CITY OF OAK HILL
M I N U T E S
City Council Meeting - May 2021
May 10, 2021 - 6:30 PM

The regular monthly meeting of the Oak Hill City Council was held in the council chamber of Oak Hill City Hall on Monday, May 10, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. Zoom video conferencing was made available for the public and individuals that were not able to attend in person.

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

Roll Call
Ronda Falk, the Acting City Clerk called the roll.

PRESENT
Mayor Daniel Wright
Council Member (At Large) Thomas Oxley
Council Member Diana Janney
Council Member David Perry
Council Member Charles Smallwood, Jr.
Council Member Ronald Stephen Hayslette
Council Member Benitez Jackson

ABSENT
Council Member Missy Wilshire
Clerk/Treasurer Damita Johnson

Invocation
Council Member Perry delivered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was also led by Council Member Perry.

Reading and Approval of Minutes
Motion - Accept the minutes of April 19 and April 20, 2021, as presented.
Motion carried 6-0
Motion made by Council Member Perry, Seconded by Council Member (At Large) Oxley.
Voting Yea: Council Member (At Large) Oxley, Council Member Janney, Council Member Perry, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Jackson

Treasurer's Report
Motion - Accept the treasurer's report as presented.
Motion carried 6-0

Motion made by Council Member Janney, Seconded by Council Member Smallwood, Jr.
Voting Yea: Council Member (At Large) Oxley, Council Member Janney, Council Member Perry, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Jackson

Correspondence

Correspondence regarding the property located at 219 Highland Ave. has been made available in the Agenda Packet for the council's viewing.

Citizens Comments

Kathy Reed described her family's unwanted encounter with vicious dogs; she is in support of an ordinance that will address the handling of dangerous dogs.

Leslie McVey conveyed her interest in improving the appearance of the city; She suggested the city utilize free labor provided by the Mount Olive Correctional Complex Slayton Work Camp for beautification projects within the city. On a different matter, she requested assistance in deterring traffic from running the stop sign on the corner of Beech Ave. and Byrnside St.

Jim Ayers inquired about the city's building permits being made available on the website. He questioned if there has been any progress with DHHR having a public meeting regarding the new group home. He acknowledged the city park being named "Gary & Linda Harding Park".

Christa Hodges (attending by Zoom) informed the council that Destination Downtown will host the White Oak Rail Trail Expo scheduled for June 5, 2021, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. They have created a survey asking businesses to participate in a shop local program. They are also requesting feedback on how Destination Downtown can help improve the outside of their businesses. They will share the results with Council after the surveys have been collected.

Council Comments and Department Reports

Chief Richardson reported the fire department responded to twenty-nine calls during the month of April.

16 calls within municipal limits
13 outside municipal limits
Calls consisted of 9 alarm calls, 7 MVA's, 5 brush fires, 1 special operation, 5 structural fires, and 3 mutual aid calls.

Chief Whisman reported the police department responded to four hundred sixty service calls during the month of April.

The calls consisted of 401 general service calls, 5 felonies, 39 misdemeanors, 4 incidents, and 11 accidents.
289 citations were issued. 41 warnings. 3 parking violations. 4 felony arrests. 40 misdemeanor arrests. Total Mileage: 14,217. The police chief noted the police body cameras are scheduled to be shipped on May 14.

The Fire Chief and Police Chief were commended on their reports.

Council Member Wilshire arrived at the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

The mayor asked for Council comments and the following items were discussed:

A broken AEP pole across the street from the Oak Hill United Methodist Church, compliments to David Kirk for the street cleaning, compliments to City Manager Hannabass for his responsiveness, promptness in the timely letter sent to DHHR, removing the shed on Oyler Ave., a $1000.00 quote received for a written report on the cost & repair of Scout Cabin, compliments to Tom Oxley and individuals for the closure in the Economic Developer Coordinator job description, request to send a thank you letter to Dr. Richard Begley, Storage containers on Main St., request for DEP report on status of the Bragg property, and a request for more general information on the code enforcement report.

Also discussed:

Traffic congestion due to construction in East End, increase police patrols in Minden during the a.m. school bus hours, cars parking on the sidewalks on Central Ave. and Main Street, trash behind the apartment building adjacent to City Hall, in favor of MOCC Slayton Work Camp free labor, Condition of Virginia Street sidewalks, posting building permits for commercial properties on the website, the status of James Ellis Marker Application, lighting and cameras for Harlem Heights Park, blacktop parking area around Harlem Heights Gazebo, request to pea gravel playground at Harlem Heights Park, water drainage problem at the car wash across from Prudence Auto, 127 Elizabeth St. water problem, signs for the dog park, and City Hall signs on Main St. and building.

Mayoral Comments

The mayor opined on the set of circumstances experienced by the Reed family; it was an influencing factor in addressing an ordinance regarding dangerous dogs.

He recommended the city erect and sponsor a Veterans Memorial commemorating the contributions of Oak Hill men and women who have served in the armed services.

He inquired about the three individuals recognized for rescuing James and Lillian Mathew receiving their official Proclamations. A photographic event will be scheduled with media coverage in the Council Chamber.

He suggested the city engage in public relations and 'toot our own horn' in the communication of the City of Oak Hill being acknowledged as the 2nd safest city in WV.

As a final point, he noted the city had a fine arts league in the past and advocated for its return.

A Minute from the Minutes

The mayor referred to the minutes of April 5, 1926, referencing the city ordinance's tax on dogs; the minutes from Feb 9, 1925, disclosed Council approving the city budget of $17,647.22 for fiscal year 25-26. Also, the minutes from Nov. 23, 1925, indicated the civic league was given the task of naming the city streets.

Unfinished Business

1. **Bid Opening for Demolition of Residential Structure Located at 103 Rocklick Rd., Map 59J, Parcel 40, Owned by Ace Adventure Resort**

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference was held with three potential bidders in attendance. The city received one bid from Empire Salvage before the deadline in the amount of $5,500.00.

Motion - **Accept the bid from Empire Salvage in the amount of $5,500.00 for the demolition of the structure located at 103 Rocklick Rd.**

Motion carried 7-0

Motion made by Council Member Perry, Seconded by Council Member (At Large) Oxley.
Voting Yea: Council Member (At Large) Oxley, Council Member Janney, Council Member Wilshire, Council Member Perry, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Jackson

2. **Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the City to Demolish the Residential Structure Located at 1138 Minden Rd., Map 58L, Parcel 12, Owned by Alma Campbell, c/o Diana McCumbers**

The city manager informed Council the owners were properly notified.

Motion - ***Adopt a resolution authorizing the city to demolish the residential structure located at 1138 Minden Rd. owned by Alma Campbell, c/o Diana McCumbers***

Motion carried 7-0

Motion made by Council Member (At Large) Oxley, Seconded by Council Member Hayslette.
Voting Yea: Council Member (At Large) Oxley, Council Member Janney, Council Member Wilshire, Council Member Perry, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Jackson

3. **Examination of Demolition Reports for Residential Structures**

A. 175 Minden Rd., Map 58M, Parcel 97, Owned by Jimie & Tiffany Adamini
B. Corner of Rocklick School Rd. & Minden Rd., Map 59J, Parcel 27, Owned by Teresa Lynn Blevins
C. Corner of Victory & Adkins Ave., Map 13, Parcel 56, Owned by Elizabeth A. Basham
D. 137 Minden Tipple Rd., Map 58M, Parcel 157, Owned by Geoffrey Stone

The city manager introduced the before and after pictures of the demolitions located at 175 Minden Rd., Corner of Rocklick School Rd., Corner of Victory & Adkins Ave., and 137 Minden Tipple Rd. The demolition reports were made available in the Agenda Packet for Councils viewing.

MOTION - **Accept the City Manager's demolition reports for 175 Minden Rd., Corner of Rocklick School Rd., Corner of Victory & Adkins Ave., and 137 Minden Tipple Rd., and issue orders advising the owners of the demolition reports and their right to contest said reports.**

Motion carried 7-0

Motion made by Council Member Janney, Seconded by Council Member (At Large) Oxley.
Voting Yea: Council Member (At Large) Oxley, Council Member Janney, Council Member

Wilshire, Council Member Perry, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Jackson

4. **Recommendation to Amend Oak Hill Municipal Code (OHMC) 10.12.012 Recreational Trail Vehicles - 2nd Reading**

This amendment change will restrict the operation of a recreational trail vehicle within the city unless a permit is obtained from Rim Fire Trail. The requirement for the permit is suspended until such time Rim Fire Trail issues the permit. Council had a short discussion on the amendment.

Motion - Accept this as the 2nd reading and adoption of an amendment to Oak Hill Municipal Code 10.12.012 Recreational Trail Vehicles.

Motion carried 6-1

Motion made by Council Member Perry, Seconded by Council Member Wilshire.
Voting Yea: Council Member Janney, Council Member Wilshire, Council Member Perry, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Jackson
Voting Nay: Council Member (At Large) Oxley

5. **Harm Reduction (needle exchange) Facility - 2nd Reading**

West Virginia Senate Bill #344 passed April 10, 2021 and will be in effect July 9, 2021. This bill establishes a licensing program within the state DHHR for harm reduction efforts that facilitate needle exchange. Currently there are no rules in effect requiring applicants to seek majority support from the citys governing body until the bill becomes law on July 9, 2021.

Motion - Accept the Senate Bill as a 2nd reading and adopt as an ordinance by the municipality.

Motion carried 7-0

Motion made by Council Member (At Large) Oxley, Seconded by Council Member Janney.
Voting Yea: Council Member (At Large) Oxley, Council Member Janney, Council Mmber Wilshire, Council Member Perry, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Jackson

The mayor called a 10-minute recess at 8 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:12 p.m.

New Business

6. **Structural Inspection Board (SIB) Recommendation to Demolish the Structure Located at 46 Beaver Rd., Map 59E, Parcel 28, Owned by Joseph & Sharon Kelly (deceased), C/O Joseph A. Kelly, Jr.**

Motion - Accept the recommendation of the SIB to demolish the structure located at 46 Beaver Rd. owned by Joseph & Sharon Kelly (deceased), c/o Joseph A. Kelly.

Motion carried 7-0
Motion made by Council Member Perry, Seconded by Council Member (At Large) Oxley.
Voting Yea: Council Member (At Large) Oxley, Council Member Janney, Council Member Wilshire, Council Member Perry, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Jackson

7. **Beautification Policy for Commercial Properties**
The city manager requested more input and direction from Council in the development of a Beautification Policy.

Motion: Have the Mayor appoint a committee that will draft a proposal and present it to the city manager for a possible ordinance. The committee shall consist of Christa Hodges, Leslie McVey, one member from the Beautification Commission, and Council Member Wilshire.

Motion carried 7-0
Motion made by Council Member Perry, Seconded by Council Member (At Large) Oxley.
Voting Yea: Council Member (At Large) Oxley, Council Member Janney, Council Member Wilshire, Council Member Perry, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Jackson

8. **Naming of Park - Gary & Linda Harding City Park**

Motion - Name the municipal city park Gary & Linda Harding City Park.
Motion carried 7-0
Motion made by Council Member Perry, Seconded by Council Member (At Large) Oxley.
Roll Call Vote
Oxley - yea
Janney - yea
Wilshire - yea
Perry - yea
Smallwood, Jr. - yea
Hayslette - yea
Jackson - yea

9. **Vicious Dogs Ordinance**
Currently, there is no municipal ordinance pertaining to vicious dogs. This ordinance will allow the Chief of Police and/or City Manager to make a determination on the handling of dangerous dogs at the municipal level.

Motion - Accept the Vicious Dogs Ordinance as a first reading.
Motion carried 7-0
Motion made by Council Member Janney, Seconded by Council Member Wilshire.
Roll Call Vote

Oxley - Yea
Janney - Yea
Wilshire - Yea
Perry - Yea
Smallwood, Jr. - Yea
Hayslette - Yea
Jackson - Yea

10. **Preservation of Old Minutes**
The mayor noted the condition of the old minutes and expressed their historical significance and the need to preserve them.

Motion - **Set up a committee that will come up with a plan to preserve the records beginning with the year of 1903, the year the city was incorporated. The committee shall consist of the city clerk/treasurer, city manager, and mayor.**
Motion carried 7-0
Motion made by Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Seconded by Council Member Janney.
Voting Yea: Council Member (At Large) Oxley, Council Member Janney, Council Member Wilshire, Council Member Perry, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Jackson

11. **Request Review of Ordinances Related to Fowl by Planning Commission**
Council reviewed the current fowl ordinance.

Motion - **Ask the Planning Commission to make a recommendation to council in regards to setting specific parameters to the ownership or retention of foul.**
Motion carried 7-0
Motion made by Council Member Perry, Seconded by Council Member (At Large) Oxley.
Voting Yea: Council Member (At Large) Oxley, Council Member Janney, Council Member Wilshire, Council Member Perry, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Jackson

12. **Consideration of Contribution for an Existing Playground in Minden and Construction of a New Playground.**
Active Southern West Virginia Fitness and the Family Resource Network would like to make improvements to the existing playground known as the Percy Fruit Playground. They are seeking a $2000.00 donation and an in-kind donation from the city.

Motion - Authorize a contribution of $2000.00 with the city assisting in the installation of the playground equipment and ground cover for the Percy Fruit Playground.
Motion carried 7-0
Motion made by Council Member Wilshire, Seconded by Council Member Hayslette.
Voting Yea: Council Member (At Large) Oxley, Council Member Janney, Council Member

Wilshire, Council Member Perry, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Jackson

The City Manager informed Council ACE Adventure Resort has agreed to convey 3-4 overgrown lots in Minden with one of the lots having a dilapidated structure to the city. This would allow the city to possibility have an area to construct a playground. The City Manager is requesting authorization to explore the option and investigate any environmental and drainage issues.

Motion **- Authorize the city manager to explore this opportunity and report his findings to Council.**

Motion carried 7-0

Motion made by Council Member (At Large) Oxley, Seconded by Council Member Hayslette.

Voting Yea: Council Member (At Large) Oxley, Council Member Janney, Council Member Wilshire, Council Member Perry, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Jackson

13. **Future Agenda Items**

Veterans Memorial
James Ellis Marker
New Facility for City Hall

Councilor Oxley left the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion **-** ***Adjourn the meeting.***

Motion carried 6-0

Motion made by Council Member Perry, Seconded by Council Member Janney.

Voting Yea: Council Member Janney, Councilor Member Wilshire, Council Member Perry, Council Member Smallwood, Jr., Council Member Hayslette, Council Member Jackson

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

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Ronda Falk, Acting Clerk Daniel E. Wright, Mayor