

**CITY OF OAK HILL**  
**MINUTES**  
**City Council Meeting - September 12, 2022**  
**September 01, 2022 - 5:30 PM**

**Call to Order**

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call**

**PRESENT**

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

**ABSENT**

Councilmember Thomas Oxley

**Invocation led by Reverend Doctor Kenneth Krimmel, Oak Hill United Methodist Church**  
**Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Hayslette**

**West Virginia American Water Presentation**

Brian Janney with West Virginia American Water presented the Oak Hill Fire Department with a check for \$1,000 for equipment.

**Reading and Approval of Minutes**

Approval of August 8 minutes and August 25, 2022

Motion- Dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the council meeting held on August 8, 2022.

**Motion carried 6-0**

Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Janney.  
Voting Yea: 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 6-0**

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

### **Correspondence**

None

### **Citizens' Comments**

Kat Merritt read a letter from Saundie Smith about the success of this years Oak Leaf Festival. David Perry requested that the letter be attached to the minutes and that a letter from the Mayor and the City Manager be sent to Saundie complimenting everyone involved with the Oak Leaf.

John Gavin spoke concerning the outside of the BB&T building.

Darrell Rakes & Marsha Rakes spoke about the house at 504 24th Street in regards to rats, high grass, drug activity, trash, smell, and a lot of foot traffic.

Debbie Tygrett declined to speak.

### **A Minute from the Minutes**

Mayor Daniel Wright read from the ordinances of 1937.

### **Personnel Discussion** (Anticipated Executive Session)

**Motion- Enter executive session to discuss personnel matter.**

Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Janney.

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

**Motion- Return to regular session with no votes or decisions made.**

**Motion carried 6-0**

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **1. Progress Report on Rimfire Trail**

Rick Johnson discussed the progress of the Rimfire Trail and the possible area at Lochgelly where the trailhead maybe. The projection to have the trail completed is 2023-2024.

#### **2. Consideration to Incorporate the Property in the Plateau District Described as Surface of 208/1000 Acres on Waters of Meadow Fork, Map 30A, Parcel 1 into the Boundary of the City of Oak Hill - 1st Reading**

Motion was made to Incorporate the Property in the Plateau District as described. Mr. Conrad spoke on behalf of the property owners.

**Motion carries 6-0**

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

**3. Consideration to Repeal or Amend Oak Hill Municipal Code (OHMC) 15.38.240 Bed and Breakfast Inns, Short-Term Lodging Rentals, And Vacation Rentals - 1st Reading**

Motion made to accept the recommendation of the city manager decision on the Bed and Breakfast Rentals. Kevin Willis was able to speak about complaints on AirB&B.

**Motion carried 6-0**

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

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

Motion made to accept the report from Mr. Love on the old CAMCO building and no need for Mr. Love to report back.

**Motion carried 6-0**

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

**5. Consideration to Authorize the City to have Demolition Material Removed from the Property Located at 215 Mayfair Ave.**

Motion made to have structure at the 215 Mayfair Avenue demolished by Empire Salvage. Empire Salvage will remove the structure for \$4,500 and the City will put a lien on the property.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

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

**6. Consideration to Adopt a Resolution for the City to Demolish the Structures Located at 103 Hayes St., Map 25, Parcel 78, Owned by Tammy Gibson and Charles Brack**

Motion was made to demolish the structure located at 103 Hayes Street.

**Motion carried 6-0**

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

**New Business**

**7. Region 4 Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Motion to approve a Region 4 Hazard Mitigation Plan to get FEMA funding for natural hazards.

**Motion carried 6-0**

Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Janney.

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

**8. Establishing a Historic District / David Sibray, WV Explorer Magazine**

Mayor Daniel Wright discussed Establishing a Historic District. Motion was made to table this item.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion made by Councilmember Hodges, Seconded by Councilmember Perry.

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

**9. C. Adam Toney Drainage Request**

Jim Ayers spoke for C. Adam Toney about fixing upper.

Suggested to secure an easement, if Division of Highway would enlarge the culvert and if DNR permits are obtained. Once this is complete it will come back to council.

**Motion carried 4-2 by roll call.**

Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Hayslette.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Smallwood, Jr., Councilmember Jackson

Voting Nay: Councilmember Janney, Councilmember Hodges

**10. Funding for Future Beautification Projects**

Motion made to table this item until next month.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Janney.

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

**11. Naming and Renaming of the Following:**

- A. Naming Rail Trail at Harlem Heights
- B. Naming Minden Parks
- C. Renaming Part of Kelly Ave.
- D. Proposed Name Change of the Former BB&T Building

Councilmember Perry advised he asked for the next item to be put on the agenda and that Mr. Smallwood did not ask this, did not present this and did not ask that it be done.

**A) Motion made to name the Rail Trail at Harlem Heights to Diane Smallwood Russell Rail Trail.**

**Motion carried 5-0-1**

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

**B) Motion made to name the two Minden Parks.** 1- Old Minden Park being named the Percy Fruit Minden Park. 2- Minden Community Park

**Motion carried 6-0**

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

**C) Motion made to rename a portion of Kelly Avenue behind CoMac to OHS/CHS Alumni Lane**

**Motion carried 6-0.**

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

**D) Motion made to change the former BB&T building upon approval of the purchase to the Oak Hill Municipal Building**

**Motion carried 4-2 by roll call.**

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

**12. Structure Inspection Board (SIB) Recommendation to Demolish the Structure Located at 146 Richards St., Map 25, Parcel 345, Owned by new Owners Kevin Ray Bibb and Sharon Marie**

Motion made to demolish the structure at 146 Richards Street.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

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

**13. Digital Signage for Announcements and Upcoming Events**

City Manager Johnson presented a digital signage for announcements and upcoming events. Cost for a one sided is \$20,005. Motion made for the sign to be two sided, contingent to be placed at the BBT building if deed is received and approved at the corner of the building where the pine tree is.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

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

**14. Naming of Economic Development Committee**

Motion made to form a committee for economic development for the term of current council.

**Motion carried 6-0**

Possible members suggested were Damita Johnson, Mayor Daniel Wright, Beckley Sullivan, Kevin Willis, Don Williams and Steve Hayslette. Term would be until July 2023. If suggested members decline Damita Johnson and Steve Hayslette make any member changes if declines are made.

Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Hayslette.

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

**15. Request to Move Council Meeting to November 7, 2022**

City Manager request that the November meeting be moved to November 7, 2022.

**Motion carried 6-0**

Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Janney.

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

**16. Thanksgiving Week Logistics**

Motion made to give an additional day Wednesday, November 23, 2022 for Thanksgiving.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion made by Councilmember Janney, Seconded by Councilmember Perry.

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

**17. Downtown Business Initiative**

Motion made that Councilmember Hodges work with and share the information with Erin Reid.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion made by Councilmember Perry, Seconded by Councilmember Jackson.

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

**Council Comments and Department Reports**

- A. Veterans Memorial Committee Update
- B. Police Dept.
- C. Fire Dept.
- D. Economic Development Coordinator
- E. Code Enforcement
- F. City Manager

The department reports were submitted and included in the council packet. Questions and comments were made that the Veterans Memorial Committee will be meeting September 15th at p.m, no comments for the police department. Chief Whisman spoke for Code Enforcement about the issues that are happening at Hidden Valley. City Manager advised that the James Ellis marker is in and ready to be installed.

### **Mayoral Comments**

Councilmember Smallwood asked questions about complainants being private on code enforcement issues and that all jobs be advertised. Councilmember Jackson asked about looking at trick or treat dates but there is already a specific date in an ordinance. Councilmember Hayslette asked that there be a follow up to the complaints on Summerlee Road (Rosedale area) & at Hidden Valley and there needs a plan for drainage in Oak Hill. Councilmember Janney also stated about there is a need for a plan for drainage in Oak Hill. Councilmember Perry wanted to know about funds received from empty buildings, the upkeep of buildings by owners in Oak Hill and concerned about the building on Oyler Avenue. Councilmember Perry also discussed issues with Thrasher and requested they be terminated with designing the park and if possible could the City re-advertise. Attorney Bill File stated he would have to look into the termination. Councilmember Perry also read a statement and it will be placed into the minutes. Mayor Daniel Wright spoke about the Oak Leaf Festival being an extraordinary event.

### **Future Agenda Items**

### **Adjournment**

Motion made to adjourn.

### **Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion made by Councilmember Janney, Seconded by Mayor Wright.

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