

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

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.

10/13/2026

Approved (date)

Eloise Hardin

Council President, Eloise Hardin

10/14/2026

Posted (date)

Nina Curry

Assistant Clerk of Council, Nina Curry