

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.

10/13/2024

Approved (date)

Eloise Hardin

Council President, Eloise Hardin

10-14-2026

Posted (date)

Carol Jackson

Clerk of Council, Carol Jackson