

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 **Sunday, July 12, 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.



Carol Jackson, Clerk of Council

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Repeal Legislation

5:00 PM-6:00pm
Sunday, July 12, 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 L. 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

THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

February 20th, 2026

ATTENDED

Council President- Eloise Hardin	
Ward 1- Taunya Scruggs	
Ward 2- Yvonne Evans- Warren	
Ward 3- Paggie Matlock	
Ward 4- Mary Davis	

This is a city council meeting focused on addressing a Ward 5 council seat vacancy. Here's what happened:

Main Purpose

The council convened to vote on overriding the mayor's veto of Resolution 2026-14, which appointed Malcolm C. Sims Jr. to fill the vacant Ward 5 council seat.

Key Actions & Timeline

The Veto Override:

The mayor vetoed the appointment on February 15, 2026

A two-thirds affirmative vote (5 in favor) was required to override the veto

Councilperson Evans moved to adopt the resolution appointing Sims for the term January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2029

Background on the Appointment Process:

The Ward 5 seat became vacant on January 12, 2026

On February 4, 2026, candidates were interviewed and scored (1-5 scale) during an executive session

Malcolm C. Sims Jr. received the highest score and was selected by majority vote

He took his oath of office on February 14, 2026 (Saturday)

Other Business

Council Clerk Recruitment: The council discussed reviewing a second batch of resumes for the council clerk position. Members were asked to review candidates and prepare for interviews at Tuesday's meeting

Budget Hearing Documents: There was a question about whether council members received necessary budget hearing documents

Closing

Councilperson Evans read a formal statement into the record explaining the council's authority in the appointment process and thanking the previous interim council member, Joseph Lastery, for his service during the transition.

The statement read during the meeting was delivered by **Councilperson Evans** near the end of the meeting. Here's what was read into the record:

"This is council's statement in regard to, well, not necessarily statement, but our agreement in regard to the Ward 5 council vacancy.

Under Section 7.07, Vacancy in the Charter, whenever the office of a member of council shall become vacant for any reason, the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of all the remaining members of the council. If the council shall not fill such vacancy within 30 days after the date the vacancy has occurred, the power of council to do so shall lapse and the mayor will make appointment to fill such vacancy. Such appointee shall hold office for the unexpired term of the member in whose office the vacancy has occurred.

We recognize from an email dated February 14, 2026, from Mayor Erica Nikolic where she believes that Ward 5 council seat became vacant January 12, 2026. Regardless of when the vacancies occurred, our charter states the council has 30 days in this scenario from January 12th, 2026, until February 11th, 2026, at 11:59 PM to fill the vacancy.

What follows here is our timeline:

- February 4th, 2026: By special meeting and while in executive session candidates were interviewed and rated on a scale of one to five by each member of council present. The total score achieved by each candidate was determined by the Clerk of Council and confirmed by one member of council. The candidate with the highest score was determined to be Malcolm C. Sims, Jr. Council came out of executive session and resumed the special meeting. The total score of each candidate was reported and Malcolm C Sims, Jr., was declared the candidate to fill the Ward 5 council seat by members of council. The council seat was filled with a majority vote on all the remaining members of council at that time.

Section 6.08 Oath Required in the Charter: Every officer of this municipality shall within 10 days after the commencement of his term and before assuming office take and subscribe his oath or affirmation to support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the Charters, ordinances and resolutions of this Municipality, and to faithfully honestly and impartially discharge the duties of his office. He shall give such bond as is required by ordinance of council the premium to be paid by the municipality. The oath is the final step required for the appointment to begin serving and failure to complete it recreates the vacancy. Malcolm C. Sims Jr. Took his oath of office at a special meeting of council on Saturday, February 14, 2026.

Section 7.05 Qualifications Quorum: The council shall be the judge of the election and qualification of its members. A majority of all members elected to the council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number may adjourn from day to day and compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as may be provided by rules of the council.

We would like to take this time to thank Joseph Lastery for accepting the Ward 5 council seat that expired with the term ending December 31, 2025. During this transition, your dedication, time, and commitment ensured that our council continued to function smoothly and we are grateful for your service to our community.

On behalf of Council, we are pleased to welcome Malcolm C. Sims Jr. as our newest Ward 5 council member. We look forward to working together to serve our community and appreciate your commitment and dedication to our residents, sincerely."**

Legislation Discussed:

Resolution 2026-14 – Appointing Malcolm C. Sims Jr. to the Ward 5 council seat vacancy

Vote Status: a motion was made to adopt the resolution.

Here's what we know:

- **Councilperson Evans moved** that the council adopt Resolution 2026-14, which would appoint Malcolm C. Sims Jr. to the Ward 5 council position for the term January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2029, and declare an emergency
- **Hardin confirmed** this action would override the mayor's veto from February 15, 2026
- The meeting then moved into other business (council clerk recruitment, budget hearing documents)

The meeting concluded with a motion to adjourn made by Davis and seconded by Scruggs.

No time was stated when it ended.

Approved (date)

Council President, Eloise Hardin

Posted (date)

Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry

THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD

COUNCIL MEETING

February 24th, 2026

ATTENDED

Eloise Hardin- Council President	Erica L. Nikolic- Mayor
Norman Bliss -President Pro Tempore	James Climere/ Sam O’Leary
Taunya Scruggs-Ward 1	Brain L. Thompson- Finance
Yvonne Evans-Warren- Ward 2	Tom Haba- Service
Paggie Matlock- Ward 3	Dave Tapp-Fire
Mary Davis-Ward 4	Mark Garratt-Police
Malcolm Sims Jr.- Ward 5	Roalnd Walker-Building
	Matt Jones- Engineer
	Recreation- Karen Gaither

1. Meeting called to order by Hardin at 7:00PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call

Charter Amendment Legislation (Primary Focus)

The council spent a significant portion of the meeting discussing proposed charter amendments. The main points included:

Section 7.06 (Removal of Officials): A contentious discussion about whether council should have the authority to remove elected officials and directors. The mayor expressed concern that council shouldn't be the sole judge of removal, arguing that such decisions should go through recall elections or courts. Councilwoman Evans countered that council needs this power as a check on the mayor's authority, particularly in cases of gross negligence or felony convictions.

Section 7.07 (Vacancy): Discussed procedures for filling vacancies and ensuring voters have opportunities for longer-term appointments at general elections.

Section 13.08 (Ethics and Conflicts of Interest): A title correction was needed for this ordinance to properly reflect its substantive content about ethical conduct.

Bundling Decision: Council voted to bundle the charter amendments (2026-04) and reference work session numbers 13-30, which contain the specific proposed changes. The Law Director was called during the meeting to clarify the format for submission to the Board of Elections.

Ward 5 Council Seat Appointment Dispute

A significant controversy emerged regarding the appointment to fill Councilwoman Hill's vacated seat: The Mayor appointed Joseph Lastery within 30 days of the vacancy. Council voted to appoint Malcolm Sims instead. The dispute centers on when the seat was considered vacant and who had appointment authority. The mayor indicated they would seek outside legal counsel to resolve the conflict. Both young men received public support, with residents emphasizing the need to focus on qualifications and performance rather than politics

Ordinance 2026-09: Scholarship Awards Committee

Passed on third reading with a minor typo correction (changing "community" to "committee" in the title).

Ordinance 2026-10: Community Center Rental Fee Schedule

Tabled to allow for additional information and the mayor's input, with a recommendation to maintain current fees for March while the new schedule is finalized.

Ordinance 2026-15: Village Engineer Contract

Moved to third reading; the Finance Director requested additional time to review the compensation figures with the engineer.

Property Parcels for Sale

Discussion about parcels that have been tabled for months. Council requested the Law Director provide clarification on how to put properties up for bid and obtain better appraisals. Resolutions 2025-37 through 42 were referred to the Law Director for further review.

Departmental Reports

Service Director-Haba: Reported on community center events and noted issues with doors being left unlocked after events.

Building Department-Walker: Announced completion of software training and recruiting for part-time positions. Discussed ongoing enforcement action against a property on Macedonia with code violations.

Recreation Director -Gaither: Reported good participation in activities, plans for new fitness classes and day trips.

Police Captain-Garratt: Announced a new Citizens Academy starting in September 2026, with details about training simulators and "Coffee with a Cop" events planned for spring.

Fire Chief-Tapp: Reported on new ambulance procurement (\$440,000, three-year loan) and a donated shaker ambulance.

Mayor-Nikolic

Main Topic: Ward 5 Council Seat Appointment Dispute

The mayor's report focused primarily on the controversy surrounding the appointment to fill Councilwoman Hill's vacated Ward 5 council seat.

Key Points: The Conflict: There is contradicting information about who has the right to appoint to the Ward 5 seat. The mayor appointed Joseph Lastery within 30 days of the vacancy. Council voted to appoint Malcolm Sims instead. Gray area exists about when the seat was considered vacant. **The Mayor's Position:** The seat became vacant either when Councilwoman Hill sent her resignation letter OR when council declared it vacant by legislation. Either way, 30 days passed, giving the mayor the right to appoint. The mayor appointed Mr. Lastery. Council did not have time to override the mayor's veto before appointing Mr. Sims.

Resolution Plan: The mayor stated they will proceed with questions to **outside counsel** to determine which appointment holds true. Goal: Get a clear understanding of which appointment is legally valid. The mayor emphasized this is not against either young man personally. The mayor stated: "I like you had the cutest baby on our street, Mr. Lastery. I hold you in high regard." **Moving Forward:** The mayor expressed interest in working together in the best interest of the village. Stated they will move forward regardless, but this is a current point of contention. The veto is available online for anyone to read. Emphasized the need to resolve this without conflict **Quote from Mayor:**

"So we will be proceeding with questions to outside counsel as to which appointment holds true, so we can put that to rest so we all can have a clear understanding of which appointment hold true. Because right now, there is some gray area."

Public Comment Highlights

Residents raised several concerns: Request for charter information to be mailed to households to inform voters. Questions about financial report transparency and posting to the website. Concerns about the Ward 5 appointment process and whether candidates who didn't re-interview were excluded from consideration. Criticism of the bundled charter approach; suggestions to separate substantive changes or move the vote to November. Support for the young council member appointed to Ward 5, with emphasis on performance over politics. Concerns about Ward 5 representation and the need for accessible council members

Legislation

The meeting focused heavily on charter amendment legislation, with extensive debate about how to present multiple proposed changes to voters. The council discussed 18 different charter amendments, with particular emphasis on two controversial sections.

Ordinance 2026-04: Bundle of Charter Amendments

Purpose: An ordinance submitted to the electors of the Village of Oakwood regarding the question of adopting a proposed amended charter for the village and declaring an emergency.

Key Details: Scope: Contains references to **Work Session Numbers 2026-13 through 2026-30**, which encompass all proposed charter amendments. Format Issue: Originally included Exhibit A with older proposed changes but was amended to specifically reference the work session numbers that reflect the most current council decisions Deadline: Must be submitted to the Board of Elections by March 6th. Voting Format: Significant debate about whether amendments should be voted on as a bundle (all-or-nothing) or individually

Council Vote on Bundling

Motion: To include Ordinance 2026-17 (Section 7.06 - Removal) in the bundle

Result: 5-2 votes to INCLUDE it in the bundle

Yes: Councilman Sims, Davis, Matlock, Warren, Bliss (5)

No: Council President Hardin, Bliss (2)

Amendment to 2026-04

Council voted to REPEAL the original 2026-04

Then voted to AMEND a new version to specifically reference Work Session 13-30 instead of the original Exhibit A

This ensures the Board of Elections receives the most current charter amendments as approved by council

Ordinance 2026-17: Section 7.06 - Removal of Officials

The Controversy: This was the most contentious piece of legislation discussed, with fundamental disagreement about governmental structure.

What It Proposes: The ordinance would allow the Village Council to remove elected officials and administrative directors (such as the Law Director, Finance Director, etc.) for cause, including:

Adjudication of legal incompetence

Conviction of a felony

Gross misconduct or gross negligence of duty with respect to official powers and duties

Failure to possess qualifications of office

Mayor's Opposition

Primary Concern: The mayor argued that Section G gives council the ability to both find cause AND be the judge of that cause, which she views as problematic.

Her Position:

Council should NOT be the sole judge of removing elected officials

Elected officials should only be removable through:

Recall elections (where voters decide)

Court proceedings (judicial review)

Council can make a finding of probable cause, but shouldn't be the final arbiter

This applies to both elected officials AND appointed administrative directors

The provision goes "way beyond what council should be permitted to do"

It undermines democracy by allowing council to remove people the electors voted for

Councilwoman Evans' Support

Her Position (representing the Charter Commission majority):

The Charter Commission (9 members selected by council and mayor) thoroughly discussed this

Council NEEDS this power as a check on the mayor's authority

Scenario: If someone commits a felony or acts with gross negligence and the mayor doesn't act, should that person remain in office?

Council should have recourse if the mayor is "laissez-faire" and doesn't discipline problematic staff

A paper trail of violations should be required before removal

The ordinance still provides for a hearing before removal

Council is acting on behalf of the people when the mayor fails to act

Assistant Law Director's Concerns

The term "gross misconduct or gross negligence of duty" lacks an objective test

It's too vague to use as grounds for removing a public official

There are other remedies available (recall, executive session discussions with the mayor)

This creates structural conflicts between administration and council

In his experience with other municipalities, allowing council to review disciplinary matters creates "constant conflict" between council and mayor

Employees naturally go to council members they favor when they disagree with rules

This undermines the mayor's authority to run the administration

Other Council Concerns

Newspaper Publication: One council member questioned why notice of removal hearings must be published in newspapers, suggesting the village website would be more appropriate

Definition Issues: Debate over how to define "gross negligence" - what's gross to one person may not be to another

Precedent: The provision applies to administrative directors, not just elected officials

Ordinance 2026-18: Section 7.07 - Vacancy

Purpose

Addresses procedures for filling vacancies and ensuring voters have opportunities for longer-term appointments.

Key Provisions

Distinguishes between partial-term and full-term appointments

Uses mathematical calculations to determine when appointments go to voters

If a vacancy occurs with less than 120 days remaining in a term, the appointment goes to the primary at the next general election

If more than 120 days remain, it's treated as a full-term appointment

Council Assessment

Described as "probably the most important section of the charter that we're reviewing"

Viewed positively as solving problems the village has experienced in the past

Ensures power goes to voters for longer-term appointments

Less controversial than Section 7.06

Ordinance 2026-24 (Corrected): Section 13.08 - Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

The Problem

The ordinance had a mismatch title:

Original Title: "An ordinance to submit to the electors of the village the question of adopting the proposed new charter, section 1308, to permit council to correct typographical and other errors of form in the charter in declaring an emergency"

Actual Content: Addressed ethical conduct and conflicts of interest

The Fix

Council voted to amend the title to read: **"An ordinance to submit to the electors of the village the question of adopting proposed new charter section 13.08, ethical conduct and conflict of interest policy and penalties, consistent with the general laws of the state of Ohio"**

Purpose

Ensure compliance with Ohio Revised Code (ORC)

Establishes that civil and criminal penalties for violations of ethical conduct and conflicts of interest shall be in accordance with general laws of the state of Ohio

Vote on Title Amendment

Motion: To amend the title of 2026-24

Result: PASSED unanimously

Hardin: Yes, Bliss: Yes, Scruggs: Yes, Warren: Yes, Matlock: Yes, Davis: Yes, Sims: Yes.

Ordinance 2026-09: Scholarship Awards Committee

Purpose

Emergency ordinance establishing the Oakwood Scholarship Awards Committee and prescribing rules therefor.

Status

Third reading

Minor Correction: Title changed from "community" to "committee"

Vote: PASSED

Hardin: Yes, Bliss: Yes, Warren: Yes, Matlock: Yes, Davis: Yes, Sims: Yes.

Scruggs: No

Ordinance 2026-10: Community Center Rental Fee Schedule

Purpose

Establishing a new rental fee schedule for the Oakwood Community Center and declaring an emergency.

Status

Third reading

Action: TABLED

Reason: Council needed additional information and the mayor's input on the fee structure

Recommendation: Maintain current fee schedule for March to allow time for analysis

Note: Includes rental of community park facilities

Ordinance 2026-15: Village Engineer Contract

Purpose

Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Sheppard and Valley Engineers Limited and setting the compensation and functions of the village engineer and his term.

Status

Second reading moved to third reading

Issue: Finance Director needed time to review compensation figures with the engineer

Action: Moved to third reading pending clarification on numbers

Resolutions 2025-37 through 2025-42: Property Parcels

Purpose

Resolutions referring matters to the Planning Commission regarding property parcels for potential sale/auction.

Status

Tabled since: July 8th (multiple months)

Current Issue: Appraisals were too low; council asked for better pricing options

Action: Referred to Law Director for clarification on:

How to put properties up for bid

How to obtain better appraisals

Whether to sell to individuals or through auction process

Questions about LLC involvement

Timeline

Law Director to provide response by next meeting

Mayor wants clarity on who is proposing to purchase and why

Key Procedural Issues Discussed

1. Bundling vs. Individual Voting

Question: Should all 18 charter amendments be voted on as one bundle (yes/no for everything) or individually?

Board of Elections Preference: Separate amendments (per Law Director's conversation)

Secretary of State: Also prefer separate amendments

Compromise Discussed: Combine non-substantive changes (pronoun changes, minor corrections) into one vote, keep substantive changes separate

Concern: Voters might not understand what they're voting for if bundled; might get confused or fatigued

Deadline Pressure

Must submit to Board of Elections by March 6th

Law Director returning March 1st or 2nd

Tight timeline for any revisions

Law Director Communication

Law Director called during meeting to clarify format

Confirmed that Exhibit A reference should be to Work Session 13-30

Agreed to check with Board of Elections on format acceptance

Promised to report back immediately on Board of Elections response

Summary of Voting Patterns

Council Members' Voting Records on Key Legislation:

Hardin

2026-04 (Initial): Yes

Include 7.06: No

Repeal 2026-04: Yes

Amend 2026-04: Yes

Amend 2026-24 Title: Yes

2026-09 (Scholarship): Yes

Bliss

2026-04 (Initial): No

Include 7.06: No

Repeal 2026-04: Yes

Amend 2026-04: No

Amend 2026-24 Title: Yes

2026-09 (Scholarship): Yes

Scruggs

2026-04 (Initial): Yes

Include 7.06: Yes

Repeal 2026-04: Yes

Amend 2026-04: Yes

Amend 2026-24 Title: Yes

2026-09 (Scholarship): No

Evans-Warren

2026-04 (Initial): Yes

Include 7.06: Yes

Repeal 2026-04: Yes

Amend 2026-04: Yes

Amend 2026-24 Title: Yes

2026-09 (Scholarship): Yes

Matlock

2026-04 (Initial): Yes

Include 7.06: Yes

Repeal 2026-04: Yes

Amend 2026-04: Yes

Amend 2026-24 Title: Yes

2026-09 (Scholarship): Yes

Davis

2026-04 (Initial): Yes

Include 7.06: Yes

Repeal 2026-04: Yes

Amend 2026-04: Yes

Amend 2026-24 Title: Yes

2026-09 (Scholarship): Yes

Sims

2026-04 (Initial): Yes

Include 7.06: Yes

Repeal 2026-04: Yes

Amend 2026-04: Yes

Amend 2026-24 Title: Yes

2026-09 (Scholarship): Yes

What Got Bundled: All 18 charter amendments (Work Sessions 2026-13 through 2026-30), including the controversial Section 7.06 on removal of officials, will be presented to voters as a single package in May 2026.

How It Will Appear on the Ballot: The exact format is still being finalized with the Board of Elections, but it will likely be either: All 18 as one yes/no vote, OR grouped into 3-4 questions (combining non-substantive changes, separating substantive ones)

The Key Vote: Council voted 5-2 to KEEP Section 7.06 (the removal provision) in the bundle rather than removing it for further discussion.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Bliss and seconded by Evans-Warren.

Meeting adjourned at 9PM.

Approved (date)

Council President, Eloise Hardin

Posted (date)

Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry

THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD

WORK SESSION

February 24th, 2026

ATTENDED

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

Late arrival*

-
1. Meeting called to order by Hardin at 6:00PM.
 2. Pledge of Allegiance
 3. Roll Call

Work session legislation discussed

2024 WS 43 - Ordinance authorizing the mayor to enter into a development agreement with CEP Remembrances Ohio for redevelopment of property and a solar energy project with recreational use

2024 WS 45 - Ordinance authorizing the mayor to enter into a contract with Sotelo and declaring an emergency

2025 WS 16 - Pay ordinance authorizing employment of an employee and setting forth duties and compensation (deferred to executive session)

2025 WS 62 - Pay ordinance authorizing employment of Darryl Harris as commercial/residential building code enforcement officer (REMOVED from agenda by vote)

2026 WS 12 - Ordinance enacting Oakwood City Ordinance Section 1185.10 prohibiting posting of signs, handbills, and other devices in public rights of way and certain private property (moved to regular agenda)

Charter Amendment Ordinances (moved to regular agenda):

Charter Amendment Ordinances (2026-13 through 2026-30) - The bulk of the meeting focused on reviewing 18 charter amendment ordinances covering topics such as:

- **Eliminating gender-specific language**
- **Permitting elected officials to hold other public offices in ex-officio capacity**
- **Boundary changes**
- **Council removal procedures**
- **Vacancy procedures**
- **Meeting procedures**
- **Finance director authority**
- **Police and Fire Chief appointment/removal procedures**
- **And various other charter updates**

All charter amendments (13-30) were moved to the regular agenda for further discussion and voting.

2026-13 - Amending section 6.07 to eliminate gender-specific language and permit elected officials to hold other public offices in ex-officio capacity

2026-14 - Amending section 7.03 of the charter (boundaries)

2026-15 - Amending section 7.04 regarding council direction of employees and contracts

2026-16 - Amending section 7.05 regarding qualifications

2026-17 - Amending section 7.06 regarding removal from office

2026-18 - Amending section 7.07 regarding vacancy procedures

2026-19 - Amending section 7.09 regarding meetings of council

2026-20 - Amending section 7.10 regarding organization of council

2026-21 - Amending section 7.10-A regarding action by council

2026-22 - Amending section 7.14 regarding publication of ordinances and resolutions

2026-23 - Adopting new charter section 13.07 to permit council to correct typographical and other errors of form

2026-24 - Adopting new charter section 13.08 regarding ethical conduct and conflicts of interest (to comply with ORC)

2026-25 - Amending section 5.03 regarding recall of elected officers

2026-26 - Repealing section 6.04 of the charter

2026-27 - Amending section 9.06 regarding the director of finance

2026-28 - Amending section 9.09 to eliminate gender-specific language and clarify two-thirds vote requirement for appointment/removal of police chief

2026-29 - Amending section 9.10 to eliminate gender-specific language and clarify two-thirds vote requirement for appointment/removal of fire chief

2026-30 - Amending section 10.11 regarding advertising costs for zoning referendums

Significant changes to certain legislation

2025 Work Session 62 - A pay ordinance authorizing the employment of Darryl Harris in the position of commercial/residential building code enforcement officer.

Vote Result: The council voted to **remove this legislation from the agenda** (it did not pass). **Scruggs made the motion Matlock second.**

Roll Call Vote:

Hardin: Yes, Bliss: Came in while vote was being taken, Scruggs: Yes, Evans: Yes, Matlock: Yes, Sims: Yes.

Motion passed.

Reason for Removal: Mayor Nikolic stated they were "no longer seeking to employ Mr. Harris" because he was a former employee of Safefield and there were non-compete restrictions preventing them from pursuing him further. The city is actively hiring for the building code enforcement officer position through Indeed.

Note: The other items discussed (charter amendments 13-30) were **moved to the regular agenda** for future consideration but were not voted on during this work session. A motion was made to move all of them to the agenda, which passed, but this is different from voting on the actual legislation itself.

Vote to move 13-30 to agenda motion was made by Hardin and seconded by Bliss.

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

Ordinance 2026-WS-22 (Emergency Agreement with Local 67 Emergency)

First Motion: A motion was made to reject an offer related to Local 67 emergency agreement but to remain open for negotiation.

Who made the motion: The speaker who made the motion is not explicitly named but immediately followed discussion indicates the motion was made without a second and failed to pass.

Voting: No second, so the motion was not considered. The discussion implied no formal vote occurred due to lack of a second.

Detailed description of Work Session

Early Legislation Items

2024 WS 43 - Development Agreement with CEP Remembrances Ohio

Ordinance authorizing the mayor to enter into a development agreement for redevelopment of property with a solar energy project and recreational use

This item had been on the agenda for a long time

No specific action was taken during this discussion

2024 WS 45 - Contract with Sotelo

Ordinance authorizing the mayor to enter into a contract with Sotelo and declaring an emergency

Also noted as being on the agenda for quite a while

No specific action taken

2025 WS 16 - Pay Ordinance for Employee

Pay ordinance authorizing employment of an employee with duties and compensation

Discussion was deferred to executive session due to PIPA (Privacy Information Protection Act) laws

No action taken in work session

2025 WS 62 - Building Code Enforcement Officer (VOTED ON)

The Issue:

Pay ordinance to authorize employment of Darryl Harris as commercial/residential building code enforcement officer

Mayor Nikolic stated they were "no longer seeking to employ Mr. Harris"

Reason for Removal:

Mr. Harris was a former employee of Safefield

Non-compete restrictions prevented the village from pursuing him further

The city is actively hiring for this position through Indeed

Motion: Scruggs made a motion to remove this legislation from the agenda Second:

Matlock seconded the motion

Roll Call Vote - All Yes:

Hardin: Yes, Bliss: Yes, Scruggs: Yes, Evans: Yes, Matlock: Yes, Sims: Yes.

Result: Legislation was removed from the agenda

2026 WS 12 - Sign Ordinance (MOVED TO REGULAR AGENDA)

The Issue:

Ordinance enacting Oakwood City Ordinance Section 1185.10

Prohibits posting of signs, handbills, and other devices in public rights of way and certain private property

Declares an emergency

Discussion:

Council President Hardin expressed concern about campaign season displays placed on village property

She felt the displays were "way, way too much"

She appreciated the timing of this ordinance, noting it's appropriate now that the campaign season is over

She emphasized the importance of making sure regulations are "level set," fair, and equitable to everybody going forward

Motion: Motion made to move to regular agenda Second: Scruggs

Roll Call Vote - All Yes:

Hardin: Yes, Bliss: Yes, Scruggs: Yes, Evans: Yes, Matlock: Yes, Sims: Yes.

Result: Moved to regular agenda

Charter Amendment Ordinances (2026-13 through 2026-30)

The bulk of the meeting focused on reviewing 18 charter amendment ordinances. This section involved extensive discussion and reading of each amendment.

Initial Confusion and Clarification

Council members initially discussed whether to read all charter amendments individually or move them collectively

Law Director Climer indicated that ordinance 2025-43 (later renumbered to 2026-04) encompasses all the charter changes

There was discussion about whether the amendments would be voted on individually or collectively by voters

The Charter Review Commission had recommended voting on all amendments at once

Council decided to read and discuss each amendment individually during the work session

Charter Amendments Discussed (in order):

2026-13 - Amending Section 6.07

Eliminates gender-specific language

Permits elected officials to hold other public offices in ex-officio capacity

Discussion included explanation of ex-officio capacity allows elected officials to serve on boards that come with their position (e.g., Councilperson Scruggs on Recreation Committee)

Example given: Police Chief could serve on council while fulfilling their role as chief

Council members asked for clarification from the Law Director on this provision

2026-14 & 2026-15 - Amending Sections 7.03 and 7.04

2026-14: Addresses boundaries (the map)

2026-15: Allows council to direct employees or appoint funds and contract with third parties as deemed necessary

These were noted as standard changes

2026-16 - Amending Section 7.05

Addresses qualifications/powers

Minor change: replaces "elected to the council" with "members of the council"

Just one word change

2026-17 - Amending Section 7.06 (Removal from Office) - SIGNIFICANT

DISCUSSION

This was the most contentious amendment

Addresses removal of elected officials and directors

Includes "for cause" clause with specific grounds (felony conviction, etc.)

Key Debate:

Council President's Objection: She stated strong objections to allowing council to remove elected officials, arguing council should not have authority to remove elected officials and that determination of "cause" should be made by a court, not council

Mayor's Position: Argued that if a director is not performing duties and interfering with another department, council needs recourse and shouldn't have to wait on administration

Finance Director Concern: Noted that if directors are beholden to council, it creates an imbalance since council controls appropriations but directors report to administration

Councilwoman Warren's Point: Referenced that Beachwood City Council has similar authority with administrative employees (like finance director), and suggested getting precedent and attorney clarification

Agreement to Revisit: Council agreed to discuss this further with the Law Director present during the regular council meeting

2026-18 - Amending Section 7.07 (Vacancy Procedures) - IMPORTANT AMENDMENT

Addresses filling council vacancies

Current process: Council fills vacancy by majority vote within 30 days; if not filled, mayor appoints

New Amendment Adds:

A successor shall be elected to serve the remainder of unexpired term at next regular or primary municipal election (if more than one year before term expiration)

Vacancy must occur at least 120 days before election

No primary contest; candidate with highest votes elected

Candidates must file petition 60 days before election

Candidate ineligible if holding different elected office at time of filing

Candidate's council seat becomes vacant if they hold another elected office

Discussion: Council President Harden emphasized this is "probably one of the most important sections" of the charter amendments and asked for careful review

2026-19 - Amending Section 7.09 (Meetings of Council)

Addresses on how council conducts business and meeting notice procedures

Change: Clarifies that 12 hours' written notice can be sent by email (in addition to mail or leaving at residence)

Noted as a "cleanup" to reflect modern communication methods

2026-20 - Amending Section 7.10 (Organization of Council)

Addresses how council organizes at commencement of term

Minor change: Replaced gender-specific pronouns (he) with specific position titles (the clerk)

2026-21 - Amending Section 7.10-A (Action by Council)

Minor change: Replaces "members elected to the council" with "members of the council"

Just the word "of" is the change

2026-22 - Amending Section 7.14 (Publication of Ordinances and Resolutions)

No significant discussion; noted as standard

2026-23 - Adopting New Charter Section 13.07 (Typographical Corrections)

Permits council to correct typographical and other errors of form in the charter

Allows corrections without going to election

Noted as "standard cleanup"

2026-24 - Adopting New Charter Section 13.08 (Ethical Conduct and Conflicts of Interest)

New section required to comply with Ohio Revised Code (ORC)

Allows council to make necessary changes without ballot measures

Noted as required compliance with state law

2026-25 - Amending Section 5.03 (Recall of Elected Officers)

Minimal changes noted

2026-26 - Repealing Section 6.04

No questions raised

2026-27 - Amending Section 9.06 (Director of Finance)

No significant discussion

2026-28 - Amending Section 9.09 (Police Chief)

Eliminates gender-specific language

Clarifies that two-thirds affirmative vote of council members is necessary for appointment or removal of police chief

Declares an emergency

2026-29 - Amending Section 9.10 (Fire Chief)

Eliminates gender-specific language

Clarifies that two-thirds affirmative vote of council members is necessary for appointment or removal of fire chief

Declares an emergency

2026-30 - Amending Section 10.11 (Zoning Referendum Advertising)

Provides for necessary costs or less costly means of advertising proposed zoning referendums

Declares an emergency

Final Action on Charter Amendments

After reviewing all amendments 13-30:

Motion: Motion made to move all charter amendments to the regular agenda by Hardin

Second: Bliss

Roll Call Vote - All Yes:

Hardin: Yes, Bliss: Yes, Scruggs: Yes, Evans: Yes, Matlock: Yes, Sims: Yes.

Result: All charter amendments moved to regular agenda

Motion passed.

Key Themes and Issues

Charter Review Process: Extensive work by Charter Review Committee to modernize the village charter

Gender-Specific Language: Multiple amendments focused on eliminating outdated gender-specific pronouns

Council Authority: Significant debate about appropriate balance of power between council and administration, particularly regarding removal of directors

Procedural Clarity: Many amendments focused on clarifying procedures (meetings, vacancies, appointments)

Legal Compliance: Several amendments required to comply with Ohio Revised Code

Attorney Review: Council emphasized need for Law Director to provide clarification on several provisions during regular meeting

Meeting Conclusion

The work session concluded after moving all items to the regular agenda. Council indicated they would continue discussion of the charter amendments during the regular council meeting with the Law Director present to provide legal clarification on contested provisions.

Meeting adjourned at 6:51PM. There was no motion to adjourn but it did end at 6:51PM.

Approved (date)

Council President, Eloise Hardin

Posted (date)

Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry

THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

February 26th, 2026

ATTENDED

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

1. Meeting called to order by Hardin at 6:00PM.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call

Main Agenda Item: Ordinance 2026-17

The primary focus is appointing Dionna Hammett as interim assistant clerk of the village council.

Key Discussion Points:

There was some confusion about whether Dionna had previously been hired as an assistant clerk and what her resignation from another position meant

Council members clarified that she previously served as an assistant clerk "as needed" to cover for the main clerk

One council member asked about background checks for new hires, and it was confirmed that background checks are part of the hiring process

The ordinance passed unanimously with all council members voting yes

Clerk Recruitment Process

After appointing the interim assistant clerk, the council shifted focus to recruiting a new permanent clerk due to an upcoming resignation:

Timeline & Logistics:

The council has received approximately 12 resumes for the clerk's position

They plan to narrow down candidates to a manageable number (possibly 5-6) before conducting interviews

Interview schedule: 30-minute interviews per candidate

Next steps: Tuesday, March 3rd meeting will include budget hearings followed by resume review to narrow down candidates

Candidates will be contacted on Monday to schedule interviews for Thursday or Friday

Administrative Details:

Dionna Hammett will cover the 2nd and 4th Tuesday meetings and handle remote minutes until permanent clerks are hired

Council members need to submit their resume stacks to the clerk by Tuesday

A rejection letter template will be created and sent via email to candidates not selected

Email addresses will be compiled in an Excel sheet for efficient communication

Meeting Conclusion

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 PM with a unanimous vote to adjourn.

Approved (date)

Council President, Eloise Hardin

Posted (date)

Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry

THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD

FINANCE COMMITTEE

March 3rd, 2026

ATTENDED

Council President- Eloise Hardin	Mayor- Erica Nikolic
Ward 1- Taunya Scruggs	Finance- Brian L. Thompson
Ward 2- Yvonne Evans-Warren	
Ward 4- Mary Davis (Chairperson for Finance Committee)	
Ward 5- Malcolm Sims Jr.	

1. Meeting called to order by Hardin at 6:00PM.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call

Main Agenda - 2026 Budget Review:

The bulk of the meeting focused on reviewing and discussing the mayor's proposed 2026 budget, covering:

Mayor's Office Budget: Department wages and salary discussions FOP (Fraternal Order of Police) contract negotiations affecting salary structures. Mayor's assistant position (\$65,000 salary). Printing and reproduction costs (increased to \$10,000). Professional dues and conference attendance. Social media assistance and communications contractor (\$5,000). Travel and transportation expenses and equipment purchases.

Family Enrichment Programs: Thanksgiving dinner distribution (expanded from \$8,000 to \$12,540). Breakfast with Santa event. Halloween bash (successful event with 100+ families). Friendsgiving at Stolen Club Apartments. New Academic Achievement Program - a tutoring initiative for early learning students (pre-K through 6th grade) in partnership with the Teaching Academy at the high school. Community gardens and concerts

Recreation Department Budget: Summer camp operations (\$83,000+) Youth programs and engagement throughout the year. Community activities and events by month (January

through December). Special events coordinator position (\$3,500). Family enrichment activities Community center and park rental fees.

Major Discussion Points:

Academic Achievement Program debate: Significant discussion about whether to implement a new tutoring program for struggling students, with concerns raised about: Targeting the right demographics. Transportation logistics and duplication with existing services. Pre/post-testing to measure effectiveness. Parental engagement challenges.

Budget increases: Multiple line items showed significant increases, with council members questioning the rationale (e.g., gasoline from \$300 to \$3,000, printing from \$0 to \$10,000). Conference and professional development costs: Discussion about the Mayor's attendance at various conferences and networking events, including the National League of Cities (NLC) and Cleveland Leadership Center. Community events: Planning for various 2026 events including concerts, festivals, and a community day in September that would honor former Mayor Gary Gottschalk.

Recreation Facility rentals: Discussion about establishing rental rates for the community center and park pavilion, including security requirements

Notable Issues Raised:

- Concerns about the Mayor's vehicle use and repair costs
- Question about the mold issue with a previous vehicle
- Discussion of the NLC conference cancellation and potential reimbursement issues
- Debate over whether certain programs duplicate existing services
- Concerns about parental participation in youth programs
- Discussion of school district performance and the village's role in supporting education

Administrative Actions: Multiple exhibits and detailed breakdowns were referenced for various budget categories. Council members requested additional documentation and clarification on spending. Plans made to move forward with legislation on community center rental policies. **Executive session called at the end to discuss personnel matters (clerk position).**

Key Themes:

She emphasized being a new mayor needing education and networking

She advocated investing in youth and academics (the tutoring program)

She promoted community engagement and better communication with residents

She discussed modernizing village services (digital newsletters, social media, etc.)

The mayor was generally focused on expanding programs, improving communications, and supporting education while justifying increased spending in various areas.

The executive session was called at approximately 10:05 PM

According to the transcript:

"I got the form to go into executive sessions? Yes, please. Madam Chair, you can call for an executive session. I call for executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, emotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. Second. So, you got Davis first, and Hardin second at 10:05."

The executive session was called to discuss personnel matters related to the clerk's position, as the council needed to review candidates and potentially start the interview process for hiring a new clerk (since the current clerk would be leaving in about a week).

Davis made the motion to adjourn meeting and Scruggs seconded. The meeting then **adjourned at 10:43 PM** after coming out of executive session.

Approved (date)

Council President, Eloise Hardin

Posted (date)

Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry

THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD

FINANCE COMMITTEE

March 3rd, 2026

ATTENDED

Council President- Eloise Hardin	Mayor- Erica Nikolic
Ward 1- Taunya Scruggs	Finance- Brian L. Thompson
Ward 2- Yvonne Evans-Warren	
Ward 4- Mary Davis (Chairperson for Finance Committee)	
Ward 5- Malcolm Sims Jr.	

1. Meeting called to order by Hardin at 6:00PM.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call

Main Agenda - 2026 Budget Review:

The bulk of the meeting focused on reviewing and discussing the mayor's proposed 2026 budget, covering:

Mayor's Office Budget: Department wages and salary discussions FOP (Fraternal Order of Police) contract negotiations affecting salary structures. Mayor's assistant position (\$65,000 salary). Printing and reproduction costs (increased to \$10,000). Professional dues and conference attendance. Social media assistance and communications contractor (\$5,000). Travel and transportation expenses and equipment purchases.

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- Debate over whether certain programs duplicate existing services
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She discussed modernizing village services (digital newsletters, social media, etc.)

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The executive session was called at approximately 10:05 PM

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"I got the form to go into executive sessions? Yes, please. Madam Chair, you can call for an executive session. I call for executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, emotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. Second. So, you got Davis first, and Hardin second at 10:05."

The executive session was called to discuss personnel matters related to the clerk's position, as the council needed to review candidates and potentially start the interview process for hiring a new clerk (since the current clerk would be leaving in about a week).

Davis made the motion to adjourn meeting and Scruggs seconded. The meeting then **adjourned at 10:43 PM** after coming out of executive session.

Approved (date)

Council President, Eloise Hardin

Posted (date)

Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry

THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD

HR COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 6th ,2026

ATTENDED

Council President- Eloise Hardin	
Ward 3- Paggie Matlock	
Ward 4- Mary Davis	

-
1. Meeting called to order by Hardin at 4:30PM.
 2. Pledge of Allegiance
 3. Roll Call
 4. Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. (There was no clear start to the executive session or adjournment to it.
 5. Adjournment – There was so clear motion for adjournment.

Approved (date)

Council President, Eloise Hardin

Posted (date)

Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry