City Council Meeting
M I N U T E S
January 13, 2020 - 6:30 PM
Held in Council Chambers – Oak Hill City Hall

Call to Order
Mayor Wright called the regular meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call
The Interim Clerk Ronda Falk called the roll.

PRESENT
Mayor Daniel Wright
Councilor Thomas Oxley
Councilor Michelle Holly
Councilor Diana Janney
Councilor Missy Wilshire
Councilor Ronald Stephen Hayslette
Councilor Charles Smallwood, Jr.
Councilor Benitez Jackson

Staff present: City Manager Hannabass, Admin. Asst. Falk, Street Dept. Supervisor Kirk, Fire Chief Richardson, Oak Hill Police Chief Whisman, and GIS Coordinator Bragg.

Invocation
Pastor Thomas Carver, LifeBridge Assembly of God led the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance
Councilor Smallwood, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor recommended Item #9 be the first item of business to accommodate the News Media. There were no objections.

Reading and Approval of Minutes
December 2019 Minutes were provided to the members in advance of the meeting.

Motion: ***To approve the minutes of December 9, 2019 as provided.***
Motion made by Council Member Oxley, Seconded by Council Member Smallwood, Jr..
Voting Yea: Council Member Oxley, Council Member Holly, Council Member Janney, Council Member Wilshire, Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Jackson.
Motion carried 7-0.

Treasurer's Report

December 2019 Revenue, Expense, and Vendor Checks were submitted.

Motion: ***Accept the Treasurer's report as presented.***

Motion made by Council Member Janney, Seconded by Council Member Wilshire.
Voting Yea: Council Member Oxley, Council Member Holly, Council Member Janney, Council Member Wilshire, Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Jackson.
Motion carried 7-0.

Correspondence

None

Citizens Comments

Christa Hodges invited everyone to attend Destination Downtown's meeting on January 15, 2020 at the Lewis House on Main St.

Shelby Underwood questioned why the water had a foul odor. She was directed to contact the West Virginia American Water Co. (2) She expressed concern about a rumor that the City was planning to annex Terry Ave. The City Manager assured her there has been no discussion or plans to annex the area. (3) She raised objections to the Oak Hill City Police responding to calls outside their jurisdiction. (4) There was a short discussion with Fire Chief Richardson in relation to violations of the Fayette County Enforcement Code.

Jerry McCracken announced he was speaking on behalf of Linda Johnson; she received a Notice to demolish the structure at 250 Minden Rd. There was an extensive discussion on the Ordinances for unsafe structures, Council's procedures, and the property owner's responsibilities.

Council Comments and Department Reports

The following topics were discussed.

- Crime Rate Graph 2005-2019 offered by Chief Whisman
- Appreciation to the City Manager and Street Dept. Supervisor for the new signage at Harlem Heights.
- Gratitude to the Administrative Asst. for time spent explaining the vacant properties.
- Recognition of the City Manager for his assistance in notifying the Dept of Highway concerning the drainage problem at 158 Broadway Ave. and the water standing in front of the New River Intermediate School.
- City Wide Clean-Up. The City Manager asked for Council's help in spreading the word in getting the community involved. It was suggested to request the Beautification Committee consider a clean-up project in the Spring.
- Farmer's Market usage and plans for the future.
- Mud-hole on Maple Ave. with the associated sidewalk being overgrown with grass.
- Boarding up doors of abandoned houses.

Mayoral Comments

The Mayor commented on the success of the Christmas Parade in spite of the weather; he thanked the City staff for their willingness to work in the inclement weather. (2) He informed Council members he had participated in a WQAZ Commercial urging people to buy locally. (3) He expressed he would like to have each Council Member provide a short biography, photograph, and contact information for the oakhillwv.gov website. (3) He suggested Chief Whisman publicize the Crime Rate statistics that reveals the significant drop in crime.

The meeting was turned over to the City Manager and he addressed Item #9 before Unfinished business.

Unfinished Business

1. **Request for abandonment for approximately 113 feet of Right-of-Way between Gatewood Ave. and Bunch St. 2nd Reading**

   The City Manager acknowledged the item as the second reading with no changes.

   Motion: ***Accept the second reading and adoption to abandon approx. 113 feet of right-o-way between Gatewood Ave., and Bunch St.***

   Motion made by Council Member Oxley, Seconded by Council Member Janney.
   Voting Yea: Council Member Oxley, Council Member Holly, Council Member Janney, Council Member Wilshire, Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Jackson.
   Motion carried 7-0.

2. **Demolition bid opening for 204 Third Ave., map 12, parcel 63 owned by Suzan Blevins**

   The City Manager reported three contractors attended the Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference and received one sealed bid. A proposal of $4,800.00 from Empire Salvage was reviewed and found to be in order.

   Motion: Accept and a*ward the demolition to Empire Salvage for $4,800.00.*

   Motion made by Council Member Oxley, Seconded by Council Member Wilshire.
   Voting Yea: Council Member Oxley, Council Member Holly, Council Member Janney, Council Member Wilshire, Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Jackson.
   Motion carried 7-0.

3. **Structural Inspection Board recommendation order to demolish 215 Mayfair Ave., Map 32, Parcel 162 owned by Betty Adkins & Raydmond Jones**

   The City Manager informed Council the owners were properly served and aware of the SIB's recommendation.

   Motion: ***Accept the recommendation of the Structural Inspection Board to order the property owners to demolish the structure located at 215 Mayfair Ave.***

   Motion made by Council Member Holly, Seconded by Council Member Oxley.
   Voting Yea: Council Member Oxley, Council Member Holly, Council Member Janney, Council Member

Wilshire, Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Jackson.
Motion carried 7-0.

4. **Consideration and adoption of Resolution to lay an assessment lien on property at Minden Rd., map 26, parcel 337 owned by Yvonne Oliver**
The members were informed the property's location is across from the Waste Water Treatment Plant in the community of Minden. The demolition was more expensive due to the location and the contractor having to go through an adjoining property.

Motion: ***Adopt the Resolution laying an assessment lien on the property located at Minden Rd., map 26, parcel 337 owned by Yvonne Oliver***
Motion made by Council Member Oxley, Seconded by Council Member Jackson.
Voting Yea: Council Member Oxley, Council Member Holly, Council Member Janney, Council Member Wilshire, Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Jackson.
Motion carried 7-0.

5. **Consideration and adoption of Resolution to lay an assessment lien on property at 171 Minden Rd. owned by Barry Blackburn**
The City Manager updated Council on the history of the property. The property was sold for delinquent taxes. The successful bidder purposefully failed to request a deed to the property. The property reverted back to Mr. Blackburn.

Motion: ***Adopt the Resolution laying an assessment lien of $5,000.00 on the property at 171 Minden Rd. owned by Barry Blackburn.***
Motion made by Council Member Janney, Seconded by Council Member Wilshire.
Voting Yea: Council Member Oxley, Council Member Holly, Council Member Janney, Council Member Wilshire, Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Jackson.
Motion carried 7-0.

New Business

6. **Planning Commission Recommendations-Repeal (with a replacement) Oak Hill Municipal Code 5.06 due to duplications elsewhere, and amend OHMC 10.08.010, OHMC 15.04.010, OHMC 15.10.040, OHMC 15.38.230, OHMC 15.40.070 pertaining to outdoor storage of wrecked, junked, abandoned vehicles, non-outdoor furniture, and residential fences.**
Planning Commission Chairperson Steve Moss explained the reasoning behind the request to repeal (with a replacement) and amend the Municipal Codes.

Motion: ***Accept the recommendations of the Planning Commission as the first reading to amend/repeal (with a replacement) the Oak Hill Municipal Codes due to duplications elsewhere.***
Motion made by Council Member Oxley, Seconded by Council Member Wilshire.
Voting Yea: Council Member Oxley, Council Member Holly, Council Member Janney, Council Member Wilshire, Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Jackson.
Motion carried 7-0.

7. Planning Commission Recommendation to rezone property located at 101 Lee St. from R-2 Residential District to B-2 General Business District

The Little Caesars Director of Operations addressed Council with plans to remodel the building inside and out. Their plans are to expand the parking lot to allow more parking; the drive-thru will be redirected around the building in order to stop backup on Main St.

Motion: ***Rezone the property located at 101 Lee St. from R-2 Residential District to B-2 General Business District.***

Motion made by Council Member Janney, Seconded by Council Member Hayslette.
Voting Yea: Council Member Oxley, Council Member Holly, Council Member Janney, Council Member Wilshire, Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Jackson.
Motion carried 7-0.

8. Appointment and reappointment to Boards, Commissions, and Committees
Planning Commission - Council Paul Baker replacement
Bd of Zoning Appeals - James (Buzz) Elkins

Motion: ***Approve Benitez Jackson as Paul Baker's replacement on the Planning Commission.***

Motion made by Council Member Oxley, Seconded by Council Member Wilshire
Voting Yea: Council Member Oxley, Council Member Holly, Council Member Janney, Council Member Wilshire, Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Jackson.
Motion carried 7-0.

Motion: ***Reappointment James (Buzz) Elkins to the Board of Zoning Appeals.***

Motion made by Council Member Oxley, Seconded by Council Member Janney
Voting Yea: Council Member Oxley, Council Member Holly, Council Member Janney, Council Member Wilshire, Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Jackson.
Motion carried 7-0.

9. Proclamation recognizing Black History Month, establishing a Black History Celebration Committee, and sponsoring a state historic marker in honor of James Monroe Ellis

The Mayor presented a Proclamation commemorating the cultural, political, and economic contributions of African Americans. As part of the observance, he encouraged the City of Oak Hill to promote appropriate ceremonies and programs; appoint a Celebration Committee to plan, develop, and carry out all events. He acknowledged the role and achievements of the inspirational James Monroe Ellis.

Motion: ***Authorize the execution of the Proclamation by Mayor Wright.***

Motion made by Council Member Oxley, Seconded by Council Member Smallwood, Jr..
Voting Yea: Council Member Oxley, Council Member Holly, Council Member Janney, Council Member Wilshire, Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Jackson.
Motion carried 7-0.

Announcements

- The City Manager reminded Council to register for the WV Municipal League Conference scheduled for January 26 & 27, 2020.
- The next regular Council meeting will be February 10, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.
- The Mayor recognized the attendance of the new Fayette County Prosecuting Attorney Jeff Mauzy.

Adjournment

Motion: ***Adjourn the meeting.***

Motion made by Council Member Janney, Seconded by Council Member Holly.
Voting Yea: Council Member Oxley, Council Member Holly, Council Member Janney, Council Member Wilshire, Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Jackson.
Motion carried 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Daniel E. Wright, Mayor Damita Johnson, City Clerk