THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD

REGULAR SESSION

September 8th, 2026

ATTENDANCE

Council President- Eloise Hardin	Mayor- Erica Nikolic
Council at Large- Debra Hladky	Law- Brendan Heil
Ward 1- Taunya Scruggs	Finance- Karen Howse
Ward 2- Yvonne Evans- Warren	Service- Tom Haba
Ward 3- Paggie Matlock	Fire- David Tapp
Ward 4- Mary Davis	Police- John Freeman
Ward 5- Malcolm Sims Jr.	Building- Rodney Stephens
	Engineer- Matt Jones
	Recreation- Karen Gaither

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1. Meeting called to order at 7:00PM by Hardin.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call.
4. **Council At-Large Oath of Office** – Debra Hladky. **New Council Member Introduction**: Debra Hladky introduced and welcomed; she gave remarks thanking council for their trust and noting her 50-year connection to the village.
5. **Minutes still under review.**
6. **Correspondence -Clerks Office**- The clerk had **two items** to communicate:

Shred Day Reminder: **Date**: Saturday, September 12th **Time**: Starting at 9:00 AM

Purpose: Annual document shredding event for residents.

Records Commission Meeting: **Timing:** Scheduled for a couple of weeks out **Action**: Email agenda will be sent to all department heads.

Purpose: Records management meeting.

7. **Department Reports-**

Mayor Nikolic-

1. BIKE WITH THE MAYOR EVENT

Overview:

- Event was held on Saturday.

- Excellent turnout.
- County-initiated program to showcase new trails in different communities.

Key Participants:

- Chris Romaine (county official) - huge part of event success.
- Mayor and several residents.
- Other county members.

Purpose & Outcomes:

- Biked the trails together.
- Chris Romaine saw trail conditions firsthand.
- Discussed ideas for trail expansion.
- Planned expansion: From Meadows/Chambers all the way down to Hawthorne Parkway.
- Good opportunity to discuss current trail conditions and future expansion ideas.

Sponsors:

- Tasty Takeouts: Sponsored food.
- Bedford Cyclery: Presented raffle basket with bicycle goodies.

Raffle:

- One lucky attendee won basket full of goodies from Bedford Cyclery.

Personal Note:

- Mayor struggled with one hill on Richmond but overall "awesome day".

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2. BLOOD DRIVE

Partnership:

- American Red Cross.
- Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

Purpose:

- Support sickle cell education.
- Encourage residents to donate blood.

Incentives:

- $20 Amazon gift card for donors.
- Snacks provided.
- Education on blood types.

Why It Matters:

- Sickle cell patients often need transfusions.
- Donating blood supports individuals suffering from sickle cell.
- Educational component for those unfamiliar with the illness.

Call to Action:

- Encouraged all residents to donate.
- Emphasized community support needed.

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3. MAYOR'S COURT REPORT

Financial Performance

August Collections:

- Total: $24,104

July Collections (Baseline):

- Total: $16,698 (before Mayor's Court started).

Increase:

- Difference: ~$7,000 increase from starting Mayor's Court.
- Success: Significant revenue boost.

Payment Processing

Daily Cash Loop:

- Ongoing process throughout the month.

- Payments come in via multiple methods:
    - Online.
    - Phone (credit card).
    - Mail.
    - In-person walk-ins.
- Court held twice a month (2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 9 AM-12 PM).
- Payments can come after court sessions.

Total Collection Timeline:

- August 1 - August 31 report shows all payments received during that period.
- Report may not capture payments coming in after report date.

Expenses

Magistrate Cost:

- $1,000 per month.

Other Staff:

- Everyone else is on payroll during the day.
- Court takes place during regular business hours (9 AM-12 PM).
- No additional expense for police, attorneys, farmers, etc.

Fee Structure

Credit Card Processing:

- Current: 3.5% fee paid by village.
- Online Service Fee: $5 paid by residents.
- Change Coming: Switching to "Bridge Payments" system with NO fees.

Late Payment Fees:

- $50 fee for delinquent or half-time payments.

Future Revenue Growth

Factors Contributing to Growth:

- Different fees for different violations are now in place.
- Fines and costs increased.
- Effort collection has resumed.
- Money is constantly growing as more fines/costs are collected.

Staffing Request

Request: Bring back full-time deputy clerk.

Justification:

- Ensured the demands of court can be met.
- Trial basis through end of month.
- Allows exploration of court growth and new ways to build Mayor's Court.

Concern Raised by Chair:

- Deputy clerk has 6 weeks of vacation and accumulated sick leave.
- Mayor's Court will be closed during these periods when deputy is not available.
- This is a consideration for council.

Status

- This is a pilot/trial program.
- Continuing to report monthly.
- Reviewing data as it comes in.
- Council to revisit consideration of second deputy clerk.

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4. BUDGET CONCERNS

Mayor's Situation:

- Unable to attend work session.
- Has questions about amended budget.

Specific Concerns:

- Wants to know firsthand what was amended.

- Presented her own request for amended appropriations.
- Doesn't want uncertainty about what is/isn't being amended.
- Wants to know specifically what she requested and how it's being changed.

Impact on Operations:

- Department heads are being held up.
- Uncertainty about spending and how to spend it.
- Very inconvenient for departments.
- Departments sharing toilet paper (resource constraints).
- Need to understand exactly what's available to spend.

Request:

- Specific information about mayor's budget changes.
- Details on any reductions or changes to her appropriation requests.

Response from Chair (Hardin):

- Finance meeting scheduled for this coming week.
- Will determine dates when most can be available.
- Haven't had time with finance director yet.
- Need time to discuss it among council.
- Mayor welcomes you to attend if desired.
- Ordinance on first reading; that's why details are not finalized yet.

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5. MEETING AVAILABILITY

Mayor's Initiative:

- Was out for illness last week.
- Assistant was out Thursday and Friday.
- Wanted to clarify availability for council meetings.

Action Taken:

- Office (Lauren) sent request with dates of mayor's availability to council.
- Dates and times are distributed to council for scheduling.

Current Status:

- Available to meet at any time.
- Dates/times distributed from mayor's office.
- Council can meet at earliest convenience within those timeframes.
- Finance Director must be included in meetings.

Issue Raised:

- Councilperson mentioned previously canceled meeting.
- Mayor clarified that she didn't cancel it.
- Law Director noted dates must match the finance director's availability.
- Emphasized need for all 7 council members to work together to find middle ground.

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6. THANK YOU TO DEPARTMENTS

Mayor's Additional Comments:

- Forgot to thank police, fire, and service departments during Bike with Mayor report.
- Acknowledged they continue to be outstanding.
- Exemplary service.
- Tommy (Service Department) found bike for mayor at last minute when original bike wasn't working.
- Teams always go above and beyond.

Finance- Howse:

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Status:

- Finance committee meeting was held last Thursday.
- Discussed amending the 2026 budget.

- Still underway.
- Hopefully can get action soon.

Impact:

- Currently putting operations on pause.
- Affecting basic operations of the village.

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2. ANNUAL CONTINUED DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Due Date:

- September 30th.

Purpose:

- Provides a snapshot of the village's financials.
- Important document for investors.

Audience:

- People who invest in village bonds and notes.
- Very important for those considering investing in village.

Requirement:

- Required to be filled out.

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3. 2027 BUDGET SUBMISSION

Deadline:

- September 11th.

Requirements for Department Heads:

- Must present their budgets.
- Submit 5-year capital improvement reports.
- Provide budget explanations:
    - Minimum: Some explanation.

- Maximum: No more than 3 pages.
- Purpose: Explain their budget requests.

Next Steps:

- Finance Director will solicit Carol (executive secretary) once Mayor sets budget hearing dates.
- Once Mayor sets her time, will move forward with setting times for council meetings.
- Will present timeline to ensure council stays on task.

Process:

- Budget hearings with council.
- Timeline to be presented showing how process will flow.
- Commitment to stay on task.

QUESTIONS ASKED

No specific questions were asked during the report, but the Finance Director's report prompted discussion about:

1. **Budget Amendments** - Mayor wanted specific details about what was being amended.
2. **Finance Meeting** - Chair confirmed meeting scheduled for this coming week.
3. **Department Head Participation** - Finance Director must be included in all budget meetings.

Police- Chief Freeman:

CITIZEN'S ACADEMY

Program Start:

- Started last Wednesday.

Attendance:

- Expected: 7 people.

- Actual: 5 citizens and residents.

Week 1 Topics:

- Equipment.
- Guns.
- Uniforms.
- Tasers.
- Vehicles.
- What's in the vehicles.

Week 2 Topics:

- OBIs (Opioid-related incidents).
- Drunk driving.

Instructor Quality:

- Instructors doing a really good job with residents.
- Positive feedback on instruction.

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2. POLICE BLOTTER (Recent Activity)

Sexual Assault Cases:

- **Case 1**: Sexual assault in a workplace in Oakwood.
    - Status: Under investigation.
- **Case 2**: Another sexual assault in another workplace.
    - Status: Person arrested for felony sexual imposition.

Stolen Firearm Recovery:

- Recovered stolen firearm from rental truck company.
- Firearm was originally stolen out of Summit County.

Crime Type Focus:

- This was workplace crime (not residential).

- Very busy week with various incidents.

Traffic Enforcement:

- High level of traffic enforcement ongoing in Oakwood.
- Keeps crime rates down in most cases.

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3. TRAFFIC TRAILER DATA (BUCKTHORN ROAD)

Deployment Details:

- Traffic trailer placed on Buckthorn Road.
- Reason: Couple of residents complained about speeds.

Data Collection:

- Duration: 9 days.
- Vehicles monitored: 7,500 cars.

Speed Limit:

- 25 mph.

Results:

- **Only 1 vehicle** over 35 mph.
- **72% of vehicles** under 25 mph.
- **3% of vehicles** between 25-30 mph.
- **Remaining vehicles** between 25-30 mph.

Trailer Features:

- Keeps lots of data.
- Has flashing light system.
- By the time it flashes, drivers already caught.

Recommendation:

- **NO speed bumps needed on Buckthorn** based on this data.
- Traffic is compliant with speed limits.

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4. SPEED BUMP DISCUSSION

Mayor's Question:

- Would you recommend Buckthorn as a location for speed bumps?
- We're doing a test in certain locations (Booker and Red Fox in the Meadows).
- Had the trailer on those locations on two different occasions.

Police Response:

- No, would not recommend Buckthorn.
- Data shows 7,500 cars; only 1 over 35 mph.
- Traffic is not a problem there.

Alternative Approach:

- Can use traffic enforcement instead.
- Two stop signs on Buckthorn trying to slow people down.
- Police can sit there and enforce.
- Will hit hard and slow people down.

Trailer Availability:

- Can be deployed to other areas if needed.
- Available for monitoring other streets.

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5. BROADWAY TRAFFIC CONCERNS

Issue Raised by Chair:

- People flying down Broadway.
- Nobody stops at the light that turns to bypass.
- Chair almost got hit on way to Citizens Academy last week.
- Person flew off Broadway right onto bypass.

Police Response:

- Lot of police cars on Broadway.
- They run constantly because people fly down there.
- Will increase enforcement.

6. PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Incident:

- Councilperson had block party on August 29th.
- Called dispatch to give courtesy notice that residents would park on street.
- Dispatch told residents parking on street would not be allowed.

Policy Clarification:

- "No parking on streets of Oakwood" has been policy forever.
- Police write citations every day for parking on streets.

Parking Permission:

- Can be granted sometimes, sometimes not.
- Depends on the situation.
- Rules and regulations apply to everyone.
- Just because someone is a council person doesn't exempt them.

Concern Raised:

- Councilperson concerned about inconsistent enforcement.
- Objective is to bring residents together and build trust.
- For 17 years, neighbor parties parked on street without police presence.
- Confused about enforcement.

Police Response:

- Don't know what happened in that specific situation.
- If they were allowed, officer in charge must have straightened it out.
- Parking permission not guaranteed even for council members
- Rules apply to everyone equally.

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7. TRAFFIC TRAILER AVAILABILITY

Request:

- Can we put traffic trailer on Broadway once in a while?
- People flying down Broadway.
- Maybe seeing it would slow them down like it did on Buckthorn.

Police Response:

- Sure, we can do it.
- Lot of police cars already on Broadway constantly.
- They run constantly because people fly down there.

Recreation- Gaither:

No report.

Fire- Tapp:

Actual Report:

"Thank you, Madam President, nothing to report. I'm here for questions, but like Captain Freeman said, we've been very busy today, and now it seems to have stopped moving on, so that's taxable over there."

KEY POINTS:

1. **No Formal Report**: Chief had nothing specific to report.
2. **Available for Questions**: Open to answering any questions from council.
3. **Busy Activity**: Referenced that they've been very busy (similar to police department).
4. **Current Status**: Activity has slowed down at the moment.

Building- Rodney Stephens:

COUNTY REPORTS ISSUE

Problem:

- County building reports have NOT been submitted since **July 2025.**
- Recently submitted reports last Wednesday (after this meeting was scheduled).
- Took approximately **3 weeks** to get reports in order.

Process:

- Once reports were organized, sent to Don (county contact person).
- County sent them back requesting additional information.
- Information requested is **NOT recorded by current software.**
- Building department must **manually add** parcel numbers to each permit.

Scale of Work:

- This year alone: **900 permits** issued by Village Building Department.
- Manual work required for each one.
- Significant time and labor burden.

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2. SOFTWARE PROBLEMS

Current Software Issues

Current System:

- Cost: **$8,000/year.**
- Problems:
    - Requires manual work.
    - Only issues permit receipts.
    - Doesn't provide necessary information for reports.
    - Doesn't stay on code and on task.
    - Inefficient.

Proposed Solution:

- Name: **CitizenServe.**
- Cost: **$13,500/year** (ongoing).

- Startup Cost: **$23,000** (one-time for data transfer and training).
- Grant Funding Found: **$10,000** to help offset startup costs.
- Net Cost: **$13,000** for startup.

Why CitizenServe is Better

Features:

- Automatically updates building codes for entire state.
- Updates automatically.
- Provides all parcel numbers.
- Communicates directly with county.
- User-friendly.
- Helps with audit reporting.
- Many municipalities have switched to it.

Historical Software Issues

Past Purchases:

- Village has purchased **multiple software packages** in recent years.
- Some information was **lost during transitions.**
- Unclear if IT person captured data from previous software.

Current Duplication:

- Using **SafeBuild** (required by state).
- Using another system for building permits.
- **Duplicating data entry** for permits, code enforcement, and other functions.
- SafeBuild is the only software state uses, so village must use it.
- But also need separate system for village operations.

Software History:

- One software was **CitizenServe** (previously used).
- One software was **StateBuild** (state-required).

- One software was in the office (factory-based) - everyone was using it.
- Lost information when transitioning between systems.

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3. BUILDING DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATION

New Authority:

- Building department director was recently sworn in by court.
- Now authorized to issue citations in the village.

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4. COUNCIL DISCUSSION & RESPONSE

Councilperson's Questions

Councilperson Evans asked:

- What is the name of the current software?
- Do we have two softwares in the office?
- How much did we spend on both software programs?
- What is the additional cost for new software?

Finance Director's Support (Karen Howse)

Statement:

"It's just a comment. I will say, I'm very familiar with CitizenServe, and the advantage as well. And I understand what your concern is that we purchased one, but it was inefficient. Because what it's not able to do is stay on code and on task."

Key Points:

- Gathers all building codes for entire state.
- Updates automatically.
- Provides parcel numbers.
- Helps with audit reporting.
- User-friendly.
- Abundance of municipalities have switched to it.

- Current software is inefficient and requires manual work.
- "What's the point of the software if it just issues permit receipts?"
- **Supportive of CitizenServe purchase**
- "It's well worth it and it'll make the building department much efficient."

Councilperson Suggestion

Recommendation:

- Put together detailed numbers and software analysis.
- Present during budget hearings instead of taking up meeting time.
- Can ask all necessary questions during budget hearing.

Building Department Response:

- Agreed to prepare detailed analysis for budget hearings.

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5. DATA MIGRATION CONCERNS

Challenge:

- Building department director started using current software in April.
- Some information in system, but not a lot.
- If needed to migrate to new system, would have to manually pull files.
- Would manually put them into new software.

Commitment:

- Working with Tom (IT) to get information out.
- Planning for potential data migration.

Service- Haba-

NO TRUCK SIGNS

Project:

- Installing "No Truck" signs on specific streets.

Locations:

- Broadway.
- Alexander/Petty Bone roads.

Purpose:

- Prevent trucks from using residential streets.
- Big, visible signs so trucks can see them.

Timeline:

- Signs put in guideline about 10 days ago.
- Should be up any day now.

Expected Impact:

- Will help keep trucks off residential streets.
- Reduce traffic on those roads.

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2. TRASH COLLECTION

Current Status (2026):

- Only **2 days late** this year.
- Delays: Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Signage:

- Currently has **5 signs.**
- Planning to get more.

Communication Methods:

- Information on calendars distributed in December.
- Announcement on village recording.
- Information on website.
- Signs placed in neighborhoods.

Historical Context:

- Used to have cardboard placards.

- Would put them up in winter.
- Changed rubbish day from Monday to Tuesday when needed.
- Now just change sign to say "one day late."

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3. SWANEE ROAD STATUS

Current Situation:

- Road has been **closed for 15 years.**
- Only **partially reopened** due to financial constraints.
- Only reopened the two end sections (not the middle section).

Why Partial Reopening:

- Middle section has all vacant lots.
- Most owned by village; few owned by private entities.
- Only sections with current residents were reopened.
- Strictly a **financial decision.**

Service Department Challenge:

- Spending significant time and energy keeping the two reopened sections open.
- Using grader to maintain road.
- Moving stone around.
- Becoming a maintenance headache.

Resident Requests:

- Residents want full street reopened.
- Councilperson advocated for full reopening.

Matt Jones' Response:

- Could definitely be done.
- Matter of being good stewards of village money in short term.

- If council chooses to allocate road funds in future road program, can look at full reopening.
- Not a priority currently due to financial constraints.

Councilperson's Point:

- Need to start listening to residents.
- Important to consider resident input on infrastructure decisions.

4. COMMUNITY EVENTS (Reported by Councilperson Scruggs)

While not directly from Tom Haber, the Service Department is involved in these events:

Recycling Event

- **Date**: September 16th.
- **Items Accepted**: Tires, paint, computers, hazardous waste.
- **Instructions**: Place items curbside by 8:00 AM.
- **Service Department Role**: Will assist with items.

Fall Leaf Collection

- **Date**: October 5th.
- **Instructions**: Rake leaves neatly onto tree lawn near roadway.
- **Requirements**: Only leaves (no other debris).
- **Service Department Role**: Will pick up leaves beginning October 5th.

Engineer-Jones:

When Called Upon:

"Thank you, Madam President. No report beyond what we discussed in caucus. I've got the two items that I'm looking to have passed on emergency this evening. I'm open for questions."

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2. SWANEE ROAD DISCUSSION

Question from Councilperson:

"Can you explain to me why Swanee isn't fully reopened while we are just repaying the interest?"

Matt Jones' Response:

Reasoning:

"Strictly a financial decision the main reason why we did that was just to provide better access to the residents that currently are on that street So the section in the middle doesn't you know, it's all vacant lots. They're most of them are owned by the village There are a few owned by private entities but The only sections that we were really concerned with was you know To try to improve access to their residents that are currently living on that Street and again, it was strictly financial decision."

Key Points:

- Decision was strictly financial.
- Goal was to provide better access to current residents.
- Middle section has vacant lots (mostly village-owned).
- Only concerned with sections where residents currently live.

Follow-up Discussion:

Councilperson's Request: "Just to speak on what we have, the residents would like to have that street open up fully. If we can start appropriating funds to that street to be open and start planning for that, that would be."

Matt Jones' Response:

"It could definitely be done It's again it was you know this was a matter of you know trying to be good stewards of the village's money in the short term but yeah, I mean if in the if in a future road program the council chooses to Allocate some of their road funds to doing that we can certainly look at No, no it's been closed for 15 years, I think yes."

Key Points:

- Full reopening could definitely be done.
- Currently trying to be good stewards of village money in short term
- If council allocates road funds in future road program, can look at full reopening
- Road has been closed for 15 years

Hardin's Question:

(Hardin): "I have a question. For piggybacking on his Swannee Road, was he told? Because I thought it was the whole rope when you talked to him. I was pretty clear on that. No, I was pretty clear on that."

Matt Jones' Response:

"I stated that I was only doing the two stuff. I mentioned that to council, yes. I've definitely been, that was always just to, really the biggest reason why we decided to do that, the service department's been spending a lot of time and energy keeping those two sections of road open. Having to use the grader out there and moving stone around and it's just, it's, you know. It was becoming a maintenance headache for them. So it was really not only a financial decision, but also one that was being done out of necessity."

Key Points:

- Stated he was only doing the two end sections.
- Mentioned this to council previously.
- Service department is spending significant time maintaining those sections.
- Using grader and moving stone.
- Becoming a maintenance headache.
- Decision was both financial AND out of necessity.

Councilperson's Challenge:

Councilperson : "Well, have you spoken to those residents on those streets? I have not. So how would you know?"

Matt Jones' Response:

"Working with the service department, just knowing what they... As far as like did I ask the residents if they wanted the section in the middle reopened? No, I didn't ask that question. I was doing it strictly based on, we made that decision strictly based on a need that we knew was there based on the service department spending a lot of time and energy keeping that road open."

Key Points:

- Did NOT speak to residents on those streets.
- Did NOT ask residents if they wanted middle section reopened.

- Decision based on service department's maintenance needs.
- Not based on resident input.

Councilperson's Final Statement:

Councilperson: "Well, I would like to state that we need to start listening to our residents now, it is very important. That's just one thing I would love to state right now."

8. Ward and Committee reports-

WARD 1 & GENERAL COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilperson Scruggs (Service Department Events)

Recycling Event:

- **Date**: September 16th.
- **Items**: Tires, paint, computers, hazardous waste.
- **Instructions**: Place items curbside by 8:00 AM.
- **Service**: Department will assist with items.
- **Flyer**: Residents received flyer with details.

Fall Leaf Collection:

- **Date**: October 5th.
- **Instructions**: Rake leaves neatly onto tree lawn near roadway; only leaves (no other debris).
- **Service**: Department will pick up leaves beginning October 5th

Community Concert:

- **Date**: September 16th.
- **Time**: 2:00-6:00 PM.
- **Location**: Community park.
- **Features**: Showcase Oakwood Village residents and local business owners.
- **Bring**: Lawn chairs, blankets, good spirits.
- **Special Event**: Balloon release at 4:00 PM for former Mayor Gottschalk.
    - September 16th was the day he passed away.

    - Celebrating his memory.
- **Invitation**: All former council members invited to support.
- **Attendance**: Can come at 2 PM or 4 PM for balloon release.

WARD 5 REPORT

Councilperson Sims (Ward 5)

Community Engagement:

- Thanked residents for attending Ward 5 Block Party.
- More events planned for community engagement.
- Looking forward to building trust.
- Continuing to build and strengthen bond in village.

Personal Connection:

- Looking forward to meeting residents on personal level.
- Not just as elected official, but person-to-person.
- Thanked colleagues for showing up to support.

WARD 2 REPORT

Councilperson Evans-Warren (Ward 2)

Community Engagement Planning:

- Planning community engagement gathering for Ward 2.
- **Timing**: First week of October.
- **Location**: Hampton Inn.
- **Status**: Dates not set in stone yet.
- **Details**: Further information will be coming.

WARD 3 & 4 REPORT

Davis (4) and Matlock (3) (Wards 3 & 4)

Previous Event:

- Had community engagement group at Hampton Inn.
- **Time**: 3:00-5:00 PM.
- **Event Name**: "Taking it to the Streets."
- **Attendance**: Lot of people showed up.
- **Feedback**: Very nice to see residents; good turnout; appreciated.

Upcoming Event:

- Planning outdoor "Take it to the Streets" event.
- **Location**: Cul-de-sac (possibly Gene Street).
- **Timing**: Around October.
- **Format**: Outside version of previous event.

WARD 3 COMMUNICATION PLAN

Councilperson Matlock (Ward 3)

Newsletter Initiative:

- Collecting email addresses for Ward 3 residents.
- **Purpose**: Communication basis only.
- **Frequency**: Monthly newsletters.
- **Methods** (3 ways to communicate):
    1. **Email blast**: For those with email.
    2. **Postal mail**: 82-cent stamp for those without email/computers.
    3. **Door-to-door**: Newsletter placed in plastic bags on door knobs.

Charter Information:

- Wants to provide updates on charter amendments.
- Will give residents information on what's going to be on ballot.

- Providing "cheat sheet" for charter review.
- Explaining past and present information.
- Letting residents make their own decisions.

Timing Concerns:

- Noted not everyone works 9-5.
- Many work evenings/late (until 8 PM).
- Some work Saturdays.
- **Suggestion**: Consider Sunday events instead of Saturday.
- Sundays are more relaxing day for many.
- Better attendance if events on Sundays.

Communication Challenges:

- Wanted to start in summer but got sick.
- Still dealing with illness.
- Would have communicated if reached out.
- Emphasized importance of getting information to residents.

Opt-In Options:

- Don't have to get email if don't want newsletter.
- Can receive by mail (82-cent stamp).
- Can receive door-to-door.
- Three options to choose from.

Community Involvement:

- "We all just need to get involved in our communities."
- "We need to be more friendly to each other."
- Residents will be very happy with communication efforts.

9. Open Floor Comments-

RESIDENT 1 - Communication & Event Timing Concerns

Name/Address: Not clearly stated

Main Issues:

1. Year-Round Engagement:

- Requested community engagement all year round, not just during voting
- Missed previous events
- Didn't see information come to door, email, or text message

2. Event Timing:

- Works on Saturdays (can't attend Saturday events)
- Works late (until 8 PM many nights)
- Suggested Sunday events instead
- "Everybody is not just sitting at home on Saturday"

3. Communication Methods:

- Appreciated email, mail, and text options
- Prefers mail (old school preference)
- Works so much on computer; prefers not to rely on email

4. Charter Information:

- Wants updates on charter amendments
- Wants information on what will be on ballot
- Wants "cheat sheet" for charter review
- Wants past and present information to make informed decisions

5. Personal Circumstances:

- Got sick in summer; took time out
- Still dealing with illness
- Would have communicated if reached out
- Emphasized importance of personal contact

Quote:

"Can we just do it all year round? Not when it's time to vote, because I missed you all's whatever you were having. I didn't see it come to my door. I didn't see it coming to my email. I didn't see it comes to my texting message."

RESIDENT 2 - Linda Hart

Address: 7327 Free Avenue

Main Issues:

1. Charter Accessibility:

- Difficulty finding charter on website
- Not user-friendly
- Requested easier online access
- Would prefer typing "Oakwood Village Charter" and having it pop up
- Currently have to navigate through multiple steps

2. Voter Participation:

- Noted last election had only 31% voter turnout
- Called it "abysmal"
- Appreciated communication improvements
- Hoped it would boost voter participation

3. Charter Information:

- Wants to know what's on ballot
- Needs to understand proposed amendments
- Can't judge amendments without knowing starting point (current charter)

Response from Chair:

- Directed to OakwoodvillageOH.com
- Go to bottom of home page
- Click on "codified ordinances"
- Charter is there and searchable by word

- Offered to show resident website after meeting

Resident's Concern:

- Most user-friendly would be direct search on village website
- Shouldn't have to navigate through multiple steps

RESIDENT 3 - Carrie Cassegurin

Address: Grove Street (lived there 29 years)

Background:

- Ashamed to say only been to one other council meeting many years ago
- Raised 5 children in Oakwood
- Loved the village
- Tom Haber was kids' coach (emotional connection)

Main Topic: Community Garden Praise

Personal Journey:

- About 1.5-2 years ago, got in contact with Mayor about community garden
- Interested because of deer problem in Oakwood
- Couldn't garden due to deer
- Thought garden would be interesting and fun
- Kids grown and gone; wanted community involvement

Garden Experience:

- Got involved this year
- Met plot neighbor Shirley (next-door neighbors)
- Neat opportunity to get to know people otherwise wouldn't know
- Really neat learning process
- Most laugh about mistakes made
- Share information

- Produce together
- Look out for each other
- Share equipment
- Share organic spray for powdery mildew and other issues

Community Building:

- Wonderful thing
- Great way for kids to meet people
- People get to know each other
- Helps when there are difficult issues
- When people aren't in agreement, neighborhood bond helps
- Feel like it's your community

Requests:

- Thank whoever helped approve garden
- Want to do it again next year
- Learned what not to do
- Encouraged others to visit garden
- Really wonderful

Quote:

"I just think it was such a wonderful thing and I love the idea like things like I couldn't I was out of town so I didn't get to do the bike thing but that's such a great way to have your kids come to people really start to get to know each other so all of those kinds of things I think are amazing and it really helps us to get through like when there are difficult issues and maybe people aren't in agreement once you kind of have that neighborhood bond and you really feel like this is your community"

RESIDENT 4 - Angela Lennard

Address: 263-204th Road

Title: Official Gardener

Background:

- Gardened for last 20 years
- Went through depression due to personal problems
- Led to gardening; soul started to heal
- Yard looked like "better home than garden" at one point
- Garden took her places she couldn't imagine

Summer Class:

- Taught summer class for about 6 weeks
- Children ages 9-10
- Learned as much from them as they learned from her
- Wonderful children
- Taught more than hands-on gardening:
    - History
    - Spirituality
    - Faithfulness of God
    - Seasons come and go; spring always comes after winter

Teaching Philosophy:

- Gave students bags with positive attributes:
    - Brave
    - Courage
    - Amazing
    - Honest
    - Integrity
    - Smart
    - "You are enough"

- Defined each word so children understood

Student Wisdom:

- 9-year-old boy named Chase said:
    - "Smart means you know some things, but you're still learning and you're still growing."
    - "I don't think any of us could have said it any better than that."

Current Program:

- Now teaching senior enrichment classes.
- Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 AM-12 PM.
- Inviting all seniors.
- Helping with gardening skills.

Community Aspect:

- Go through garden together.
- Help each other clean up, cut, pick.
- Getting to know each other in good way.
- Not fighting or arguing.
- Place where you can grow your soul.
- "Love is doing."

Future Vision:

- Thank Mayor for vision
- Hope to expand
- People growing things sold in grocery stores
- Could be money maker
- Want place to be beautiful
- Garden, flowers, wonderful things
- When people drive through, remember this place

- Not "one-horse town" to drive straight through
- Get sense of unity and love

Invitation:

- Come visit garden
- Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2 hours in morning
- Welcome to see what they do
- "Come on down, y'all"
- Have "guardian angel" (scarecrow) watching over plot

Quote:

"So when you're in the dirt, you can grow your soul. You can literally dig in the dirty and start growing your soul, and that's, as the sister said, community."

RESIDENT 5 - Budget & Governance Concerns

Name: Not clearly stated

Main Issues:

1. Budget Concerns:

- Very concerned about village's ending balance
- Even though village is small, need belt tightening
- "What are we gonna do? How are we going to do?"
- See things changing but not bringing them up.
- Village doesn't have the money.

2. Governance Issues:

- Two courts of council (questioned if needed).
- Some things changing; not sure about direction.
- Need to take responsibility.
- Can't put it all on one finance director.

- "It's up to everybody in those chairs."
- Some people have been in office for years.
- "We owe it to our partners to make sure we get on that."

3. Oversight Concerns:

- Some letters being sent about what people aren't doing.
- That's not full oversight.
- Want to know how budget is being tightened.
- Want to ensure retirement money is there for people.
- "That's what your job is."

4. Mayor's Court:

- Glad to see Mayor's Court back.
- "Let's give a girl a dad a boy for bringing it back."
- Noted $24,000-$25,000 might be from other sources.
- Asked: "How can we increase it and go forth from there?"

5. Parking Enforcement:

- Almost ran into cars parked on street twice.
- Dark at night; can't see.
- 11 PM and people just parked on street.
- Gave credit to police department.
- If supposed to monitor streets, should check parking.
- Not trying to be mean.
- Grandson in car said "Grandma's a car in front of you."
- Before event at Glenshire, couldn't see parked cars.
- Safety concern.

6. Police Appreciation:

- Thanked police for letting her lock herself out of house.

- Police were there helping.

7. Political Concerns:

- Called Board of Elections.
- Was told: "You all turn them into the East Cleveland."
- "You're turning into the East Cleveland of politics."
- Concerned about negativity and "bite-biting."
- "That's not what we pay you all up here to do."

Quote:

"I was very, very disturbed about the ending balance on the village. Even though we're small and I know we keep saying that, no, we got to do. I've been here one time, belt tightening. What are we gonna do? How are we going to do?"

RESIDENT 6 - Yolanda Hicks

Address: 26310 Forks Road, Ward 2

Main Issues:

1. Charter Accessibility:

- Agrees with previous resident's concerns.
- Main reason for speaking: Charter not easily findable on website.
- Would be nice to have it there for online access.
- Copy hanging inside is not enough.
- Need to know starting point (current charter) to judge amendments.

2. Voter Participation:

- Appreciates communication improvements.
- Hopes it boosts voter participation.
- Last election: 31% of eligible voters voted.
- Called it "abysmal".
- Whatever council can do to increase participation would be good.

Response from Chair:

- Directed to Cuyahoga County Board of Elections website.
- Charter language will be there.
- Council will generate informative materials.
- Multiple sources for information.

10. **Legislation**-

2026-94 ORDINANCE REPEALING OF ORDINANCE 2026- 60 TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS ISN'T PRESENTED AS A CHARTER AMENDMENT. ORDINANCE 2026-94 ON ORDINANCE REPEALING, ORDINANCE 2026-60, AN ORDINANCE TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS IN THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD WITH A QUESTION OF AMENDING, SECTION 5.03 OF THE VILLAGE CHARTER CONCERNING THE RECALL OF ELECTED OFFICERS IN THE VILLAGE

Suspension: Motion made by Davis and seconded by Scruggs.

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

Result: Motion passed to suspend 2026-94.

Adoption: Motion made by Davis and seconded by Scruggs.

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

Result: Motion passed to adopt 2026-94.

2026-93 RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF DEBRA HLADKY, THE POSITION OF A MEMBER OF COUNCIL AT LARGE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE EXPIRY TERM, ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 2027, AND DECLARING EMERGENCY

Suspension: Motion made by Davis and seconded by Sims.

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

Result: Motion passed to suspend 2026-93.

Adoption: Motion made by Sims and seconded by Davis.

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

Result: Motion passed to adopt 2026-93.

2026-92 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORZING THE ASSESSMENT OF THE COST OF NUISANCE ABATEMENT PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 551 OF THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD CODIFIED ORDINANCE, INCLUDING ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, UPON THE REAL ESTATE FROM WHICH THE NUISANCE

Suspension: Motion made by Davis and seconded by Hladky.

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

Result: Motion passed to suspend 2026-92.

Adoption: Motion made by Hladky and seconded by Davis.

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

Result: Motion passed to adopt 2026-92.

2026-91 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AUTHORZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Suspension: Motion made by Hladky and seconded by Davis.

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

Result: Motion passed to suspend 2026-91.

Adoption: Motion made by Davis and seconded by Hladky.

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

Result: Motion passed to adopt 2026-91.

2026-90 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORZING THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD TO PAY OUTSTANDING INVOICE FROM THE OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE IN THE AMOUNT OF $5,813.91 AND DECLARING AN EMERGECNY

Suspension: Motion made by Davis and seconded by Evans-Warren.

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

Result: Motion passed to suspend 2026-90.

Adoption: Motion made by Davis and seconded by Hladky.

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

Result: Motion passed to adopt 2026-90.

2026-89 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORZING THE ADMINISTRATIVE TO AMEND APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31,2026, AND DECLARING AND EMERGENCY

- First Reading: Law Director clarified: Emergency legislation doesn't require suspension of rules.
- Emergency clause just determines when it takes effect.
- This ordinance placed on FIRST READING (not passed on emergency)

Discussion:

- Hardin asked if emergency clause needed to be changed.
- Law Director explained: No, keep emergency clause; just put on first reading.
- Clarified: Not changing emergency clause; putting on first reading.
- **PLACED ON FIRST READING** (not passed; to be discussed further at finance meeting).

2026-87 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR FUNDING AND EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT (NEORSD) FOR COMMUNITY COST-SHARE PROGRAM DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION IN THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD AND DECLARING AND EMERGENCY

Suspension: Motion made by Davis and seconded by Evans-Warren.

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

Result: Motion passed to suspend 2026-87.

Adoption: Motion made by Davis and seconded by Evans-Warren.

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

Result: Motion passed to adopt 2026-87.

2026-88 AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY TO THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE FUNDING OF CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Suspension: Motion made by Evans-Warren and seconded by Davis.

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

Result: Motion passed to suspend 2026-88.

Adoption: Motion made by Davis and seconded by Hladky.

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

Result: Motion passed to adopt 2026-88.

11. Discussion-

Ordinance 2026-89 - Appropriations amendment (on first reading; needs further discussion)

Videography/Streaming Service Contract - Moved to budget meeting

Training/Personnel Hiring - Status update needed

Mayor's Court Expenses - Detailed breakdown needed

12. Adjournment-

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Davis and seconded by Hladky.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:44PM.

Nov 10, 2026 — Approved (Date)

Eloise Hardin — Council President, Eloise Hardin

Nov 12, 2026 — Posted (Date)

Carol Jackson — Clerk of Council, Carol Jackson