


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 **Friday, July 10, 2026 at 5:30 pm-7:30 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

5:30 PM-7:30pm
Friday, July 10, 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 5:30 pm-6:30 pm
 Karen Howse and Mary Davis
 Finance/Budget Meeting

6:30 pm-7:30 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.

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 13th, 2026

Attended

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

Absent

Matt Jones- Engineer

Meeting opened at 7:00 pm by Hardin (Everything was moved to the regular meeting)

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Minutes
5. Clerk Correspondence
6. Departmental Reports
7. Ward Reports
8. Committee Reports
9. Floor open for comments from Village Residents on meeting agenda and comments in general Village residents. Please state your name, address, and subject you wish to discuss for the record. Please limit your comments to five (5) minutes. Thank you!
Please sign in to speak.
10. Legislation
11. Adjournment

OPENING & SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Police Officers' 30-Year Service Anniversaries

Two officers were honored for 30 years of service (as of December 28, 2025):

Captain John Freeman III

- Grew up in Oakwood; moved here in 1978
- Parents still live in the village
- Has known Chief Garrett since 7th grade (played baseball against Walton Hills rivals)
- Praised the quality of current and retired officers in the county
- Expressing love for the city as reason for staying

Chief Mark Garrett

- Grew up in Walton Hills
- Emphasized continuous learning, adaptation, and evolution
- Praised the high-quality police officers in the department
- Acknowledged multiple job opportunities over the years but chose to stay
- Joked about hoping the baseball team would improve

Mayor's Comments:

- Called both officers "exemplary" in service and professionalism
- Praised their immediate response to requests
- Extended open doors for any need
- Expressed hope to serve with them for many years to come

Formal Resolutions (2026-02 and 2026-03) were read and passed unanimously (7-0) honoring both officers.

ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk of Council Transition:

- Joseph announced this was her last meeting as Clerk of Council
- Moving to Shaker Municipal Court

- Introduced **Evan Garrett** as new Assistant Clerk of Council
 - Requested Records Commission meeting before departure to handle Iron Mountain records destruction
-

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

1. MAYOR'S REPORT (Erica Nikolic)

Election & Gratitude:

- Thanked all candidates for being professional and congratulatory
- Honored to continue serving the village

Ongoing Programs for 2026:

- **Soul Food Cooking Class:** Second Friday of each month; full schedule available online
- **Knitting Club:** Tuesdays (ongoing)
- **Black History Month Quilting Project:** Community quilting initiative with local quilters

2026 Priorities:

1. **Grants:** Double the number of grant applications
 - Every grant = money that wouldn't otherwise be obtained
 - Focus on projects for police, departments, and going above/beyond
2. **Expanding Partnerships:**
 - **\$105,000 County Road Preventive Maintenance Reimbursement** awarded by County Executive Chris Romayn
 - Funds going back to general fund
 - Goal: Expand county/community partnerships for more dollars
3. **Small Business Outreach:**
 - Goal: Meet with all ~234 small businesses in Oakwood by end of year
 - Learn about specific needs, expansion desires, and community vision

Community Garden Support:

- Praised Keymah Durden (Rid-All Green Partnership) for offering partnership at no cost
 - Noted he would help draft USDA grant for additional resources
 - Located only 3 minutes from garden site
 - Urged council to move garden legislation forward
-

2. LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Jim Climer)

Completed Transactions:

- **Vakarena Property:** Former gas station at Macedonia/Broadway now fully owned by village
- Available for council/mayor discussion on improvements

Pending Legislation:

1. Sign Ordinance Amendment:

- Address complaints about political signs in public rights-of-way
- Regulate volume and location of signs
- Legislation to be drafted by next meeting

2. Airbnb Ordinance:

- Currently being revised before presentation to council
- Not satisfied with current draft

3. Charter Review:

- Deadline: Early March for May primary
- Two presentation options:
 - Single issue vote (up/down on all amendments)
 - 15-20 separate revisions voted individually
- Board of Elections prefers single issue
- Council to decide and get on agenda soon

Cost of Special Election:

- Quoted in "the teens" (exact amount pending final bill)
- No additional cost for multiple issues on primary/general election
- Only charges for special elections

Executive Session Request:

- Initially requested but later withdrawn (no personal matter to discuss at this time)
-

3. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Brian Thompson)**Year-End Activities:**

- Closing out December and year-end financials
- Reviewing final documentation
- Processing all 2025 bills
- Completing final audit requests

Monthly Budget Reports:

- Committed to providing monthly departmental budget usage percentages
- Will show each department's budget status (over/under)
- Starting after December close-out

Year-End Timeline:

- Two-week window should be sufficient to settle books
- Fourth Tuesday meeting could include year-end financial review

Audit Status:

- Auditors projected completion by end of January
- Information forwarded to council

Health Insurance Documentation:

- Acknowledged issue: Ordinance states "council reviewed and compared several options" but only one option presented

- Will reconvene with Law Director to revise ordinance language
 - Addressed seven questions from Councilwoman Davis:
 - Year-end accrual balances provided
 - \$60,000 pertained to concrete pad at fire department
 - Certificate of availability of funds on file for 2025-88 and 2025-87
-

4. SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Tom Haba)

Winter Weather:

- Rougher winter than previous years
- Several expensive equipment breakdowns
- Salt supply adequate for season (unless severe weather)
- Balancing road safety with salt usage

Transfer Station:

- Over \$1 million upgrade in progress
- Machinery delayed (expected to arrive)
- Large amount of cardboard currently outside parking lot
- Will be cleared once equipment arrives

Road Maintenance Issues:

- Councilwoman Davis requested cleanup of garbage along Oak Leaf and Fair Oaks roads after next thaw
- Will mention to Waste Management
- Cuyahoga County prisoners sometimes assist during better months
- Oak Leaf sign issue at Alexander/Fair Oaks corner noted

Village Engineer:

- Not present at meeting
- Mayor to follow up on attendance

- Objective: Discuss designated streets for improvement
 - SCMR budget discussions to continue in Finance Committee meetings
 - Separate finance committee meeting may be scheduled
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5. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT (Dave Tapp)

2026 Priorities:

- **Walton Hills Contract Renegotiation:** Number one priority; contract up in 2027, so renegotiation needed this year
- Will request committee with mayor to negotiate

Call Volume:

- ~100 calls since beginning of year
- Averaging almost 10 calls per day
- 10 home inspections completed
- 25 smoke detectors installed

Fire Prevention:

- Emphasized importance of working smoke detectors
- Recent fire in Bedford Heights with no working detectors (residents were home, fortunately)
- Offering free home inspections and smoke detector installation
- Plenty of detectors available

Recognition:

- Congratulated John Freeman and Mark Garrett on 30-year service recognition
- Both instrumental in helping with transition to chief's position

Equipment Status:

- All equipment up and running
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6. BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT (Roland Walker)

New Property Maintenance Initiative:

- Distributing property maintenance guidelines to all residents
- Goal: Get village back to "original beauty from the past"
- Full property maintenance season (vs. half-summer last year)
- Residents will have time to prepare

Four Homes Identified for Demolition:

- Just in past week, four additional homes identified as needing demolition
- Years of neglect made some homes unsalvageable
- Initiative aims to prevent future deterioration

Maintenance Education:

- Basic maintenance information (power washing, scraping, painting)
- Spring is ideal time to start (just soap and water can make big difference)
- Helps identify needed repairs before harsh weather

Contractor Listings:

- New building department commitment: Licensed, registered contractor list
- "New day" for building department; not going backwards
- Residents can request list (won't be online to avoid promoting one contractor over another)
- Covers: general contractors, roofing, windows, plumbing, electrical, etc.

Future Employment:

- Not yet prepared to address future building department staffing
- Still working on that

Exterior Maintenance Program:

- Council President Hardin announced plan to **resume exterior maintenance program** (previously suspended)
- Program includes village assistance
- More details to come

7. RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Karen Gaither)

Senior Programs:

- Senior Lunches: 40-45 in-house residents
- Also providing lunches to shut-ins who can't attend facility

Community Events:

- MLK celebration on Sunday: 45-50 residents attended
- Some drove, others took bus
- Live band performance at community center end of month
- Flyers available for event dates

2026 Calendar:

- Completed full year of events calendar
- Available for council review

2026 Goals:

- Maximize community center usage
- Upgrade exercise room
- Currently, residents go to Planet Fitness, Silver Sneakers, other facilities
- If exercise room upgraded, could retain residents and keep money in village
- "This is your community center" - encouraging more participation

8. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT (Mark Garrett)

Weather-Related Issues:

- Upturn in accidents due to bad weather
- Call volume increased
- Everything running smoothly

New Year's Eve Gunshots:

- Received complaint about shots fired at midnight on New Year's Eve
 - Investigation found: No complaints for fireworks or gunshots in records
 - Likely due to blizzard conditions
 - Communities around borders had several complaints
 - Difficult to enforce without invading privacy
 - **Zero tolerance policy** for firearms violations
 - Fortunately, no calls received this year
-

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

1. Sharon Macklin - Police Harassment Concerns

Issue: Felt family was being followed/harassed by police

- Truck and son's Challenger being followed
- Officer allegedly said "nobody's going to bother my mayor, I'm her bodyguard"
- Son felt intimidated when pulled over

Chief Garrett's Response:

- Offered to investigate with specific dates/times
- Police have cameras in every car and GPS on all vehicles
- Assured no targeting of family
- Invited her to call him directly with concerns

Mayor's Clarification:

- Stated she does NOT have a bodyguard or security detail
 - Officer was "just kidding"
-

2. Johnny Jackson - Community Beautification

Issues Raised:

1. **Garbage Cans:**

- Hates garbage cans visible in front of houses
- Reduces property values
- Suggested ordinance requiring cans in back
- Noted older residents can't move cans to back

2. Interstate Cleanliness:

- Interstates are "terrible, absolutely horrific"
- Paper, cans, sometimes tires
- Suggested calling ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation)
- Noted he used to pick up trash years ago
- Wants to keep Oakwood beautiful

Tone: Passionate, long-time resident; praised building department's property maintenance initiative

3. Alfred Grant - Concrete Pillars

Issue: Concrete pillars at Macedonia/Broadway corner sitting for 15-20 years

History:

- Geist was supposed to move them free of charge
- Previously considered for Mount Zion
- Expensive to move (moving 20 feet cost \$1,500-\$2,500 due to power lines)
- Mayor wanted to sell them but couldn't get value due to moving costs

Suggestions:

- Place at village entrance as monumental markers
- Use General Crane to move them (they move culvert logs)
- Alternative: Demolish them

Council President's Response:

- Village just bought property on next corner

- Developers could move them across street as part of development
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4. Yolanda Hicks - Election & Community Garden

Community Garden: In favor

Election Concerns:

- Process was good overall
- Only 39% voter turnout disappointing
- With 4 candidates, no clear majority winner
- Suggested **ranked-choice voting** for future special elections to ensure 50%+ winner

Law Director's Response:

- Ranked-choice voting would require charter amendment

Legislation

2025-37(AMENDED)

INTRODUCED 6-10-25

By the Mayor and

Council as a whole

1st read 6-10-25

2nd read 6-24-25

3rd read 7-8-25

Tabled 7-8-25

A RESOLUTION REFERRING TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION A PROPOSED ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO SELL VILLAGE LAND DESIGNATED ON THE RECORDS OF THE CUAHOGA COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER AS PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 795-08-028 and 795-08-029

No action was taken with this and it was on the table.

2025-38 (AMENDED) INTROUDCED BY MAYOR
AND COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

1ST read 6-10-25

2nd 6-24-25

3rd 7-8-25

Tabled 7-8-25

A RESOLUTION REFERRING TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION A PROPOSED ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO SELL VILLAGE LAND DESIGNATED ON THE RECORDS OF THE CUAHOGA COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER AS PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 795-08-030 and 795-08-031

2025-39 (AMENDED)

Introduced 6-10-25

By the Mayor and Council as a whole

1st read 6-10-25

2nd read 6-24-25

3rd read 7-8-25

Tabled 7-8-25

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH J WALL HOMES, LLC, C/O JOHANNAH WALLACE, INDIVIDUALLY TO SELL VILLAGE LAND DESIGNATED ON THE RECORDS OF THE CUAHOGA COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER AS PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 795-08-028 AND 795-08- 029

1st read 6-10-25

2nd read 6-24-25

3rd read 7-8-25

Tabled 7-8-25

2025-40 (AMENDED)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH J WALL HOMES, LLC, C/O JOHANNAH WALLACE, INDIVIDUALLY TO SELL VILLAGE LAND DESIGNATED ON THE RECORDS OF THE CUAHOGA COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER AS PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 795-08-030 AND 795-08- 03

2025-41 (AMENDED)

Introduced 6-10-25 By the Mayor as a whole

1st read 6-10-25

2nd read 6-24-25

3rd read 7-8-25

Tabled 7-8-25 A RESOLUTION REFERRING TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION A PROPOSED ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO SELL VILLAGE LAND DESIGNATED ON THE RECORDS OF THE CUAHOGA COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER AS PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 795-09-043.

2025-42 (AMENDED) Introduced 6-10-25

By the Mayor and Council as a whole

1st read 6-10-25

2nd read 6-24-25

3rd read 7-8-25

Tabled 7-8-25 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH J WALL HOMES, LLC, C/O JOHANNAH WALLACE, INDIVIDUALLY TO SELL VILLAGE LAND DESIGNATED ON THE RECORDS OF THE CUAHOGA COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER AS PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 795-09-043

No action was taken for this resolution it was on the table.

2025-81

Introduced 9-19-25

By Mayor

1st read 12-9-25

2nd read 12-23-25

3rd read 1-13-26 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE OAKWOOD COMMUNITY GARDEN AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion to adopt ordinance made by Matlock seconded by Evans-Warren.

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

Motion passed.

2025-82

Introduced 12-9-25

By mayor

1st read 12-9-25

2nd read 12-23-25

3rd read 1-13-26

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF A TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ROBERT HALF, INC. FOR AN ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

REMOVED FROM DOCKET

2025-82 - Temporary Employment Agreement with Robert Camp

- Removed because it was only viable during 90-day period.
- Will be replaced with permanent hire ordinance including salary, name, job description, and required expertise.

Motion to remove made by Davis and seconded by Bliss.

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

Motion passed.

2025-86

Introduced 12-23-25 by council as whole

1st read 12-23-25

2nd read 1-13-26

A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF

MICHAEL P. PARISH

Motion to suspend made by Davis and seconded by Hardin.

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

Motion passed.

Motion to adopt made by Davis and seconded by Evans-Warren.

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

Motion passed.

2025-89

Introduced 12-23-25

By council as a whole

1st read 12-23-25

2nd read 1-13-26

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A
CONTRACT WITH JAMES A PALLADINO TRUST TO SELL CERTAIN
VILLAGE LAND DESIGNATED ON THE RECORDS OF THE SUMMIT
COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER AS PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER 33-
00324 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Action Taken: NO ACTION - HELD FOR FURTHER REVIEW

Council President Hardin's Statement:

- "I'm going to leave it, I want to look at something"
- Indicated she wanted to review the ordinance before proceeding

Result: The ordinance was **not voted on** and remained on the agenda without action

2025-90

Introduced 12-23-25

By council as a whole

1st read 12-23-25

2nd read 1-13-26

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENT OF THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD, OHIO TO DISPOSE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AS HA YING BECOME OBSOLETE, UNNECESSARY OR UNFIT FOR VILLAGE USE THROUGH INTERNET AUCTIONS DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 2026 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion to suspend rules made by Davis and seconded by Hardin

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

Motion passed.

Motion to adopt made by Evans-Warren and seconded by Hardin.

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

Motion passed.

2025-91

Introduced 12-23-25

By council as a whole

1st read 12-23-25

2nd read 1-13-26

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A PICK-UP PLAN OR PURPOSES OF PERMITTING EMPLOYEES OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO POLICE AND FIRE PENSION FUND TO DEFER TAXES ON THEIR EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS TO SAID FUND AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion to suspend rules made by Scruggs seconded by Evans-Warren.

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

Motion passed.

Motion to adopt made by Hardin and seconded by Evans-Warren.

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

Motion passed.

2026-01

Introduced 1-13-25

By council as a whole

1st read 1-13-26

A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF PAUL MAYHEW SMITH

Motion to suspend made by Hardin and seconded by Scruggs.

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

Motion passed.

Motion to adopt made by Davis and seconded by Hardin.

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

Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2026-02: HONOR CHIEF MARK GARRATT (30 YEARS)

A RESOLUTION TO HONOR MARK GARRATT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF 30 YEARS

Motion to suspend rules made by Scruggs and seconded by Davis

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

Motion passed.

Motion to adopt made by Scruggs and seconded by Hardin.

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

Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2026-03: HONOR CAPTAIN JOHN FREEMAN III (30 YEARS)

A RESOLUTION TO HONOR JOHN FREEMAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF 30 YEARS

Honor Captain John Freeman III (30 Years)

A RESOLUTION TO HONOR CAPTAIN JOHN FREEMAN III ON THE OCCASION OF HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF 30 YEARS

Motion to suspend rules made by Davis and seconded by Hardin.

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

Motion passed.

Motion to adopt made by Davis and seconded by Hardin.

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

Motion passed.

FIRST READING - MOVED TO AGENDA (NO VOTE YET)

ORDINANCE 2026-05 (formerly 2026-WS-01): Employee Dishonesty Bond

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

Status: First reading

Vote Result: MOVED TO AGENDA - NO VOTE

Action: Remains on first reading for next meeting

ORDINANCE 2026-08 (formerly 2025-WS-43): Charter Amendment Submission

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

Status: First reading

Vote Result: MOVED TO AGENDA - NO VOTE

Action: Remains on first reading for next meeting

ORDINANCE 2026-06 (formerly 2026-WS-03): Health Insurance with Medical Mutual

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRACT WITH MEDICAL MUTUAL COVERING ELIGIBLE OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Status: First reading

Vote Result: MOVED TO AGENDA - NO VOTE

Action: Remains on first reading for next meeting

ORDINANCE 2026-07 (formerly 2026-WS-04): Dental & Vision Insurance with Anthem

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTACT WITH ANTHEM BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD TO PROVIDE VISION AND DENTAL INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ELIGIBLE OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Status: First reading

Vote Result: MOVED TO AGENDA - NO VOTE

Action: Remains on first reading for next meeting

Motion to adjourn made by Davis seconded by (inaudible).

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

Motion passed.

There was no time stated when meeting was adjourned.

Approved (date)

Council President, Eloise Hardin

Posted (date)

Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD MINUTES

WORK SESSION

January 13th, 2026

Attended

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

Absent

Matt Jones- Engineer

- 1.Call Meeting to order
2. Discussion by Mayor and Department Heads of matters to be brought to the attention of Council if present.
3. Questions of Mayor and Department Heads concerning Legislation or potential Legislation to be considered a future Council meetings.
4. Discussion of items of draft Legislation or potential Legislation to be considered at future Council meetings.

Legislation: Fiscal Officers Certificate Present.

Meeting called to order by Hardin at 6pm.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call.

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

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

Remained on WS.

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

Remained on WS.

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

Remained on WS

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

Remained on WS

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

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

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

Remained on WS.

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

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

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

Motion to move to regular agenda.

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

Motion passed.

There was no clear first or second.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Motion passed.

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

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

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

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

Motion passed.

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

RESOLUTION 2026-02

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

Status: First reading

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

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

Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2026-03

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

Status: First reading

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

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

Motion passed.

The work session focused on two main topics:

1. HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL (Primary Focus)

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

Insurance Marketing Results:

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

Most declined due to health risk assessments

Only Anthem and SummaCare provided quotes (both higher cost)

Final Recommendation:

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

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

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

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

Key Issues Debated:

HSA (Health Savings Account) Funding:

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

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

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

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

Supplemental Dental/Vision Insurance:

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

Councilwoman Matlock questioned why city bears full cost

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

Life Insurance:

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

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

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

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

Council Concerns:

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

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

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

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

Action Items:

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

Continued discussion scheduled for later in the week

Council to address HSA and supplemental insurance policy concerns

2. COMMUNITY GARDEN LEGISLATION (Third Reading)

Presenter: Mayor Nikolic

Resident Speakers in Support:

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

Shirley Stevens - Emphasized community need for food assistance

Sherri Peah - Highlighted community engagement benefits

Linda Moore - Wants protected growing space

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

Garden Details:

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

Residents pay \$25 to participate

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

Residents only

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

Community partners (Rid-All) to handle ongoing maintenance

Council Questions:

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

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

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

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

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

Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7pm.

Approved (date)

Council President, Eloise Hardin

Posted (date)

Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 27th, 2026

Attended:

Norman Bliss- Council at Large	Erica Nikolic- Mayor*
Taunya Scruggs- Ward 1	James Climer-Law
Yvonne Evans-Warren- Ward 2	Tom Haba-Service*
Paggie Matlock- Ward 3	Mark Garratt- Police
Mary Davis-Ward 4	Matt Jones- Engineer
Joseph Lastery- Ward 5	

Absent:

Brian Thompson
Eloise Hardin
Roland Walker
Dave Tapp (Assistant Chief was there in his place)
Karen Gaither- Recreation

Meeting opened at 7:00 pm by Bliss

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Minutes

5. Clerk Correspondence
6. Departmental Reports
7. Ward Reports
8. Committee Reports
9. Floor open for comments from Village Residents on meeting agenda and comments in general Village residents. Please state your name, address, and subject you wish to discuss for the record. Please limit your comments to five (5) minutes. Thank you! Please sign in to speak.
10. Legislation
11. Adjournment

MINUTES APPROVED:

November 17, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2025 HR Committee Meeting Minutes

APPROVAL PROCESS:

Bliss stated: "First order of business, minutes from the November 17th 2025 special meeting and the June 12th 2025 HR committee meeting, those minutes are in our packet. Approval of minutes to our next meeting that okay that's fine we'll make a note of that."

Clerk Correspondence- Clerk was not present to give any updates.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

LAW DIRECTOR - ***James Climer***

Key Items:

Cyber Security Policy - No time pressure (due June), but wants to include in work session agenda

Charter Review - Requested another meeting late in the week or early next week to finalize recommendations

Executive Session - Requested for personnel and labor issues discussion

Work Session Items 8, 9, 10 - Time-sensitive items requested to move to regular agenda (stormwater and garden-hickory projects)

Council Requests:

Councilwoman Davis requested Work Session 26 #7 (community center fees) be added to agenda

Councilwoman Evans requested Work Session 26 #6 (scholarship proposal) be added

Councilwoman Davis requested health benefits ordinance be prioritized

ENGINEERING - **Matt Jones**

Major Projects Discussed:

1. Stormwater Services (Work Sessions 8 & 10)

MS4 Permit Compliance - Required stormwater services from Cuyahoga County Board of Health

Two Service Areas:

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District Area (southern/western portion): Services at NO COST to village

Stormwater outfall sampling

Staff training for service department on best practices (catch basin cleaning, ditch cleaning)

Non-Regional Sewer District Area (northern/eastern portion): \$700/year cost

Includes Panhandle, Cape Cod, Forms River areas

Cost reimbursable through community cost share

2. Garden-Hickory Basement Backup Elimination Project (Work Session 9)

Background: Project has been in development for 5-6 years

Scope: Addresses basement backup issues for 8 homes

Funding: NCIP (New Community Infrastructure Program) Grant

County covers: 75% (\$160,000)

Village covers: 25% (\$53,000) - seeking community cost share funding

Total Project Cost: \$213,000 (high-end estimate including design)

Work Includes:

Backflow preventers

Plumbing conversions

Downspout separation

Individual solutions based on each home's specific issues

Timeline: Time-sensitive; needs approval to move forward with bidding

Councilwoman Davis Comment: Project has been promised for 5-6 years; costs increase with delays

3. Forbes-Richmond Infiltration Investigation (Work Session 11)

Separate MCIP grant-funded project

Investigating sanitary contamination sources in storm sewers and creeks

Will examine Tryon, Richmond, Milburn areas and sewer lines in open space

Councilwoman Matlock asked about sanitary manhole on her property - Jones confirmed it's part of the investigation

4. CBE Engineering Contract Renewal (Work Session 11)

Contract not renewed in 2025 due to background issues

Shrem Valley Engineering (CBE) - Oakwood-based for 23 years

Company has grown 5-6x since moving to Oakwood

Making multi-million dollar facility improvements

Received SBA funding for improvements

Committed to remaining and growing in Oakwood Village

President Bliss Response: "Our destinies are intertwined as a business, as a community, as elected officials. When you grow and thrive, we all grow and thrive."

FINANCE - *Brian Thompson*

Status Report:

Main focus: Closing the month

Target date for reporting: Today (missed due to weather closures)

Staff came in despite closure to continue work

Tasks: W-2s, 1099s, system entries

First year-end close for some current staff

Identified areas for improvement to speed up future reporting

Expected Completion: Tomorrow (January 24)

Reports were due last Friday but will be available for review before next meeting

Note: This is the first time some staff are doing a year-end close, so council asked for patience.

FIRE DEPARTMENT - *Brian D'Oracco*

Updates:

New employee started last week

Smoke Alarm Program: Ongoing; hundreds distributed in past 12 months; flyers widely distributed

CO Alarm Sales: \$10 discount CO alarms available at fire department or city hall

POLICE DEPARTMENT - Chief Garrett

Weather-Related Calls:

Dozens of traffic crashes, especially on freeway with multiple pile-ups

Increased OVIs (Operating Vehicle Impaired)

Increased domestic violence and disturbances (similar to COVID lockdown effect)

Emergency Notifications:

Part of Cog County Ready Certified Program

Receives constant communication about storm changes, warming centers

Cog County Ready Notify: Public can sign up via Google search for weather/emergency alerts

Key Cards:

Distributed new key cards for building access system

Cards have council members' names for entry to new system

RECREATION - Councilwoman Scruggs (reporting for Ms. Gaither)

"Music in Motion" Event:

Starting Friday (January 24)

All ages event at community center

Time: 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

For residents stuck at home during school closures

Flyers available at back of meeting

SERVICE DEPARTMENT - **Tom** (Excused)

Excused from meeting due to snow removal operations

Multiple vehicles lined up ready for snow operations

President Bliss: "We will excuse Tom this season from the service department"

WARD REPORTS

Ward 1 - **Councilwoman Scruggs**

Community Engagement Event:

First event was held on January 20 (snow day) at bowling alley

Residents bowled and discussed community concerns

Good turnout with parents and children

New Frequency: Changed from monthly to quarterly events

2026 Schedule: Once per quarter (next event in Q2)

Mayor to receive flyer with dates

Other Wards

No reports at this time

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None at this time

Organizational Meeting Planned: To set tone, pace, and tenor for committee structure for 2026 (pending snow day recovery)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Denise Grant (260 Triangle Road)

Issue: Website outdated and non-functional

Complaint: During recent storm, surrounding communities posted closings on websites; Oakwood had nothing

Impact: "It's just embarrassing that we are so outdated"

Request: Please address website issues

Semia Bray (6.00 Richmond Road)

Praise: Thanked service department for excellent snow removal

Specific: Able to get in/out of driveway and navigate Richmond Road

Comparison: Unlike surrounding communities

Request: Pass along appreciation to service department

LEGISLATION

Motion to Move Work Session Items to Regular Agenda

Items Moved: 2025-WS-08, 2026-WS-06, 07, 08, 09, and 10

Motion: Made by Councilwoman Davis Second: Councilman Lastery

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

Motion passed.

ORDINANCE 2025-89 - Land Sale

Title: THE ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH JAME A. PALLADINO TRUST TO SELL CERTAIN VILLAGE LAND

Details:

- Landlocked property in Summit County
- Received as part of court settlement in 1970s
- Village didn't even know it had the property
- No access or use possible
- "Very generous offer" given restrictions

Process:

- Planning Commission report received (was waiting on this)
- All land sales must go to planning commission first

Motion: Councilwoman Davis

Second: Councilwoman Evans

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

Motion passed

ORDINANCE 2025-04 - Charter Amendment

Title: Ordinance to submit to electors the question of adopting amended Charter for Village of Oakwood

Status: SECOND READING Action: Tabled for further discussion Reason: Another meeting needed for council to discuss requested updates and revisions

ORDINANCE 2026-05 - Employee Dishonesty Insurance

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF EMPLOYEE DISHONESTY AND FAITHFUL PERFORMANCE OF DUTY INSURANCE POLICY IN LIEU OF SURETY BOND

Details:

- **Current Bond:** \$12,500 limit
- **Proposed Insurance:** \$250,000 limit
- **Cost:** ~\$2,400
- **Coverage Includes:** All village employees plus external incidents (e.g., hacking, unauthorized bank withdrawals)
- **Sub-limits:**
 - Forgery and alteration: \$500,000
 - Funds in transit: \$500,000
 - Money orders/counterfeit: \$500
 - Fund transfers: \$500

Questions Raised:

- Difference between retroactive vs. occurrence policies
- Exact coverage amounts
- When policy starts (upon signing, not retroactively)

Status: SECOND READING Action: TABLED for next meeting Reason: Council requested more information; Law Director to send product description and pricing for review

ORDINANCE 2026-06 - Health Insurance Contract

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO ENTER INTO HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRACT WITH MEDICAL MUTUAL

Details:

- Covers eligible officials and employees
- Time-sensitive (renewal date approaching)
- Related to ongoing union negotiations

Discussion Points:

- HRA option rejected
- HSA option available
- Possible future conversion if agreement reached with parties
- Different options for dental/vision discussed

Motion to suspend: Councilwoman Davis

Second: Councilman Lastery

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

Motion passed

Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Scruggs

Second: Councilman Lastery

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

Motion passed

ORDINANCE 2026-07 - Vision & Dental Insurance

Title: ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH ANTHEM BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD FOR VISION AND DENTAL

Details:

- Covers eligible officials and employees
- Part of ongoing union contract obligations
- Renewal date: January 1 (different from health insurance February 1 renewal)

Key Issue Raised:

- Confusion about renewal dates (health vs. dental/vision)
- Health insurance: February 1 renewal
- Dental/Vision: January 1 renewal
- If not approved, could result in unfair labor practice claims

Motion to suspend: Councilman Lastery

Second: Councilwoman Scruggs

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

Motion passed

Motion to adopt: Councilman Lastery Second: Councilwoman Scruggs

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

Motion passed

Note: Councilwoman Evans-Warren initially abstained on suspension but changed to yes to allow vote

ORDINANCE 2026-08 - Recreation Facility Rebate Program

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING THE HEALTHY REBATE PROGRAM FOR RECREATION FACILITY FEES

Background (Councilwoman Davis):

Original ordinance: 2011-05

Rebates based on one-quarter of non-resident membership fees

Compared rates with Beaver Heights, Macedonia, Twinsville

Macedonia had middle-range pricing

Rebates are one-third of what non-residents pay annually

Rebate Amounts:

Single adult: \$100

Family of two: \$133

Family of three or more: \$160

Seniors: Different groups with varying amounts

Medicare/Insurance with Renew Active/Silver Sneakers: Free membership

Military Veterans: \$100 off membership fee

Rationale:

Residents in other communities still pay taxes and membership fees

This rebate helps offset costs for Oakwood residents

Program in place since 2011; updated to provide more assistance

Honors previous mayor's commitment to health and wellness

Motion to suspend: Councilwoman Davis

Second: Councilman Lastery

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

Motion to adopt: Councilwoman Davis

Second: Councilman Lastery

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

ORDINANCE 2026-09 - Scholarship Awards Committee

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE OAKWOOD SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
COMMITTEE

Presented by: Councilwoman Evans

Background:

Previous scholarship program (15 years) funded through business rebate/abatement

Fund expired; no scholarships since then

New program designed to serve underserved population (high school students)

Program Details:

Scholarships:

Number: 5 scholarships

Amount: \$2,000 each (vs. previous 16 scholarships at \$500 each)

Total: \$10,000 from general fund

Payment: \$1,000 upon enrollment proof (minimum 12 credit hours); \$1,000 after completing first semester

Refund required if student drops out

Eligibility:

Full-time enrollment at accredited college, university, or skilled trade school

Oakwood Village residents (including private high school students, home school)

Bedford High School or home school students

Selection Criteria (5 categories):

Academic performance (not sole factor)

Community service

Extracurricular activities

Awards received

Essay and oral presentation

Personal interview

Committee Structure:

One representative from each of 5 wards

Committee members receive stipends (like other committees)

Estimated 5-6 meetings needed

First meeting: Select president, vice president, secretary

Minutes kept and provided to council

Timeline:

Senior Award Program: May 15 (12 weeks away)

Time-sensitive to establish committee and finalize rules

Questions & Concerns:

Councilwoman Davis:

Asked about payment structure (clarified: \$1,000 then \$1,000)

Asked about committee member compensation (yes, like other committees)

Asked about meeting frequency (5-6 meetings)

Asked about chairperson selection (elected at first meeting)

Requested 12 credit hour requirement be added to form

Requested inclusion of private high school students (Evans agreed to add)

Councilwoman Scruggs:

Asked about funding source

Noted previous program was funded through business abatement

Concerned about committing without confirmed funding

Wanted to explore business abatement options

Evans Response:

This program NOT funded through abatement

Funded from general fund (\$10,000)

Previous program had to include non-Oakwood students due to abatement structure

This program only for Oakwood residents

Mayor Nikolic:

Asked if \$10,000 from council's budget or general fund (general fund)

Asked about committee establishment via charter vs. ordinance

Clarified: Can be established by ordinance; doesn't require charter change

Councilwoman Matlock:

Noted she was on previous scholarship committee

Previous committee didn't receive stipends (Evans said hers did)

Questioned whether stipends should be included

President Bliss:

Strong advocate for education and scholarships

Concerned about timing (year-end not yet closed)

Wanted to know final fund balance before committing

Preferred to wait for next meeting (2 weeks) for action

Wanted Council President Harding present for decision

Status: FIRST READING (Deferred)

FINAL STATUS:

X NOT APPROVED X NOT VOTED ON ✓ FIRST READING ONLY ✓ DEFERRED TO NEXT MEETING (approximately 2 weeks)

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Davis and seconded by Lastery.

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

Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 8:55.

Approved (date)

Council President, Eloise Hardin

Posted (date)

Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

February 3rd, 2026

ATTENDED:

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

ABSENT:

Ward 3- Paggie Matlock	Mayor- Erica Nikolic
Ward 4- Mary Davis	Law- James Climer
Ward 5- Joseph Lastery	Finance- Brian L. Thompson
President Pro Tempore- Norman Bliss	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 6:00 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll call

An executive session to discuss the status of the FOP collective bargaining negotiations and employment of a public employee or official.

There is no clear motion or time when the executive session takes place.

There is also no clear end to the executive session.

For the adjournment there was no clear motion or vote but it did end.

Approved (date)

Council President, Eloise Hardin

Posted (date)

Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

February 4th ,2026

ATTENDED:

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

ABSENT:

Ward 3- Paggie Matlock	Mayor- Erica Nikolic
Ward 4- Mary Davis	Law- James Climer
President Pro Tempore- Norman Bliss	Finance- Brian L. Thompson
	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 5:30 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll call
4. An executive session to discuss the status of the FOP collective bargaining negotiations and employment of a public employee or official. There is no clear motion or time when the executive session takes place. There is also no clear end to the executive session.
5. Adjournment. Motion for adjournment no clear vote to end it.

Approved (date)

Council President, Eloise Hardin

Posted (date)

Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
HR COMMITTEE MEETING

February 6th, 2026

ATTENED

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

ABSENT:

President Pro Tempore- Norman Bliss	Mayor- Erica L. Nikolic
Ward 1- Taunya Scruggs	Law- James Climer
Ward 2 -Yvonne Evans- Warren	Finance- Brian L. Thompson
	Service- Tom Haba
	Fire -Dave Tapp
	Police- Mark Garratt
	Building – Roland Walker
	Engineer- Matt Jones
	Recreation- Karen Gaither

*Committee Chair

**Committee members

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 is no clear motion or time when the executive session takes place. There is also no clear end to the executive session.
5. Adjournment. There was no clear vote for the adjournment.

Approved (date)

Council President, Eloise Hardin

Posted (date)

Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry

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 Palmer Montello
James Palmer, 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. 2026-55 was duly posted on the 2nd 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