

CITY OF OAK HILL
MINUTES
City Council Meeting - June 13, 2022
June 13, 2022 - 5:30 PM

The regular monthly meeting of Oak Hill City Council was held on June 13, 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
Councilmember Benitez Jackson

The invocation was led by Charles Blackmon, First Baptist Church, Harlem Heights, WV

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Perry

Reading and Approval of Minutes

Motion – Dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the council meeting held on May 9, 2022.

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

Treasurer's Report

Motion - Approve the treasurer's report as presented.

Motion carried 7- 0.

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

Correspondence

The Clerk placed two letters addressed to Council at each members desk. Council member Oxley asked that the letters be read aloud. The Mayor denied the request due to the length of each letter. Council member Oxley stated that he would read the letters during council comments.

The Mayor read a letter from Damita Johnson stating her interest in the City Manager's position.

Council member Perry asked for a special meeting to be held to discuss the city manager position. Council member Oxley, Janney, and Hayslette joined Mr. Perry in the call for a special meeting. The meeting was set for June 21 at 4:30 p.m.

The Mayor called for a recess in the meeting to allow those in attendance to go outside to the amphitheater where City Manager Bill Hannabass was greeted by employees and members of city committees who wanted to wish him well in his retirement.

The Mayor read a proclamation in Bill's honor and presented him with a plaque as well as a key to the city.

Citizens Comments

John Garvin, a resident of Sunny Point Ave, expressed his displeasure with the council's decision to purchase the former BB&T building.

Mike Fox, a Warren Avenue resident, updated council on some rail trail benches he had painted and offered his assistance for any other benches that may need painted.

Jeanine Robinson, a resident of Titlow Ave, also expressed her discontent with the impending purchase of the former BB&T building.

John Tuggle with Region 4 Development Council thanked Bill Hannabass for his work and leadership on the executive board of Region 4.

Jim Ayres asked council to put their feelings aside and get along with each other for the sake of the city.

Unfinished Business

1. Consideration to Adopt a Resolution to Lay an Assessment Lien on Property Located at 312 Main St., Map 32, Parcel 499, Owned by Joy Lynn Farrish

Motion - Adopt a resolution to lay an assessment lien on property located at 312 Main Street, owned by Joy Lynn Farrish.

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. Progress Report of Property Located at 526 Gatewood Rd., Map 13, Parcel 139, Owned by Property Traders

Although Mr. Love appeared to be in attendance via Zoom, he did not respond to attempts to communicate with him.

Motion - *Table this item until next month.*

Motion carried 7 - 0.

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

3. Spirit of Oak Hill Award Committee Progress Report

Council member Hodges gave an update on the progress of the Spirit of Oak Hill Award Committee. They met on May 23 and June 6 and are working on a nomination form. They will meet again on June 27, 2022.

4. Recommendation to Council from the Planning Commission to Change the Zoning from R3 to B2 for Map 7, Parcel 30, East Main St.-2nd Reading

Motion - *Accept this as the 2nd reading to change the zoning from R3 to B2 for Map 7, Parcel 30, East Main St.*

Motion carried 7 - 0.

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

5. Consideration to Contract with WQAZ Broadcasting

WQAZ has given a quote of \$400 per month to record our council meetings for the local cable channel.

Council member Oxley read one of the letters given to council as part of correspondence. This letter gave many reasons that using WQAZ to record meetings was a bad idea.

The Mayor then allowed Darren McGuffin with New River Network to speak and he presented a proposal to broadcast the meetings for \$50 per meeting using our technology. Council member Perry asked several questions of Mr. McGuffin concerning the equipment and technology he would be using.

There was discussion on these options.

Motion - *Accept written proposals for cost and capabilities of broadcasting our council meetings.*

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

New Business

6. Bid Opening and Contract Award for Street Paving

Three bids were received from contractors who had attended the pre-bid conference.

Triple A Paving & Sealing (Princeton, WV) - \$215,071.00

Southern WV Paving (Beckley, WV) - \$207,000.00

Asphalt Contractors and Site Work (Lavalette, WV) - \$269,873.00

Motion - *Accept the bid of Southern WV Paving for \$207,000.00.*

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

7. Temporary Employment Agreements with Damita Johnson, David Kirk, Valerie Vaughn, and Charles Pannell

Employment agreements were signed by Damita Johnson, David Kirk, Valerie Vaughn, and Charlie Pannell that covered the terms for additional pay during the interim period before a City Manager is selected.

Motion - *Approve agreements with Damita Johnson, David Kirk, Valerie Vaughn, and Charlie Pannell.*

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

8. Appointments to Boards, Commissions, and Committees

A. Reappoint Jack Booda to Sanitary Board

B. Reappoint Matthew Wender and Steve Moss to Planning Commission

C. Reappoint David Stewart to Building Commission

D. Appointment to Fill Vacancy on Board of Zoning Appeals

Motion - *Reappoint Jack Booda to the Sanitary Board for a three year term; reappoint Matthew Wender and Steve Moss to the Planning Commission for a three year term; reappoint David Stewart to the Building Commission for a five year term; and appoint Jim Ayers to fill the vacancy on the BZA.*

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

9. **Intergovernmental Agreement with Fayette County and Building Code Adoption**
Motion - *Approve the intergovernmental agreement with the Fayette County for building inspections and adopt the amended WV building code effective August 1, 2022*

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

10. **Structural Inspection Board's Recommendation to Order Demolition of Structure located at 103 Hayes St., Map 25, Parcel 78, Owned by Tammy Lynn Gibson and Charles Brack**
Motion - *Accept the SIB recommendation and order demolition of the structure located at 103 Hayes Street, owned by Tammy Lynn Gibson and Charles Brack.*

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,
Councilmember Jackson

11. **General Fund and Coal Severance Budget Revision**
Motion - *Approve the general fund budget revision and the coal severance fund budget revision as presented by the City 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

12. **Establish a Transition Committee for Relocating Offices of the City to the Former BB&T Building**
Motion - *Appoint Steve Hayslette, Damita Johnson, Ronda Falk, David Kirk, Valerie Vaughn, and the Mayor to the transition committee for relocating offices of the city to 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

13. Southern Appalachian Labor School (SALS) Request for Funding to Repair Roof at the Historic Oak Hill School

In earlier meetings, council indicated that our contribution to the roof project for SALS is contingent upon obtaining funding from the County Commission.

The County Commission has not approved funding for this project.

Motion - *Authorize Councilmember Oxley to appear as a representative of the city before the County Commission to explain that we are willing to pledge financial support based upon their participation in the roof project.*

Motion carried 7 - 0.

Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Jackson.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Oxley, Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Smallwood, Jr., Councilmember Hayslette, Councilmember Jackson

14. Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of, and the Design, Construction, and Equipping of Additions, Betterments and Improvements to, Certain Real Estate Located at 101 Main St. East, Oak Hill, West Virginia; the Issuance by the Oak Hill Building Commission of Lease Revenue Bonds, Series 2022, to Finance the Above Described Purchase and Design, Acquisition, Construction and Equipping of the Real Property and the Costs of Issuance Thereof; and the Leasing of the Real Property by the City from the Building Commission to Serve as a City Hall. - 1st Reading

Council member Oxley stated several reasons that he thinks we should not buy the building.

Council member Perry is not satisfied with status quo and thinks we should move ahead with the purchase. He also read information about the history of the current city hall building and that document is a part of these minutes.

Council member Hodges gave examples of various projects that could be completed for the same amount of money as purchasing the BB&T building.

Motion - *Accept this as the first reading of an ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of, and the Design, Construction, and Equipping of Additions, Betterments and Improvements to, Certain Real Estate Located at 101 Main St. East, Oak Hill, West Virginia; the Issuance by the Oak Hill Building Commission of Lease Revenue Bonds, Series 2022, to Finance the Above Described Purchase and Design, Acquisition, Construction and Equipping of the Real Property and the Costs of Issuance Thereof; and the Leasing of the Real Property by the City from the Building Commission to Serve as a City Hall.*

Motion carried 4 - 3 by roll call vote.

Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Hayslette.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Oxley, Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Perry, Councilmember Hodges, Councilmember Smallwood, Jr., Councilmember Hayslette, Councilmember Jackson

Department Reports

The City Manager didn't have anything to add to his report but asked to make a few comments as follows:

"I appreciate every one attending this evening. I know a lot of folks have left that were in the amphitheater. It's touching. It's a hard time for me -- it's a bittersweet time for me. I'm a fortunate person who's lived the American dream and am able to retire. On the other hand I leave behind a lot of people who are very near and dear to me in all departments and the Oak Hill Sanitary Board, and I appreciate them greatly. That's the part I regret. I appreciate the residents of Oak Hill. Like I said, it's bittersweet. It's hard for me to move on but I'm healthy and it's time for me to go. This is a very difficult job -- very difficult. There are many hours put in, weekends included. It's a very stressful job and it's a job that the average person cannot stay in very long. Thank you all very much and I appreciate council. I appreciate what you've done for me. Thank all of you."

Council members asked about the speed signs placed by the Police Department and asked the Fire Chief for an update on the building addition.

Council Comments

The Mayor asked Council for comments.

Council member Oxley read a letter previously given to council members authored by D. Brown from McCookville, TN. He also remarked about the good work Bill had done as City Manager and wished him well in his retirement.

Council member Jackson also offered well wishes to the retiring City Manager.

Council member Hayslette explained the reasons he is happy with the purchase of the BB&T building and also congratulated Bill on his retirement.

Council member Hodges reported on the Rail Trail Expo and also commented how much she appreciated how Bill worked with her and everything he has done for the City.

Council member Janney asked about the posting for the City Manager job and wished Bill well in his retirement.

Council member Perry asked about the GIS posting, the city manager job description, the houses on Rhodes and Lee, VOAD, the painting of the water tower. He also said he would like for Bill to stay but wishes him well.

He then read the following statement for the record:

After "much" (emphasis supplied), consideration and deliberation I am compelled to respond to the egregious remarks made at the May 13 council meeting.

1. For one to suggest in a democratic process the Oak Hill City Council is dictated by one individual is unfounded and certainly an affront and diminishes the contribution of six.
2. Individual conferencing and discussion with the City Manager was instituted at the insistence of a certain council member.
3. At no time were such conferences held for 5 days consecutive or a pattern of the same.
4. Unequivocally did I ever make any demand on the city manager as stated.
5. Further the actions of myself and my colleagues with respect to meetings with architects, engineers, BB&T sellers, environmental specialists, and bond council in January by motion and subsequent vote to establish a committee for the purpose of fact finding. No commitments or definitive agreements were made.
6. While I understand the frustrations that come with change and progress, I respectfully request remarks of a personal nature and negative social media be discontinued as they reflect negatively on this council and our great city!

Mayoral Comments

The Mayor mentioned the lumber and brush at the lot on Mayfair Avenue as well as the rubbish in the yard on Chestnut Avenue

He asked about the status of the partition at the dog park.

He wished Bill the best in his retirement.

Future Agenda Items

Demolition rubbish and Chestnut Avenue and Mayfair Avenue

Adjournment

There being no further business appearing, the meeting adjourned.

Daniel E. Wright, Mayor

Damita Johnson, City Clerk