

NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Section 7.08 of the Charter of the Village of Oakwood, notice is hereby given of the calling of a Special Council Meeting by Councilperson Evans-Warren, Councilperson Sims, Jr., Councilperson Davis and Councilperson Matlock to be held on **Saturday, July 11, 2026 at 5:00 pm-6:00 pm** in the Village Chambers, 24800 Broadway Avenue, Oakwood Village, Ohio 44146, to consider the following.

(See attached Agenda for further information)

In accordance with the provisions contained in the Village Charter, no other matters will be considered by Village Council other than those listed herein.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carol Jackson", is written over a horizontal line.

Carol Jackson, Clerk of Council

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Repeal Legislation

5:00 PM-6:00pm
Saturday, July 11, 2026

Pursuant to Section 7.08 of the Charter of the Village of Oakwood, Councilperson Evans-Warren, Councilperson Sims, Jr., Councilperson Davis and Councilperson Matlock are hereby calling a Special Meeting of Village Council to consider the following:

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1. **Call Meeting to Order**
 2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
 3. **Roll Call**
 4. **Executive Session-Council, Attorney and Mayor Discuss Certain Personnel Matters**

Council President	Eloise Hardin	Mayor	Erica L. Nikolic
President Pro Tempore	Norman Bliss	Law	James Climer/John Montello
Ward 1 Councilperson	Taunya Scruggs	Service	Tom Haba
Ward 2 Councilperson	Yvonne Evans-Warren	Fire	Dave Tapp
Ward 3 Councilperson	Paggie Matlock	Police	John Freeman
Ward 4 Councilperson	Mary Davis	Building	Rodney Stephens
Ward 5 Councilperson	Malcolm Sims Jr.	Engineer	Matt Jones
		Recreation	Karen Gaither

ORD. 2026-51	AN ORDINANCE RETAINING JAMES A. CLIMER AND PROVIDING
Introduced by	COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES IN TRANSITIONING THE ACTIVITIES
Mayor and	OF THE LAW DEPARTMENT TO THE PERSONS APPOINTED AS THE
Council as a	INTERIM LAW DIRECTOR AND/OR REPLACEMENT LAW DIRECTOR AND
whole	DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
Passed as	
Amended	

ORD. 2026-55	AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT A GRANT
Mayor and	APPLICATION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
Introduced by	RESOURCES FOR FUNDING UNDER THE NATUREWORKS PROGRAM
Council as a	FOR THE GLORIA WAINWRIGHT PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
whole	AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Passed as	
Amended	5:00 pm-6:00 pm
	Special Council Meeting
	Repeal Legislation 2026-51 and 2026-55
	Approval of past Council Meeting Minutes

Executive Session (if warranted)

In accordance with the provisions contained in the Village of Oakwood Charter, no other matters will be considered by Village Council other than those listed herein.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 – 51

INTRODUCED BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

**AN ORDINANCE RETAINING JAMES A. CLIMER AND PROVIDING
COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES IN TRANSITIONING THE
ACTIVITIES OF THE LAW DEPARTMENT TO THE PERSONS
APPOINTED AS THE INTERIM LAW DIRECTOR AND/OR
REPLACEMENT LAW DIRECTOR AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, James A. Climer previously announced his retirement of Law Director effective April 30, 2026 which has been extended to May 31, 2026 and June 30, 2026; and,

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the retirement of James A. Climer will go into effect on June 30, 2026; and,

WHEREAS, an Interim Law Director and permanent appointment of a replacement Law Director have not yet been appointed; and,

WHEREAS, the lack of the foregoing appointments has prevented the transition of Law Department business to the Interim and new Law Director during the term of James A. Climer and it is anticipated that the services of James A. Climer will be necessary after his retirement in order to make the said transition in an efficient and orderly manner;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Village of Oakwood, County of Cuyahoga, and State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. The services of James A. Climer are hereby retained effective July 1, 2026 at a rate of One hundred eighty-nine and 00/100 Dollars (\$189.00) per hour to assist and to effectuate the transition of Law Department activities to the Interim and/or newly appointed Law Director.

SECTION 2. The fees for the foregoing services shall be billed on a monthly basis and shall not exceed the total amount of Fifteen thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$15,000.00) without the prior consent of Council and the Mayor.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the Village, the reason for the emergency being that the transition of Law Department activities and business in an efficient and orderly manner is necessary to the effective operation of the Village for the benefit of its citizens, therefore, provided it receives two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the vote of all members of Council elected thereto, said Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption by this Council and approval by the Mayor, otherwise from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: June 23, 2026

Eloise Hardin

Eloise Hardin, President of Council

Carol Jackson

Carol Jackson, Clerk of Council

Presented to the Mayor June 30, 2026

Approved: July 1, 2026

Erica J. Nikolic

Mayor, Erica Nikolic

I, Carol Jackson, Clerk of Council of the Village of Oakwood, County of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance No. 2026 -51 was duly and regularly passed by this Council at the meeting held on the 23rd day of June, 2026.

Carol Jackson

Carol Jackson, Clerk of Council

POSTING CERTIFICATE

I, Carol Jackson, Clerk of Council of the Village of Oakwood, County of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, do hereby certify that Ordinance No. 2026 -51 was duly posted on the 1st day of July, 2026, and will remain posted for a period of fifteen (15) days thereafter in the Council Chambers in the locations and manner provided in the Village Charter.

Carol Jackson

Carol Jackson, Clerk of Council

DATED: 7-1-2026

ORDINANCE NO.: 2026-55
INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR ERICA L. NIKOLIC
MOTION FOR ADOPTION BY:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR FUNDING UNDER THE NATUREWORKS PROGRAM FOR THE GLORIA WAINWRIGHT PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, administers financial assistance for public recreation purposes, through the State of Ohio NatureWorks grant program; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oakwood desires financial assistance under the NatureWorks Grant Program to make improvements to the playground at Gloria Wainwright Park on Wright Avenue,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Village of Oakwood, County of Cuyahoga, State of Ohio, that:

Section 1: The Village of Oakwood approves filing this application for financial assistance.

Section 2: The Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute and file an application with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and to provide all information and documentation required to become eligible for possible funding assistance.

Section 3: The Village of Oakwood does agree to obligate the funds required to satisfactorily complete the proposed project and become eligible for reimbursement under the terms of the NatureWorks Grant Program.

Section 4. The Council of the Village of Oakwood hereby authorizes and directs the Finance Director to amend the appropriations as required for the expenditures outlined within this Ordinance:

Section 5. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this Ordinance were adopted in open meetings of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including the Village's Charter and Codified Ordinances and Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 6. This Ordinance is hereby determined to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the Village and for the further reason that the grant application must be submitted by July 15, 2026. It shall therefore become effective upon its passage by the affirmative vote of not less than five (5) members of Council and approval by the Mayor; otherwise, it shall become effective at the earliest time allowed by law.

PASSED: June 23, 2026

Eloise Hardin
Eloise Hardin, Council President

Presented to the Mayor: June 30, 2026

Approved: July 1, 2026
Erica L. Nikolic
Erica L. Nikolic, Mayor

Approved as to legal form:

James Climer, Law Director

ATTEST:

Carol Jackson
Carol Jackson, Clerk of Council

I, Carol Jackson, as Clerk of Council of the Village of Oakwood, Ohio do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Ordinance No. 2026-55, adopted by the Council of said Municipality on the 23rd day of June, 2026.

Carol Jackson
Carol Jackson, Clerk of Council

POSTING CERTIFICATE

I, Carol Jackson, Clerk of Council of the Village of Oakwood, County of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, do hereby certify that Ordinance No. 2026 - was duly posted on the _____ day of _____, 2026, and will remain posted for a period of fifteen (15) days thereafter in the Council Chambers in the locations and manner provided in the Village Charter.

Carol Jackson, Clerk of Council

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD MINUTES

HR MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2026

ATTENDED

Eloise Hardin- Council President
Mary Davis-Ward 4

ABSENT-

Norman Bliss- President Pro Tempore	Erica Nikolic- Mayor
Taunya Scruggs- Ward 1	James Climer/Sam O' Leary -Law
Yvonne Evans-Warren- Ward 2	Brian Thompson- Finance
Paggie Matlock- Ward 3	Tom Haba-Service
	Dave Tapp-Fire
	Mark Garratt- Police
	Karen Gaither-Recreation
	Roland Walker- Building
	Matt Jones- Engineer

1. Call meeting to order (Hardin called meeting to order at 4:10 pm)
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call

Meeting Called to Order: ~4:10 PM on February 10th

Attendees: Only 2 of 3 committee members present

- Eloise Hardin (Committee President)
- Mary Davis
- (Third member absent)

Main Purpose: Clerk of Council Position

The committee was reviewing candidates for a Clerk of Council position. This is a critical administrative role responsible for recording council meetings, maintaining records, and handling various clerical duties.

Key Discussion Points:

1. Candidate Review Process

- Harden and Davis had each reviewed a "random stack" of applications
- They were cross reviewing each other's selections to identify promising candidates
- Some candidates appeared in both stacks (duplicates)

2. Job Posting Issues

- The original Indeed job posting was vague about required qualifications
- Finance Director was asked to repost the position with clearer requirements
- New posting was posted that day and closes Friday (Feb 14th)
- Interviews scheduled for the following week

3. Critical Requirement: Transcription Skills

- A major focus was finding someone who can transcribe council meetings
- Committee discussed whether to hire an external transcription company vs. finding someone with in-house transcription ability
- Harden mentioned contacting the municipal courts to see if they have transcription services available
- External transcription was noted as very expensive
- They wanted to find someone "from the inside" to keep costs down

4. Candidate Qualifications Discussed:

- One candidate had transcription experience
- One candidate was a legal services clerk (unclear if suitable)

- One candidate worked out of Washington, D.C. (questioned feasibility)
- One candidate was an elementary teacher (until 2024)
- One candidate had worked for diplomats
- Some candidates had experience as "Clerk of Council" but didn't specify when or where

5. Job Description Review

- Committee reviewed the updated job posting prepared by Ms. Evans
- Changes made included:
 - Added "Administrative Support" as a title
 - Changed language to emphasize higher skill set, professionalism, and diplomacy
 - Removed language that might attract lower-skilled applicants (e.g., "Chipotle-level" workers)
 - Transcription requirement was initially missing from the new posting
 - Committee insisted this requirement be added back in

6. Specific Transcription Language

- Original posting included: "Accurate transcription of public meetings within a legal time frame"
- New posting initially omitted this
- Committee found it later in the document: "Must be able to transcribe with speed and accuracy"
- They circled/highlighted this to ensure it wasn't missed again

Action Items:

1. Reposted job with updated requirements - closes Friday, Feb 14th
2. Ensure transcription requirement is clearly stated in the job posting
3. Schedule interviews for the following week

4. Contact municipal courts about transcription services availability
5. Finalize candidate list from applications received

Motion to adjourn HR meeting made by Davis and seconded by Hardin.

Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 4:50.

Approved (date)

Council President, Eloise Hardin

Posted (date)

Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry

THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD

COUNCIL MEETING

2-10-26

ATTENEDED

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

1. Meeting Called to Order: by Hardin at 7:00 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll call

Attendees: All council members present

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from November 7th and June 12th approved.

Vote: 4 yes (Councilmen Bliss and Lastery abstained - not present at those meetings).

5. CLERK CORRESPONDENCE- None received.
6. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mayor Nikolic:

Monthly Town Hall moved from Thursday to last Wednesday of each month.

First Town Hall: Review of 3-year financial plan and debt payout.

Update on property tax legislation that passed.

Transparent discussion of village finances.

Fire- Tapp:

New ambulance pricing: ~\$428,000

Delivery time: 30 months

Engine repairs: \$60,000 (last year); second squad having same issue

Receiving donated ambulance from Shaker Heights (\$1)

All vehicles currently in service

Law Director-Climer/O'Leary:

Sign ordinance on work session (excess signs in public rights of way)

Cyber Security Policy (Ordinance 2026-08A) on regular agenda (mandated by Ohio legislature; due June 30)

Charter revisions distributed for council review

Finance Director-Thompson:

2025 Year-End Summary:

General Fund: Started \$678,000 → Ended \$2,365,000 → After Commerce \$2,138,000

All Funds: Started \$1.4M → Ended \$3.897M → After Commerce \$2.8M

All funds positive (in the black)

Issues:

\$1.2M credit from company included in balance (not yet claimed)

TIF funds: ~\$230,000 total (various sources)

McBee's TIF: \$59,000 allocated for North Lane screening

Audit in progress; completion expected in ~3 weeks

Building Department- Walker:

Software training scheduled (end of month)

Hiring: Permanent permit tech and part-time inspection assistant

Property maintenance literature to be mailed by end of February

Driveway ordinance: Gravel driveways not grandfathered; safety concern for emergency response

Police Chief-Garratt:

Community outreach: 3-on-3 basketball tournament (June/July)

Citizen's Academy (7 weeks, one evening/week) - offering pizza/wings to attract participants

Teen driving practice program (cancelled last year; may resume)

Service Department-Haba:

Selling equipment on GovDeals (12.5% fee)

Salt shortage resolved (delivery Thursday)

Thanking Fire/Police for plowing assistance this winter

Recreation-Gaither:

Music in Motion event successful; continuing monthly through October

Martial arts class: 3 participants; exploring uniforms

Summer camp planning underway

Engineer- Jones:

Deferred detailed report (covered extensively in work session)

Engineer contract (Work Session 11) moved to agenda for first reading

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Major Issue: Ward 5 Council Appointment

Resident Melinda Huff's Concerns:

Criticized council's process for appointing Ward 5 councilperson

Alleged violation of charter sections 7.07 and 7.06

Objected to Malcolm Sims' appointment (he came in last in previous election)

Questioned whether Candace Williams (former councilwoman who resigned to run for mayor) had residual rights to the seat

Raised concerns about:

Canceling interviews for qualified applicants

Rescheduling interviews with short notice

Selecting Sims despite his involvement on July 4th incident requiring 16 police officers

Nepotism concerns (Sims is son of Councilwoman Candace Williams)

Resident Shirley Stephens:

Requested official cost of special election

Requested copy of legislation authorizing special election

Asked for information by Friday

Other Public Comments:

Resident praised service department for snow removal

Resident asked about community garden update

Resident discussed mail delivery delays (weather-related)

Resident emphasized importance of house address numbers for emergency services

5. COUNCIL MEMBER STATEMENTS

Councilman Norm Bliss (At-Large):

Made statement titled "Protect Voters' Voice and Protect Voters' Choice"

Argued that appointments should be "short bridge to an election, not a substitute for one"

Opposed appointing anyone to serve full 4-year term

Stated office should go to ballot at next primary/general election

Questioned how council can "in good faith" select someone for 4-year term

Noted proposed charter amendments align with his position

Council President Hardin's Response:

Acknowledged emotional nature of situation

Stated council followed charter process correctly

Explained there were two separate seats with different terms:

First seat: November-December 2025 (filled by Lastery)

Second seat: January 2026-December 2029 (earned by Candace Williams in November election)

Clarified Williams resigned from first term to run for mayor

Stated Williams won the second term but chose not to take it

Defended council's decision to reopen selection process

Law Director's Explanation:

Clarified charter provisions regarding vacancies

Explained Williams was elected to 4-year term but didn't take oath of office

Stated council properly declared vacancy and went through selection process

Defended process as following same procedures as Lastery appointment

Heated Exchange:

Resident questioned why Lastery was sworn in for only 20 days.

Council acknowledged confusion about term lengths.

Discussion about whether residents were properly informed.

6. LEGISLATION VOTED ON

Ordinance 2026-08A - Cyber Security Policy

An ordinance adopting a cyber security policy as provided in RC SEC. 9.64 and declaring an emergency.

Status: Second reading

Action: Motion to suspend rules and pass

Vote: PASSED unanimously (7-0)

Notes: Mandated by Ohio legislature; due June 30 (passed early)

Ordinance 2026-09 - Oakwood Scholarship Awards Committee

An emergency ordinance establishing the Oakwood Scholarship Awards Committee and prescribing rules, therefore.

Status: Second reading

Details:

Up to 5 scholarships per year at \$2,000 each

Rated in 5 categories (academic, athletic, community service, extracurricular, etc.)

Committee: 5 members (one from each ward)

Compensation: \$50 per meeting

Funding: Paladino funds (available by May)

Eligibility: Graduating seniors living in Oakwood (public, private, homeschool)

Payout: \$1,000 upon proof of full-time enrollment (12+ credit hours); \$1,000 after drop deadline

Action: Motion to suspend rules

Vote: FAILED (5-6; needed 6 votes)

Yes: Hardin, Bliss, Evans, Matlock, Davis

No: Scruggs, Lastery

Status: Remains on second reading

Ordinance 2026-10 - Community Center Rental Fee Schedule

An ordinance establishing a new rental fee schedule for the Oakwood community center and declaring an emergency.

Status: Second reading

Action: Moved to third reading

Ordinance 2026-14 - Malcolm C. Sims, Jr. Appointment to Ward 5

A resolution appointing Malcolm C. Sims Jr. to the position of Ward 5 councilperson for the term commencing January 1, 2026 and expiring December 31, 2029 and declaring an emergency.

Term: January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2029

Status: First reading

Action: Motion to suspend rules

Vote: FAILED (5-6; needed 6 votes)

Yes: Hardin, Scruggs, Evans, Matlock, Davis

No: Bliss

Did not vote: Lastery (conflict of interest - he's the person being replaced)

Status: Remains on first reading

Ordinance 2026-15 (formerly Work Session 11) - Engineer Contract

An emergency ordinance authorizing the mayor to enter into a contract with Chagrin Valley Engineering LTD and setting for the compensation and functions of the village engineer and his firm.

Details: Renewal of contract with Chagrin Valley Engineering, Ltd.

Status: First reading

Action: Moved to agenda

Vote: PASSED (moved to agenda)

7. SCHEDULING

Friday, February 13th Meetings:

2:00 PM - Finance Committee Budget Meeting

3:00 PM - Special Council Meeting (to address Ward 5 appointment)

Executive Session also scheduled (topic TBD)

Notice: Must be posted by February 11th

8. CHARTER DISCUSSION (Deferred to Work Session)

Council decided to go back into work session to discuss charter amendments in detail. At one point in the meeting the regular session was stopped to go back to the work session to talk about the charter amendments. The motion was made by Davis and seconded by Evans-Warren.

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

Then the work session was suspended the motion was made by Scruggs to suspend the work session so they can go back to the regular session at 8:48PM and Davis seconded the motion.

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

Approved (date)

Council President, Eloise Hardin

Posted (date)

Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry

THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD

WORK SESSION

2-10-26

ATTENDED:

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

WORK SESSION LEGISLATION

Work Session 11: Engineer Contract

Ordinance Number: 2026-15 (formerly Work Session 11)

Title: Emergency Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Chagrin Valley Engineering, Ltd. and Setting Forth the Compensation and Functions of the Village Engineer and His Firm

Type: Contract Renewal

Details:

1. Contract Basics:

- Renewal of existing contract (not a new contract)
- No change to retainer fee for day-to-day operations
- Rate categories standardized across all 20 municipalities CBE represents

2. Rate Changes:

- Some categories consolidated

- Some categories eliminated
- Modest rate increases for some categories
- Some stayed same or decreased slightly
- **Overall average increase: ~8% (range 8-8.5%)**
- Represents 2-year cost of living increase (no increase last year)

3. Hourly Work:

- Most hourly work is engineering that gets reimbursed through grant applications
- This is essentially a "pass-through" to the village (village gets reimbursed)

4. Company Commitment:

- CBE founded in 1996
- Located in Oakwood since 2002
- Making major investment in Oakwood location
- Committed to long-term presence and growth in Oakwood

5. Presenter:

- Matt Jones, Chagrin Valley Engineering

6. Action Taken:

- Moved to regular agenda for first reading
- **Vote:** PASSED (moved to agenda)
- **Status:** On first reading in regular meeting as Ordinance 2026-15

Sign Ordinance (Mentioned but Not Voted)

Status: On work session agenda (not formally voted)

Purpose: Partial redo of sign ordinance to address excess signs in public rights of way

Action: Law Director recommended moving to regular agenda in next meeting or so to be ready for May primary

Status: Not yet on regular agenda; to be brought forward later

Charter Amendments (Discussed but Not Voted)

Status: Extensive discussion in work session; deferred to after regular meeting

Key Provisions Discussed:

Section 7.07 - Vacancy Procedures:

- **Change:** When council fills a vacancy by appointment, the appointed person must run at the next regular or primary municipal election (May or November)
- **Condition:** Only if election is more than 1 year prior to expiration of unexpired term
- **Reason:** Prevents person from running, getting elected, then running again in primary next year
- **120-Day Rule:** Vacancy must occur at least 120 days before election, so candidates have time to gather nominating petitions
- **Retroactivity:** Not retroactive; applies only to future vacancies

Section 9.06 - Clerk of Council Succession:

- **Change:** If clerk of council is absent, disabled, or vacant, and there's no assistant clerk, the finance director can step in if council approves
- **Purpose:** Provides temporary coverage for critical functions (signatures on legislation, meeting minutes)
- **Temporary Nature:** Stop-gap measure; not intended to be permanent
- **Caveat:** Finance director would be very busy (morning, afternoon, evening); no minutes would get done during this period

Section 10.11 - Zoning Referenda Posting:

- **Change:** Post zoning referenda on lobby of village hall and official website instead of newspaper of general circulation
- **Reason:** Very expensive to publish in Plain Dealer; nobody reads it anyway
- **Note:** Village cancelled Sunday Plain Dealer subscription after 20+ years

Other Charter Items Deferred:

- Article 10 (Planning and Commissions) - Too complex; held for future consideration

- Prohibition on holding one office while running for another - Deferred for further study (potential unintended consequences)
- At-large vs. ward election structure - Discussed but deferred

Ballot Format Question:

- **Issue:** Whether charter amendments will be presented as one yes/no vote or multiple separate votes
- **Board of Elections Preference:** One yes/no vote (easier to administer)
- **Council Concern:** Too complex; voters should understand individual changes
- **Charter Commission Recommendation:** Yes/no on entire package
- **Decision:** Law Director send to Board of Elections for format approval; may be broken into separate issues if needed

Timeline:

- Law Director to send to Board of Elections this week
 - Board of Elections to provide thumbs up/thumbs down on format
 - Must be ready by March 6th deadline
 - Ballot in May
-

Recess before regular session- Motion made by Scruggs and seconded by Davis

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

Recess at 6:45PM. Resumed into regular session at 7:00PM.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS:

1. **Engineer Contract:** Relatively straightforward renewal with modest rate increases
2. **Charter Amendments:** Focus on preventing future appointment controversies (Section 7.07 is the key fix)

3. **Ballot Format:** Ongoing discussion about how to present charter changes to voters

4. **Timeline Pressure:** Must finalize charter language by March 6th for May ballot

The work session was primarily focused on **budget presentations** (which I detailed earlier) and **charter amendments**, with the engineer contract being the only formal legislation moved to the regular agenda.

Approved (date)

Council President, Eloise Hardin

Posted (date)

Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
Special Meeting Minutes
2026-02-13

ATTENDANCE

Eloise Hardin, President
Norman Bliss, President Pro Tem
Taunya Scruggs, Ward 1
Yvonne Evans-Warren, Ward 2
Mary Davis, Ward 4
Lastery
***Arrived after roll call**

Meeting opened at 3:34pm by Hardin
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call taken

Council President Hardin Calling this meeting to order please stand to say the pledge To the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all Okay. Roll call, Mary. Davis is going to call. **Council President Hardin** This is a special meeting called today and pursuant to the charter we had the roll call **Councilwoman Warren** I do have a request **Council President Hardin** What's that. **Councilwoman Warren** I'm requesting a change in the order of the meeting so that we do the legislation first and then go into executive session. **Council President Hardin** Okay, we have someone here, so I think that would give us some courtesy to our audience, so they don't have to... Is that okay with the rest of you? **Councilman Bliss** Well, I think our executive session though is tied to the legislation though. **Councilwoman Warren** It's not gonna. **Councilman Bliss** I would, I would you know, but if you want, you know it doesn't matter to me, but that's as long as you cover both bases, I think we're fine, so I would say that's okay. **Councilwoman Warren** I'd rather do the legislation first than when it's they can't stay for executives. **Councilman Bliss** Right, instead of having them come back in. That makes sense. Then I would concur. There isn't a public comment, but we do have people from the public, so we might want to offer an opportunity if anyone wants to speak, but that's in my other comment as well. **Council President Hardin** Would you? Okay. There is a motion on the floor to make the change in order of the schedule. So if everyone agrees to do that. **Councilman Lastery** Yes. **Council President Hardin** Now, I also heard from Council Person Bliss, because we have the general public here, we normally don't, but this is, we'd like to open the floor for public comment. The answer is yes. **Councilwoman Davis** Wait, did we get it second? I got it first. Did we get a second? I second. **Councilwoman Warren** I thought you were the one that first. We didn't take, we didn't, she just, she just asked. She didn't just take a vote on it. **Councilman Bliss** To change the order. **Councilwoman Warren** I ask my request, this is Evans Warren, I'm requesting a change in the order of the agenda so that legislation is first and executive session follows. May I get a second? **Councilwoman Davis** Roll call. Okay, sorry. Hardin? Yes. Can I just do last name, Bliss? Yes I'm sorry, Scruggs? Evans Warren? Yes. Matlock not out here. Davis? Yes. And Council Member Lastery. **Councilman Lastery** Yes. **Councilwoman Davis** Did I? **Council President Hardin** Did you call my name? **Councilwoman Davis** Oh, I'm sorry, Ms. Hardin? **Council President Hardin** Yes. Passes will follow the order as suggested. The next, may I get a motion to open the floor for public comment? **Councilman Lastery** A second. **Council President Hardin** Roll call. **Councilwoman Davis** Okay, one second. Remember, now this is not my, I, I don't know, I'm still writing the motion, yeah. Hurry up, hurry up. Okay, Councilman Harden. Yes. Councilman Bliss. Yes. Councilman Scruggs. Yes Councilwoman Evans-Warren. Yes Councilman, Councilwoman Davis. Yes, that's Councilman Lastery? Yes **Council President Hardin** Floor is now open for public comment. If anyone would like to step to the podium for the record and make a statement, you are welcome to do so. I don't have a copy of your agenda. Okay, here. Here's the agenda. I apologize. Thank you. **Councilwoman Davis** Anybody else want a copy of the agenda? There's extra ones up here right now. I'll take one. **Councilman Bliss** There's an agenda and there's also a resolution as

well. **Councilman Bliss** So the complete packet includes there's a notice of the special meeting, there's the agenda, and there's an attachment, which is the ordinance. Is that correct? **Council President Hardin** Yes. **Councilman Lastery** And how many pages of the ordinance just one okay is there anything else that's part of this packet for the meeting **Councilwoman Davis** There's two pages of the ordinance, but just for a signature, isn't it? So a total of four pieces of paper in hand. **Councilman Lastery** So, just to be clear about that. **Council President Hardin** It's 2026-14 There's only one 2026-14. No. It is a resolution, then. It's not an ordinance. We're dealing with the resolution. I'm sorry, we're dealing with the resolution. **Councilman Bliss** I misspoke, I apologize. It's a resolution, not an ordinance. **Council President Hardin** And we'll give you time to look at it, and if you want to have something to say, whoever. The place is just standing room only in here. **Councilman Bliss** Yeah, and I think, I'm not an attorney, but I don't know that technically a special meeting is required, is required to have it, I am not sure, but in all cases, in terms of public engagement and transparency, it's always important to allow it, so. **Council President Hardin** Well, okay. Look, can I just ask a procedural question? You can ask anything you want. Procedural question. Sure. **Melinda Harp** I heard this at the last meeting. I'm not sure who said it, but it requires three reads. Okay, and so we're on read number two. So it requires 3 reads before what happened. **Council President Hardin** It is a pass or fails. **Melinda Harp** Okay, I don't have anything different to say than what I said on, uh... On Tuesday, and I know that you want to get into your executive session, but I do need to say something else that happened on Tuesday regarding this. Okay, so afternoon meeting was over. I gave. Counsel person Scruggs an apology and I said if I offended you and that was incorrect it wasn't an if I offended her and I offered a few excuses you know I was in another mode sometimes I get into attorney mode opening closed in statement mode and I go off I'm expressive but I want to give proper apology. I gave you a private one. I want to give you one in front of your peers. I offended you and I am really sorry that I did that. I'm 74 years old and it takes someone half my age to check me. I stand checked. If I offended anyone else? I apologize. **Council President Hardin** Bless your heart. Thank you, my love, thank you so much. Thank you. That's what we're about. God bless you. All right. Any other comments from the general public? If not, we'll close the floor for general comments. And again, thank you. All right, floor is closed for public comment. We're going to go into the order of the change, and we're going into the Order of the Legislation, reading the legislation without the law Director, present, I will read the resolution. This is resolution number 202614, introduced by council as a whole. A resolution appointing Malcolm C. Sims, Jr. To the position of Ward 5 councilperson for the term commencing January 1st, 2026, and expiring December 31st, 2029, declaring it an emergency. And this is a second read. Are there any comments, questions? Let the record show, then it is a second read and we'll move on. No action to be taken on it except announcing that it is a second read. Before we go in. **Councilman Bliss** Oh, one question. When is the third read? The third reschedule for tomorrow. What time? **Council President Hardin** 1130 a.m. **Councilman Bliss** This is Councilman Norm Bliss. **Council President Hardin** Okay. Any other questions? All right. If there are no other questions, Mr. When I asked to find out. **Councilman Lastery** Oh, yeah, I make a motion that we move into executive session. **Councilman Lastery** 2nd that motion. Roll call. One second please. **Councilman Lastery** Let me state the purpose, yeah let me state **Council President Hardin** Oh, I apologize. Please read it. **Councilman Lastery** I make a motion that we move into executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public official or employee.

Motion to enter into Executive session, made by Bliss seconded by Lastery
YES VOTE: Scruggs, Hardin, Evans-Warren, Matlock, Bliss, Scruggs, Davis
ABSTAINED: none
MOTION PASSED

Councilwoman Davis Motion passed, executive session at 345.
Councilwoman Davis The meeting is now in session, the regular meeting at 4.55.
Council President Hardin Can I get a decision to adjourn the regular meeting? **Councilwoman**
Motion to go into Executive Session, made by Warren seconded by Scruggs
YES VOTE: Scruggs, Hardin, Evans-Warren, Matlock, Bliss, Scruggs, Davis
ABSTAINED: none
MOTION PASSED

Warren I move that we adjourn to regular meeting. **Council President Hardin** Second, please.

Councilwoman Scruggs: Scruggs 2nd **Councilwoman Davis** First. Second. Okay. **Hardin?** Yes. **Scruggs?** Yes! **Evans?** Yes **Matlock, Davis, yes, I'm sorry that's me, Blitz. Yes! Okay, and that's it.** Okay, motion passed. We adjourn at 4:57. **Council President Hardin** Would you please stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance, please? Calling the meeting to order. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. We don't have the clerk present, so Mary, do you want to do roll call? **Councilwoman Davis** Would you do it? Yes. I would do it. **Ms. Scruggs?** Present. **Councilwoman Evans?** Present. **Councilman Matlock?** Present. **Councilwoman Harden?** Present. **Councilman Lastery?** Present. And **Councilwoman Davis?** Present. **Council President Hardin** First of all, thank you for coming. Our schedule shows an executive session, but out of respect to all of you that have come, that would mean that we would go into a recess and that, to me, and no one is really having anything other than what's on the agenda to say. Is that true? There's nothing you don't want to, okay. So we will not have an executive session. What we do have is the legislation on the Agenda today. And with the law director not being present, I will read it. The legislation on the agenda today is Resolution 2026-14, a resolution appointing Malcolm C. Sims, Jr. To the position of Ward 5 Councilperson for the term commencing January 1, 2026 and expiring December 31, 2029 and declaring an emergency. Whereas Candace Williams was elected at the November 4th, 25 general election as Ward 5 Councilperson in the term commencing January 1st, 2026 and expiring December 31st, 2029, and whereas Ms. Williams has declined to take the oath of office to be seated in the position of Ward 5 person as required by Oakwood Charter Section 6.08. And whereas as a result of the aforementioned events, council on January 19th, 2026 By virtue of Ordinance Number 202608, declared a vacancy in the Ward 5 seat, pursuant to Oakwood Charter Section 7.05 and the Ohio Revised Code Section 731.49, and whereas Section 7.07 of the charter provides that the vacancy of council may be filled. For the remainder of the unexpired term by majority vote of the members of council within 30 days of the date of the vacancy occurring, now therefore be it resolved by the council of the village of Oakwood, county of Cuyahoga, state of Ohio, section one, Malcolm C. Sims Jr. Is hereby appointed to the position of ward five council person for the unexplored term, commencing January 1st, 2026, and expiring on December 31st, 29, section two. This resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants of the village. The reason for the emergency being that it is essential to have full roster of members therefore provided it receives a two-thirds or up to half of the of all council members elected. There too, said resolution shall be in full force and effective immediately upon adoption by this Council and approved by the Mayor, otherwise from and after the earliest period allowed by law. And that is what we're here for today, to vote on this. And this resolution. Any questions? Thank you again for coming. We will go forward with the vote as scheduled. And so my question is, now we've had it read once, twice. Today is the third reading. If adopted today, it will be in effect. We're going to hear from the audience first. Is there a vote from council to allow? So the vote, council, there is a request to open the floor to the public. **Councilman Lastery** I second that motion.

Motion to open the floor to Public Comments, made by Scruggs seconded by Lastery

YES VOTE: Scruggs, Lastery, Hardin, Evans-Warren, Matlock

ABSTAINED: none

MOTION PASSED

Council President Hardin The floor is open. Anyone wish to speak, please step to the podium.

Melinda Harp, 7327 Free Avenue, in the great village of Oakwood. And I just need a point of order prior by. For this ordinance 14, this is the third reading, but you are not required to take a vote today. Is that correct? Because you have other ordinances where you have four, five, six, seven, eight readings. You always vote after the third reading? Do you all always vote after the first reading? The third reading. **Melinda Harp** Yes. Yes, but there's no suspension of rules. **Council President Hardin** No, what that means is it was tabled, it was table, so it sits on the table until council takes it off. So this was never tabled. Okay, and so is that an option today to table it? And so I think I put most of my objections on the record when I was here on Tuesday on behalf of some of the ward by voters, but just looking at what you're looking at today, the resolution number one, it is not an emergency because we have someone in that place. And that's Mr. Lastery. So we are being represented. It's not an emergency. Number two, at the Tuesday council meeting, you all said you were going to fix

that. I am proposing that you fix what you messed up. And then you allow this resolution to go forward, hopefully as a special election. And then the voters, the war-fied voters who are, I'm assuming most of them are, will have an opportunity to choose who we want. To represent them. This goes through January 1st of 2026 to December 31st of 2029 and nobody here has spoken. We've had ten years of nothing. First of all, your process was flawed. I brought that up. I used your own ordinances to tell you how. You stretch them, I would say, for this particular occasion. That was on Tuesday. But the promise that you made to the people on Tuesday was that you were going to fix this. I'm asking that you fix this, and then we proceed with this resolution. It is not an emergency, number one. Number two, it takes away our right to choose who's going to represent us. And at the very least, we are due as the war five voters. A possible resolution to this is to allow Mr. Lastery to continue in the position that he's in because you swore him in. So he is our council person right now and this meeting, Ward 5, he is. And have a special election. You've done that before and you've done it in a hurry before. You passed that ordinance when you found out that The mayor was passing away. But those rules had been on the books for, what, 30 years? That whoever succeeds, the mayor fills out the rest of his term? That's been on those two years. . Such as it may when the Mayor did pass, you all immediately passed an ordinance that said you had to have a special election. And that's what you all did. And we, you know, we went along with it because we had the election and we chose who we wanted to represent us and that's the democratic way of doing it. But the way of it doing it now, you've disenfranchised us. We have no vote and we have no say. It is not an emergency. We are represented. And so I'm asking that you table this matter. And that you consider that there should be a special election, just like you have it in a hurry, in the other situation, the emergency, I'm sorry, special election. Let us choose who we want, that's what he said to us. The choice of Mr. Sims, I am not attacking him as an individual. I am not attacking him as an individual. I'm attacking the process by which you chose him. I agree from the last meeting is that you did a disservice to him and you did a dissimilar to Mr. Lastery too. You all messed it up, fix it. You all messed it up. So thanks, it... You all fixed it up, messed it up. So you said at the beginning that you would fix it, that you will allow the ward 5 voters to choose whom they want. Here we are four days later, five days later. It's a different song. **Council President Hardin** Okay, we're going to limit the time. **Melinda Harp** Oh, okay. And so that is what I am proposing, that this matter be tabled. It is not an emergency. We have someone representing the Ward 5 voters to come in. That the process by which Mr. Sims was chosen was against the charter. I have. **Council President Hardin** 30 seconds, go ahead. **Melinda Harp** Okay, it was against the Charter because we know that Candice Williams resigned her seat to run for mayor. She doesn't have any residual rights to that seat. She doesn't have an end of the term. She's finished. She ended her term when she resigned. I'm asking you to follow Charter 7.07. and considering this thing. **Karen Howse** Resident Karen Howse. Good morning, everybody. I do want to say some things as a resident. We have the fortunate opportunity to have Mr. Lastery sit in when Candace Hill stepped down. Candice Hill. When she stepped down, her term ended December 31st for the seat that he was filling in that intro. Ward five had the opportunity to vote who they wanted in and they chose Candice Hill To fulfill that seat if you all recall she was voted in fair square She was on the ballot for Ward five She stepped down so she can run from there and at that point that seat was vacant If you look at your charter, it clearly says that the seat becomes vacant. There's no voting rights on this. I don't even know what's going on here. There's not voting rights at that seat until someone is appointed, which you guys are doing today. Please don't be misinformed. The charter indicates clearly what the steps are. As far as the gentleman that's gonna be appointed today, he was appointed by a point system, by points. The council voted for who they wanted to sit in that seat, as stated in the charter, fair and square. If you read the charter—I've been here for a long time, I'm very familiar on how it works—nobody had any opposition or asked for anybody to step down when Blitz became the council-at-large. You know, no one had any apposition to that, but all of a sudden when this young man has the opportunity, but he was... Voted for by council as required to sit in that seat. It has nothing against this young man here. But it's just going by what you're required to do is what's happening here. So please don't be misinformed by what your hearing. Because if you read the charter, it says it, people are disputing it, they think it's politics. Candace Hill was voted in to sit that seat effective January 1. She resigned because she wanted to run for mayor and that is her right. That seat became open. Look at the charter. Please don't be misinformed. Thank you.

Council President Hardin Thank you. For those that are interested, we do have a copy of the charter that's referred to in this ordinance. For those who are interested in understanding this

process. So I just want to make certain that this is available to everyone. And it's online as well. Thank you. There's someone else. **Candace Hill** Thank you. I know this is early on Saturday morning, so good morning. **Council President Hardin** Would you state your name? **Candace Hill** I'm Candace Hill, Oakwood Village resident, Ward 5. I'm the former councilwoman for Ward 5 for nine years. I wanted to just clarify some things that I've heard about the charter. The charter is very clear. It's written, it does not change according to politics or who feels a certain way. Right now, what is written in the charter is because it went to council, the legislation had to pass. And then when it passes, it has to go to the ballot. And the voters of Oakwood Village have to vote. In 2024, I believe. The charter amendment went to the voters to vote on do you want your mayor to fulfill the remainder of the term or do you wanna special election to choose your mayor. That charter amendment was approved by 85% that people wanted a special election. So there keeps being this misinformation about council just changed this charter, it just happened after the mayor passed. That is not and it passed by 85%. That is how all charter amendments happen. You have to legislate it as a council. It has to go to the Board of Elections. It has to get on the ballot. Then the entire community that wants to invoke their rights to vote, get to vote. That doesn't change. And so I hear the politics. I hear my name being smeared. I hear a whole lot of nonsense. The mayor passed in September. None of us knew that the mayor was going to pass. Did we know he was ill? Yes. None None of us knew when that it was going to happen, and also none of us were prepared for all the transition that happened afterwards. We just had to make decisions as things were coming. So I'm a little tired of hearing my name smeared. I'm okay with it. It's been happening for a very long time, but I just appalled you all for continuing to try to follow the charter despite the politics. **Council President Hardin** Thank you, there's no more comments. We're going to close the floor for public comment. And we will start the vote. I will not reread it, the provisions are very clear in this ordinance and so at this point I'd like to take the vote on resolution number 2026 14. This is the third read. May I have a motion to pass for passage?

Motion to open pass Ord 2026-14, made by Warren seconded by Scruggs

YES VOTE: Scruggs, Davis, Lastery, Hardin, Evans-Warren, Matlock

ABSTAINED: Lastery

MOTION PASSED

Councilwoman Davis Roll call. One second, please. I'm sorry. This is not my normal. Okay. Ms. Warren, made the motion. Okay. Ms. Scruggs seconded. Okay, thank you. Yes, ma'am. Okay. I'm trying to write fast. Okay. Ms. Scruggs. Yes. Ms. Evans. Warren. Yes. Ms. Matlock. Yes. Ms. Hardin. Yes. Mr. Lastery. Abstein Ms. Davis, yes.

Council President Hardin Motion passed. The motion has passed and this motion is now in effect and again, where is it, Mr. Sims? I just want to say thank you. And I also want to go on record to say, thank you to him. This is not the end for you. You have been a great colleague. Thank you so much. Thank you. All right. Any other questions? There's nothing else. And we're finished for today with the legislation. And you're welcome to stay. Is there a question? Is there question? You're welcome stay. I understand Mr. Sims would like to be sworn in.

Malcolm Sims Yes, ma'am.

Is that true? All right. Do you have a motion to adjourn? Second, please. A motion to a adjourn. We have one on our floor.

Councilwoman Davis I need a second. I second. Roll call. Matlock? Yes. Evans? Yes Scruggs? Yes Hardin? Yes Mr. Lastery? Yes

Councilwoman Davis Ms. Davis? Yes. Motion passed. Adjourned. At 12 o'clock, look at that.

**VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
BUDGET HEARING MINUTES
2026-02-13**

ATTENDANCE

Eloise Hardin, President
Taunya Scruggs, Ward 1
Yvonne Evans-Warren, Ward 2
Mary Davis, Ward 4
*Norman Bliss, President Pro Tem
* Joseph Lastery, Ward 5

*Arrived after roll call

Meeting opened by Hardin
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call taken

Council President Hardin Meeting is called to order. We'll say the Pledge of Allegiance. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Okay and we're going to do roll call in an untraditional way. Mary Davis? Yes, present. Councilman Scruggs? Present. Councilperson Warren? Present Councilperson Eloise Harden? Present So we have a quorum of four This meeting is actually a budget hearing I'd like to go on the record with a statement. I will give the administration the courtesy. I will ask the clerk to go over to see if anyone is available. I don't understand why we received an email saying it's canceled based on scheduling. But I let the record show that this is the second time we tried to have a budget meeting and we could not complete it based on the absence of the administration. But we're going to go forward and deal with the budgets that we have under our control. The request per the email from the finance director is that we reschedule one day next week. So at this point, I will ask publicly what day next week is good for at least four council members. What day next week is good for you, late for you. Because we will accommodate. It will not be said that we have not done our, we weren't available. But day next week is good. **Councilwoman Warren** I'm going to go with when Mary's available because she's head of the budget. **Council President Hardin** That's right. And her husband goes in for certain, and it's a matter of, it's nothing personal. And excuse me if it is Mary, but Mary will not be available after Tuesday. So Monday is a holiday. So we might have to go without Mary because she's been very open and made it very clear to this body and publicly that after Tuesday her availability would be kind of hit miss so Mary. **Councilwoman Davis** I have two things. I know for sure Monday is a holiday. Yeah. No, I'm not with it, but I have something appointment from one o'clock until four o'clock on Monday before that time or after that time. But I don't know if we'll have enough. **Councilwoman Scruggs** Okay, whatever time you're available Monday. **Councilwoman Davis** Okay, Monday good for you? This Monday? This coming Monday for the House? Yes. It's Presidents Day. Okay. Okay. So what time? Do you want to do it before? Can you do it before? **Councilwoman Scruggs** Since it's a holiday, there's no school for the kids. Yes, right. **Councilwoman Davis** And your son will be, you'll be okay with, okay. **Council President Hardin** And we have to do it before one? Before one,. **Councilwoman Davis** Yeah, before quarter two. So I have to be there at one. So if we could do it like at 10 o'clock in the morning, is that? I mean, we won't get this paid. Well, she'll be off, too. So we will get more people. Who are we looking for, this paid lady? I know she works at school, but her school will be closed Monday. And I don't know about Mr. Bliss or whatever else, whoever else is. But we can do it, at least if we have, no, we have a majority. **Councilwoman Scruggs** 9:30, or 10? **Councilwoman Davis** 930 is even better. **Councilwoman Scruggs** 930 she said is better. **Councilwoman Davis** I mean that way we have more time just in case we need. Just in case we need it. **Councilwoman Scruggs** And you can get out early, at least by 12.30. Right, okay. You should be out by 12:30. **Council President Hardin** Now, the purpose. Okay, now the purpose of this meeting is to let the administration know that we are expecting and maybe we better find out, go over there now. **Councilwoman Scruggs** I know, since it's President's Day, they will probably be off. **Council**

President Hardin Right. They gotta be willing to come in. I don't know. Okay. But this is the best we can do based on our chair, making herself available twice now. **Councilwoman Davis** And we have done, I just want you to know, I have a list of all the meetings we've had. We've had five in December finance meetings of our budgets, that's just in December. And then we did one in February already, the beginning, and this one now. So this is our second one. We're going to be on our third one for just budgets. **Council President Hardin** Could you, for the record, Mary, what budgets are outstanding, please? Are you aware, if not, we can. **Councilwoman Davis** We have to have, yes, the mayor's budget and the recreation are the only two we need. And that's both mayor's and recreation. **Council President Hardin** Mayor, recreation, and don't we have senior? No, no. Recreation. **Councilwoman Warren** What about police, no? No, we will. **Councilwoman Davis** We've already looked them over. All this is to listen to what they're presenting. We haven't voted on passing anything for budgets. We have to hear what all this is going to cost them so we can figure out what we can't. Police was the first. **Councilwoman Warren** What we can. Police was the first. What about the 10% and all that? That will be. **Council President Hardin** That was that's **Councilwoman Warren** next part. **Council President Hardin** As a whole. I'm sorry, ma'am. **Councilwoman Davis** You're fine. No as we just listened to them each budget You know they presented theirs and the fire department and you've got the FOP Contract update by Mr. Climer that one meeting you had and with Mr. Garrett, correct? We got that what they are requesting it's part of their budget. There anything else we already got with their budget We already got service. We already have building we already get Fire department. We got everybody else. **Councilwoman Warren** Yeah, see you have a question. Yes The 10% they requested is not in the police budget that was presented to us, correct? **Councilwoman Davis** I believe it was because they talked about in the beginning that they wanted 10% for this coming year. They didn't have the other years, but they did say that the increase in wages, which they have with us, I think is 10%. **Councilwoman Warren** He gave it to us. **Councilwoman Davis** That day, but you mean **Councilwoman Warren** When we went over the policeman's budget, it wasn't in that one, was it? I thought it was. Let me show you. **Councilwoman Scruggs** I don't know if it was ten or four less, but there was one already in there. Oh yes, there was a wage increase. **Council President Hardin** I think it's eight. Now what we do have in our possession, the finance director gave us ten, seven, eight right down the line. We have those figures. Yes, we do. And so, after getting all of the budgets in, this next meeting will be to determine what percentage of raise we're going to give, because at that point we'll have everything. **Councilwoman Warren** Okay, now just for the record, I did ask Jim for some other indicators to look at when making that decision, because they never told us total number of service calls per year. Okay, because one's community might have 30,000 and somebody else have 1,000. So we need to compare ours with theirs. A number of guys who are assigned per shift per day. Okay. To see what the comparison is there. So I was advised by someone in that particular field to add those are two main things we need to know. **Council President Hardin** Okay, so I know you talked to the law director, but I think you need to refer that directly to the... The police chief. **Councilwoman Warren** No, I already emailed and spoke to him about it. So he said he doesn't have anything to do with that card. That would go to the legal counsel. Legal counsel gave us that sheet with the comparisons. So I talked to Jim about it and he said, he will get those numbers and add it to it. **Council President Hardin** All right, can we say this much? It's due, the county, my understanding is the 31st. **Councilwoman Davis** Right, their money, we have been appropriated till March 31st of 26, all their bills have been passed. Okay. **Council President Hardin** So, we want to meet, here's the calendar. We have to I would think we want to pass the final appropriations the 30th is on a Thursday Do we say? No, I'm sorry, March. **Councilwoman Davis** It should be second and fourth would be a regular meeting. Okay. That's when we would finalize. **Council President Hardin** So on the last meeting in March is the 24th, so can we schedule a budget meeting For at least a couple hours so that we can finish it on the 24th Or do you want to meet before? **Councilwoman Davis** Meet before that so we all know if we have a chance to talk look at over and think in our heads instead of all push our own day okay possible **Council President Hardin** So now we're going into next week. Next week, Verratti's schedule went from Monday to 16th, right? Monday. Yes. Monday to the 16th. With two budgets. And you want, and we're gonna meet at what time? **Councilwoman Davis** 9.30, she said. 9. 30. Yeah, 9. **Council President Hardin** So we can have the clerk put that out. Okay. And do you want to be prepared to, do you think you'll have everything you need on Monday or not, Yvonne? **Councilwoman Warren** It's up to Jim. I can let him know when we want to. **Council President Hardin** So you better let him, because he's leaving, going out of town. **Councilwoman Warren** I

didn't have a date. I asked for the information. I just didn't have a day. **Councilwoman Davis** Now, when he's out of town, if we have a question or problem, who are we supposed to initiate? Do we know who is supposed to be in, not in command, but in, who we're supposed to contact? **Council President Hardin** I guess we can put that out there to him today. **Councilwoman Davis** Yeah, because we need to know if he's going to be gone, because this is our time for all this, you know, we've been having a craziness, so we appreciate it. I appreciate that. **Councilwoman Warren** But you're looking at March, right? Not February. **Council President Hardin** I'm looking at March. **Council President Hardin** No, no. I apologize. You're right. I was looking at February because .We're going to meet on the 16th at 9.30, okay? **Councilwoman Davis** February. Monday. Monday. Monday the 16th. I have that. Presidents Day. **Council President Hardin** Mary, you're telling us don't include you for anything in February, is that? **Councilwoman Davis** I don't know how he's going to be. **Council President Hardin** I got you, I gotcha. **Councilwoman Davis** I knew, you know, how it's not just a replacement It's a it's a lot of surgeries. I have to wait one day at a time. Okay, so council **Council President Hardin** Okay, so council, there's three of us here. Do you want to, we're gonna meet on the 16th. At that time we should have everything, hopefully. **Councilwoman Davis** That's to hear the final budgets, two budgets that she's supposed to present to us, the recreation and the. **Council President Hardin** Do we want to verify that now? I might just keep coming up here. That's all we have left. **Councilwoman Scruggs** That we haven't looked over. **Council President Hardin** Yes. Okay. Is her car out there? Would you ask her to step in, please? **Councilwoman Davis** Is he here too, Thompson? **Council President Hardin** He's not here. **Councilwoman Davis** I want to ask him too about our council. **Councilwoman Warren** We're on the tape. Yes. **Councilwoman Davis** Because we were going to go over our council, but I wanted to ask him questions. **Council President Hardin** There's no need to schedule if they're not available to give us those last two pieces. **Councilwoman Davis** Yeah. Right. That's the last two to listen to. We have everybody else's, every parts, whatever pieces of parts. **Councilwoman Warren** I'm thinking Jim will probably be available in two weeks. **Councilwoman Davis** Two weeks later, he's gone for... Is that right? **Councilwoman Warren** I think its most vacations. **Council President Hardin** That's why the whole thing's been broken down. **Councilwoman Warren** So what about O'Leary? He couldn't step in. **Council President Hardin** I think that's probably what he has planned. **Councilwoman Davis** We want to make sure that Mr. O'Leary is aware, just so we know that he was going to turn us off because he doesn't. **Council President Hardin** We can actually call him today and ask him that here at the meeting. Well, the administration is here, she needn't know, which we'll ask her. The last minute. **Councilwoman Davis** Did Paggie know about today's meeting, because she left early about today's meeting, do we know? I haven't talked to her. Remember she had to leave early to go get you know who? The Queen. **Councilwoman Scruggs** She is, the door's closed, she's on the phone, I dare leave a message with the receptionist about the 16th and asked if she could ask her if she can pop in when she gets a chance off the phone and see if that 16th will work. **Councilwoman Davis** And nine-thirty. **Council President Hardin** Okay. In the meantime, we'll go on. Let's talk, let's deal with our budget. Glad we have control. Everybody has a copy of it? **Councilwoman Davis** Yes, now I had a question I wanted to ask Mr. I thought he was here today to tell us something about the council wages. If you look at the top first line, he raised us, we appropriated \$88,286 for 25, did you see that, appropriations? He only spent for us for 25 \$78,353 or whatever and we're not making... **Council President Hardin** That was 23. **Councilwoman Davis** No, I'm talking about 25. It's also this it's a weird how it come every other year because 23 you see if you start at the beginning Final was 278 25. Okay 24 for some reason went up to 95 379 okay, and then it went down actually in 25 what we spent was 78,000 again like \$200 more 353 did you see that? Okay, so I don't know how we got 78 one year 95 the next year and then 78 the third year Yes, do you know? **Councilwoman Scruggs** This is Councilperson Scruggs. I'm looking at the... There were several increases. There was a \$5,000 increase on conferences and education. There was a 9 from 20. **Councilwoman Davis** I'm just talking about wages for us. Council wages, just the first line. Council wages. That's why I wanted to ask him. In 23 total was \$78,000. Then 24 final was \$95,000 something. Then we appropriate, I mean the actual year to date for 25 was only \$78000 again. How do we go from \$78 to \$95 back down to \$78 thousand? **Council President Hardin** Where do you see \$78? **Councilwoman Davis** Let me show you. Okay. This is... This is what we, 23, wait, this is 24, final, 95, this is appropriated, that's not what we spent. Actually, oh, now mine has, this what mine had, my copy says 78, 353, I don't know why yours says 65.

Councilwoman Warren Yeah, but that column remember he said that only takes us up until October. I think it was it didn't take us to the end of the year **Councilwoman Davis** Okay Okay, because we were jumping it to 90 that mine filled it. I don't know. Oh, you just had a copy Yeah, just you want to make this copy. That's the copy Okay **Councilwoman Warren** I asked him about another budget and he said that column didn't go to the end of the year. **Councilwoman Davis** Oh, it was only until October? So you know, that's a year to date. **Councilwoman Warren** Yeah, okay, you're the end. He gets on there, October 13th. **Councilwoman Davis** See, I don't have that at all, I'll show you that. **Councilwoman Warren** The one that Evan just passed around. Yes. You see right here? So I'm going to give this. See he put October 13th? **Councilwoman Davis** Okay. Now mine says year-to-date expenses 78,153. **Council President Hardin** Well, we don't know where it is till to end but mine says 78 was paid. **Councilwoman Davis** Evan we need 4 more copies Please. I'll make it six. We have to give everybody six, please. Now I'll pass them off to you. I'm sorry. **Council President Hardin** Have you ever been compensated for your recreation meeting? I keep asking you that. **Councilwoman Scruggs** Could you I said I gave Brian some things and he said he was gonna work on them **Council President Hardin** Okay, at least you did submit something. **Councilwoman Scruggs** I did submit some receipts, yeah. **Council President Hardin** Not just receipts, did you? **Councilwoman Scruggs** To make time the sign in sheets yes I did not submit a sign in sheet to him I'll talk to him when he comes back okay he's again he was working on looking at what was missing from me **Council President Hardin** Okay, just the reimbursement problem. **Councilwoman Scruggs** Yes, ma'am. **Council President Hardin** Yeah, this is a sacrifice, all of this, so. **Councilwoman Warren** So this is a conference year. **Council President Hardin** Every year is the same two conferences, Washington and whatever city is chosen for the winter session. This year is Nashville, is it? **Councilwoman Davis** He's even got my colors that I had chicken scratched on, I'm sorry. He's got everything. All my extra stuff in the barn, too. Boy, you guys got the things. You didn't write any little crazy little notes? Yes. They didn't say nothing? No, they didn't. I'll put that one there. Okay, so as you see on mine, I have here to date 78,325. So mine doesn't say October here, it says October, and it has a \$65,000. Mine has year to date expenses \$78,000, we're probably at \$88,000 but we still had \$78 for the total so far so I don't know. **Councilwoman Warren** Again, I should have put the date on here. That's when we met, 12-22-25. Well we're going... Oh, that's when... **Councilwoman Warren** Oh, that's why you didn't have it then. So maybe that's... **Councilwoman Davis** That is a viral one, I don't know, or one week or whatever you want to have a week left. December, if this is 22nd, you know, they put on the date of our meeting, and we went over, it was 12-22. **Council President Hardin** So yours is more accurate than mine? Well, up to date. 1222? Yes. All right. So what's missing, Mary, that we have? Did we deal with those computers? **Councilwoman Davis** You see on the bottom, one, two, three, the equipment and software. We put computer or iPads, and we added to that amount was a 5,170. Where you see. **Council President Hardin** Third column. Third column from the bottom. One, two, three, okay. **Councilwoman Davis** Computers and iPads. Yeah, because that's what we put it for our equipment. **Council President Hardin** Okay. And that's for how many one more time. **Councilwoman Davis** We didn't say how many. We just put computers for computers. **Council President Hardin** The clerk went on record with how many were involved. **Councilwoman Davis** Okay. And then in the Court of Convocation, we did the same as 25. **Council President Hardin** You know, I think for the record, everybody's getting a new one, but a council person Scruggs. She has the new one. She's the only one with the new. So everybody else would get a new, so there's your count. **Councilwoman Davis** Did they give what they didn't give one to him yet? **Council President Hardin** No not to my knowledge. **Councilwoman Davis** Okay, so So everything I mean we can go down first we had wages as appropriate for 9801 and that was for Brian. Mr. Thompson. **Council President Hardin** I'm speaking of that And speaking of that, do you know, the Pay Ordinance for Council, this is the last year that it addressed. **Councilwoman Davis** No 2028. There's one more you guys. There is one more these two you two are 2028 was the last adjustment. regular console went up this year by whatever \$300 or whatever it was So listen, this one isn't going to 2028 PERS that was through Mr. Thompson. That's exactly what he said we needed And we came pretty close to it this year, but he thinks he knows it all for that part, so that's his. We raised the Medicare up through his thing was \$1,500. Now the printing and the, we took out Ward, as you see. We just put Council Printing and Reproduction, okay? And that we raised up to \$11,400. **Council President Hardin** Okay let's back that up. We had ward and then we had at-large, is that how we were doing it? **Councilwoman Davis** Yes, and we just combined it. I got you. And also a committee thing. We just put them all in one. Okay. And

that's where we got the 11,000. We're not doing all those and you know, we'll just put console printing or whatever. Got you. That should be, whether any. Is that 11,400? 400. 400, I got it. Okay. That's what we decided on for those three. Okay, next one would be is that professional dues? **Council President Hardin** And this is? Yeah. Professional dues, okay. 2,000 **Councilwoman Warren** Are we automatically registered with the NLC? **Councilwoman Davis** And the NOCA, or NOCA I know we are, I don't know, that's done in January, well it should be done in Jan. I don't know if our clerk did it before. **Council President Hardin** Question because and by the way I'd like for this council to start going back to the noca it was very helpful to be an active member of the have you ever gone they are held monthly and it's a it's comprised of council throughout the county in OCA Wait a minute N-O-C-A. Yes. That's how it looks right. As a matter of fact, I think Debbie Hladky is the clerk for them. That would be a good question to have her verify. I'm sure we paid our dues. And we used to be active. We went every month to the meetings, and a Callandar was elected to a position. But nobody's been going. But we need to... Start attending and be an active part of the council. **Councilwoman Davis** But as you see we already spent for 25 we already gave them or it's 1352 that was for 25 okay that was probably our dues right for everything i don't know if that's for NLC or and the NOCA because we pay dues for the We're professional dues, we're trying to get back to that. Yeah, that's what we're on. **Councilwoman Warren** And Ohio Municipal League, we don't register as a membership. **Council President Hardin** There is a fee I think they might **Councilwoman Davis** Let's find out what fees, what professional dues are paid. **Council President Hardin** Okay **Councilwoman Davis** for council. That gave us \$1,352 spent for that. **Council President Hardin** Twos are Excuse me, but that looks awfully low, wait a minute. **Councilwoman Davis** We spent 1,523, we spent 1 600 something in 24, and then this time we spent 1352. But I don't know if that's... **Council President Hardin** Something is arriving. That looks awfully low. Doesn't it? For seven people? Yeah, that's a... **Councilwoman Davis** We're raising it to \$2,000 is what we're going to discuss. **Councilwoman Warren** Paid for what organization. Now, he appropriated \$3,500. **Councilwoman Davis** Yes. No, that was 25. Right. That's what was appropriated 25, but we only spent 1,352 in 25. So we raised it to \$2,000 for the professional, is what we wrote in when Mr. Thompson was here. Oh, for that blank column? That was for professional dues. Yes, the blank column. You should have it in the one I made copy of. Oh, okay. You know what I mean? Because I wrote them in as we were going through them. Now, Council, are you okay with that one? Okay, I'll be quiet. That's okay. The next one is Council Special Events. That was Concerts, Safety Forces Day, and the Forum. And we put in 26,250. We used 19,515. This year, 25. And we're not going to have the Safety Forces Day because he said the other day, Mr. Garrett, he likes to do it every other year. So we don't have this coming year of that. So it will be even less money, I mean more money that we'll have available. But we put in \$26,250. **Councilwoman Scruggs** And Safety Forces Day, we only had \$200 for Safety Forces day last year. **Councilwoman Davis** And the concerts, most of the private concerts, yeah. Because the rental of the stage or something to be paid or to set it up. **Councilwoman Scruggs** There will be an increase in what the cost will be per event, which may mean that we would not be able to do as many events since the budget will remain pretty much the same. Last year we did four events, four Fridays, three Fridays and one Thursday, I can't remember which one it was, but we did 4 and that was around 9,000 or so for all four of those events. We have the potential for that the mayor does plus the four that council will do. So there's all of those events in council. My question was, is do we still want to do all of those and council say yes, so. **Councilwoman Davis** To do all of ours. **Councilwoman Scruggs** All of ours in addition to the mayor's. **Council President Hardin** How many did we do last year? **Councilwoman Davis** We don't know what we have. **Councilwoman Scruggs** So the mayor, I believe, had five. **Council President Hardin** No, no, no. **Councilwoman Warren** How many do we have? **Council resident Hardin** We have four. **Councilwoman Warren** But you have four, that's something new, council putting on concerts. **Councilwoman Davis** That was this year. **Councilwoman Warren** But they did not feel that it was what the people wanted, so it was like they did four extra concerts geared toward the residents' desires. **Councilwoman Davis** Community, more of community groups, we were just getting local artists, it was for, you know, trying to get some local people. **Councilwoman Scruggs** So the mayor had the national or big name artists and all of ours were local Oakwood residents who do music. **Councilwoman Warren** Me for? I don't know.

Councilwoman Scruggs We won't be able to if we don't raise the price because and the reason why I'm saying that is because The previous cost for those Artists did not include a sound system

and The stage by itself doesn't have it doesn't a sound systems or light. **Council President Hardin** Now, are we assuming that the current mayor is going to allow us to use the stage because that was a courtesy from the administration? **Councilwoman Scruggs** Yes, that is my assumption, that the stage would still remain up the entire season as it has in the past. So if it's there, we would need to make sure that we have permission from the mayor to use it on those Fridays. Because the mayor's was on Thursdays and then council did theirs on the Friday. So we didn't have to pay for the stage. But we also didn't have to pay for lighting, we did not pay for lighting and that's why some nights we didn't have lights. We didn't had lights at all except for the one artist who brought their own lights. **Council President Hardin** Is that reasonable? The sun technically wasn't going down until between 830 or 845 and so it wasn't totally dark in the lot. We also have those street lights in the parking lot that kind of lit things up so the dark was probably maybe about 15 minutes. If we continue to have the concert go all the way to nine. So we didn't want to run into that, we could end the concert at 830. **Councilwoman Davis** Right, we can do it earlier. **Councilwoman Scruggs** And then not have to really worry so much about it being so dark. **Council President Hardin** But I wanted to address that because they got a little scary that we would be walking around in the dark just that one time. **Councilwoman Scruggs** So that would be, you know, maybe it could go from, because I think that the mayor's concerts was from seven to nine, and then ours was from six to nine. We had three hours. So we could just do a six to eight thirty, you know, just so we don't have to deal with the lighting. Requirement or you know request but then we still would need to purchase sound we would need have a sound system if the artists don't have their own and also someone to run it so that's probably about \$1,500 per concert **Council President Hardin** So 15 times 4 is what? 6,000. **Councilwoman Scruggs** So 6,000 will go towards sound. The other four will go towards pay in the artist. **Council President Hardin** So do we want to leave it at this amount and allocate it as such or do you want to add \$6,000 for sound? What's your pleasure, what do you think? **Councilwoman Scruggs** I'm always an advocate to add, but right now with our current state of our budget and all of the things that we cannot foresee, I would say we should not add in that lane right now. **Councilwoman Davis** Yeah, I would not do that. **Councilwoman Scruggs** I almost want to take a couple days out. Okay. **Council President Hardin** Did you want to do I mean we're talking this is a time yeah, you know **Councilwoman Davis** So we don't know really, to me, I'm sorry Mary Davis, we don't know if we're going to have concerts, when they're going to be yet, I mean from the very beginning. **Councilwoman Scruggs** From there usually July yes usually so like mid-July and then august so we could potentially plan for right around that area and we could you know we don't have to advertise until we get the word from the mayor but **Council President Hardin** Are you considering reducing the number from four to. **Councilwoman Scruggs** My thought, initially, as we've been going over all of these other budgets and the fact that we would like the ones that the concert that we do have to have all the bells and whistles that they need to, and would be yes. Even if we went down to three instead of four. **Councilwoman Davis** It shows that we gave up something more. **Councilwoman Scruggs** Right now, we have some unforeseen things that we probably want to put in place for this coming year and we just don't have the funds right now. **Councilwoman Davis** And I have a question also, Ms. Davis, just, why wouldn't this all be part of recreation if we're doing concerts and it's, whether it's administration or whatever, it's going to be put in under the recreation. Is that going to correct or not? **Councilwoman Scruggs** And there were some of recreation committee members that felt that same way would be that, but this was a council initiative and council decided to move in this manner. Recreation could take this on but then that would be increased in their budget and not ours and I do believe that they have some other things that they are working on. Concert they would probably be more focused on supporting the mayor concerts rather than additional concerts if that makes sense **Councilwoman Davis** Because we have a line item already for concerts. It doesn't say administration concerts, it just says concerts or whatever. Let's get to why we're here. **Council President Hardin** Let's get to why we're here. The reason we are here is because the traditional concerts under the mayor's program, the concern was not all of the different genres were addressed. So that's why we took it on. I don't want to give up that option. And I don't know if the current administration has the same line of thought for the type of music, but this way I know that those were the things that the constituents wanted. At least I know they'll get it through this council, the genres. **Councilwoman Warren** That's the only reason I didn't mention anything about reducing it because of the cost I mentioned reducing it, because I would think that hers would address the things that the public had shown dissatisfaction with as far as the genre so I'm thinking maybe we would need as many if her choices were different. Right. **Council President Hardin** So

that's maybe a conversation. As it stands, we're going to leave it in. **Councilwoman Davis** Yes, the 26-250. OK, next line item is marketing, the canvo, the videographer, social media. We have no bills paid for that. So how do I know who are we paying? **Council President Hardin** Where are you? **Councilwoman Davis** The next one right underneath the council, special events. **Council President Hardin** Alright, this brings up something. We have to find out what's going on. The question has been asked, who are these people? Is it a written contract? And I'm reminded by our previous colleague that it's the video and the live streaming. It's an agreement and that Brian is aware of the vendor and the charge. So Mary, would you send a message to Brian? We want to know if there is a contract because we want this to be consistent. **Councilwoman Davis** Yeah, we have nothing. I don't even have any bills. I mean, we didn't spend anything in 25, but we have it listed as 6,500 was appropriated. Yes. But we don't have any billing and any payments. **Council President Hardin** I think what has happened, they're billing and not getting paid. **Councilwoman Warren** I have a question. This \$26,250, who gets credit for that? **Councilwoman Davis** That's for the, that's for our special events, council special events. Oh, that is the events. That's the events for the concerts and things, because we don't want to have safety forces. **Councilwoman Scruggs** Okay, this is Councilperson Scruggs. I did have a conversation with our videographer and she mentioned currently the YouTube subscription that she is posting our council Meeting on is we are underneath the free Trial period or whatever like it's not necessarily a trial There's so many upload that you can do for free, and it mapped out to be about five months of free things because we were only streaming once a month. We're streaming on the fourth Tuesday of the month, so that mapped out about five months. But we are going to be coming upon the time where She's going to have to pay in order to upload Probably I believe if I'm correct, it's gonna be right around May Where? She will run out of opportunities to post an upload without us paying the subscription So there will need to be a YouTube Added into this line item as well. So we can continue to upload our videos. And then at that point, we can upload as many as we want. Once we start paying. Once you start paying, we could upload Tuesday Right now it's the free version. **Council President Hardin** Can I ask the fact can I can I please you know we haven't had our organizational meeting you know the dog is wagging the tail wagging a dog right now Taunya I know you got a lot on you would you take that as your responsibility sure to verify that the that those two sources information are in place and that they are being paid the I found out the reason it wasn't in other words videographer What didn't know who to contact here would you make that connection and make that be yourself please alright so we have a videographer and we have the other person do you know the other. **Councilwoman Scruggs** I don't know who they are but I'll make sure I've introduced myself in and make sure they understand I am the point of contact **Councilwoman Davis** I mean, we have the videotaping, but what are you talking about, another person that's doing something else? **Council President Hardin** One video and other live streams. Just two processes going on, on the second and fourth Tuesday. So if we're going to do it, it has to be, I really, I almost would like to see something drawn up **Councilwoman Davis** Right. Because we have no costs. We have nothing. **Council President Hardin** Contact the law director. Get a formal... After you get the numbers and the information, draw up a formal ordinance because really I don't know how it's being paid. That gives them the responsibility to make certain that they inform us if they can't get here something this way is they're just out there okay but this is putting it under some control okay yes thank you **Councilwoman Warren** I have a question, has anyone ever watched it to see the quality of the video? I haven't, but it was told to me that it was not, the quality was questionable. That there was a problem with the quality of the video. So, I'm just throwing it out there. **Councilwoman Davis** Can we look at it, or it's only the day of, is it just a day of or we can look at it now? I have no idea. **Councilwoman Scruggs** I have no idea. So when you're posting to YouTube, you can always go back and look at the recording videos and then anything that's live stream usually has some type of a record to it as well. So you can kind of go back, and watch it later. Live stream really just gives you an opportunity to do it at the same time that it's happening. So that's just kind of the difference. So, you should be able to see everything. Later all of them later **Councilwoman Davis** So is that on our website? I mean, how do we, I don't even know how we get into it. **Councilwoman Warren** Council's website and you just click on a date. **Councilwoman Davis** And we click on the date and then just, okay, and then we're supposed to... Okay. All right. Do you have some. **Council President Hardin** All right. Do you want to work on that by yourself or do you want that? Yeah, that's simple. Okay. Yeah. So your counterpart has brought up another idea. I mean another concern. Would you verify that the quality and get back to council? Give us three. Sorry about that. **Councilwoman Scruggs** No, I'm probably gonna be a worse critic

than I count on **Councilwoman Davis** If I don't look beautiful and perfect over here, then yes. I just, I mean, if we're contract. **Councilwoman Davis** We need to know. We need the best quality power. I mean, I've heard, I have people in my residence that have told me they watched it, but they never complained, yes or no, that it was not good, so I have no idea. I am not, I never asked them if it was good or not, they just said they had to, they see it on computers, so. **Councilwoman Davis** But also what she charges for actually doing it. You know, I know she charges, it's going to be paying a YouTube subscription, you said, but also what, she charges us, or he, both of them, you know, for the two of them per hour of how they're doing it. It should have been an ordinance, so I don't know how he's paying them. And this is also, I thought it would be also with the same, for that person that took our picture, I mean, I never even seen a picture of that, remember we had the photographer came? **Council President Hardin** Because he never got a bill because he could never round all of you up like chickens here. I think he never had a full compliment. **Councilwoman Davis** So that's why I said we have to do we have to still I mean is that their contract with him because I thought we paid him \$650 for that. **Council President Hardin** We can check but I don't think I don't think we got, I know we didn't get a finished product because not everybody made themselves available. **Councilwoman Davis** Okay, so we don't have any. Well, so that's, yeah, I think we paid them. I thought we, I thought, **Council President Hardin** Mary, you want to check to see? **Councilwoman Davis** Yeah, I'll check that. Check that one out. Yes. All right, anything else? Okay. All right. Next one, next item, we go down from marketing, is mailing and postage. We added \$600 because the stamps have gone up, but, you know, we still get a group rate because if we do it through the city, whatever. So, okay, that's that. Copier contract, IT, we really don't get a whole lot of choice. We gave them \$4,000 appropriated for 25. We're keeping it at \$4000, even though we always spend on what Mr. Thompson said, \$2,600, about this year so far. So \$4k should still cover what we need for IT and contract. **Councilwoman Warren** I have a question. **Councilwoman Davis** Yes, go ahead. **Councilwoman Warren** With the IT. We have, okay, I'm just going to give you an example of usage. We have. **Council President Hardin** Let the record show that Council Person Bliss's is here. **Councilwoman Warren** I'm not building. We have the, um, hang on. The IT? I'm speaking of IT. Okay. Just say we have the building department. Yes. So you have zoning board of appeals, planning commission. **Councilwoman Warren** Architecture review just for example okay just say for Zoning Board of Appeals we downloaded that into the computer so that people can go there and say like I gave you an example they always can I can I paint my house perfect yes can I put my garage one foot from the sideline yes and with IT can put in AI and that question can be answered without them going calling the building department and things like that. So I'm wondering as far as that line item goes, I wouldn't want to decrease it if anything I would want to increase it because we need to start using that more often. It cuts down on phone calls and things and answers the residents questions immediately. If you gave them the Zoning Board of Appeals booklet, it would be too complicated, so not too complicated. **Councilwoman Davis** But my question would be, why can't they just call the building department and ask them? I mean, that's a question they can answer. **Councilwoman Warren** That's the whole point of the computer system and the NIT is that it cuts down on that and then you end up cutting down on manpower. That's how it's supposed to work itself out. I'm just saying it would be nice to have those things, to start putting those things in place. It doesn't have to occur all in one year, but just a little by little it would nice. **Council President Hardin** Councilperson Scruggs. **Councilwoman Scruggs** So I'm all in support of the IT initiative because we just have so many things all around that will help us to become just more up to date. I'm wondering if we could create a list, because I feel like we're gonna have to do this for every single budget, of the things that. Maybe we could potentially come back to, maybe mid year and say, do we have the capacity to increase the budget a little bit? To support this IT initiative because we just don't have enough. Instead of putting it in in the beginning where we know that I feel like we really kind of need to start looking at the budgets and about what we need to take out. But I feel very strongly about the IT support, but I don't want to lose our conversations because when we talk about it now, it's fresh in our mind and we know why we need it. Should we create a list of the things as we're meeting that we knew, we know that We are like our top items that If we can't give the money now, then maybe we could come back and say, okay, let's look at our budget, see if there's a way that we can increase it a little bit for our IT or whatever it is. So I'm trying to look at this right now. So that's my point one, but my second point is, is it anything on here that we could shave down? Because that's the way I'm looking at every budget right now because I'm a little nervous about what's been presented from our finance director and how we're going to be able to manage that for

all of the budgets for 2026. So, **Council President Hardin** For the record, Councilperson Lastery entered at the same time as Mr. Bliss did. We just want to show you that you're in the meeting. We're on record. **Councilwoman Davis** Okay, because we gave for this one we only spent 26, but we're given a 4000 or 4000 we're using so that's \$1400 more That we're putting available. I'm saying for that IT Section so do you think yeah, it's up to you guys to tell me the appropriation, you know, the copy of IT support, is that where we go under? Because we used 2600 this year. 2600. And then they. **Councilwoman Warren** And then they have software, computers, then down below you have equipment and software. **Councilwoman Davis** That's a different item. That's just for copier contract where we have to pay the contractor to fix the copier. I think that's something. **Councilwoman Warren** Wouldn't it be software for the AI? **Councilwoman Davis** And 80 and it's got IT support. So would that be under the IT support that we got an extra 1400 we're adding to it That's how we appropriate it four thousand and twenty five. I'm just saying if we appropriate four thousand We're doing in 26. **Council President Hardin** Which one is with the copier and support. **Councilwoman Davis** Contract and IT support is what we gave \$4,000. We appropriated \$4000 for \$25,000, we used \$2,600. \$4. That's why I thought it would be IT support. \$14. So you went back to \$14,000?

Council President Hardin Up to 4,000. **Councilwoman Davis** That's what it is right now, \$4,000 is what we have it at. So we'll be okay with 4,000 or? Yes. Anybody else? Maybe you could show me the name of the band. Yeah, this one. I wrote it. So let me show you. You know what, ask, have Evan's in his office in there to make one more copy. I thought we had enough, but maybe we have a few more. Here's one, you got one? Okay, never mind. Right here, right here. This one came, okay, thank you, this one came up. I mean, and this is the one that I wrote in originally when we made our project, so, come on. This one, this has a look just like this, red, yellow, and my writing at the bottom. That one's right on the top. Because Evan made a copy, copied it to us, so. Okay, he's got everything in there. Okay, I just want to know, this is what we did during our budget. We're just reviewing the budgets ahead of available now, so we're supposed to be speaking about budgets, so we were just reviewing our budgets. Okay, we just did the copier and IT support. Down here, copier, and we'll use that one, okay? Well, this one they said they got, it was supposed to be October, this is the one we did on 12-22-25. We went over this and you see the date that we did it. So, that's why...

Council President Hardin Can we get a confirmation from the mayor while she's here? She is not available on the 16th. Brian will not be back until the 18th. Mayor, could you help us come up with a date so we can get through these budgets? We're just waiting on two. **Mayor Nikolic** I just spoke with Taunya, Brian's out of town until the 18th. And so this was a planned vacation he had. I forgot he did send it to me in advance. He was out of the room and we made the date for today. So it was an honest mistake on my part because I forgot he had told me. But I just told Taunya any day after the 18, send me a couple over. I'll text him right now. And then he'll respond. He is responding by text. Sorry. **Council President Hardin** You got it! **Mayor Nikolic** So I'm here listening, so send over the dates if you agree. I'll text it to him and I'll get right back to you. **Council President Hardin** Excellent. That's the purpose. **Councilwoman Warren** She said he'll be back after the 15th?

Councilwoman Davis Monday are we still meeting? That's Monday my husband had surgery. No, because we need their budgets. **Council President Hardin** We're good with what we have.

Councilwoman Davis I have to wait to see how he does in the surgery. He's having a spinal surgery and it's gonna be a rough one down to the clinic. He's gonna begin there at least five days and plus we gotta go to either rehab or if I'm rehab at home and it is gonna be a rough time so I can't put anything on my list right now so that's why. **Councilman Bliss** I understand. **Councilwoman Warren** We can cancel Monday? That's the only total budget you had?

Council President Hardin We can cancel Monday because she's not available and Brian isn't here. So Monday's off. Okay.

Councilman Bliss Our next council meeting is at 24th? **Council President Hardin** Yes We were trying to come up with a try to get the budgets the last two from the administration so Just have to wait Well, let's comply with her with the mayor's concern. She said that he won't be back until the 18th And we know we won't have Mary so how about everybody else starting with the week of the 24th of the 23rd do you want to just have but it's all contingent on him giving us what we need there's no need in meeting if she can't confirm they will have those two budgets **Councilwoman Scruggs** So here this is Councilperson Scruggs. Usually when you are working with multiple departments and you have budget information you give a deadline of when you need the budgets turned in and then if we're unable to review an additional request then we usually would say we will approve the appropriations that were previously approved the previous year and then we can revisit the conversation just so we don't miss that timeline of turning in what we need to the state and we can

kind of I guess look at the previous years and just make sure that you know we were good with whatever happened last year, but usually. It doesn't stop us from approving. It's just nice to know what the department would like to see. And so we don't have to come back and do those. But if we can't get that meeting in, in a good time, then we need to just go ahead and just decide. I'm not going to tell us what to do. We need to decide if we are going to just say, then we will just go with 2025. Numbers for those two departments. **Council President Hardin** That that works and that's what we've done in the past so if we're at that point that's what we'll do. Great move we're spinning our wheels here so the next actual scheduled council meeting is the 24th just a statement **Councilwoman Davis** February 24th. **Council President Hardin** February 24th. So now we're in March. Keeping in mind the deadline for getting us to the county is March 31st. The first scheduled meeting in March is the 10th. That's a scheduled council meeting. So do you want to have a budget meeting an hour or the day of the meeting or any time prior to the 10th of March. **Councilwoman Warren** Do we want to have a meeting before that? **Council President Hardin** It's up to you all, and I'm going to use your example. We will set a deadline for those last two budgets so that we can move on. **Councilwoman Scruggs** I think we should set some time to revisit the conversations of each budget because we've got so much information and we've been looking at it since October we started yeah first one gave their budgets I know time to go back and say are we are we going to keep it or are we gonna even I know we can't really do much until we see what Mr. Thompson brings, but. **Council President Hardin** And you're making a lot of sense because Councilperson Evans has asked for additional information from the police department and we actually received their budget months and months ago to the point we almost forgot that we had it. So your synopsis is firm. **Councilwoman Scruggs** And just, I'm sorry, keep in mind that NLC is on the 16th of March. So we're losing a whole three days if people are gonna go to NLC. So if we would do anything, I think the first week of March or the second week of March would be best Because we're going to lose a week. **Councilwoman Warren** You know, Rio Municipal League is, I think, the first week in March, isn't it, the seventh or something? **Council President Hardin** Well, that's during the day so Saturday training. Yes. Yeah, so it won't affect what we do All right **Councilman Lastery** I know also, too, is to have to do a little bit of charter review,. **Councilman Bliss** I thought. We'll talk about that, I think, a bit. **Councilman Lastery** . We're going to get that done. We've got to get it done by the sixth already. **Councilwoman Warren** We finished it. **Councilman Bliss** There's going to be some more discussion I'd like to bring to the table on that. **Council President Hardin** Okay. Yeah. All right. So let's do this. Come on. Look at the big picture. We're not going to deal with the 24th. Is that what I'm understanding? That's the actual meeting. **Councilwoman Scruggs** Actual meeting. We would like to have Ms. Davis' part so I will. **Council President Hardin** She won't be here. **Councilwoman Scruggs** So I would say no unless everyone else just wants to meet **Council President Hardin** So what do you want? **Councilwoman Scruggs** I say the first week of March. **Councilman Bliss** That's that's what I was going to say too. I think that's great. **Council President Hardin** So we're going to give the administration The opportunity to get everything those last two budgets to us by March what let's start with that **Councilman Bliss** The last two, I think the last two budgets, we don't want to wait until March. We want those sooner than that. I mean, they should be done already. So I would say the last to budgets no later than our council meeting on the 24th. And then the March date, as I think we were saying, is to look at everything totality before we go to the NLC or whatever. And then get it to the by the deadline. **Councilwoman Warren** So then the mayor would have to have the information in by the 24th. **Councilman Bliss** The packet goes out the packet comes to us on the 20th Right. Yeah, so it should be in the packet for the 24th meetings and then thank you Thank you Yvonne. Because that pushes it back it's not 20th if this they need to have it by I mean It's not the 24. They need to have it by the 20th so that we can look at it and review in our board Does that make sense? **Councilwoman Warren** It makes sense, but I'm just saying you're only giving her how long. **Councilman Bliss** A week, yeah. A week. Yeah. Just a week. Should be done now! **Councilwoman Davis** It was due before the end of December 31st. **Council President Hardin** Okay, so that's reasonable too. So we're saying we want it by the 20th. Is that correct? **Councilman Bliss** The last two budgets by the 20th. **Council President Hardin** Okay, Friday. Yeah, it's a week from today Okay, kind of like a winner and then we want to have our meeting before NLC so you want to an actual meeting on it? You're going to review it on the 24th at a council meeting for a minute. Yeah. We're not going to go in depth We're just going to verify that we have what we need, right? Right, but the actual budget meeting You want the first week in March? So what day, from the 2nd through the 6th, would you like to have your budget meeting? **Councilman Bliss** I'm pretty flexible just to let

you know. **Council President Hardin** Okay, second is a two is a Monday. It's a Monday everybody okay with that? What time? **Councilwoman Scruggs** I'm okay with anything after four or anything after 3:30. **Councilwoman Davis** So 4 o'clock we could start **Councilwoman Scruggs** If you could start. **Councilman Bliss** Yvonne is that okay? **Councilwoman Warren** Yes **Council President Hardin** Budget meeting on the March 2nd. Okay, everything in by February 20th. All right **Councilman Bliss** The last two budgets in by Friday, that's the last two that they promised us and then on our meeting on the 2nd, it's going to be, we want to review everything in totality before we submit to be compliant with our deadline.

Council President Hardin That sounds good. Not pressed. Okay. And Mary? Did you get that? I got it. All right. So it's your committee. So that's how we're going to go about it. Any other questions? Because we've got to go into our next meeting. Any other? Are all minds clear? Any questions? All right, if there's no more questions on the budget, may I have a motion to Okay.

Councilwoman Scruggs I'm sorry, one question. There was some classes that you said that you wanted council to check out. And I thought that there were some dates in January and February, and I think we missed them. So I don't even remember what those are, so I apologize, I didn't do it.

Councilman Lastery I can I can answer that too. Okay. Yeah the I didn't mean cut you off So this is this is councilman Bliss and so we were talking about the ability for the board to attend some of the training It's always good for new board members. I'm not you know, and it's good for it's Good for existing board members So let me tell you exactly what it is. Give me just one sec because I'm gonna pull it up here And only reason I know it is because I sent it to my councilman Lastery, so it's easy to find. So what it is that the Ohio Municipal League, Yvonne, has their training. It's March 7th. It's on Rockside Road. I originally signed up for the wrong one. I was going to Cincinnati and I was like, oh heck no guys. So it's a Saturday, March 7. Today is, what's today? See, today's the 13th, so I think there's still time to register. **Councilwoman Warren** We're registered. **Councilman Lastery**

We are all we are registered. Okay, I didn't know that. **Councilwoman Warren** There we are. Eloise, you did it? **Council President Hardin** I took care of it. **Councilman Bliss** Okay, so then, okay, that's good information. I want to confirm. **Councilwoman Davis** What time does it start and where was it at?

Councilwoman Warren Independence on Rockside **Councilman Lastery** Yeah, let's see. You have a membership training. **Councilwoman Warren** There is an agenda on the website. **Councilwoman Warren** Syllabus and you know what they're going to cover it in. **Councilman Lastery** Yeah, it's it's kind of a half a day, but it's all there so as you obviously membership was training **Council President Hardin** It is fabulous training, you should, everybody, I'll show you before you leave what's entailed. And every new council member, even some of the old burghs, should go periodically because it's a lot of good information. And it's just a good refresher. And you get to talk to your colleagues. All right, so Everybody knows about that particular training class. All of this was supposed to be in our organizational meeting. And that was back in January. So some of you, I got to some of the, I'm sorry. **Councilwoman Scruggs** It's okay. **Councilman Lastery** Okay, but thank you for bringing it up, Mr. Bliss. **Councilwoman Scruggs** I make a motion to end our finance committee meeting at 318.

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD

SPECIAL MEETING

February 14th ,2026

ATTENDED

Council President- Hardin	
Ward 1- Taunya Scruggs	
Ward 2 Yvonne-Evans-Warren	

ABSENT

Council-At-Large- Norman Bliss	Mayor- Erica Nikotic
Ward 3-Paggie Matlock	Law- James Climer
Ward 4- Mary Davis	Finance-Brian L. Thompson
Ward 5- Joseph Lastery	Service- Tom Haba
	Fire- Dave Tapp
	Police- Mark Garratt
	Building- Roland Walker
	Engineer- Matt Jones
	Recreation- Karen Gaither

1. Meeting called to order by Hardin at 11:30 AM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Executive session- To consider the appointment, Employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public official or employee.
5. Legislation

2026-14 – A resolution appointing Malcolm C. Sims Jr. to the position of Ward 5 councilperson for the term commencing January 1, 2026, and expiring December 31, 2029, and declaring an emergency.

An executive session did take place but there was no clear vote on it or the adjournment.

6. There is so clear adjournment for the meeting.