

CITY OF OAK HILL
MINUTES
City Council Meeting - July 2021
July 12, 2021 - 6:30 PM

The regular monthly meeting of the Oak Hill City Council was held on July 12, 2021, in the Council Chambers of Oak Hill City Hall.

Call to Order

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

The City Clerk called the roll with the following being in attendance:

PRESENT

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

Invocation

Rev. Mike Hicks, Pastor of Jones Ave. Church of God, gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council member Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reading and Approval of Minutes

Motion – Dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the council meeting held on June 14, 2021, with the following correction on page 2: Councilmember Perry asked the Chief of Police of Chief to provide copies of the department policies and procedures and the camera policy.

Motion carried 7 - 0.

Motion made by Council Member Perry, 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

Treasurer's Report

Motion - *Approve the treasurer's report as presented.*

Motion carried 7- 0.

Motion made by Council Member Wilshire, 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

Correspondence

None

Public Comments

Ginger Adkins asked to speak concerning agenda item #6. She would like to purchase the property at 1016 Summerlee Avenue and repair the structure. She explained her timeline for completing the repairs.

Christa Hodges updated Council on the activities of Destination Downtown.

Victor Barton, Jr., a resident of Summerlee Avenue, would like the structure at 1016 Summerlee Ave torn down. It is beyond repair.

Dr. John David asked for money from our ARPA funding for roof repairs to the historic school and to help with the food pantry.

Kevin Willis mentioned bad properties on Trump Street, high grass in sidewalks, and unsafe sidewalks.

Councilmember Perry complimented Mr. Willis on his businesses in Oak Hill.

Austin McVey from the State Auditor's Office gave a presentation on the American Rescue Plan Act funds. He also answered questions from Council.

Council Comments and Department Reports

Police Department - In the absence of Chief Whisman, Lt. Shannon Prince gave the monthly report for the police department.

Councilmember Perry reported that he had spoke to Chief Whisman about the policies he requested and determined that the table of contents was all that was necessary. He was provided this information.

Council member Perry asked Lt. Prince the response time on calls . He also asked if the department was giving tickets for people riding ATVs with no helmet..

Council member would like for minorities to be encouraged to apply for the next hiring of police officers. He also complimented the current officers.

Councilmember Hayslette complimented Lt Prince on speed patrols.

Fire Department

Chief Richardson presented the activity report for the fire department.

Councilman Perry asked Chief Richardson to explain the recognition programs for firemen.

Public Works

Councilmember Perry asked the Public Works Director the status of the Adam Tony property. The City Manager and the Public Works Director explained the process for dealing with the drainage on this property.

Council Comments

The Mayor asked for council comments and the following items were discussed:

Extra police patrol at the stop lights at Oyler and Main and Main and Gatewood; the accessibility of Jim Ayres' parking lot during the Oak Leaf Festival; the Jim Ellis marker status; meeting with the EPA over the two playgrounds in Minden; dilapidated buildings; structure at East End Car wash; compliment to the street department; police department response time; status of the fence around the DHHR facility behind Domino's; veteran's memorial; vacancy on the CVB board; letter to Steve Cole concerning the flooding in East End; the shortage of the risers for the manholes on Main Street; the metal poles at the library will be taken down; sending letters to the owners of the garage at the former BB&T building, the Elmore property, and the owners of the property on the corner of Lee and Rodes asking them to spruce up their property; BZA approval of an ABC license at the Bee Hive; the WV Municipal League conference; the lawsuit and injunction of the house on Highland Avenue; the evaluation committee.

Councilmember Perry made it clear that there is no ulterior motive directed at the Police Chief, City Manager, Clerk-Treasurer or the Public Works Director in asking for evaluations of council supervised employees. The rumor circulating is false and there is absolutely no truth to them.

Mayoral Comments

They Mayor will be contacting the mayors of surrounding municipalities to participate in the Oak Leaf Festival parade.

He informed Council that he did present the proclamations to those involved in the fire on Summerlee Avenue.

There needs to be a trash can on Central Avenue by Active Fitness.

There are high bushes on the Main Street ramp that affects the line of sight coming out of Woods Avenue.

Minute from the Minutes

The Mayor read excerpts from the minutes of October 7, 1907, October 6, 1908, December 5, 1910.

Unfinished Business

- 1. Planning Commission Recommendation to Rezone Property Located at Lot 28, 29, & 30 Harlem Heights, Map 4, Parcel 145, 146, & 147 from R2 to R3 to Allow Conversions of the Baptist Singing Convention Building to be Used as a 5 Unit Apartment Building - 2nd Reading**

Motion - Accept the recommendation of the of the Planning Commission to rezone property located at 28, 29, and 30 Harlem Heights to allow conversion of the Baptist

Singing Convention building to be used as a 5-unit apartment building and approve this as the 2nd reading.

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

2. Consideration and Adoption of Resolutions to Lay Assessment Liens on the Following Properties

- A. Corner of Rocklick School Rd. & Minden Rd., Map 59J, Parcel 27, Owned by Teresa Blevins
- B. 137 Minden Tipple Rd., Map 58M, Parcel 157, Owned by Geoffrey Stone

Motion - Adopt a resolution to lay assessment liens on the following properties: Corner of Rocklick School Rd. & Minden Rd. owned by Teresa Blevins and 137 Minden Tipple Rd owned by Geoffrey Stone.

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

3. Examination of Demolition Report for 1138 Minden Rd., Map 58L, Parcel 12, Owned by Alma Campbell, c/o Diana McCumbers

Motion - Accept the City Manager's demolition report for 1138 Minden Road, owned by Alma Campbell.

Motion carried 7 - 0.

Motion made by Council Member Wilshire, Seconded by Council Member Perry. 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. Consideration and Adoption of a Resolution for the City 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 - Adopt a resolution for the City to demolish the structure located at 46 Beaver Rd. owned by Joseph and Sharon Kelly.

Motion carried 7 - 0.

Motion made by Council Member Wilshire, 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

5. Progress Review of Structure Located at 216 Chestnut Ave., Map 32, Parcel 70, Owned by Paul H. & Clarice Lassinger, & Clifford Bragg

The City Manager reported that little progress has been made on this structure.

Motion - *Proceed with original demolition order of property.*

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

New Business

6. Structural Inspection Board (SIB) Recommendation to Demolish the Structure Located at 1016 Summerlee Ave., Map 16, Parcel 50, Owned by Arthur J. Adkins

Motion - *Accept the recommendation of the SIB to demolish the structure located at 1016 Summerlee Ave owned by Arthur J. Adkins.*

Motion carried 7 - 0.

Motion made by Council Member (At Large) Oxley, Seconded by Council Member Perry. 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. Coal Severance Budget Revision

The City Treasurer presented a budget revision for the coal severance fund in the amount of \$655.00

Motion - *Accept the coal severance budget revision as presented.*

Motion carried 7 - 0.

Motion made by Council Member (At Large) Oxley, Seconded by Council Member Wilshire. 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. Crown Act Ordinance

Motion - *Move this item to the end of the agenda.*

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

9. National Park Ideas

The City Manager recommends working with a professional company for ideas.

Motion - *Seek proposal from a public relations firm and report back in August.*

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

10. Utilization of the Day Report Center

Motion - *Table this item until the next meeting.*

Motion carried until 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

11. Vendors Policy

Motion - *Instruct the City Manager to present a suggested policy and procedures for vendors by the next meeting.*

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Council Member Perry, Seconded by Council Member Smallwood, Jr.. 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. Fowl Ordinance

Motion – Ask the planning commission to consider repealing, amending or replacing this ordinance.

Motion carried 6 - 1.

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 Jackson
Voting Nay: Council Member Hayslette

13. City's Water Tower

Councilmember Perry presented a marked-up logo for Council's consideration to place on the water tower. Only the words Oak Hill, West Virginia will be on the logo.

Motion - Adopt the logo, with proposed changes, for the water tower.

Motion carried 7 - 0.

Motion made by Council Member Perry, Seconded by Council Member Smallwood, Jr..
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

14. Municipal Sales and Use Tax Ordinance

The City Clerk-Treasurer presented a municipal sales and use tax ordinance for a 1st reading.

Motion - Accept the municipal sales and use tax ordinance for a 1st reading.

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

Agenda Item 6 (tabled until this point in the meeting) - Crown Act

The City Manager presented a crown act ordinance for discussion.

Motion - Table this item for further study and return for discussion at an appropriate time as determined by Council.

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 Member

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

15. Future Agenda Items

Proposal to increase the pay of council.

Items for discussion but not needed on agenda - disc golf at Needleseye Park and radar speed limit signs.

Councilmember Perry asked the the city attorney to put in writing his opinion on firing administrative positions and whether the city can buy councilmembers lpads, printers, and ink.

Adjournment

Motion - *Adjourn the meeting.*

Motion carried 7 - 0.

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

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