CITY OF OAK HILL
M I N U T E S
City Council Meeting - April 2022
April 11, 2022 - 5:30 PM

The regular monthly meeting of the Oak Hill City Council was held on April 11, 2022, in the Council Chambers of Oak Hill City Hall at 5:30 p.m.

Call to Order
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 (joined meeting during Treasurer's report)
Councilmember Benitez Jackson

Invocation led by Pastor Charles Schmuck, Oak Hill Gospel Tabernacle
The invocation was led by Pastor Charles Schmuck, Oak Hill Gospel Tabernacle

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember at-large Oxley
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Oxley.

Reading and Approval of Minutes
Motion – ***Dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the council meeting held on March 14, 2022.***
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 Jackson

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

Correspondence

The City Clerk read a letter from Dana Shelton asking for Council's support in getting a children's book about the bears around town published.

Citizens Comments

Matt Jeffries, a candidate in the magistrate race, introduced himself to Council.
John David, Executive Director of SALS, asked for a letter of support for Congressional Earmark Funds for single occupancy apartments on the 3rd floor of the historic Oak Hill school.
Since this items is on the agenda Council agreed to take action at this time.

Motion - ***Authorize the City Manager to draft a letter of support for the SALS project to be signed by the Mayor and City Manager.***

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

A Minute from the Minutes

The Mayor read an excerpt from page 24 and page 23 of the 1937 minutes.

Unfinished Business

1. **Public Meeting**

   They Mayor called the public meeting to order and announced that the meeting is to hear comments on the proposed amendment to modify the municipal license fee and remove the rental exemption on B & O taxes.

   Kevin Willis, a local business owner, spoke in opposition of the license fee change for rental units and against the removal of the exemption of the income from one rental unit.

   Mr. Willis stated this would be a hardship to the landlords and they would have to pass the extra fees onto their tenants.

   Councilmember Hayslette agreed with Mr. Willis' remarks and thinks residential and commercial rental should pay a fee of $5, which is the current rate.

   There was a lengthy discussion on the license fee for rental properties and the removal of the B&O tax exemption for rental properties.

   Councilmember Perry would like to consider increasing the fees for short term vacation rentals.

No one else from the audience spoke in favor or or against the matter before them.

The Mayor closed the public hearing.

Consideration to Modify Municipal License Fee and B&O Tax Exemption - 2nd Reading
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 2nd reading and adoption of the amendments to the OHMC 4.08.150 and to OHMC 4.02.70 except the license fee for residential and commercial rental property will be $5.00.***

Motion carried 7 - 0.
Motion made by Councilmember Hayslette, Seconded by Councilmember Smallwood, Jr..
Voting Yea: Councilmember Oxley, Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Perry, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Smallwood, Jr., Councilmember Hayslette, Councilmember Jackson
At this time the Chief of Police introduced the Patrolmen Bias and Wilshire who recently completed the police academy.
Councilmember Perry asked for a letter of commendation, signed by the Mayor, the Chief of Police, and the City Manager to be sent to the new graduates.

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 New Owner Dewayne Hopkins**
This is a structure that Council has dealt with in the past. The previous owner, Erin Runyon, had issues with the deed to the property and Council tabled action on this property because she had a possible buyer that wanted to salvage the house. Dewayne Hopkins now owns the house but it has not been repaired.

The City Manager's office has tried to contact Mr. Hopkins on multiple occasions to no avail.

Council member Jackson spoke in favor of giving Mr. Hopkins more time to repair the house since he only recently acquired the property.

There was more discussion of this issue and the fact that Mr. Hopkins had indicated at a previous meeting that he could get the work finished very quickly after he took ownership.
Motion - ***Proceed with the resolution for the City to demolish the structure located at 137 Broadway, owned by Dewayne Hopkins.***

Motion carried 5 - 2.
Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Oxley.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Oxley, Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Perry, Councilmember Smallwood, Jr., Councilmember Hayslette

Voting Nay: Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Jackson

3. Establishment of the Spirit of Oak Hill Award Committee

The Mayor appointed Christa Hodges, Debbie Bush, Tim Jordan, and Dewayne Hopkins to this committee. The Mayor will also serve on the committee.
Councilmember Oxley noted that he would like to see the award given to those who do things for the community outside of their job.

New Business

4. Alley Abandonment

John Legg asked for an unused right of way at the former Basham Salvage Yard, near Victory Street, to be abandoned.
Motion - ***Accept this as the 1st reading of an alley abandonment near Victory Street.***

Motion carried 7 - 0
Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Jackson.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Oxley, Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Perry, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Smallwood, Jr., Councilmember Hayslette, Councilmember Jackson

5. National Coal Heritage Area Authority Two Year Lease Renewal for Second Floor at City Hall

Motion - ***Renew the Coal Heritage lease for two years with the lease having a clause to end the lease with a notice of time to be determined by the City Manager.***

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

6. Consideration and Adoption of a Resolution in Support of Ukraine
Motion - Adopt a resolution in support of Ukraine.

Motion carried 7 - 0 by roll call vote.
Motion made by Councilmember Janney, Seconded by Councilmember Perry.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Oxley, Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Perry, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Smallwood, Jr., Councilmember Hayslette, Councilmember Jackson

7. Request for Support Letter on Behalf of Southern Appalachian Labor School (SALS) to Receive Congressional Earmark Funding for the Third Story of the Historic School on School Street

This was considered earlier in the meeting.

Council Comments and Department Reports

Department Reports

All department reports were included in the council packet. Council had questions or comments about the following:

Insurance premium increase, spring cleanup, community Easter egg hunt.

The City Manager reported that he will be proceeding with paving bid advertisements.

Council Comments

The following items were discussed:

Litter sweep, commendation for chief of police for handling a situation with calmness, applications for earmark funding, community center, signage, Buckhannon signage, business after hours, reports from the rate of speed signs, the need for more rate of speed signs, the need for more no smoking signs at the Russell Matthew park, LED street signs, two hour parking on Main Street, lighting on the city parking lot.

Mayoral Comments

The Mayor reported that he had presented a proclamation to the Coalition against Child Abuse, spoke to the graduates of the Leadership Fayette County and presented a proclamation and would like to begin plans for a Know Your City Government Day.

Adjournment

There being no further business appearing, the meeting adjourned.

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Mayor City Clerk