

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD

WORK SESSION

6:00 PM

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

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 at future Council meetings.**
 4. **Discussion of items of draft Legislation or potential Legislation to be considered at future Council meetings.**
Executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of public employee or official.
 5. **Matters Deemed Appropriate.**
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6. **Council to Review 2026 Meeting Minutes for July 10th, 14th and 18th 2026**

7. **2026-WS-68 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD POLICE
Introduced by DEPARTMENT TO ENTER INTO A TRAINING AND CONSULTATION
Mayor and Council SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH NACHELLE CHUPPA**

as a Whole

- a. **Discuss the attached training agreement for the newly hired administrative assistant replacement in the Police Department.**

8. **2026-WS-69 A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF
Introduced by JERRY DUNNIGAN
Mayor and Council
as a Whole**

9. **2026-WS-70 A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF
Introduced by DOLPHIS ARTHUR SLOAN, SR.
Mayor and Council
as a Whole**

10. **2026-WS-71 A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF
Introduced by NANCELLA WILSON HARRIS
Mayor and Council
as a Whole**

11. **2026-WS-72 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD TO ENTER
Introduced by EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO SELL AGREEMENT WITH CENTURY 21 HOMESTAR
Mayor**

12. **2026-WS-73 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD TO PURCHASE
Introduced by A SNOWPLOW FROM ZOESCO EQUIPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,075.00,
Mayor AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

13. **2026-WS-74 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD TO PURCHASE**

Introduced by
Mayor

**A 2027 FORD F-250 CREW CAB PICKUP FROM LIBERTY FORD INC IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$50,645, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

- 14. Discuss WorkFlow Requisitions received 10/5/2026**
- 15. Mayor's discussion with the Council**
- 16. Discuss Council's 2027 Budget (If Time Permits)**
- 17. Adjournment**

Reminder to set date(s) for: Hardin

Council Education Courses	Hardin
Clerk of Council	Hardin
Municipal complex	Hardin
Disaster Recovery Plan	Hardin
Human Resources	Hardin
Five Year Plan	Hardin
Recreation Budget & Events	Scruggs

INTRODUCED BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ENTER INTO A TRAINING AND
CONSULTATION SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH NACHELLE
CHUPPA**

WHEREAS, the Village of Oakwood's Police Department ("Department") has identified a need for additional training and development to enhance employee knowledge and skills in carrying out Department responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Nachele Chuppa, a former employee of the Village, has the knowledge and skills necessary to support the continued development and training of Department personnel on Department operations; and

WHEREAS, the Department desires to engage Nachele Chuppa's training and consulting services to support development, employee training, records and policy improvement, and operational needs; and

WHEREAS, Council finds that these services will assist the Department in achieving its goals and fulfilling its responsibilities to the public.

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

Section 1. The Department is hereby authorized to enter into the Training and Consultation Agreement with Nachele Chuppa for an amount not to exceed four thousand eight hundred dollars (\$4,800). Nachele Chuppa is to provide training and consultation services to the Department, including Department training and instruction, administrative and operational training, policy and procedure development, records and documentation assistance, and other related training and consultation services as needed by the Department.

Section 2. Council hereby appropriates sufficient funds to effectuate the provisions contained in Section 1 hereof. The Director of Finance is hereby authorized and directed to issue vouchers in the amounts and for the purposes expressed in Section 1 hereof, said amounts to be derived from the Miscellaneous Contract Budget.

Section 3. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting on the date indicated below, 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 Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 4. 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 same relates to the daily operation of the Department and the immediate necessity to train staff, therefore, provided it receives two-thirds (2/3) 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 approved by the Mayor, otherwise from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: _____
Eloise Hardin, President of Council

Carol Jackson, Clerk of Council

Presented to the
Mayor _____

Approved: _____

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 - 96 was duly and regularly passed by this Council at the meeting held on the ____ day of _____, 2026.

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 - 96 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.

INTRODUCED BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL AS A WHOLE
A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF
JERRY DUNNIGAN

WHEREAS, the Village Council and Mayor of Oakwood along with the residents of Oakwood Village wish to place on record the passing of resident Jerry Dunnigan; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Dunnigan was born on July 28, 1941, He graduated from Glenville High School in 1960; Jerry Dunnigan was married to Roberta Ann Dunnigan, they resided on Glenshire Road since the early 1970s with his devoted wife of more than 60 years; He leaves to celebrate his life Roberta Ann; his sons: Jayme, Jerome (Lisa), Jeffrey (Laurie); his daughter: Shauna (Josiah); along with grandchildren: Jamie, Chernara (Shelly), Jasmine (Ja'Mond), Jordan, Justin, Aaron, Ethan, Josiah Nash, and Skyland; great-grandchildren: Rhianna, Jayden, Ciara, and Jordan Kai and many cousins and friends; and

WHEREAS, Faith was an important part of Jerry's life. At a young age, he accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior and was baptized at Antioch Baptist Church, For the past 35 years, he was an active and dedicated member of the Living Truth Center (LTC), where he served the church in several capacities including as the historian, photographer, and the Men Expressing Christ; and

WHEREAS, Jerry was a professional artist and graphic designer, but his chosen profession was teaching. He devoted 37 years to educating young people in Cleveland Metropolitan Schools, teaching art at Nathan Hale Junior High School where he was Department Chairman and Instructor of Visual Arts; He continued his commitment to education after retiring by working as a substitute teacher in Bedford City Schools for over 15 years; and

WHEREAS, Those who knew Jerry would know his life was a beautiful expression of faith, creativity, dedication, and love. Although he will be deeply missed, his impressions will remain in the hearts and lives of those who knew and loved him. And

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

SECTION 1. The Village of Oakwood, the Village Council, Mayor, and all elected and appointed officials express their most sincere condolences to the family and friends of Jerry Dunnigan and hope that the fond memories of such a wonderful, caring person comfort them in their loss.

SECTION 2. The Resolution attached hereto is hereby adopted and the Clerk is hereby authorized to present a copy of the said Resolution to the family of Jerry Dunnigan.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption by this Council and approved by the Mayor, otherwise from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: _____

Eloise Hardin, President of Council

Carol Jackson, Clerk of Council

Presented to the
Mayor _____

Approved: _____

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 Resolution No. 2026-97 was duly and regularly passed by this Council at the meeting held on the ____ day of _____, 2026.

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 Resolution No. 2026 -97 was duly posted on the ____ day of _____, 2026 and will remain posted in accordance with the Oakwood Village Charter.

Carol Jackson, Clerk of Council

DATED: _____

INTRODUCED BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF

DOLPHIS ARTHUR SLOAN, SR.

WHEREAS, the Village Council and Mayor of Oakwood along with the residents of Oakwood Village wish to place on record the passing of resident Dolphis Arthur Sloan, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Dolphis Arthur Sloan, Sr. was born on September 1, 1943, in Cleveland, Ohio, to the union of the late Rev. C.N. and Luberta Sloan; and

WHEREAS, Dolphis accepted Christ at an early age and remained grounded in his faith throughout his life; Dolphis married the love of his life, Priscilla, on February 22, 1964, while serving in the military. To this union, four children were born: Wilhelmina, Dolphis Jr., Dwan and Diane; and

WHEREAS, Dolphis was a devoted member and deacon of Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church, a church deeply rooted in Christ and an important part of the Sloan family's spiritual foundation. Dolphis served the church in many capacities, including teaching Sunday School and Bible Study, singing in the Men's Chorus, working in the treasury and helping with the care and upkeep of the church edifice; and

WHEREAS, Dolphis completed his military service with an honorable discharge, later he began a long and successful career at the Parma Plant at General Motors that he dedicated to more than 30 years; He worked full time and provided for his family while attending college at night and earned a degree in accounting which aided in advancing his career from an hourly position on the plant floor to the salaried position of paymaster; Dolphis was very accomplished; and had deep beliefs in the value of education and all the values that came with the willingness to continue learning; and

WHEREAS, Above all, Dolphis was devoted to his faith and loved his family. Dolphis will be remembered for the life he built, and the lessons he taught; and

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

SECTION 1. The Village of Oakwood, the Village Council, Mayor, and all elected and appointed officials express their most sincere condolences to the family and friends of Dolphis Arthur Sloan, Sr. and hope that the fond memories of such a wonderful, caring person comfort them in their loss.

SECTION 2. The Resolution attached hereto is hereby adopted and the Clerk is hereby authorized to present a copy of the said Resolution to the family of Dolphis Arthur Sloan, Sr..

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption by this Council and approved by the Mayor, otherwise from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: _____

Eloise Hardin, President of Council

Carol Jackson, Clerk of Council

Presented to the
Mayor _____

Approved: _____

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 Resolution No. 2026-98 was duly and regularly passed by this Council at the meeting held on the ____ day of _____, 2026.

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 Resolution No. 2026 -98 was duly posted on the ____ day of _____, 2026 and will remain posted in accordance with the Oakwood Village Charter.

Carol Jackson, Clerk of Council

DATED: _____

2026-WS-71

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF

NANCELLA WILSON HARRIS

WHEREAS, the Village Council and Mayor of Oakwood along with the residents of Oakwood Village wish to place on record the passing of resident Nancella Wilson Harris; and

WHEREAS, Nancella Wilson Harris (affectionally called Nan or Aunt Nancy) was born on November 18, 1935 to Wallace Wilson and Frankie Lee Wilson (both deceased). She quietly departed this life on September 26, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Nancella married the love of her life, Wallace "Harry" Harris (deceased) on June 1, 1979. Nancella was a proud mother to her daughter Michelle and Nana to her grandson, Wallace "Ricky"; and

WHEREAS, Nancella was very active in her church, Mount Zion of Oakwood Village. She was an avid world traveler and enjoyed playing Bridge and Pinochle.

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

SECTION 1. The Village of Oakwood the Village Council, Mayor and all elected and appointed officials express their most sincere condolences to the family and friends of Nancella Wilson Harris and hope that the fond memories of such a wonderful, caring person comfort them in their loss.

SECTION 2. The Resolution hereto is hereby adopted and the Clerk is hereby authorized to present a copy of the said Resolution to the family of Nancella Wilson Harris.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption this Council and approved by the Mayor, otherwise from and after earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: _____

Eloise Hardin, President of Council

Nina Curry Assistant Clerk of Council

Presented to the

Mayor _____

Approved: _____

Mayor Erica Nikolic

I, Nina Curry Assistant Clerk of Council of the Village of Oakwood County of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 2026-99 was duly and regularly passed by this Council at the meeting held on _____ day of _____ 2026.

Nina Curry Assistant Clerk of Council

POSTING CERTIFICATE

I, Nina Curry Assistant Clerk of Council of the Village of Oakwood County of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio do hereby certify that Resolution No. 2026-99 was duly posted on the ____ day of _____ 2026 and will remain posted in accordance with the Oakwood Village Charter.

Nina Curry Assistant Clerk of Council

DATED: _____

INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD TO
ENTER INTO A EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO SELL AGREEMENT WITH
CENTURY 21 HOMESTAR**

WHEREAS, the Village of Oakwood has identified a need for real estate broker services to advertise the Village's properties for potential sale; and

WHEREAS, Century 21 HomeStar has the necessary skills and experience to provide these services; and

WHEREAS, the administration recommends entering into an agreement with Century 21 HomeStar substantially in the same form as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, Council finds that these services will assist the Village in achieving its goals and fulfilling its responsibilities to the public.

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

Section 1. The Department is hereby authorized to enter into an Exclusive Right to Sell Agreement with Century 21 HomeStar substantially in the same form as Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporate herein.

Section 2. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting on the date indicated below, 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 Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

PASSED: _____

Eloise Hardin, President of Council

Carol Jackson, Clerk of Council

Presented to the
Mayor _____

Approved: _____

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 -100 was duly and regularly passed by this Council at the meeting held on the ____ day of _____, 2026.

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 -100 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.

INTRODUCED BY MAYOR

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD TO PURCHASE A SNOWPLOW FROM ZORESKO EQUIPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,075.00, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the Administration, after due consideration, recommends purchasing a snowplow, caution lights up-fit, and snow deflector from Zoresco Equipment in the amount of \$10,075.00, a quote is attached as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Finance has certified, in writing, that the money required from the Village for such expenditures is in the treasury to the credit of the General Fund from which said monies have not been appropriated for any other purpose as reflected in the Certificate attached as Exhibit B.

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

SECTION 1. This Council does hereby authorize the purchase of a snowplow and other equipment listed in the attached quote from Zoresco Equipment in the amount of \$5,813.91, attached as Exhibit A.

SECTION 2. The Director of Finance is hereby authorized and directed to issue such payment to the Zoresco Equipment pursuant to this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting on the date indicated below, 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 Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 4. 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 snowplow need to be purchased prior to winter therefore, provided it receives two-thirds (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: _____
Eloise Hardin, President of Council

Carol Jackson, Clerk of Council

Presented to the
Mayor _____

Approved: _____

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 –101 was duly and regularly passed by this Council at the meeting held on the _____ day of _____, 2026.

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. 2026-101 was duly posted on the _____ day of _____, 2026, and will remain posted in accordance with the Village Charter.

Carol Jackson, Clerk of Council

2026-WS-74

INTRODUCED BY MAYOR

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD TO PURCHASE A 2027 FORD F-250 CREW CAB PICKUP FROM LIBERTY FORD INC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,645, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the Administration, after due consideration, recommends purchasing a 2027 Ford F-250 Crew Cab Pickup from Liberty Ford Inc. in the amount of \$50,645, a quote with the specifics is attached as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Finance has certified, in writing, that the money required from the Village for such expenditures is in the treasury to the credit of the General Fund from which said monies have not been appropriated for any other purpose as reflected in the Certificate attached as Exhibit B.

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

SECTION 1. This Council does hereby authorize the purchase of a 2027 Ford F-250 Crew Cab Pickup listed in the attached quote from Liberty Ford Inc. in the amount of \$50,645, attached as Exhibit A.

SECTION 2. The Director of Finance is hereby authorized and directed to issue such payment to the Liberty Ford Inc. pursuant to this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting on the date indicated below, 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 Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 4. 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 pickup truck needs to be purchased prior to winter therefore, provided it receives two-thirds (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: _____
Eloise Hardin, President of Council

Carol Jackson, Clerk of Council

Presented to the
Mayor _____

Approved: _____

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 – 102 was duly and regularly passed by this Council at the meeting held on the _____ day of _____, 2026.

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. 2026-102 was duly posted on the _____ day of _____, 2026, and will remain posted in accordance with the Village Charter.

Carol Jackson, Clerk of Council

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 10th, 2026

ATTENDED**:

Eloise Hardin- Council President **	Erica Nikolic- Mayor
Norman Bliss- Council at Large**	Matt Jones- Engineer
Taunya Scruggs- Ward 1**	Tom Haba- Service Director
Yvonne Evans-Warren- Ward 2**	David Tapp- Fire Chief
Paggie Matlock- Ward 3	John Freeman- Police Captain
Mary Davis-Ward 4**	Rodney Stephens-Building Dir.
Malcom Sims, Jr. – Ward 5**	Karen Gaither- Recreation
	Karen Howse- Finance
	John Montello – Law**

ABSENT:

Ward 3 Council -Paggie Matlock
Mayor -Erica L Nikolic*
Matt Jones- Engineer
Tom Haba- Service Director
David Tapp- Fire Chief
John Freeman- Police Captain
Rodney Stephens-Building Dir.
Karen Gaither- Recreation
Karen Howse- Finance

*=Late Arrival

Meeting opened: 7:06 By Hardin

1. Meeting came to order
2. Pledge
3. Roll Call

Minutes

Hardin informed all Council all minutes will be read at the next regular scheduled Council mtg on Tues, July 14, 2026, and after approval by council all of the mentioned minutes will be posted on the website for: (1/13/26 Council Mtg and 1/13/26 WS, 1/27/26 Council Mtg had no WS, 2/3/26 and 2/4/26 Special Council Mtgs went right into Executive Session and 2/6/26 HR Committee Special Mtg went right into Executive

Session). Hardin stated to Councilperson, Mr. Bliss, If someone wants to listen to it, records are maintained for audio recording as well, and the Clerk of Council, Carol Jackson always post the minutes to the website once approved.

Meeting to repeal both Legislations Ordinance No. 2026-51 and Ordinance No. 2026-55

ORD. NO. 2026-51

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

Councilperson Davis/Attorney Montello

She said to Attorney Montello we didn't have two-thirds; it was not two-thirds spoken.

Councilperson Evans-Warren/Attorney Montello

Councilmember Evans-Warren questioned why the emergency legislation failed despite receiving a 4-3 vote, noting that emergency measures require a two-thirds majority (five votes) under the Village Charter.

Attorney Montello responded that, based on guidance from Jim Climer, the Law Director, the legislation did not pass as an emergency because it lacked the required five votes. However, Attorney Montello explained that it did pass as regular legislation with a simple majority and would therefore take effect after the standard 30-day waiting period rather than immediately.

Council President Hardin, Councilperson Evans-Warren/Attorney Montello

Councilmember Evans-Warren questioned Attorney Montello how emergency legislation could automatically become regular legislation after failing to receive the required five votes for emergency passage. She also asked why the legislation was drafted as an emergency measure if it could not achieve its intended effective date and raised concerns about conflicting legal interpretations provided by attorneys Climer and Montello from the same law office.

Attorney Montello explained that Jim Climer the Law Director initially shared his interpretation but later researched the issue and concluded that the legislation had passed as regular legislation, effective after 30 days. He stated that this conclusion is supported by applicable case law and remains the Law Director's position.

Council President Hardin asked for confirmation that the legislation had indeed passed with a 30-day effective date but emphasized that the delay undermined the purpose of the legislation, since it was intended to take effect before the end of June.

Council President Hardin/Attorney John Montello

Attorney Montello said he believed Jim Climer the Law Director would wait until the 30-day effective period had expired before submitting the related bill, but he expressed no objection to repealing and reintroducing the legislation to eliminate confusion. Mr. Montello recommended bringing it back as emergency legislation at the next regular Council meeting so it could take immediate effect if it received the required five votes.

Council President Hardin sought clarification, confirming her understanding that Council's plan was to repeal the prior legislation for clarity and have the Law Director's office reintroduce it at the next meeting with the necessary emergency language for proper consideration.

Motion passed to Suspend the Rules by Davis, Seconded by Scruggs 6-0
Vote: Yes Hardin, Scruggs, Evans-Warren, Sims, Davis, Bliss

Motion passed to Repeal Ord. No. 2026-51 by Davis, Seconded by Evans-Warren
Vote: Yes Hardin, Scruggs, Evans-Warren, Sims, Davis,
Approved, Motion Passed to Repeal (6-0)

ORD. NO. 2026-55

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

Council President, Hardin/Clerk of Council, Carol Jackson

The Clerk of Council, Carol Jackson announced to council, 2 links the Mayor shared for review and supplied each council member with handouts. The Mayor emailed Clerk of Council less than 3 hours before this scheduled Council meeting stated information was regarding public parks as they consider the NatureWorks grant legislation during the Council meeting. Council President, Hardin responded, "*the Mayor didn't attend the meeting to explain what the links given meant*".

The New Job of Public Parks: Climate Defense, Connectivity, and Community Growth (June 2026):

<https://communityplaymaker.com/discoveries/the-new-job-of-public-parks-climate-defense-connectivity-and-community-growth/>

2025 Engagement with Parks Report:

https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/257fe28053c6420786927fcffc2f9996/2025engagementreport_final.pdf

***Motion passed to Suspend the Rules by Davis, Seconded Evans-Warren 5-1
Vote: Yes Hardin, Scruggs, Evans-Warren, Sims, Davis, Bliss***

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

Vote: NO Bliss

Approved, Motion Passed to Repeal 5-1

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Scruggs and seconded by Sims.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:50p.m.

Approved (date)

Council President, Eloise Hardin

Posted (date)

Clerk of Council, Carol Jackson

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
SPECIAL FINANCE/BUDGET MEETING

July 10, 2026

ATTENDED:**

Council President -Eloise Hardin**	Mayor -Erica L Nikolic
President Pro Tem -Norman Bliss**	Law -John Montello**
Ward 1 Council -Taunya Scruggs**	Finance -Karen Howse**
Ward 2 Council -Yvonne Evans-Warren**	Engineer -Matt Jones
Ward 3 Council -Paggie Matlock	Service Director-Tom Haba
Ward 4 Council -Mary Davis**	Fire Chief-David Tapp
Ward 5 Council -Malcolm Sims, Jr.**	Building Director-Rodney Stephens
	Recreation- Karen Gaither
	Police Captain-John Freeman

LATE ARRIVAL-*

ABSENT:

Ward 3 Council -Paggie Matlock
Mayor -Erica L Nikolic
Engineer -Matt Jones
Service Director-Tom Haba
Fire Chief-David Tapp
Building Director-Rodney Stephens
Recreation- Karen Gaither
Police Captain-John Freeman

Finance/Budget Meeting called to order by Davis at 5:40PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Howse:

Interim Finance Director Howse explained that, since starting on **June 1**, she has been conducting a thorough review of the Village's financial operations and has uncovered several inherited issues. She emphasized that her comments are **not intended to criticize the previous finance director or current administration**, but rather to identify problems

that need to be corrected. He said he would later provide written documentation supporting his findings.

Key Points

- **Team effort to address backlog**
 - The finance department currently consists of three staff members, with additional assistance from employees in other departments.
 - Temporary support has been used to post receipts from prior months (February through part of June) and organize financial records.
 - Employees from other departments helped collect receipts, process payments, and ensure deposits were made while finance staffing was in transition.
- **Receipts and deposits not handled timely**
 - Howse said Ohio law requires deposits to be made within **24 hours of receipt**, but this has not consistently occurred.
 - He is developing updated purchasing and cash receipt policies that will reference the applicable Ohio Revised Code requirements.
- **Bank records and accounting records do not match**
 - Sample testing found that numerous **automatic payments** were clearing the bank but were **not being recorded in the Village's accounting system**.
 - This causes the accounting records to overstate available cash compared to the actual bank balance.
- **Lack of monthly reconciliations**
 - Although automatic payments for items like health insurance are appropriate, they should still be reconciled each month.
 - Required reviews to verify employee enrollments, terminations, and other benefit changes were not being performed.
 - As a result, the Village may be eligible for insurance credits or refunds after correcting these records.
- **Need to reorganize the finance department**

- While reviewing salary and wage ordinances, Howse concluded that the current staffing structure is inefficient.
- The department consists entirely of part-time employees, the office closes at 2:00 p.m., and communication and workflow are limited.
- She supports restructuring the department, noting that previous staffing included a full-time finance director and full-time accounting positions with part-time support.
- **Need for cross-training and segregation of duties**
 - Employees should be cross-trained, so essential functions continue when staff are absent.
 - Payroll and accounts payable responsibilities should be separated but backed up by trained employees to prevent operations from stopping during vacations or illnesses.
 - She described this as an important internal control and operational improvement.

Overall Message/Discoveries

Howse characterized her first month as one of **discoveries** rather than blame. She reported finding deficiencies in cash handling, bookkeeping, reconciliations, staffing, and internal controls, and said he plans to document these findings and implement new policies and organizational changes to improve financial transparency, compliance, and continuity of operations.

Interim Finance Director Howse explained that the Finance Department has been operating in a reactive mode due to the departure of the previous finance director and the lack of a structured transition. She noted that the mayor personally handled essential functions such as paying bills and processing payroll to keep operations running until she arrived.

Rather than being able to spend her first month on a planned assessment of the department, Howse said her time has been devoted to "discoveries"—identifying missing records, undocumented processes, and operational gaps—while simultaneously working with external auditors on the long-delayed 2022 and 2023 audits.

Regarding those audits, Howse said she made the decision to stop extending the audit process in search of records that could not be located. Instead, she and the auditors agreed to close the 2022 and 2023 audits with the information available, acknowledging that some items simply could not be verified. She contributed as much information as

possible to the required Management Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) and other audit disclosures, including debt confirmations and narrative explanations. She cautioned that the audits for 2024 and 2025 are also unlikely to produce favorable opinions because of ongoing documentation and recordkeeping deficiencies.

Howse emphasized that these audit challenges are occurring alongside daily operational issues and unexpected problems that continue to surface. She explained that many systems, accounts, and business processes had been established under the previous finance director's personal name rather than the Village's name, making records difficult to locate and access.

As an example, she described the Village's invoice email account, which existed but had been configured to forward messages only to the former finance director (Brian Thompson). As a result, no one else in the Finance Department was aware of incoming invoices after his departure. Once the account was redirected to Howse, numerous unseen invoices began appearing. She has since instructed the IT manager, Tom Sousa, to reconfigure the account so that all Finance Department staff, as well as the mayor, have access. Howse said this reflects a broader policy change to ensure all Village systems and accounts are established under Oakwood Village's name, with multiple designated administrators, rather than being tied to an individual employee.

Howse: Re-Engineering the Finance Department

Finance Director Howse said she has begun reorganizing and updating the Village's salary ordinance because she found it confusing and difficult to use. Positions within the same department were scattered throughout the document instead of being grouped together, making it hard to identify all positions within a department.

She also discovered that some employees' salaries fall outside the approved salary ranges. Howse recommended consolidating all positions and salaries into a single, comprehensive salary ordinance to improve compliance, transparency, and ease of administration.

Howse clarified that while separate ordinances may exist, they should also be incorporated into the master salary ordinance so future administrators do not have to search through multiple ordinances to determine authorized positions and salary ranges.

Councilmember Scruggs asked what the next steps should be to address salary ordinance compliance following approved employee raises. She recalled that Council's goal in 2024 was to establish pay ordinances for every position with defined salary ranges to prevent overpayments and ensure transparency. Recognizing that some employees' current salaries now exceed those ranges, she suggested reviewing and increasing the salary

ranges—rather than reducing employee pay—to align the ordinances with the approved raises and provide appropriate flexibility going forward.

Finance Director Howse explained that she is still developing revised salary ranges and asked Council to allow her to complete the work before reviewing it. She said the existing salary ranges are too narrow, causing employees to exceed the maximum after even modest raises, which forces repeated ordinance amendments.

Howse recommended establishing broader, more practical salary ranges based on the level of the position (e.g., intermediate, management, executive). She outlined a process in which proposed pay increases would identify all affected employees, highlight those whose salaries would exceed the approved ranges, and recommend corresponding range adjustments. She said this approach would improve transparency, reduce the need for frequent legislative changes, and give Council the information needed to make informed decisions on compensation.

Council President, Hardin asked Howse whether the Village should establish a formal schedule to periodically review salary ranges, such as every two or three years, to ensure they remain current and avoid recurring compensation issues?

Interim Finance Director Howse agreed that periodic salary range reviews are a standard best practice but said the Village can determine its own review schedule, whether annually or every two years. She reiterated that the current salary ranges are simply too narrow to function effectively and should be expanded.

Attorney John Montello supported Howse's proposed process, stating that the Human Resources Committee should review and evaluate salary range recommendations before presenting them to the full Council for approval or rejection. He emphasized that effective committee structures are essential to good governance.

Howse asked Council for their support in bringing Quendolyn into a full-time position. Quendolyn has consistently demonstrated the knowledge, reliability, and commitment needed to support the Finance Department during a period of significant transition. Making Quendolyn a full-time employee will provide the department with the stability needed to manage daily financial operations while supporting long-term organizational improvements. Her experience and familiarity with the Village's financial processes have already proven valuable, and investing in her full-time role will help ensure we can continue making meaningful progress without disruptions.

Howse respectfully asked Council for their consideration and support in approving Quendolyn's transition to a full-time position. Howse asked Council to add a legislation for the employee because she is already out of salary range since last year. Interim Finance

Director Howse explained that Village policy requires an employee to complete two years of service before becoming eligible for a salary increase, noting that Quendolyn will reach that milestone in December 2026. She said she has already factored her future salary progression into the proposed salary structure. In the meantime, Howse requested approval to change Quendolyn's position from part-time Accounts Payable to full-time Senior Accounts Payable, with the salary adjustments to be incorporated into a comprehensive salary ordinance. Mr. Montello requested that Ms. Howse would email him the details for the changes she is requesting.

Howse & Montello

Finance Director Howse requested copies of all 2026 salary ordinances, including any that created new positions or approved salary increases outside the main salary ordinance. She explained that these are needed to prepare an updated, comprehensive salary ordinance, as the current 2025 ordinance is already outdated with employees exceeding approved salary ranges. She added that the revised ordinance should be retroactive to January 1 to account for employees hired outside the existing salary ordinance.

Attorney John Montello responded that the Human Resources and Finance Committees should coordinate their work and meeting schedules to ensure Howse is prepared before the matter comes before the committees.

Special Finance/Budget meeting adjourned at 7:05PM.

Approved (date)

Council President, Eloise Hardin

Posted (date)

Clerk of Council, Carol Jackson

THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 14th ,2026

ATTENDED

Council President- Eloise Hardin	Mayor- Erica Nikolic
Council at Large- Norman Bliss	Law- J Montello
Ward 1-Taunya Scruggs	Interim Finance- Karen Howse
Ward 2-Yvonne Evans-Warren	Service-Tom Haba
Ward 3- Paggie Matlock	Fire-Dave Tapp
Ward 4- Mary Davis	Building Dept Mgr. -Rodney Stephens
Ward 5- Malcolm Sims Jr.	Engineer-Matt Jones
	Police- John Freeman

1. Meeting called to order by Hardin at 7:09PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call

4. Minutes-

June 23rd Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve: Passed unanimously

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

Batch of Past Minutes (January-February 2026):

January 13th: Work session and meeting

January 27th: Council meeting

February 3rd: Special meeting

February 4th: Special meeting

February 6th: HR committee meeting

Motion to approve: Passed unanimously

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

5. Correspondence- Clerks Office

Tablet/Laptop Pricing Proposal:

Pricing proposal provided for either tablets or laptops.

Finance director noted concern about "killing trees" with paper usage.

Department heads to be contacted first about needs.

Council members to notify clerks if interested in laptops.

6. Departmental Reports

Mayor Nikolic

1. Master Plan Selection

- Village selected by county for master plan development
- First master plan in 25 years
- Competitive selection process
- Will involve residents, council, and administration working together
- Goal: Map out village vision for 5-10 years
- More details to come once county provides process information

2. 75th Anniversary Celebration & Music Festival

- Instead of traditional weekly concert series, hosting 3-day music festival weekend
- Dates: July 31st, August 1st, and August 2nd
- Schedule:
 - Friday: 5 PM - 9 PM
 - Saturday: 1 PM - 9 PM
 - Sunday: 1 PM - 6 PM
- Multiple concerts instead of one per evening

- Combined with 75th anniversary celebration

3. Historical Display Component

- Creating wall display with family photos, former mayors, historical artifacts
- Dividing displays by decades
- Working with Bedford Historical Society and Western Reserve Historical Society
- Assistant Lauren gathering research from archives
- Seeking unpaid interns to assist with research
- Requesting community contributions of pictures, documents, and artifacts
- Possible commemoration for Mayor Gottschalk

4. Community Engagement

- Residents encouraged us to bring historical items to village
- Talk to relatives and neighbors about family history
- Share family legacy
- Food, fun for kids, music, presentations from former council members planned

5. Town Hall Events

- Last Wednesday of each month is town hall
- Next town hall (last Wednesday): Showcasing fire department and Black Environmental Leaders
- Focus on storm mitigation and preparedness
- "Go bags" will be distributed (emergency kits with chargers, first aid items, etc.)
- Fire department will provide handouts on fire prevention

6. EV Meet and Greet

- Next Wednesday (July): 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM at community center
- Hosting Electric Vehicle Association of Ohio
- Educational opportunity on EV legislation and support
- EV car show planned for 75th anniversary celebration

- Residents can showcase cars and give rides

Finance- Howse- Budget Updates:

- Mid-year appropriations amendment in progress
- Will present to council for review and suggestions
- Salary ordinance legislation to be updated (titles, etc.)

Cuyahoga County Revenue Distribution:

- County was contemplating eliminating advanced property tax distribution
- Now on pause - positive development
- Would have significantly impacted school district (relies on property taxes)
- Would have impacted village cash flow
- Pause allows for further analysis

Budget Concerns Raised by Council:

- Questions about high professional dues expenses
- Questions about high Canva videos and miscellaneous contractual food services
- Finance director to provide activity report showing expenses by line item

Finance Committee Meeting:

- Will be scheduled before next regular council meeting
- Excel spreadsheet to be provided with:
 - Current budget (2026-23)
 - Department head proposals
 - 2025-year expenditures for comparison
 - Column for council to generate their own numbers
- Council members can submit Excel sheets if preferred
- Timeline: "Very soon" for spreadsheet delivery

Police- Freeman

Upcoming Events:

Coffee with a Cop: Thursday, July 23rd, 8 AM - 10 AM at Dunkin' Donuts

Three-on-Three Basketball: Sunday, August 16th, 3 PM - 6 PM at Booker basketball court

Citizens Academy: Starts September 6th

Officer Updates:

Officer Ward now on motorcycle unit

Motorcycles will be in residential areas for traffic enforcement

Also handles parades and special events

LEADS Audit:

Law Enforcement Audit Data System security audit coming up

90-day audit process

Happens every 3 years

Department passes every time

In-depth process

Condolences:

Deepest condolences to Richman Police Department for loss of officer killed in line of duty last week

Honor his sacrifice and courage

Regional Income Tax Agency Announcement:

Starting subpoena program

Residents will receive notifications about appearing in subpoena program

To address outstanding tax balances

Notification coming within next month or so

Residents encouraged to spread the word

Police Chief Status Question:

Council member asked if police chief still employed

Captain Freeman confirmed: Still on payroll, on sick leave

Hasn't been at meetings for last two months

Cooling Center:

- Opening cooling center at community center due to heat
- Available if residents need place to cool off
- Officers can open it up
- Air conditioning available
- Phone charging available
- No food provided
- Part of emergency plan

Walton Hills 75th Anniversary:

- Next Saturday night (July 25th): Walton Hills 75th anniversary celebration
- Fireworks and drone show (approximately 250 drones)
- Oakwood will handle fireworks
- Location: GG Young Park

LED Sign Update:

- Discussion about updating LED signs to include cooling center information
- Appropriate to put on sign if needed

LED Sign Training:

- Discussion about training someone else to input information
- New program being looked at (Science Review now in base of program)
- Thomas mentioned as someone who used to enjoy working on new programs

Building – Stephens-

DCOM (Business):

Letter sent with August 10th compliance deadline

Must comply with fencing and screening requirements from Macedonia property

If non-compliance: Citation will be written and moved to court after August 10th

Gray Brothers (Auto Dealership):

Received violation letter with July 30th compliance date

Compliance date already past

Operation requires selling new and used cars

If not doing that, must stop operation

Long-standing issue (5+ years)

Previously went to court but nothing resolved

Law director to investigate previous court case

Building official to issue citation if non-compliance by July 30th

Council frustrated about lack of progress over years

Zoning & Rental Property Issues:

Discussion about tracking rental properties and LLC-owned homes

SafeBuilt working on updating code

Legislation being developed regarding LLCs and Airbnbs

Mayor and building department need to meet to ensure this doesn't slip through

Law director sent email about legislation allowing inspectors/commission members to write citations (not just traffic)

Two different cities cited as examples

Apartment Rentals:

Got list from county with 2,500+ parcels

Identifying which need to stay on list

Will send mass mailing to residents asking about occupancy, rental status, ownership

Section 8 owners typically require rental registration

No rental registrations currently seen in village

Residential Code Enforcement:

Only one person (building official) doing field inspections

Writing violations when checking properties

9 out of 10 violations go blind (not complied with)

Council requested updates by ward

Vacant Property on Triam Road:

New house being built is separate owner from vacant property in question

Vacant property (25823) owned by LLC

LLC owner paid for permits and to start work

Contractor details being worked out

No definite start date yet

Engineer- Jones

Construction Projects Awarded:

- **First Place Phase Two**
- **2026 Road Program:**
 - Milburn
 - Portions of three streets in the Meadows
 - Two currently open ends of Suwannee
- **Garden Road Sanitary Lateral Group**
- Expected to begin: August/September
- Goal: Complete all projects this year

Catch Basin Repair Program:

- Proposing catch basin and repair program
- Reinham catch basin specifically mentioned
- Will be bid out or RFPs depending on project size
- Funding through Northeast High Regional Sewer District (community cost share)
- Engineer working with sewer district to confirm funding eligibility
- More information when council returns from recess

Sidewalk Projects (Tryon Road):

- Funding challenges for east end of Tryon
- CDBG funding only eligible in LMI (Low-Moderate Income) census brackets
- East end of Tryon doesn't qualify
- Sidewalk projects don't score well under OPWC funding
- Limited funding sources available for non-LMI areas
- Would require local money if priority for council
- Residents will be notified individually (7 impacted homes)
- Expected to begin August
- Pre-construction meeting not yet held

Speed Bumps:

- Receiving calls about speed bumps from Meadows and Booker areas
- Have movable trailer to test areas
- Researching prices for speed bumps and speed tables
- Movable ones better (can remove in winter)
- Residents encouraged to call if they think speeding is issue on their street
- Considering buying in packs of 10
- Trailer can be moved to areas before investment in permanent bumps
- County permission needed for state streets (unlikely to approve)

Street Signs:

- New "No Truck" signs installed overhead by stoplight
- Corner of Freddy Baldwin and Broadway Alexander

Pedestrian Safety - Triumph Road:

- Concern about pedestrian crossing safety on Triumph Road
- Flashing pedestrian signs would help (more noticeable)
- Blind spots on Richmond Road coming over hills
- Dangerous kids on bikes
- Crosswalk completion on Triumph important
- Once sidewalk ends on Gene, pedestrians in street
- Engineer to help address

7. Ward Reports and Committee Reports

No reports from the wards or committees but Councilman Bliss had some concerns he wanted to address. (Attached to the minutes are the remarks that were made.)

Background:

- Selected to fill open seat November 13, 2025
- Took oath of office November 4, 2024 (administered by County Executive Chris Romaine)
- Accepted solemn responsibility to support Constitution, state laws, village charter
- Promised to lead with integrity, listen before speaking, choose service over ego, progress over politics, unity over division

Concerns After 8 Months:

- Deeply concerned about overall effectiveness of council leadership
- Pattern of governance issues weakening public confidence
- Issues not about one disagreement or individual

Specific Governance Failures:

1. Charter Responsibilities Not Met:

- Failed to organize at beginning of year
- Lack of established rules
- Inaccurate/inaccessible records of agendas and minutes
- Legislative business not properly recorded
- Reoccurring confusion around meetings, agendas, legislation, voting requirements, rules, procedures

2. Organizational Structure:

- Failed to begin term with organizational meeting
- No functioning committee structure
- Substantial delays and gaps in approval of meeting minutes

3. Decision-Making Process:

- Too reactive (special meetings, emergency legislation, suspended readings, last-minute considerations)
- Not enough advanced planning, committee review, public explanation, deliberate decision-making
- Example: Failure to act within deadline on FOP collective bargaining agreement

4. Charter Amendments:

- Process raised important concerns
- Lack of clarity and public understanding
- Insufficient council oversight
- Overwhelmingly rejected by village voters
- Residents deserve transparent, well-understood process

5. Impact:

- Not merely procedural shortcomings
- Affects stewardship of public resources

- Impacts public confidence in elected officials

Opportunities & Challenges:

- Village has unprecedented opportunity with master plan selection
- First community-wide master plan in 25 years
- Demolition of dilapidated housing, economic development, neighborhood revitalization, retail/commercial expansion planned
- Council must be capable of working constructively, making timely decisions, putting residents first

Commitment:

- Overcoming weeks will present documented examples
- All observations based on village records, council minutes, legislation, village charter, Ohio law
- Welcomes constructive professional dialog and different viewpoints
- Accountability begins with agreeing on facts
- Every elected official takes same oath
- Question is whether we continue to live up to it
- Oath of office is standard for holding self and council accountable
- Together can restore accountability and transparency
- "Remember the best is yet to come"

8. Open Floor Comments from the Village Residents

COMMENT 1 - SHARON MACKLIN (Fire Department Praise)

Topic: Fire Department Emergency Response

Content:

- Praised the fire department for saving her son's life
- Son: Robert Macklin, 28 years old, employed, doing well
- Situation: Son became very ill

- Daughter Stephanie decided to take him to the fire department instead of hospital
- Fire department response: Immediate and professional
- Actions: Three firefighters worked on him right away, got him calmed down, set up IV
- Transport: Took him to hospital
- Outcome: Son is now fine
- Gratitude: Thanked the three firefighters specifically, said they "saved his life"
- Offered: To provide hot dogs for council when they're ready

Quote: "They saved my son tonight. They really saved his life. And I just want to say thank you."

COMMENT 2 - MELINDA HARP (Schools, July 4th Incident, Ethics Concern)

Background: Resident of Ward 5, attending council meetings for 10 months, concerned resident and taxpayer

Issue #1: Schools Reporting

Concern:

- Never been to council meeting with school report
- Elderly residents paying increased taxes for school levies
- Residents with children in school system get no updates
- Lack of transparency about school performance

Questions Raised:

- Are Bedford schools flunking the Ohio state report card?
- How is the new school building construction going?
- Has there been a change in the blueprint?
- Is the Board of Education building no longer in the planned conglomerate?
- What's the state of the schools?
- What are the problems?
- Are there police issues?

- Are there transportation problems?
- Are there bussing issues in Oakwood related to schools?

Request:

- Wants school committee report as part of regular council reports
 - Wants information on state of schools, problems, report card status
-

Issue #2: July 4th Incident (Red Avenue Party)

Situation:

- Same event, same address, same people, same situation as last year
- Police called to address large party on Red Avenue
- Called out two police departments: Altamont Hills and Bedford
- Same behavior repeated from last year

Differences from Last Year:

- Last year: No citations issued
- This year: Citation issued but homeowner refused it

Questions:

- What happened to the refused citation?
- What happens when someone refuses a citation?
- Were any arrests made?
- What happened to prosecution from last year's incident?

Police Response (Captain Freeman):

- Situation was on Red Avenue
- Large party with parking all over street
- People in and out of cars up and down roadway
- Called other departments for assistance

- Spoke with homeowner about violations: parking situation, disorderliness, nuisance to residents
- Citation given; homeowner refused it
- Citation has been filed in court
- Pending court case for disorderly conduct (criminal offense, not traffic or civil)

Follow-up Questions:

- Are other citations forthcoming?

Police Response:

- Being considered as potential nuisance violation
- Currently in law department's hands
- Still being reviewed

Resident's Concern:

- Lives in that neighborhood
- Doesn't like the situation
- Doesn't want people to think they have privilege to repeat this behavior

Issue #3: Ethics Concern - Council Member Sims

Incident:

- Council Member Sims read a letter from a discharged employee at a council meeting
- Meeting was live streamed and audio recorded
- This should not have happened

Legal/Ethical Issues:

- Sims received copy of Ohio Ethics Law when taking office
- Had to put in writing that he received it
- "Ignorance is not any excuse"

Conflict of Interest:

- Sims placed himself and city of Oakwood at disadvantage
- Letter was from disgruntled employee
- Not council business; was administrative decision
- Created conflict of interest by reading letter
- Employee already stated intention to sue city
- Can't represent both plaintiff and defendant
- Placed city at disadvantage by live streaming and audio recording
- "Gross neglect of duty to the people that you represent"

Resident's Charge to Sims:

- In office for 6 months
- Every time resident comes to meeting, Sims is reading letters or talking about meetings
- As Ward 5 resident, wants to know: What are your visions for our ward?
- When will you have a meeting for the ward?
- When will you walk up and down the ward and see what residents are talking about?
- When will you talk to residents?
- "I don't need you to read the letters. I don't need you to come up here and talk about anything else except what's happening in Ward 5. And right now, nothing is happening. Another 10 years of nothing."

COMMENT 3 - KIMBERLY CHAPMAN NGUYEN (Village Governance, Community Policing, July 4th Incident)

Background: Lives on Newport, frustrated, disappointed, and concerned about village direction and reputation

Issue #1: Village Governance

Four Cs Principle (mentioned previously to council):

- Civility

- Communication
- Collaboration
- Community

Concerns:

- Village should be about civility for all
- Conflicting views and opinions are okay, but not destructive controversy
- Village is "breaking" or "broken"
- Disrespect, animosity, and revenge are not acceptable
- Can be community builders or dividers/destroyers

Suggestions:

- Thank you for YouTube availability of council meetings
- Encourage residents to watch
- Encourage village to use larger chambers for more comfort and attendance
- Provide "Governing 101" session for residents
- Residents confused about how village government operates

Resident's Work:

- Worked with community on summer camp
- Familiar with community building work
- Loves the community
- Believes "it takes a village"
- Each entity has role to play: mayor/staff, council, community members
- Like wheels of a car - each needed to carry village forward

Requirements:

- Respect and accountability must be present
- Tough questions must be asked and answered by all entities
- For physical health, well-being, and safety of every resident

Issue #2: Community Policing

Personal Background:

- Family members had negative and sometimes deadly interactions with police
- Sees it almost daily in news and social media
- Previously spoke to Chief Garrett about concerns
- Walker, mother of runner and skateboarder

Community Policing Concept:

- Simple: Raise your hand, say hi, stop to talk to neighbors
- For police: Be friendly and community focused to those they serve

Personal Experience:

- Often raises hand to officers driving
- Stopped to talk to them
- Rarely gets A smile
- Very rarely gets hello
- Usually receives grimaces

Praise for Captain Freeman:

- Hears he's meeting with community
- Applauds that effort
- But asks: Why not ask officers to do minimal basic greeting?
- Most officers don't live in community
- Questions how much they care about community
- Had one officer who did community policing well (danced with residents)
- That officer is now gone

Issue #3: July 4th Incident (Red Avenue Party)

Witness Account:

- Heard about event from Mrs. Denise Kennedy and her husband Kenneth
- They witnessed what happened that night
- Mrs. Kennedy wanted to be present but had family event
- Said what happened "could have caused unnecessary panic"
- "Could have completely been avoided"
- "Could have led to dire consequences"

Historical Context:

- People of color, Black folks know difficult history with police
- All carry historical intergenerational trauma, racial trauma
- Resident's family: Two members lynched at hands of police
- This trauma impacts DNA

July 4th Context:

- Many celebrations around village
- Several in resident's development
- Heard voices, loud music
- At no point did she think of calling police, even after 11 PM

The Incident:

- Event in house in Ward 5 celebrating holiday
- According to Kennedys: Music was turned off when they got home around 11 or 11:30 PM
- Police response: **8-9 police cars showed up**
- Police cars from other agencies (not just Oakwood)

Resident's Concerns:

- Has nephew killed at hands of police
- Problem with 8-9 police cars for loud noise

- One or two police cars would have been sufficient
- Questions: What could have happened that night? What resources wasted? Where else could police have been needed?
- Party was already over when police arrived

Broader Police Violence Concern:

- See almost daily interactions with law enforcement
- Violent handling and killing of Black youth
- "Please don't assume it can't happen here. Please don't do that."

Relationship with Community:

- Grew up with council person who remembers parties at Joy Farm
- Once party mentioned, kids come from everywhere
- What relationship do we want with community and police?

Personal Approach:

- Had nights with parties, loud talk, basketball, other loud activities
- Either went out to speak to neighbors or spoke to them days later
- Understands this may have been different
- Asks neighbors and friends to think differently before calling police
- "Police are caught, bad things can happen. I know it."
- Would never call police on children
- "That's community building and developing understanding and respect"

Conclusion:

- "Oakwood Village is breaking or it is broken"
 - Asked all entities (mayor, council, department heads, neighbors) to search inside
 - "Are you part of the divisiveness? If so, you're part of problem."
 - "What are you doing to be community builders to continue to make Oakwood Village a desirable place to live, because it really does take a village?"
-

COMMENT 4 - TANYA DIXON (Infrastructure/Maintenance Issues)

Background: Lives on Buckegon, 264 and 251, biker who rides bikes all over city

Issue #1: Juneteenth vs. July 4th

- Interesting that big party on July 4th
- Suggests spending time, money, energy on Juneteenth instead
- "Get educated"

Issue #2: Forbes and Richmond Intersection (Gravel/Dirt Problem)

Personal Action:

- About a month ago, got up at 6:30 AM
- Swept up whole bunch of little gravel rocks on Forbes and Richmond
- Got bucket, tossed rocks and dirt behind wall
- Cleaned it all up, swept it, blew it, got it around curb

Problem:

- Went out of town 2-3 weeks later
- Whole bunch of dirt there now
- Where did this dirt come from?
- On the other side of street: Big chunk of wax
- Plans to clean it this weekend if she gets chance

Why It Matters:

- When riding bikes on gravel, can sit them off (fall)
- Walking dog, riding, running: Gravel on both sides of street
- Everyone thanked her when she cleaned it up

Request:

- Doesn't know who to speak to get it cleaned up
- Asking for help
- Or will do it herself

Response from Service Department:

- Water breaks there
- Gravel washed up from heavy rain
- Water breaks about 3 years ago, maybe a month ago
- Big white spin up over there
- Service department to get somebody out there to look at it

9. Legislation

2026-50 AN ORDINANCE REORGANIZING THE CLERK OF COURTS OFFICE

Vote:

Sims: Yes, Evans-Warren: Yes, Hardin: Yes, Scruggs: Yes, Matlock: Yes, Davis: Yes.

Bliss: No

- The legislation PASSED despite concerns because:
- Mayor requested tabling - Not immediate implementation
- Council agreed to table it - Allows for further discussion
- Mayor will present financial analysis - At finance committee meeting before next regular council meeting
- 6-month pilot period - August through December to assess profitability

2026-51 AN ORDINANCE 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 PASSED

Retaining James A. Climer for transition services

Compensation: Not to exceed \$15,000

Three-month time frame (can be extended)

Climer to provide monthly bills until amount reached

If new law director is hired, council can address continuation at later time

Motion to suspend rules: Passed

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

Motion to adopt: Passed

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

2026-56 A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF THELMA PAULINE WILLIAMS

Motion to suspend rules: Passed

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

Motion to adopt: Passed

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

2026-57 AN ORDINANCE IMPROVING THE APPOINTMENT AND FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF THE LAW DIRECTOR: CONCERNING THE HIRING OF BRICKER, GRAYDON, AND WYATT AS LAW DIRECTOR PASSED (AS AMENDED)

Purpose: To appoint new law director and establish compensation

Amendment Made:

Council member proposed amendment to include annual contract review

Amendment language: "The contract expires every January and requires approval by the Mayor and Council"

Ensure annual review rather than indefinite appointment

Motion to suspend rules: Passed

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

Motion to adopt: Passed

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

Unanimous approval (as amended)

RECLASSIFYING THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE POSITION TO SENIOR ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST TO ENCOMPASS ADDITIONAL DUTIES REQUIRED TO ASSIST THE FINANCE DIRECTOR IN AN EFFORT TO RESTRUCTURE THE DEPARTMENT TO OPERATE EFFICIENTLY AS A FULL-TIME POSITION AND THE CURRENT SALARY ORDINANCE IS AMENDED ACCORDINGLY

- Position reclassified: Accounts Payable → Senior Accounting Specialist
- Status change: Part-time → Full-time
- Expanded duties to assist finance director
- Salary: Current salary maintained (ordinance amended accordingly)

Vote Process:

Motion to approve: Passed

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

This was placed in error as an Ordinance. This isn't an Ordinance it's a motion only that was passed and approved.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Sims and seconded by Davis. Meeting adjourned at 9:06PM.

Approved (Date)

Council President, Eloise Hardin

Posted (Date)

Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry

DRAFT

THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

July 18th ,2026

Council President- Eloise Hardin	
President Pro Tem- Norman Bliss	
Ward 1-Taunya Scruggs	
Ward 2-Yvonne Evans-Warren	
Ward 3-Paggie Matlock	
Ward 4- Mary Davis	
Ward 5- Malcolm Sims Jr.	

1. Meeting called to order by Hardin at 11:00AM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call

2026-50 AN ORDINANCE REORGANIZING THE CLERK OF COURTS OFFICE

Main Topic: Vote to override the mayor's veto on Ordinance 2026-50 regarding the Mayor's Court

Key Discussion Points:

1. The Mayor's Court Issue

- The council is debating whether to keep or eliminate the Mayor's Court
- This has been a topic of discussion for several years, with council members requesting financial documentation to justify its existence
- The Mayor's Court was previously closed due to COVID and has not been fully reopened

2. Financial Concerns

- Council members argue they lack sufficient financial data from the mayor to make an informed decision
- The village is facing budget constraints and needs to cut expenses

- Council members cite staffing concerns and question whether the court generates enough revenue to justify its operation
- Councilperson Davis (Finance Chair) notes that despite 15+ finance committee meetings, the mayor has not shared detailed financial information

3. Governance & Process Debate

- Councilman Bliss proposes referring the matter to the Finance Committee for comprehensive review before making a final decision
- Other council members argue this is unnecessary delay and that the mayor should have presented financial data earlier in the process
- Discussion about proper governance structure and committee roles

4. Concerns About Ticketing Practices

- Council members raise concerns about using the Mayor's Court as a revenue source through ticketing
- References to ACLU report on ticketing's impact on African American communities
- Emphasis that public safety should not be driven by ticket quotas

5. Council Dynamics

- Tension between council members regarding governance approach and decision-making processes
- Discussion about council clerk reporting on other members' activities (deemed inappropriate it is not in her job description to report that when she was asked.)
- Scruggs emphasizes the need for unity and proper governance
- If it happens again, it was stated there will be consequences
- Next time do not engage if something like this happens again

Vote & Outcome: 2026-50 AN ORDINANCE REORGANIZING THE CLERK OF COURTS OFFICE

- **Motion:** Override the Mayor's veto on Ordinance 2026-50
- **Result: 7-0 vote to override** (unanimous approval)

- **Vote YES: Hardin, Sims, Scruggs, Bliss, Matlock, Davis, Evans-Warren.**
- The ordinance passes, effectively eliminating or significantly changing the Mayor's Court

Next Steps: The mayor will have time to continue researching and gathering financial data. If the law director determines the process was improper, the matter can be revisited at the next regular meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:44 AM by Hardin.

Approved (date)

Council President, Eloise Hardin

Posted (date)

Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
SPECIAL FINANCE/BUDGET MEETING

July 10, 2026

ATTENDED:**

Council President -Eloise Hardin**	Mayor -Erica L Nikolic
President Pro Tem -Norman Bliss**	Law -John Montello**
Ward 1 Council -Taunya Scruggs**	Finance -Karen Howse**
Ward 2 Council -Yvonne Evans-Warren**	Engineer -Matt Jones
Ward 3 Council -Paggie Matlock	Service Director-Tom Haba
Ward 4 Council -Mary Davis**	Fire Chief-David Tapp
Ward 5 Council -Malcolm Sims, Jr.**	Building Director-Rodney Stephens
	Recreation- Karen Gaither
	Police Captain-John Freeman

LATE ARRIVAL-*

ABSENT:

Ward 3 Council -Paggie Matlock
Mayor -Erica L Nikolic
Engineer -Matt Jones
Service Director-Tom Haba
Fire Chief-David Tapp
Building Director-Rodney Stephens
Recreation- Karen Gaither
Police Captain-John Freeman

Finance/Budget Meeting called to order by Davis at 5:40PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Howse:

Interim Finance Director Howse explained that, since starting on **June 1**, she has been conducting a thorough review of the Village's financial operations and has uncovered several inherited issues. She emphasized that her comments are **not intended to criticize the previous finance director or current administration**, but rather to identify problems

that need to be corrected. He said he would later provide written documentation supporting his findings.

Key Points

- **Team effort to address backlog**
 - The finance department currently consists of three staff members, with additional assistance from employees in other departments.
 - Temporary support has been used to post receipts from prior months (February through part of June) and organize financial records.
 - Employees from other departments helped collect receipts, process payments, and ensure deposits were made while finance staffing was in transition.
- **Receipts and deposits not handled timely**
 - Howse said Ohio law requires deposits to be made within **24 hours of receipt**, but this has not consistently occurred.
 - He is developing updated purchasing and cash receipt policies that will reference the applicable Ohio Revised Code requirements.
- **Bank records and accounting records do not match**
 - Sample testing found that numerous **automatic payments** were clearing the bank but were **not being recorded in the Village's accounting system**.
 - This causes the accounting records to overstate available cash compared to the actual bank balance.
- **Lack of monthly reconciliations**
 - Although automatic payments for items like health insurance are appropriate, they should still be reconciled each month.
 - Required reviews to verify employee enrollments, terminations, and other benefit changes were not being performed.
 - As a result, the Village may be eligible for insurance credits or refunds after correcting these records.
- **Need to reorganize the finance department**

- While reviewing salary and wage ordinances, Howse concluded that the current staffing structure is inefficient.
 - The department consists entirely of part-time employees, the office closes at 2:00 p.m., and communication and workflow are limited.
 - She supports restructuring the department, noting that previous staffing included a full-time finance director and full-time accounting positions with part-time support.
- **Need for cross-training and segregation of duties**
 - Employees should be cross-trained, so essential functions continue when staff are absent.
 - Payroll and accounts payable responsibilities should be separated but backed up by trained employees to prevent operations from stopping during vacations or illnesses.
 - She described this as an important internal control and operational improvement.

Overall Message/Discoveries

Howse characterized her first month as one of **discoveries** rather than blame. She reported finding deficiencies in cash handling, bookkeeping, reconciliations, staffing, and internal controls, and said he plans to document these findings and implement new policies and organizational changes to improve financial transparency, compliance, and continuity of operations.

Interim Finance Director Howse explained that the Finance Department has been operating in a reactive mode due to the departure of the previous finance director and the lack of a structured transition. She noted that the mayor personally handled essential functions such as paying bills and processing payroll to keep operations running until she arrived.

Rather than being able to spend her first month on a planned assessment of the department, Howse said her time has been devoted to "discoveries"—identifying missing records, undocumented processes, and operational gaps—while simultaneously working with external auditors on the long-delayed 2022 and 2023 audits.

Regarding those audits, Howse said she made the decision to stop extending the audit process in search of records that could not be located. Instead, she and the auditors agreed to close the 2022 and 2023 audits with the information available, acknowledging that some items simply could not be verified. She contributed as much information as

possible to the required Management Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) and other audit disclosures, including debt confirmations and narrative explanations. She cautioned that the audits for 2024 and 2025 are also unlikely to produce favorable opinions because of ongoing documentation and recordkeeping deficiencies.

Howse emphasized that these audit challenges are occurring alongside daily operational issues and unexpected problems that continue to surface. She explained that many systems, accounts, and business processes had been established under the previous finance director's personal name rather than the Village's name, making records difficult to locate and access.

As an example, she described the Village's invoice email account, which existed but had been configured to forward messages only to the former finance director (Brian Thompson). As a result, no one else in the Finance Department was aware of incoming invoices after his departure. Once the account was redirected to Howse, numerous unseen invoices began appearing. She has since instructed the IT manager, Tom Sousa, to reconfigure the account so that all Finance Department staff, as well as the mayor, have access. Howse said this reflects a broader policy change to ensure all Village systems and accounts are established under Oakwood Village's name, with multiple designated administrators, rather than being tied to an individual employee.

Howse: Re-Engineering the Finance Department

Finance Director Howse said she has begun reorganizing and updating the Village's salary ordinance because she found it confusing and difficult to use. Positions within the same department were scattered throughout the document instead of being grouped together, making it hard to identify all positions within a department.

She also discovered that some employees' salaries fall outside the approved salary ranges. Howse recommended consolidating all positions and salaries into a single, comprehensive salary ordinance to improve compliance, transparency, and ease of administration.

Howse clarified that while separate ordinances may exist, they should also be incorporated into the master salary ordinance so future administrators do not have to search through multiple ordinances to determine authorized positions and salary ranges.

Councilmember Scruggs asked what the next steps should be to address salary ordinance compliance following approved employee raises. She recalled that Council's goal in 2024 was to establish pay ordinances for every position with defined salary ranges to prevent overpayments and ensure transparency. Recognizing that some employees' current salaries now exceed those ranges, she suggested reviewing and increasing the salary

ranges—rather than reducing employee pay—to align the ordinances with the approved raises and provide appropriate flexibility going forward.

Finance Director Howse explained that she is still developing revised salary ranges and asked Council to allow her to complete the work before reviewing it. She said the existing salary ranges are too narrow, causing employees to exceed the maximum after even modest raises, which forces repeated ordinance amendments.

Howse recommended establishing broader, more practical salary ranges based on the level of the position (e.g., intermediate, management, executive). She outlined a process in which proposed pay increases would identify all affected employees, highlight those whose salaries would exceed the approved ranges, and recommend corresponding range adjustments. She said this approach would improve transparency, reduce the need for frequent legislative changes, and give Council the information needed to make informed decisions on compensation.

Council President, Hardin asked Howse whether the Village should establish a formal schedule to periodically review salary ranges, such as every two or three years, to ensure they remain current and avoid recurring compensation issues?

Interim Finance Director Howse agreed that periodic salary range reviews are a standard best practice but said the Village can determine its own review schedule, whether annually or every two years. She reiterated that the current salary ranges are simply too narrow to function effectively and should be expanded.

Attorney John Montello supported Howse's proposed process, stating that the Human Resources Committee should review and evaluate salary range recommendations before presenting them to the full Council for approval or rejection. He emphasized that effective committee structures are essential to good governance.

Howse asked Council for their support in bringing Quendolyn into a full-time position. Quendolyn has consistently demonstrated the knowledge, reliability, and commitment needed to support the Finance Department during a period of significant transition. Making Quendolyn a full-time employee will provide the department with the stability needed to manage daily financial operations while supporting long-term organizational improvements. Her experience and familiarity with the Village's financial processes have already proven valuable, and investing in her full-time role will help ensure we can continue making meaningful progress without disruptions.

Howse respectfully asked Council for their consideration and support in approving Quendolyn's transition to a full-time position. Howse asked Council to add a legislation for the employee because she is already out of salary range since last year. Interim Finance

Director Howse explained that Village policy requires an employee to complete two years of service before becoming eligible for a salary increase, noting that Quendolyn will reach that milestone in December 2026. She said she has already factored her future salary progression into the proposed salary structure. In the meantime, Howse requested approval to change Quendolyn's position from part-time to full-time Accounts Payable, with the salary adjustments to be incorporated into a comprehensive salary ordinance. Howse would like her to start as soon as that legislation passes.

Howse & Montello

Finance Director Howse requested copies of all 2026 salary ordinances, including any that created new positions or approved salary increases outside the main salary ordinance. She explained that these are needed to prepare an updated, comprehensive salary ordinance, as the current 2025 ordinance is already outdated with employees exceeding approved salary ranges. She added that the revised ordinance should be retroactive to January 1 to account for employees hired outside the existing salary ordinance.

Attorney John Montello responded that the Human Resources and Finance Committees should coordinate their work and meeting schedules to ensure Howse is prepared before the matter comes before the committees.

Special Finance/Budget meeting adjourned at 7:05PM.

Approved (date)

Council President, Eloise Hardin

Posted (date)

Clerk of Council, Carol Jackson

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 10th, 2026

ATTENDED**:

Eloise Hardin- Council President **	Erica Nikolic- Mayor
Norman Bliss- Council at Large**	Matt Jones- Engineer
Taunya Scruggs- Ward 1**	Tom Haba- Service Director
Yvonne Evans-Warren- Ward 2**	David Tapp- Fire Chief
Paggie Matlock- Ward 3	John Freeman- Police Captain
Mary Davis-Ward 4**	Rodney Stephens-Building Dir.
Malcom Sims, Jr. – Ward 5**	Karen Gaither- Recreation
	Karen Howse- Finance
	John Montello – Law**

ABSENT:

Ward 3 Council -Paggie Matlock
Mayor -Erica L Nikolic*
Matt Jones- Engineer
Tom Haba- Service Director
David Tapp- Fire Chief
John Freeman- Police Captain
Rodney Stephens-Building Dir.
Karen Gaither- Recreation
Karen Howse- Finance

*=Late Arrival

Meeting opened: 7:06 By Hardin

1. Meeting came to order
2. Pledge
3. Roll Call

Minutes

Hardin informed all Council all minutes will be read at the next regular scheduled Council mtg on Tues, July 14, 2026, and after approval by council all of the mentioned minutes will be posted on the website for: (1/13/26 Council Mtg and 1/13/26 WS, 1/27/26 Council Mtg had no WS, 2/3/26 and 2/4/26 Special Council Mtgs went right into Executive Session and 2/6/26 HR Committee Special Mtg went right into Executive

Session). Hardin stated to Councilperson, Mr. Bliss, If someone wants to listen to it, records are maintained for audio recording as well, and the Clerk of Council, Carol Jackson always post the minutes to the website once approved.

Meeting to repeal both Legislations Ordinance No. 2026-51 and Ordinance No. 2026-55

ORD. NO. 2026-51

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

Councilperson Davis/Attorney Montello

She said to Attorney Montello we didn't have two-thirds; it was not two-thirds spoken.

Councilperson Evans-Warren/Attorney Montello

Councilmember Evans-Warren questioned why the emergency legislation failed despite receiving a 4-3 vote, noting that emergency measures require a two-thirds majority (five votes) under the Village Charter.

Attorney Montello responded that, based on guidance from Jim Climer, the Law Director, the legislation did not pass as an emergency because it lacked the required five votes. However, Attorney Montello explained that it did pass as regular legislation with a simple majority and would therefore take effect after the standard 30-day waiting period rather than immediately.

Council President Hardin, Councilperson Evans-Warren/Attorney Montello

Councilmember Evans-Warren questioned Attorney Montello how emergency legislation could automatically become regular legislation after failing to receive the required five votes for emergency passage. She also asked why the legislation was drafted as an emergency measure if it could not achieve its intended effective date and raised concerns about conflicting legal interpretations provided by attorneys Climer and Montello from the same law office.

Attorney Montello explained that Jim Climer the Law Director initially shared his interpretation but later researched the issue and concluded that the legislation had passed as regular legislation, effective after 30 days. He stated that this conclusion is supported by applicable case law and remains the Law Director's position.

Council President Hardin asked for confirmation that the legislation had indeed passed with a 30-day effective date but emphasized that the delay undermined the purpose of the legislation, since it was intended to take effect before the end of June.

Council President Hardin/Attorney John Montello

Attorney Montello said he believed Jim Climer the Law Director would wait until the 30-day effective period had expired before submitting the related bill, but he expressed no objection to repealing and reintroducing the legislation to eliminate confusion. Mr. Montello recommended bringing it back as emergency legislation at the next regular Council meeting so it could take immediate effect if it received the required five votes.

Council President Hardin sought clarification, confirming her understanding that Council's plan was to repeal the prior legislation for clarity and have the Law Director's office reintroduce it at the next meeting with the necessary emergency language for proper consideration.

***Motion passed to Suspend the Rules by Davis, Seconded by Scruggs 6-0
Vote: Yes Hardin, Scruggs, Evans-Warren, Sims, Davis, Bliss***

***Motion passed to Repeal Ord. No. 2026-51 by Davis, Seconded by Evans-Warren
Vote: Yes Hardin, Scruggs, Evans-Warren, Sims, Davis,
Approved, Motion Passed to Repeal (6-0)***

ORD. NO. 2026-55

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

Council President, Hardin/Clerk of Council, Carol Jackson

The Clerk of Council, Carol Jackson announced to council, 2 links the Mayor shared for review and supplied each council member with handouts. The Mayor emailed Clerk of Council less than 3 hours before this scheduled Council meeting stated information was regarding public parks as they consider the NatureWorks grant legislation during the Council meeting. Council President, Hardin responded, "*the Mayor didn't attend the meeting to explain what the links given meant*".

The New Job of Public Parks: Climate Defense, Connectivity, and Community Growth (June 2026):

<https://communityplaymaker.com/discoveries/the-new-job-of-public-parks-climate-defense-connectivity-and-community-growth/>

2025 Engagement with Parks Report:

https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/257fe28053c6420786927fcffc2f9996/2025engagementreport_final.pdf

Motion passed to Suspend the Rules by Davis, Seconded Evans-Warren 5-1

Vote: Yes Hardin, Scruggs, Evans-Warren, Sims, Davis, Bliss

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

Vote: NO Bliss

Approved, Motion Passed to Repeal 5-1

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Scruggs and seconded by Sims.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:50p.m.

Approved (date)

Council President, Eloise Hardin

Posted (date)

Clerk of Council, Carol Jackson

THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 14th ,2026

ATTENDED

Council President- Eloise Hardin	Mayor- Erica Nikolic
Council at Large- Norman Bliss	Law- J Montello
Ward 1-Taunya Scruggs	Interim Finance- Karen Howse
Ward 2-Yvonne Evans-Warren	Service-Tom Haba
Ward 3- Paggie Matlock	Fire-Dave Tapp
Ward 4- Mary Davis	Building Dept Mgr. -Rodney Stephens
Ward 5- Malcolm Sims Jr.	Engineer-Matt Jones
	Police- John Freeman

-
1. Meeting called to order by Hardin at 7:09PM
 2. Pledge of Allegiance
 3. Roll Call

4. Minutes-

June 23rd Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve: Passed unanimously

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

Batch of Past Minutes (January-February 2026):

January 13th: Work session and meeting

January 27th: Council meeting

February 3rd: Special meeting

February 4th: Special meeting

February 6th: HR committee meeting

Motion to approve: Passed unanimously

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

5. Correspondence- Clerks Office

Tablet/Laptop Pricing Proposal:

Pricing proposal provided for either tablets or laptops.

Finance director noted concern about "killing trees" with paper usage.

Department heads to be contacted first about needs.

Council members to notify clerks if interested in laptops.

6. Departmental Reports

Mayor Nikolic

1. Master Plan Selection

- Village selected by county for master plan development
- First master plan in 25 years
- Competitive selection process
- Will involve residents, council, and administration working together
- Goal: Map out village vision for 5-10 years
- More details to come once county provides process information

2. 75th Anniversary Celebration & Music Festival

- Instead of traditional weekly concert series, hosting 3-day music festival weekend
- Dates: July 31st, August 1st, and August 2nd
- Schedule:
 - Friday: 5 PM - 9 PM
 - Saturday: 1 PM - 9 PM
 - Sunday: 1 PM - 6 PM
- Multiple concerts instead of one per evening

- Combined with 75th anniversary celebration

3. Historical Display Component

- Creating wall display with family photos, former mayors, historical artifacts
- Dividing displays by decades
- Working with Bedford Historical Society and Western Reserve Historical Society
- Assistant Lauren gathering research from archives
- Seeking unpaid interns to assist with research
- Requesting community contributions of pictures, documents, and artifacts
- Possible commemoration for Mayor Gottschalk

4. Community Engagement

- Residents encouraged us to bring historical items to village
- Talk to relatives and neighbors about family history
- Share family legacy
- Food, fun for kids, music, presentations from former council members planned

5. Town Hall Events

- Last Wednesday of each month is town hall
- Next town hall (last Wednesday): Showcasing fire department and Black Environmental Leaders
- Focus on storm mitigation and preparedness
- "Go bags" will be distributed (emergency kits with chargers, first aid items, etc.)
- Fire department will provide handouts on fire prevention

6. EV Meet and Greet

- Next Wednesday (July): 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM at community center
- Hosting Electric Vehicle Association of Ohio
- Educational opportunity on EV legislation and support
- EV car show planned for 75th anniversary celebration

- Residents can showcase cars and give rides

Finance- Howse- Budget Updates:

- Mid-year appropriations amendment in progress
- Will present to council for review and suggestions
- Salary ordinance legislation to be updated (titles, etc.)

Cuyahoga County Revenue Distribution:

- County was contemplating eliminating advanced property tax distribution
- Now on pause - positive development
- Would have significantly impacted school district (relies on property taxes)
- Would have impacted village cash flow
- Pause allows for further analysis

Budget Concerns Raised by Council:

- Questions about high professional dues expenses
- Questions about high Canva videos and miscellaneous contractual food services
- Finance director to provide activity report showing expenses by line item

Finance Committee Meeting:

- Will be scheduled before next regular council meeting
- Excel spreadsheet to be provided with:
 - Current budget (2026-23)
 - Department head proposals
 - 2025-year expenditures for comparison
 - Column for council to generate their own numbers
- Council members can submit Excel sheets if preferred
- Timeline: "Very soon" for spreadsheet delivery

Police- Freeman

Upcoming Events:

Coffee with a Cop: Thursday, July 23rd, 8 AM - 10 AM at Dunkin' Donuts

Three-on-Three Basketball: Sunday, August 16th, 3 PM - 6 PM at Booker basketball court

Citizens Academy: Starts September 6th

Officer Updates:

Officer Ward now on motorcycle unit

Motorcycles will be in residential areas for traffic enforcement

Also handles parades and special events

LEADS Audit:

Law Enforcement Audit Data System security audit coming up

90-day audit process

Happens every 3 years

Department passes every time

In-depth process

Condolences:

Deepest condolences to Richman Police Department for loss of officer killed in line of duty last week

Honor his sacrifice and courage

Regional Income Tax Agency Announcement:

Starting subpoena program

Residents will receive notifications about appearing in subpoena program

To address outstanding tax balances

Notification coming within next month or so

Residents encouraged to spread the word

Police Chief Status Question:

Council member asked if police chief still employed

Captain Freeman confirmed: Still on payroll, on sick leave

Hasn't been at meetings for last two months

Cooling Center:

- Opening cooling center at community center due to heat
- Available if residents need place to cool off
- Officers can open it up
- Air conditioning available
- Phone charging available
- No food provided
- Part of emergency plan

Walton Hills 75th Anniversary:

- Next Saturday night (July 25th): Walton Hills 75th anniversary celebration
- Fireworks and drone show (approximately 250 drones)
- Oakwood will handle fireworks
- Location: GG Young Park

LED Sign Update:

- Discussion about updating LED signs to include cooling center information
- Appropriate to put on sign if needed

LED Sign Training:

- Discussion about training someone else to input information
- New program being looked at (Science Review now in base of program)
- Thomas mentioned as someone who used to enjoy working on new programs

Building – Stephens-

DCOM (Business):

Letter sent with August 10th compliance deadline

Must comply with fencing and screening requirements from Macedonia property

If non-compliance: Citation will be written and moved to court after August 10th

Gray Brothers (Auto Dealership):

Received violation letter with July 30th compliance date

Compliance date already past

Operation requires selling new and used cars

If not doing that, must stop operation

Long-standing issue (5+ years)

Previously went to court but nothing resolved

Law director to investigate previous court case

Building official to issue citation if non-compliance by July 30th

Council frustrated about lack of progress over years

Zoning & Rental Property Issues:

Discussion about tracking rental properties and LLC-owned homes

SafeBuilt working on updating code

Legislation being developed regarding LLCs and Airbnbs

Mayor and building department need to meet to ensure this doesn't slip through

Law director sent email about legislation allowing inspectors/commission members to write citations (not just traffic)

Two different cities cited as examples

Apartment Rentals:

Got list from county with 2,500+ parcels

Identifying which need to stay on list

Will send mass mailing to residents asking about occupancy, rental status, ownership

Section 8 owners typically require rental registration

No rental registrations currently seen in village

Residential Code Enforcement:

Only one person (building official) doing field inspections

Writing violations when checking properties

9 out of 10 violations go blind (not complied with)

Council requested updates by ward

Vacant Property on Triam Road:

New house being built is separate owner from vacant property in question

Vacant property (25823) owned by LLC

LLC owner paid for permits and to start work

Contractor details being worked out

No definite start date yet

Engineer- Jones

Construction Projects Awarded:

- **First Place Phase Two**
- **2026 Road Program:**
 - Milburn
 - Portions of three streets in the Meadows
 - Two currently open ends of Suwannee
- **Garden Road Sanitary Lateral Group**
- Expected to begin: August/September
- Goal: Complete all projects this year

Catch Basin Repair Program:

- Proposing catch basin and repair program
- Reinham catch basin specifically mentioned
- Will be bid out or RFPs depending on project size
- Funding through Northeast High Regional Sewer District (community cost share)
- Engineer working with sewer district to confirm funding eligibility
- More information when council returns from recess

Sidewalk Projects (Tryon Road):

- Funding challenges for east end of Tryon
- CDBG funding only eligible in LMI (Low-Moderate Income) census brackets
- East end of Tryon doesn't qualify
- Sidewalk projects don't score well under OPWC funding
- Limited funding sources available for non-LMI areas
- Would require local money if priority for council
- Residents will be notified individually (7 impacted homes)
- Expected to begin August
- Pre-construction meeting not yet held

Speed Bumps:

- Receiving calls about speed bumps from Meadows and Booker areas
- Have movable trailer to test areas
- Researching prices for speed bumps and speed tables
- Movable ones better (can remove in winter)
- Residents encouraged to call if they think speeding is issue on their street
- Considering buying in packs of 10
- Trailer can be moved to areas before investment in permanent bumps
- County permission needed for state streets (unlikely to approve)

Street Signs:

- New "No Truck" signs installed overhead by stoplight
- Corner of Freddy Baldwin and Broadway Alexander

Pedestrian Safety - Triumph Road:

- Concern about pedestrian crossing safety on Triumph Road
- Flashing pedestrian signs would help (more noticeable)
- Blind spots on Richmond Road coming over hills
- Dangerous kids on bikes
- Crosswalk completion on Triumph important
- Once sidewalk ends on Gene, pedestrians in street
- Engineer to help address

7. *Ward Reports and Committee Reports*

No reports from the wards or committees but Councilman Bliss had some concerns he wanted to address. (Attached to the minutes are the remarks that were made.)

Background:

- Selected to fill open seat November 13, 2025
- Took oath of office November 4, 2024 (administered by County Executive Chris Romaine)
- Accepted solemn responsibility to support Constitution, state laws, village charter
- Promised to lead with integrity, listen before speaking, choose service over ego, progress over politics, unity over division

Concerns After 8 Months:

- Deeply concerned about overall effectiveness of council leadership
- Pattern of governance issues weakening public confidence
- Issues not about one disagreement or individual

Specific Governance Failures:

1. Charter Responsibilities Not Met:

- Failed to organize at beginning of year
- Lack of established rules
- Inaccurate/inaccessible records of agendas and minutes
- Legislative business not properly recorded
- Reoccurring confusion around meetings, agendas, legislation, voting requirements, rules, procedures

2. Organizational Structure:

- Failed to begin term with organizational meeting
- No functioning committee structure
- Substantial delays and gaps in approval of meeting minutes

3. Decision-Making Process:

- Too reactive (special meetings, emergency legislation, suspended readings, last-minute considerations)
- Not enough advanced planning, committee review, public explanation, deliberate decision-making
- Example: Failure to act within deadline on FOP collective bargaining agreement

4. Charter Amendments:

- Process raised important concerns
- Lack of clarity and public understanding
- Insufficient council oversight
- Overwhelmingly rejected by village voters
- Residents deserve transparent, well-understood process

5. Impact:

- Not merely procedural shortcomings
- Affects stewardship of public resources

- Impacts public confidence in elected officials

Opportunities & Challenges:

- Village has unprecedented opportunity with master plan selection
- First community-wide master plan in 25 years
- Demolition of dilapidated housing, economic development, neighborhood revitalization, retail/commercial expansion planned
- Council must be capable of working constructively, making timely decisions, putting residents first

Commitment:

- Overcoming weeks will present documented examples
- All observations based on village records, council minutes, legislation, village charter, Ohio law
- Welcomes constructive professional dialog and different viewpoints
- Accountability begins with agreeing on facts
- Every elected official takes same oath
- Question is whether we continue to live up to it
- Oath of office is standard for holding self and council accountable
- Together can restore accountability and transparency
- "Remember the best is yet to come"

8. Open Floor Comments from the Village Residents

COMMENT 1 - SHARON MACKLIN (Fire Department Praise)

Topic: Fire Department Emergency Response

Content:

- Praised the fire department for saving her son's life
- Son: Robert Macklin, 28 years old, employed, doing well
- Situation: Son became very ill

- Daughter Stephanie decided to take him to the fire department instead of hospital
- Fire department response: Immediate and professional
- Actions: Three firefighters worked on him right away, got him calmed down, set up IV
- Transport: Took him to hospital
- Outcome: Son is now fine
- Gratitude: Thanked the three firefighters specifically, said they "saved his life"
- Offered: To provide hot dogs for council when they're ready

Quote: "They saved my son tonight. They really saved his life. And I just want to say thank you."

COMMENT 2 - MELINDA HARP (Schools, July 4th Incident, Ethics Concern)

Background: Resident of Ward 5, attending council meetings for 10 months, concerned resident and taxpayer

Issue #1: Schools Reporting

Concern:

- Never been to council meeting with school report
- Elderly residents paying increased taxes for school levies
- Residents with children in school system get no updates
- Lack of transparency about school performance

Questions Raised:

- Are Bedford schools flunking the Ohio state report card?
- How is the new school building construction going?
- Has there been a change in the blueprint?
- Is the Board of Education building no longer in the planned conglomerate?
- What's the state of the schools?
- What are the problems?
- Are there police issues?

- Are there transportation problems?
- Are there bussing issues in Oakwood related to schools?

Request:

- Wants school committee report as part of regular council reports
 - Wants information on state of schools, problems, report card status
-

Issue #2: July 4th Incident (Red Avenue Party)

Situation:

- Same event, same address, same people, same situation as last year
- Police called to address large party on Red Avenue
- Called out two police departments: Altamont Hills and Bedford
- Same behavior repeated from last year

Differences from Last Year:

- Last year: No citations issued
- This year: Citation issued but homeowner refused it

Questions:

- What happened to the refused citation?
- What happens when someone refuses a citation?
- Were any arrests made?
- What happened to prosecution from last year's incident?

Police Response (Captain Freeman):

- Situation was on Red Avenue
- Large party with parking all over street
- People in and out of cars up and down roadway
- Called other departments for assistance

- Spoke with homeowner about violations: parking situation, disorderliness, nuisance to residents
- Citation given; homeowner refused it
- Citation has been filed in court
- Pending court case for disorderly conduct (criminal offense, not traffic or civil)

Follow-up Questions:

- Are other citations forthcoming?

Police Response:

- Being considered as potential nuisance violation
- Currently in law department's hands
- Still being reviewed

Resident's Concern:

- Lives in that neighborhood
- Doesn't like the situation
- Doesn't want people to think they have privilege to repeat this behavior

Issue #3: Ethics Concern - Council Member Sims

Incident:

- Council Member Sims read a letter from a discharged employee at a council meeting
- Meeting was live streamed and audio recorded
- This should not have happened

Legal/Ethical Issues:

- Sims received copy of Ohio Ethics Law when taking office
- Had to put in writing that he received it
- "Ignorance is not any excuse"

Conflict of Interest:

- Sims placed himself and city of Oakwood at disadvantage
- Letter was from disgruntled employee
- Not council business; was administrative decision
- Created conflict of interest by reading letter
- Employee already stated intention to sue city
- Can't represent both plaintiff and defendant
- Placed city at disadvantage by live streaming and audio recording
- "Gross neglect of duty to the people that you represent"

Resident's Charge to Sims:

- In office for 6 months
- Every time resident comes to meeting, Sims is reading letters or talking about meetings
- As Ward 5 resident, wants to know: What are your visions for our ward?
- When will you have a meeting for the ward?
- When will you walk up and down the ward and see what residents are talking about?
- When will you talk to residents?
- "I don't need you to read the letters. I don't need you to come up here and talk about anything else except what's happening in Ward 5. And right now, nothing is happening. Another 10 years of nothing."

COMMENT 3 - KIMBERLY CHAPMAN NGUYEN (Village Governance, Community Policing, July 4th Incident)

Background: Lives on Newport, frustrated, disappointed, and concerned about village direction and reputation

Issue #1: Village Governance

Four Cs Principle (mentioned previously to council):

- Civility

- Communication
- Collaboration
- Community

Concerns:

- Village should be about civility for all
- Conflicting views and opinions are okay, but not destructive controversy
- Village is "breaking" or "broken"
- Disrespect, animosity, and revenge are not acceptable
- Can be community builders or dividers/destroyers

Suggestions:

- Thank you for YouTube availability of council meetings
- Encourage residents to watch
- Encourage village to use larger chambers for more comfort and attendance
- Provide "Governing 101" session for residents
- Residents confused about how village government operates

Resident's Work:

- Worked with community on summer camp
- Familiar with community building work
- Loves the community
- Believes "it takes a village"
- Each entity has role to play: mayor/staff, council, community members
- Like wheels of a car - each needed to carry village forward

Requirements:

- Respect and accountability must be present
- Tough questions must be asked and answered by all entities
- For physical health, well-being, and safety of every resident

Issue #2: Community Policing

Personal Background:

- Family members had negative and sometimes deadly interactions with police
- Sees it almost daily in news and social media
- Previously spoke to Chief Garrett about concerns
- Walker, mother of runner and skateboarder

Community Policing Concept:

- Simple: Raise your hand, say hi, stop to talk to neighbors
- For police: Be friendly and community focused to those they serve

Personal Experience:

- Often raises hand to officers driving
- Stopped to talk to them
- Rarely gets A smile
- Very rarely gets hello
- Usually receives grimaces

Praise for Captain Freeman:

- Hears he's meeting with community
- Applauds that effort
- But asks: Why not ask officers to do minimal basic greeting?
- Most officers don't live in community
- Questions how much they care about community
- Had one officer who did community policing well (danced with residents)
- That officer is now gone

Issue #3: July 4th Incident (Red Avenue Party)

Witness Account:

- Heard about event from Mrs. Denise Kennedy and her husband Kenneth
- They witnessed what happened that night
- Mrs. Kennedy wanted to be present but had family event
- Said what happened "could have caused unnecessary panic"
- "Could have completely been avoided"
- "Could have led to dire consequences"

Historical Context:

- People of color, Black folks know difficult history with police
- All carry historical intergenerational trauma, racial trauma
- Resident's family: Two members lynched at hands of police
- This trauma impacts DNA

July 4th Context:

- Many celebrations around village
- Several in resident's development
- Heard voices, loud music
- At no point did she think of calling police, even after 11 PM

The Incident:

- Event in house in Ward 5 celebrating holiday
- According to Kennedys: Music was turned off when they got home around 11 or 11:30 PM
- Police response: **8-9 police cars showed up**
- Police cars from other agencies (not just Oakwood)

Resident's Concerns:

- Has nephew killed at hands of police
- Problem with 8-9 police cars for loud noise

- One or two police cars would have been sufficient
- Questions: What could have happened that night? What resources wasted? Where else could police have been needed?
- Party was already over when police arrived

Broader Police Violence Concern:

- See almost daily interactions with law enforcement
- Violent handling and killing of Black youth
- "Please don't assume it can't happen here. Please don't do that."

Relationship with Community:

- Grew up with council person who remembers parties at Joy Farm
- Once party mentioned, kids come from everywhere
- What relationship do we want with community and police?

Personal Approach:

- Had nights with parties, loud talk, basketball, other loud activities
- Either went out to speak to neighbors or spoke to them days later
- Understands this may have been different
- Asks neighbors and friends to think differently before calling police
- "Police are caught, bad things can happen. I know it."
- Would never call police on children
- "That's community building and developing understanding and respect"

Conclusion:

- "Oakwood Village is breaking or it is broken"
 - Asked all entities (mayor, council, department heads, neighbors) to search inside
 - "Are you part of the divisiveness? If so, you're part of problem."
 - "What are you doing to be community builders to continue to make Oakwood Village a desirable place to live, because it really does take a village?"
-

COMMENT 4 - TANYA DIXON (Infrastructure/Maintenance Issues)

Background: Lives on Buckegon, 264 and 251, biker who rides bikes all over city

Issue #1: Juneteenth vs. July 4th

- Interesting that big party on July 4th
- Suggests spending time, money, energy on Juneteenth instead
- "Get educated"

Issue #2: Forbes and Richmond Intersection (Gravel/Dirt Problem)

Personal Action:

- About a month ago, got up at 6:30 AM
- Swept up whole bunch of little gravel rocks on Forbes and Richmond
- Got bucket, tossed rocks and dirt behind wall
- Cleaned it all up, swept it, blew it, got it around curb

Problem:

- Went out of town 2-3 weeks later
- Whole bunch of dirt there now
- Where did this dirt come from?
- On the other side of street: Big chunk of wax
- Plans to clean it this weekend if she gets chance

Why It Matters:

- When riding bikes on gravel, can sit them off (fall)
- Walking dog, riding, running: Gravel on both sides of street
- Everyone thanked her when she cleaned it up

Request:

- Doesn't know who to speak to get it cleaned up
- Asking for help
- Or will do it herself

Response from Service Department:

- Water breaks there
- Gravel washed up from heavy rain
- Water breaks about 3 years ago, maybe a month ago
- Big white spin up over there
- Service department to get somebody out there to look at it

9. Legislation

2026-50 AN ORDINANCE REORGANIZING THE CLERK OF COURTS OFFICE

Vote:

Sims: Yes, Evans-Warren: Yes, Hardin: Yes, Scruggs: Yes, Matlock: Yes, Davis: Yes.

Bliss: No

- The legislation PASSED despite concerns because:
- Mayor requested tabling - Not immediate implementation
- Council agreed to table it - Allows for further discussion
- Mayor will present financial analysis - At finance committee meeting before next regular council meeting
- 6-month pilot period - August through December to assess profitability

2026-51 AN ORDINANCE 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 PASSED

Retaining James A. Climer for transition services

Compensation: Not to exceed \$15,000

Three-month time frame (can be extended)

Climer to provide monthly bills until amount reached

If new law director is hired, council can address continuation at later time

Motion to suspend rules: Passed

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

Motion to adopt: Passed

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

2026-56 A RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF THELMA PAULINE WILLIAMS

Motion to suspend rules: Passed

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

Motion to adopt: Passed

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

**2026-57 AN ORDINANCE IMPROVING THE APPOINTMENT AND FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF THE LAW DIRECTOR; CONCERNING THE HIRING OF BRICKER, GRAYDON, AND WYATT AS LAW DIRECTOR
PASSED (AS AMENDED)**

Purpose: To appoint new law director and establish compensation

Amendment Made:

Council member proposed amendment to include annual contract review

Amendment language: "The contract expires every January and requires approval by the Mayor and Council"

Ensure annual review rather than indefinite appointment

Motion to suspend rules: Passed

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

Motion to adopt: Passed

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

Unanimous approval (as amended)

RECLASSIFYING THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE POSITION TO SENIOR ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST TO ENCOMPASS ADDITIONAL DUTIES REQUIRED TO ASSIST THE FINANCE DIRECTOR IN AN EFFORT TO RESTRUCTURE THE DEPARTMENT TO OPERATE EFFICIENTLY AS A FULL-TIME POSITION AND THE CURRENT SALARY ORDINANCE IS AMENDED ACCORDINGLY

- Position reclassified: Accounts Payable → Senior Accounting Specialist
- Status change: Part-time → Full-time
- Expanded duties to assist finance director
- Salary: Current salary maintained (ordinance amended accordingly)

Vote Process:

Motion to approve: Passed

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

This was placed in error as an Ordinance. This isn't an Ordinance it's a motion only that was passed and approved.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Sims and seconded by Davis. Meeting adjourned at 9:06PM.

Approved (Date)

Council President, Eloise Hardin

Posted (Date)

Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry

Requisitions

Drag a column header here to group by that column

		ORDER DATE	DEPARTMENT	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL VALUE	BLANKET TYPE	ORIGINATOR	WORKFLOW STATE	CURRENT QUEUE
										mayor
		9/28/2026	ADMIN	INTER070 (UNITED STATES TREASURY)	PAYMENT FOR: 941 FOR 2020- OVERDUE TAXES FOR SEPTEMBER 30, 2026	\$135.78	N/A	Quendolyn Jones	Submitted	Mayor
		8/10/2026	BUILDING	SAFE050 (SAFEBUILT, LLC)	Safebuilt CBO Services	\$1,752.50	N/A	Gina Pieragostine	Submitted	Mayor
		9/10/2026	BUILDING	SAFE050 (SAFEBUILT, LLC)	Safebuilt CBO Services- Decker	\$2,390.00	N/A	Gina Pieragostine	Submitted	Mayor
		9/26/2026	FINANCE	01702 (AT&T)	PHONE UTILITIES 5019	\$627.20	N/A	Quendolyn Jones	Submitted	Mayor
		9/26/2026	FINANCE	01702 (AT&T)	PHONE UTILITIES 5019	\$1,374.85	N/A	Quendolyn Jones	Submitted	Mayor
		9/28/2026	POLICE	01819 (RICH'S TOWING & SERVICE, INC.)	Tow/Hook Fee -Dated 09/04/2026 - Invoice #1176687	\$145.00	N/A	Lisa Blevins	Submitted	Mayor
		9/30/2026	RECREATION	027144 (HARRIS, DONSE)	COMMUNITY CENTER RENTAL DEPOSIT- CANCELLATION REFUND \$350.00	\$350.00	N/A	Quendolyn Jones	Submitted	Mayor
		9/30/2026	SERVICE	01085 (SAVARINO BROS GARDEN CNTR)	Bulk Branch and Debris Dumping for the summer	\$715.00	N/A	Corey Craig	Submitted	Mayor
		9/30/2026	COUNCIL	00277 (WARREN, YVONNE)	Councilwoman, Yvonne Evans- Warren request a Refund Check she used Bonnie Speed Delivery for N. Bliss	\$92.13	N/A	Carol Jackson	Submitted	Mayor
						\$7,582.46				

	Description	2026 Requested Appropriations	2026 YTD Expenditures+ Encumbrances as of August 14, 2026	2027 Proposed Appropriations	Reduction/ Increase	
COUNCIL CLERK						
SALARY & WAGES			-		-	
01-7700-51110	COUNCIL CLERK WAGES	47,250.00	38,330.70	-	(47,250.00)	
01-7700-51111	OVERTIME	500.00	-	-	(500.00)	
01-7700-51112	COUNCIL CLERK ASSISTANT	9,000.00	-	-	(9,000.00)	
01-7700-51120	COUNCIL CLERK PERS	7,960.00	4,890.64	-	(7,960.00)	
01-7700-51140	COUNCIL CLERK MEDICARE	900.00	555.81	-	(900.00)	
Other:					-	
01-7700-52130	PROFESSIONAL DUES	200.00	530.00	-	(200.00)	
01-7700-52160	CONFERENCE & EDUCATION	700.00	835.00	-	(700.00)	
01-7700-53130	TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION		-	-	-	
COUNCIL CLERK Totals:		66,510.00	45,142.15	-	(66,510.00)	
					-	

	Description	2026 Requested Appropriations	2026 YTD Expenditures+ Encumbrances as of August 14, 2026	2027 Proposed Appropriations	Reduction/ Increase	
COUNCIL					-	
SALARY & WAGES					-	
101-7701-51110	COUNCIL WAGES	88,286.00	62,177.98	-	(88,286.00)	
101-7701-51120	COUNCIL P.E.R.S.	12,361.00	7,819.98	-	(12,361.00)	
101-7701-51140	COUNCIL MEDICARE	1,400.00	901.64	-	(1,400.00)	
101-7701-51150	ADMIN ASSISTANT (YOUTH COUNCIL)	-	-	-	-	
Other:						
101-7701-52110	PRINTING AND REPRODUCTION	7,400.00	3,311.94	-	(7,400.00)	
101-7701-52111	AT LARGE COUNCIL PRINTING & REPRODUC	2,000.00	-	-	(2,000.00)	
101-7701-52112	COMMITTEE PRINTING & REPRODUCTION	2,000.00	-	-	(2,000.00)	
101-7701-52130	PROFESSIONAL DUES & FEES	3,500.00	-	-	(3,500.00)	
101-7701-52140	COUNCIL SPECIAL EVENTS	26,250.00	5,262.50	-	(26,250.00)	
101-7701-52141	MARKETING (CANVA, VIDEOGRAPHER, SOCIAL	6,500.00	6,500.00	-	(6,500.00)	
101-7701-52143	MAILING & POSTAGE	5,000.00	24.32	-	(5,000.00)	
101-7701-52150	MISC. CONTRACTUAL SVCS	4,000.00	3,713.00	-	(4,000.00)	
101-7701-52160	CONFERENCE & EDUCATION	11,000.00	400.00	-	(11,000.00)	
101-7701-52190	YOUTH COUNCIL	-	133.24	-	-	
101-7701-53130	TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION	35,000.00	213.21	-	(35,000.00)	
101-7701-53150	OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,500.00	441.85	-	(1,500.00)	
101-7701-53170	POSTAGE	500.00	229.32	-	(500.00)	
101-7701-54110	OTHER EXPENSES	2,000.00	6,280.24	-	(2,000.00)	
101-7701-55110	EQUIPMENT	8,000.00	418.95	-	(8,000.00)	
101-7701-57150	LEGAL ADS	6,000.00	2,793.03	-	(6,000.00)	
101-7701-57210	RECORDS ARCHIVAL	-	-	-	-	
101-7701-57300	CODIFICATION	11,000.00	1,149.05	-	(11,000.00)	
COUNCIL Totals:		233,697.00	101,770.25	-	(233,697.00)	