

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD MINUTES

Work Session

June 9th, 2026

ATTENDED:

Eloise Hardin- Council President	Erica Nikolic- Mayor
Norman Bliss- Council at Large* 6:31pm	Matt Jones- Engineer
Taunya Scruggs- Ward 1* 6:10pm	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**

1. Meeting called to order by Hardin at 6pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call.

2024-WS-43 AN 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 USES

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

Items 2024-43 and 2024-45 have been on the work session agenda for about 2 years

Council asked the law director to clarify the rules for removing them. They were not entertained at this meeting.

2026- WS-50

Intro by council as a whole

AN ORDINANCE REORGANIZING THE CLERK OF COURTS
OFFICE

Motion to amend section 1 effective date for part time From July 1st to August 1st. made by Evans- Warren and seconded by Davis.

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

Motion passed.

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

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

Motion passed.

During the work session portion of the meeting, council discussed this draft ordinance in detail:

What it proposes: Reorganize the Clerk of Court's office by converting the clerk's position from full-time to part-time (20 hours/week) effective July 1, 2026, with the position to be abolished by December 31, 2026 **Why:**

Mayor's Court no longer handles cases and only operates as a violation's bureau, significantly reducing workload **Council Concerns Raised:**

Whether employees should get adequate notice and training time. Whether the timeline was too rushed. Whether cross-training was feasible. Whether an emergency clause was justified

What Happened to It:

The ordinance was **moved from the work session to the regular meeting agenda** for formal action.

Here's what was discussed about the **July 24th Concert** brought up by **Scruggs** and this was talked about before the work session ended.

Original Plan: **Date:** July 24, 2026, **Time:** 6-9 PM. **Location:** Mount Zion area/community park. **Purpose:** Showcase local Oakwood Village resident artists. **Goal:** Spotlight residents' artistic talents. **Already Advertised:** Communication sent to community at beginning of year

The Conflict: The **Mayor announced "Home Days"** scheduled for **July 24-25** (possibly 3 days), which would conflict with the council's planned concert.

Councilperson Scruggs explained:

"When I spoke to the mayor about it just recently, a couple days ago, she mentioned that she shared with us about the home days. That is going to be taking place that her home days are gonna be the same date which is July 24th and July 25th."

The Question for Council:

Scruggs asked council to decide between two options: **Combine the events** - Have the council concert (6-9 PM) participate in/join the Mayor's larger Home Days event, which would include bigger entertainment acts and more activities. **Keep them separate** - Reschedule the council concert to a different date to maintain focus on local resident artists only **Key Concern:** Council members worried that combining events would dilute the focus on local Oakwood Village artists and bring in larger outside acts instead.

Decision Timeline: Council was asked to **decide by June 15, 2026**, so Scruggs could inform the Mayor and coordinate accordingly. **Status:** No final decision was made during this meeting, which is delayed until next meeting.

Karen Howse, the interim Finance Director, had a chance to speak during the work session before it ended. She gave an introduction and background about herself and explained her goals and primary focus.

Introduction & Background:

She just started **last week**. She didn't present anything yet because she wanted to have a conversation first. Asked how the finance committee meeting process works (frequency, activation)

Primary Focus & Goals:

She identified her main objective with the Mayor: *"Her primary focus is to make sure we're current, meaning bringing everything up to date for 2026. That's very important because there's documentation and things like that that need to be certified down in the county."*

Current Work: Audits: Currently under audit for 2022 and 2023. 2024 and 2025 audits will follow shortly. Working with **two auditors:** one handling gap conversion (crucial to cash conversion) and one doing the actual financial compliance audit

Purchase Orders (POs): Got access to software system to approve Pos. Department heads were happy POs finally got approved (had been outstanding) **Budget:** Budget is now uploaded. Some departments were seeing negative balances—this was just because it wasn't updated. Now reflecting quarterly budget

Financial Analysis Tool: She plans to provide a **10-year trend report** showing: Revenue compilation for all years. Expenditure trends. How each revenue account performs. Average revenue direction *"On the revenue side, we are... Going in the same direction as we did in the previous year."*

Motion to adjourn work session by Sims and seconded by Bliss.

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

Motion passed to adjourn at 6:55pm.

June 23rd 2026

Approved (date)

Eloise Hardin

Council President, Eloise Hardin

July 1st 2026

Posted (date)

Nina Curry

Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry