THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD

WORK SESSION

September 8th, 2026

ATTENDANCE

Council President- Eloise Hardin
President Pro Tem-Debra Hladky
Ward 1- Taunya Scruggs
Ward 2-Yvonne Evans-Warren
Ward 3-Paggie Matlock *6:50pm
Ward 4-Mary Davis
Ward 5-Malcolm Sims Jr. *6:41pm

Late arrival*

---

1. Meeting called to order by Hardin at 6:00PM.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call.

Deb Hladky was sworn in as a new council member at-large, with her term ending December 31, 2027.

2026-WS-60 -Introduced by Mayor (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

-The Building Department cites property owners for violations.

-Property owners are given a certain amount of time to either fix the issue or appeal.

-If they don't comply within the timeframe, the Service Department cuts the grass.

-The cost is then assessed to the property owner.

Payment Options:

-Property owners can pay the cost directly.

-If they don't pay directly, the cost gets assessed to their property taxes.

Deadline:

-Must be sent to the county by September 14th or 15th.

-This is a yearly requirement.

Tax Year:

-Tax Year 2026 costs are collected in 2027 (first half and second half, like property taxes).

Status:

-Passed as Ordinance 92 (declared emergency).

-Required emergency passage due to the county deadline.

-Legislative Number: Work Session 60 became Ordinance 2026-92 when passed.

2026-WS-61 – Introduced by Council as a whole (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

Purpose:

- Accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission.
- Authorizing the necessary tax levies.
- Certifying them to the County Fiscal Officer.

Inside Millages (Property Tax Rates): The resolution established three inside millages that have been set for a long time:

- General Fund: 2.9 mills.
- General Bond Retirement: 0.6 mills.
- Police Pension: 0.3 mills.

Process:

- After the village submits its tax budget to the county, the Budget Commission holds a tax hearing.
- The Commission sets the tax rates and allocates portions based on various inside millages.

- All documents must be signed, certified, and sent back to the county confirming acceptance of the property taxes.
- This is a yearly requirement.

Status:

- Passed as Resolution 91 (declared emergency).
- Required emergency passage due to county deadlines.

Legislative Number: Work Session 61 became Resolution 2026-91 when passed.

The Finance Director (Karen Howse) noted this is a routine annual process required by law.

2026-WS-62 -Introduced by Mayor and Council as a whole (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

What It Covers:

- Penalties and interest that were assessed over multiple inactions.
- This has been a carried-over issue for numerous years.
- The Finance Director felt it was proper to present it to council before making payment.

2026-WS-63 -Introduced by Mayor and Council as a whole (2026-89)

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

- Placed on first reading (not passed on emergency).
- The Law Director clarified that emergency legislation doesn't require suspension of rules; it just determines when it takes effect.
- Council voted to put it on first reading rather than passing it immediately.

2026-WS-64 – Introduced by Mayor (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

-Authorization to repair or reconstruct most (if not all) of the catch basins. These catch basins were previously resurfaced with the expectation that catch basin repairs would follow.

Funding:

-$80,000 budget (not to exceed) from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's community cost share program.

-This is money already in the regional sewer district's account from fees taken off residents' water bills (both residential and commercial).

Scope of Work:

-Approximately 16 catch basins total across the three streets.

-The main issue isn't the grates themselves, but the concrete underneath that supports them.

-Some grates can be reused; others will need replacement.

-Contingency funding included for apron repairs as needed (only the portion adjacent to the basin, not full driveways).

Next Steps:

-Submit application to demonstrate project eligibility (already confirmed).

-Once funding is approved, either send out RFPs or advertise for bidding (depending on whether cost is below bidding threshold).

-Contract award through board of control.

-Work may extend into 2027 depending on weather conditions.

-Legislative Number: Work Session 64 became Ordinance/Resolution 87 when passed.

2026-WS-65 – Introduced by Mayor and Council as a whole (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

-Road reconstruction/resurfacing Buckthorn Road. Includes engineering costs.

Funding Request:

-Total project cost: Approximately $650,000.

-Grant request: $500,000 from Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC).

-Village's share: Approximately $150,000 (roughly 20% local match).

-Funding split: 79% OPWC / 21% local.

Timeline:

-Application due Thursday (September 11th).

-Funds would become available July 2027.

-Realistically a 2028 construction project.

-Portions of village's local share may be due in late 2027, with bulk due in 2028.

Payment Structure:

-Direct disbursement - the village won't have to front the money.

-OPWC covers their percentage from the start (including engineering at the same percentage).

-Village will be reimbursed.

Status:

-Passed as emergency legislation (Resolution 88) to authorize the Mayor to submit the application.

-This does NOT commit council to funds at this point; that's a future decision.

-Legislative Number: Work Session 65 became Ordinance/Resolution 88 when passed.

Two items were added to the regular meeting agenda from the work session:

Items Added to Agenda:

1. **2026-93** - Confirming the appointment of **Debra Hladky** as a member of council at-large for the remainder of the term ending December 31, 2027 (declared emergency).

   Motion to add 2026-93 to the agenda made by Davis and seconded by Evans-Warren.

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

PASSED.

2. **2026-94** - Repealing Ordinance 2026-60 to prevent a charter amendment concerning Section 5.03 (recall of elected officers) from appearing on the ballot.

   Motion to add 2026-94 to the agenda made by Scruggs and seconded by Davis.

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

   PASSED.

Process:

- Both required **separate motions** to add them to the agenda since they were **late additions**
- The Law Director explained there's a charter process allowing council to add items when they need to pass something that wasn't prepared in time for the original agenda
- Both motions **passed** with roll call votes **Why They Were Added:**
- **2026-93**: Deb Hladky had just been sworn in and needed formal confirmation
- **2026-94**: This repeal should have been included in an earlier batch of repealed charter amendments but was accidentally missed; it needed to be corrected before the ballot Both items were then **passed unanimously** during the regular meeting.

Hardin presented a formal proposal with the following key points:
Welcome & Respect for Time: "We welcome other suggestions in the interest of productive dialogue and positive use of time. Because we encourage citizens to attend our meetings, we want to respect your precious time and keep our meetings focused to that end." Meeting Duration Goal:

"We're going to try to conclude council meetings no later than 8:30, so we try to shoot for a time frame so that we don't have the marathon of meetings that we passed." Public Comment Process:

Citizens invited to collect printed agendas from the rear of the chamber

Add your name to the signing sheet if you wish to speak

If you arrive late, step to the podium and sign when public comment is

called Visible Time Limit:

"The time clock will be displayed prominently in the council chamber. And as a fair person, I will enforce the existing five-minute public comment time for each individual." Department Head Reports:

"Going forward, we'd like to have department head reports for those who actually have something on the agenda, as we did previously in the work session... We are looking forward to not necessarily having to ask you for reports every week." Overall Philosophy:

"This is not the cure-all, but we are really looking forward to having productive meetings, so that you don't come in these two times." Hardin emphasized the goal was to be transparent and timely while respecting residents' time.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Davis and seconded by Sims.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:50PM.

Nov 10, 2026 — Approved (Date)

Eloise Hardin — Council President, Eloise Hardin

Nov 12, 2026 — Posted (Date)

Carol Jackson — Clerk of Council, Carol Jackson