Mr. Love to provide cost quotes for \$100,000 life insurance option

Continued discussion scheduled for later in the week

Council to address HSA and supplemental insurance policy concerns

2. COMMUNITY GARDEN LEGISLATION (Third Reading)

Presenter: Mayor Nikolic

Resident Speakers in Support:

Keymah Durden (Rid-All Green Partnership) - Offered partnership at no cost to village; operates 18 acres in Cleveland, top 5 urban farm in U.S.

Shirley Stevens - Emphasized community need for food assistance

Sherri Peah - Highlighted community engagement benefits

Linda Moore - Wants protected growing space

Written Statements: Multiple residents from different wards submitted support letters (read into record by Mayor)

Garden Details:

\$17,500 budget (to be funded through grants, donations, rentals—not taxpayer money)

Residents pay \$25 to participate

Raised beds: \$350 each (can be sponsored)

Residents only

Service department to assist with setup (fencing, concrete pad, ADA access)

Community partners (Rid-All) to handle ongoing maintenance

Council Questions:

Councilwoman Davis: Requested \$17,500 be removed from service department budget (they're already overloaded)

Councilman Matlock: Concerned about electrical grid location; requested written safety assessment from USDA partners

Council President Hardin: Requested complete audit trail for all donations/payments

Councilwoman Davis made the motion to adjourn the work session, and Councilman Lastery seconded it.

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

Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7pm.

July 14th 2026

Approved (date)

Eloise Hardin

Council President, Eloise Hardin

July 15th 2026

Posted (date)

Nina Curry

Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry