CITY OF OAK HILL
M I N U T E S
City Council Meeting - March 2022
March 14, 2022 - 5:30 PM

Call to Order
The regular monthly meeting of the Oak Hill City Council was held on March 14, 2022, in the Council Chambers of Oak Hill City Hall at 5:30 p.m.

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

Roll Call
The City Clerk called the roll as follows:

PRESENT
Mayor Daniel Wright
Councilmember Thomas Oxley
Councilmember Diana Janney
Councilmember David Perry
Councilmember Christa Hodges
Councilmember Charles Smallwood, Jr.
Councilmember Ronald Stephen Hayslette
Councilmember Benitez Jackson

Invocation led Pastor Michael Meadows, First Brethren Church of Oak Hill
In the absence of Pastor Michael Meadows, City Clerk Damita Johnson said the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Jackson

Reading and Approval of Minutes
Motion – ***Dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the council meeting held on February 14, 2022.***
Motion carried 7 - 0
Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Oxley.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Oxley, Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Perry, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Smallwood, Jr., Councilmember Hayslette, Councilmember Jackson

Treasurer's Report
Motion - ***Approve the treasurer's report as presented.***
Motion carried 7- 0.
Motion made by Councilmember Janney, Seconded by Councilmember Hodges.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Oxley, Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Perry, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Smallwood, Jr., Councilmember Hayslette,

Councilmember Jackson

Correspondence
The Clerk read a letter from the Fire Department thanking Council for for their kindness during the Christmas season.

Citizens Comments
Jeanine Robinson with Destination Downtown gave Council a report of expenditures for the $15,000 that the City gave to the group.

Ernestine Phillips inquired about a listing of the Sears & Roebuck houses in Oak Hill. She is also in favor of the Veteran's Memorial.

A Minute from the Minutes
The Mayor shared an excerpt from the minutes of April 7, 1941.

Unfinished Business
Motion - ***Move items 3, 12, and 13 to the beginning of the agenda to accommodate guests in the audience.***
Motion carried 7 - 0.
Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Janney.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Oxley, Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Perry, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Smallwood, Jr., Councilmember Hayslette, Councilmember Jackson

The items above were discussed and voted on at the beginning of the meeting, however the minutes are written in the order of the agenda.

1. **Progress Report of Property Located at 526 Gatewood Rd., Map 13, Parcel 139, Owned by Property Traders**
   Mark Love of Property Traders emailed an update to the City Manager of the work in progress on the former Camco building.
   Motion - ***Continue to table this matter as long as the City Manager is receiving updates.***
   Motion carried 7 - 0.
   Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Oxley.
   Voting Yea: Councilmember Oxley, Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Perry, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Smallwood, Jr., Councilmember Hayslette, Councilmember Jackson

2. **Consideration to Adopt a Resolution for the City to Demolish the Structure Located at 137 Broadway, Map 7, Parcel 116 and 117, Owned by Erin Runyon (deeded to new owner Dewayne Hopkins on 3/2/2022)**
   This property has been sold to Dewayne Hopkins. The City Manager and City Attorney recommend tabling the item until April.

Motion - ***Table the consideration to adopt a resolution to demolish the structure located at 137 Broadway until the April.***
Motion carried 7 - 0.
Motion made by Councilmember Oxley, Seconded by Councilmember Perry.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Oxley, Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Perry, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Smallwood, Jr., Councilmember Hayslette, Councilmember Jackson

3. **Consideration of Vernon Miller's Request to Abandon Right-of-Way located at Willywood Ave.-2nd Reading**
Motion - ***Accept as the 2nd reading to abandon the right of way located at Willywood Ave.***
Motion carried 7 - 0.
Motion made by Councilmember Oxley, Seconded by Councilmember Janney.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Oxley, Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Perry, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Smallwood, Jr., Councilmember Hayslette, Councilmember Jackson

4. **Addition of $5.00 to all Fines Paid to the City of Oak Hill Municipal Court for Purpose of Funding Fayette County Teen Court - 2nd Reading**
Motion - ***Accept this as the 2nd reading to add $5 to each fine paid to the City of Oak HIll Municipal Court for the purpose of funding Fayette County Teen Court.***
Motion carried 7 - 0.
Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Hodges.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Oxley, Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Perry, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Smallwood, Jr., Councilmember Hayslette, Councilmember Jackson

5. **Approval of the Location for the Veterans Memorial Site**
Councilmember Oxley explained the location chosen for the Veterans Memorial site will be the lot on the corner of Maple Ave and Main Street, adjacent to Davis Tire and Muffler. This property is owned by the Jones Family.
Motion - ***Approve the location for the Veterans Memorial as described by Councilman Oxley.***
Motion carried 7 - 0.
Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Janney.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Oxley, Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Perry, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Smallwood, Jr., Councilmember Hayslette, Councilmember Jackson

New Business

6. **Chairman Don Phillips Reappointment to Board of Zoning Appeals**
Motion - ***Reappoint Don Phillips to the Board of Zoning Appeals.***
Motion carried 7 - 0.

Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Oxley.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Oxley, Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Perry, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Smallwood, Jr., Councilmember Hayslette, Councilmember Jackson

7. Consideration of One-way Parking on Assigned Streets

The City Manager explained that he and the Public Works Director have assessed several streets to consider one way parking. He foresees this to be an ongoing project and he will be seeking participation from the residents of the affected streets.
Council member Perry mentioned that he had asked the City Manager to look into this problem and had developed a list of streets that needed attention. The streets are Thompson Avenue, Washington Avenue between School Street and Park Street, the bottom of Mayfair, Chestnut Street between Park and Richards Street, the alley behind the Pawn Shop, Lee Street, and Rhodes Street.
If the City Manager's approach does not work, he would like to see more aggressive action taken.

8. Approval for Mold Assessment of the Former BB&T Building and New City Hall

Councilmember Perry received estimates from three mold assessing/remediation companies for the purpose of inspecting the former BB&T building for mold. The price ranges from $300 to $2,200.
Motion - *Approve the payment of a mold assessment for the former BB&T building.*
Motion carried 6 - 1.
Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Smallwood, Jr..
Voting Yea: Councilmember Oxley, Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Perry, Councilmember Smallwood, Jr., Councilmember Hayslette, Councilmember Jackson
Voting Nay: Councilmember Hodges

Motion - *Commit to one of the following options for city hall:*
1. Build a new city hall
2. Purchase the former BB&T building
3. Refurbish the current city hall building
Cost estimates will be obtained for each option.
Motion carried 7 - 0 by roll call vote.
Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Oxley.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Oxley, Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Perry, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Smallwood, Jr., Councilmember Hayslette, Councilmember Jackson

9. Consideration to Modify Municipal License Fee - 1st Reading

The City Clerk-Treasurer explained that this amendment to OHMC 4.02.70 will change all license fees to $15.00 except for contractors, handyman, and alcohol license. The amendment to OHMC 4.08.150 will remove the B&O Tax exemption for rental properties.

Motion - ***Accept this as the 1st reading of the amendments to the municipal code as explained by the City Clerk-Treasurer.***
Motion carried 7 - 0.
Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Oxley.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Oxley, Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Perry, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Smallwood, Jr., Councilmember Hayslette, Councilmember Jackson

10. Consideration to Redistrict the City Within Six Months of the Release of the Census by the United States

The City Manager explained that the population change was not significant enough to redistrict our voting precincts.
Motion - ***Accept the results of the redistricting consideration as explained by the City Manager.***
Motion carried 7- 0.
Motion made by Councilmember Oxley, Seconded by Councilmember Hodges.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Oxley, Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Perry, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Smallwood, Jr., Councilmember Hayslette

11. Budget Approval for FY 2023

The City Treasurer presented the FY 2023 budget for approval.
Motion - ***Approve the FY 2023 budget as presented.***
Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Oxley.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Oxley, Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Perry, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Smallwood, Jr., Councilmember Hayslette, Councilmember Jackson

12. Council Approval of Projects Committees Selection of Consulting Firms for the Following Projects

A. Virginia Street Sidewalks
B. Oak Hill Fire Dept. Addition
C. Oak Hill City Park

The City Manager reported the selection committee for the Virginia Street Sidewalks, the selection committee for the Oak Hill Fire Department Addition, and the selection committee for the Oak Hill City Park each recommends the selection of The Thrasher Group as the consulting firm for the individual projects.
Motion - ***Approve The Thrasher Group as the consulting firm for all projects discussed.***
Motion carried 7 - 0.
Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Smallwood, Jr..
Voting Yea: Councilmember Oxley, Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Perry, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Smallwood, Jr., Councilmember Hayslette, Councilmember Jackson
Council member Perry commended the City Manager on a job well done in organizing the process of selecting a consulting firm for these projects.

Jonathan Carpenter, Regional Manager for the Thrasher Group, gave an overview of each project.

13. Approval to Participate in the HubCAP (Communities of Achievement Program)

A representative with the WV Community Development Hub explained the Hubcap Program and how it could benefit the City of Oak Hill. The Community Development Hub is applying for USDA funds for the Hubcap program and a participation of $2,500 would be required from us.

Motion - ***Authorize participating in the Hubcap program and provide $2,500 as our participation.***

Motion carried 7 - 0.

Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Oxley.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Oxley, Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Perry, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Smallwood, Jr., Councilmember Hayslette, Councilmember Jackson

Council Comments and Department Reports

The Department Head reports were included in the council packet. Councilmembers discussed or asked questions about the following:
Data from speed signs; status of LED street lights; news releases; Councilmember Perry was erroneously listed in the code enforcement report as making a complaint.

The Mayor asked Council for comments and the following was mentioned:
Jeffries Family; drainage along Virginia Street; Minden Park; James Ellis marker; playgrounds being ADA compliant and accessible; lights at Harlem Heights, Catholic Center fish dinner, increase presence on Allman Street when school lets out; public meeting date for ARPA funds, criticism concerning demolition of scout cabin; agenda in the newspaper; prioritize parks, and the opportunity for the city park to be a premier attraction.

Mayoral Comments

The Mayor reported that the black history event went well.

Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items.

Adjournment

There being no further business appearing, the meeting adjourned.

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Daniel E. Wright, Mayor Damita Johnson, City Clerk