

**VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
2024-2-27**

ATTENDANCE

Erica Nikolic, President	Brian Thompson, Finance Director
Johnnie Warren, President Pro Tem	Tom Haba, Service Director
Taunya Scruggs, Ward 1	Dave Tapp, Fire Department
Eloise Hardin, Ward 2	Mark Garratt, Police Department
Paggie Matlock, Ward 3	Matt Jones, Village Engineer
Mary Davis, Ward 4	Daniel Marinucci, Chief Bldg. Official*
Candace Williams, Ward 5	James Climer, Law Director

ABSENT

Gary V Gottschalk, Mayor	Carlean Perez – Recreation Director
Ross Cirincione, Prosecutor	

** Arrived after roll call*

Meeting opened at 7:01pm by Nikolic
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call taken

Motion to remove Jan. 22nd, 2024, Council meeting minutes off of the table,
Made by Hardin seconded by Warren
YES VOTE: Nikolic, Warren, Scruggs, Hardin, Matlock, Davis, Williams
MOTION PASSED

Motion to approve Jan. 22nd, 2024, Council meeting minutes made by Scruggs seconded by Hardin
YES VOTE: Nikolic, Warren, Scruggs, Hardin, Matlock, Davis, Williams
MOTION PASSED

Motion to approve Jan. 23rd, 2024, Finance meeting minutes made by Hardin seconded by Warren
YES VOTE: Hardin, Warren, Scruggs, Hardin, Matlock, Nikolic, Davis, Williams
MOTION PASSED

Motion to approve Jan. 25th, 2024, Special meeting minutes made by Hardin seconded by Warren
YES VOTE: Nikolic, Warren, Scruggs, Hardin, Matlock, Davis, Williams
MOTION PASSED

Nikolic: Do we have any correspondence from the Clerk? **Joseph:** I do not have anything.
Nikolic: Moving on to agenda item number six, department reports. May we hear from our Law Director.

Departmental Reports

Law Director- Climer | **Climer:** Thank you madam chairman. As to the Macedonia road situation, the Gray Brothers. Mr. Marinucci, myself, and Ross Cirincione have been in communication with one another. We've identified the potential courses of action. Dan, to my understanding, is sending a letter to the Gray Brothers. Which is a necessary prerequisite to citing them for improper use of the property. There are a couple other potential items that may result in direct citations if they do not cooperate. With that said, I'm happy to answer questions.

Davis: Did you actually find out what they're actually doing? **Climer:** We consulted the Secretary of State's records. They list the business as being a used car dealership. Which is not permitted in any of our zoning districts on a standalone basis. It can be part of a new car sales lot. But that's obviously not the case. **Davis:** Okay, and you just mentioned that we did not give the letter to them? Because they are cleaning up. All of a sudden, they start cleaning up and getting rid of some of their cars. So, I don't know where they heard it from. Or where they got it from, but they are cleaning it up. **Climer:** Honestly, I'm not sure what direct communications Dan and Ross may have had with him to date. But Dan could just provide the letter, as I say, the necessary prerequisite for one of the citations. **Davis:** Okay, and was there a date on when they have to have it cleaned up, or whatever, straighten up? Or do you know what the date was on the citation? **Climer:** The letter notifies them of the issue and of setting up the meeting to get it cleaned up. Those dates offered were in early March. **Davis:** Early March, okay, thank you. **Nikolic:** Any other questions for our Law Director? Hearing none, may we hear from our Finance Director.

Finance Director- Thompson | **Thompson:** Thank you Madam Chairman. At this time, I don't have any additional reports. I can entertain any questions, thank you. **Nikolic:** Based on our request relating to the 5% raise. Have you fulfilled all those requests? Before I start that, I would just like to draw everyone's attention, all the directors. To the request report that we are circulating. It will go out every Friday. We'll try to update it, but if once you have received it. If you could review it and make sure that any requests that you have that are outstanding. To get them out to the Council person that's requested them. That is an ongoing document that we're going to be updating. It'll be circulated every Friday with requests that were made by Council. So, we have a copy here. But on that form, I know we all of our requests. Are you current with all those? I know I've seen a couple that potentially applied but not quite. So, are you up to date with those requests? **Thompson:** Not all of them, I know I communicated with your Clerk. She sent me a list and I could not fulfill all of those last week. But the one where you wanted the salaries, the rate of pay, and what calculated out the benefits. Was a little more retrieval of information. When you ask for the salary ordinances, you probably have to reference your Clerk. To see if she can search back to get those salary ordinance, because that was one of them. When we did do that handbook, I think in 2021 and 2022, when we revised it. I did hand it out to departments, but we were gathering those acceptance letters that they did get it. So that's in process, but I think I gave you about six of the requests that should come off my list. I have to complete those other ones. I will have it by the end of the week. **Williams:** So just as a follow up, for the payroll one, we asked for salaries, benefits. We also asked for vendors, anybody that basically received payment as of 2023. You don't have in your system that you use. Where you

can print out everything that was paid out for 2023. You don't have that summary? **Thompson:** Yeah, you had ask me for the 1099's, I did provide those. I gave the name and amounts, and I redact the social security numbers and things that you ask for. **Williams:** For salary...

Thompson: Yeah, for salary, when you're pulling out a pay roll. It doesn't pull like your benefits or things like that. So, I'll get the names, I'll get the rate, the grosses. So, I have to kind of go in there and tweak it for the workers comp thing, the medical, PERS, the Police. And then get a comprehensive report. So, that's what I'm working on right now to submit to you. That was the biggest one. **Williams:** Okay. **Warren:** How long do you think it'll take? **Thompson:** I'll have it by the end of the week. **Nikolic:** But this request was made at the second Council meeting. And so, we're at the second Council meeting in a month of February. Are you involving your staff, to assist you with these requests? **Thompson:** Ultimately they have to but, I have to review them. But also, I've been a lot of discovery mode. I had to do some audit stuff. Just quite a bit of information I had to work with. I still had to pull something for, me and the Law Director been working closely. So, it's no excuse but I have had an overwhelming amounts of requests for some information. So, I will have that salary run by the end of the week. Because it was quite a bit of information. And I had to scale back over those periods of years. Making sure that the information, the rates, and everything. So, I'm just putting it together for you to have a nice management report that you can review. **Williams:** Is this report straight from the system? **Thompson:** Yes. **Williams:** Okay. **Thompson:** All of the reports are always straight from system. **Williams:** Two things, if there is a report that has access to that gives us information instantly. Like if you have the access the salaries and benefits, whatever is in there. Get us that and then you can add on the rest. Because it's going to be a lot of information. We can start reviewing the first piece of it. **Thompson:** Okay, I'll give you those tomorrow. I get you the names and the rates that you wanted. So, will I forward those to Tanya. **Warren:** How many personnel do we actually have full-time? Do you know off the bat? **Thompson:** About 41, the rest are part-time majority of them, and 66 on fire. **Warren:** Okay. **Nikolic:** And you said by Friday? **Thompson:** I'll have that report with names rates and gross. I'll give you that tomorrow. But I will work on that continual one when it lets me see the benefits. So, I forward that to Tanya tomorrow. **Williams:** Do you have an update on the status for the 941's? Let me also ask this, if we filed 941's, do you not keep record of what we've already filed and provided to the IRS? **Thompson:** Yeah, we keep records pretty much at the end of the tunnel. I'm waiting for a little communication from IRS. So, hopefully that will be completed as well by the of end the week. **Williams:** I sent you that request on January 10th. **Thompson:** Yep. **Williams:** Are you telling me you had to go to IRS to get those files? **Thompson:** Some of the stuff that you were asking for was expansive. You asked for some notices and things like that. So, yeah I had to communicate with them. **Williams:** So, if we get notices from the IRS, we don't file them? Because we're a public entity, we have to keep those documents. **Thompson:** Yeah, if you turn that information to IRS of course you keep it. But it was like some more expansive stuff you have in there. But I'm going through it, and I'll have that complete report for you. **Williams:** By Friday you said? **Thompson:** Yeah, it should be completed by then. **Nikolic:** Any other questions or comments for our Finance Director? Hearing none, may we hear from our Service Director.

Service- Haba | **Haba:** Thank you Madam President. I don't have anything to report tonight. I'd be happy to answer any questions. **Hardin:** Remind me, what month do we do our spring cleanup? **Haba:** We don't have a date for that. We have over the past years. You have spring cleanup day or summer just any kind of cleanup day. We put fliers out, we haven't done that probably, in the last couple years. But no specific spring cleanup day. **Hardin:** Can we start thinking about a date for tires, paint, and so forth. **Haba:** Well that we usually do that one time a year for the tires. We are kind of held on that because we collect them curbside from the residents and we store them. We don't want to keep them for you know eight months. We do it September every year, the paint thing. We can do the computers and paints more often if we need to. Because we can dispose of them in different areas in the County. But the tires would just be once a year still. What we could do if there's a need to, but we haven't picked up. That number's been down a little bit the last couple years. Because we've been doing it every year with household hazardous waste, the paints, and computers. Has been down the past few years. But if Council feels the need to, we could do that again. But the tires will still be just once a year. **Hardin:** You're aging me, so what I'm hearing you say. That instead of us like in the old days when we had a spring cleanup day. You've chosen to target certain things like paints and tires. **Haba:** Well, see maybe I misunderstood what you're saying. We used to sometimes go around picking up litter a couple times a year. If that's what you are talking about, the litter part of it. **Hardin:** Yes. **Haba:** As far as the getting rid of paints and hazardous waste, the tires, and computers, we do that every September. **Hardin:** Okay. **Haba:** You can only get rid of the tires in September. It's usually mid -late September, so we usually do it early in September. But if there's a need we could do the paints and computers more often. But it's been going down every year, the last few years. As far as litter goes, we can do that. **Hardin:** I'd like to see that, thank you. **Haba:** We have been keeping up with it a lot lately because we haven't had snow. We've been out a lot lately picking up litter. We talked about the County prisoners. They were just out on Broadway yesterday, just coincidentally. **Hardin:** You're doing a pretty good job on Forbes and thank you. But just kind of think in case we, you decide. That was my question. **Davis:** Just want to comment. They're still doing a great job, Waste Management. At least a couple times a week, I'm seeing them out, both ways. Is it Oak Leaf and then Fair Oaks going north. Yes, they've been keeping up with that. Because there is a lot, I followed a garbage truck from them one time. The stuff just flies out from them. But they are doing a good job and thank you for keeping up with that. **Hardin:** The utility pole that is up on Forbes on the exit ramp. Who's going to put that back up or why is it down so long? **Haba:** Is that the one in a triangle? **Hardin:** Just as you pull off of Forbes onto the highway, onto the ramp. **Haba:** Yeah, that's a state one, I called in on that. **Hardin:** Could you remind them? **Haba:** Yeah, they knew about it back a few months ago, or whatever it was. But I will call them. **Hardin:** Thank you. **Davis:** Question, every single resident received a garbage can, and a recyclable can? **Haba:** Correct. **Davis:** So, every resident has both of those? **Haba:** Yes, pretty sure, yes. And they can get, actually I get calls once a month. People go out and buy one and they fill it up. And the garbage man picks it up a lot of times, but they don't have to. You can rent another can, buy another one. I don't know what price, it's like \$4 a month and you'll get another can. Some people have more, there's a lot of people living in the house. They get that for, I think it's like \$4 a month I believe. **Davis:** Okay, thank you. **Nikolic:** Service Director, do we have a schedule of litter pickup that you follow

monthly? **Haba:** No, we hit the bad spot. So, like I said, we have help from the County prisoners sometimes. Waste Management's been keeping up lately on some of the streets, and we do it between. That's how busy we are with that. But we do hit the Forbes area, which does get a lot between Sonoco down there and Lamson. We go Sonoco to Fair Oaks, Forbes to Lamson, that gets a lot. The playgrounds don't really get a lot. So, we try, especially in the summertime, once a week on those areas. It doesn't happen every week, but we try once a month on those areas.

Nikolic: But overall, monthly, at least once per month, are you getting (inaudible)... **Haba:** We might not be on Garden Road, you know, for six months maybe. But most streets, as I said, we try to get it as is basis on that. **Nikolic:** Any other questions or comments for our service director? **Resident:** How many streets do we have at Oakwood? **Haba:** I'm not sure exactly how many streets. I know that it was 25 probably about 27 Matt. About twenty-seven probably miles on all the streets. **Jones:** Yeah, as far as actual number of streets. I can probably get that information pretty easily. **Nikolic:** Any additional questions or comments? Hearing none, thank you. May we hear from our Fire Chief?

Fire-Tapp| Tapp: Thank you Madam President. February 20th marks the one -year anniversary of the *I. Schuman* explosion. This February has been no different for us. We're at about 170 calls for the month of February right now. We responded to five structure fires just in the month of February. Helping out Bedford and Bedford Heights and we've had two of ourselves in our cities. Right now, I'm working closely with Life Force Ambulance Billing on a three-month project with DASH survey. Once that's complete, the survey is done. We should be able to increase our Ambulance Billing funds coming. **Williams:** Do you know how you're planning to increase that or is that? **Tapp:** It's all done through Life -Force itself after they get the data collection. **Williams:** Okay. **Nikolic:** For residents, we'd love to pull your questions. We have a section where residents can ask all your questions and it's coming up soon. So just jot down all of your question you have for any Directors or Council person. And we'll have a special section dedicated to your questions. Any other questions for Chief Tapp? **Davis:** Mr. Tapp, question, you said the anniversary for *I. Schuman* was the February 20th or something? Now I looked but EPA, their last report that was given on that company was May 23rd. So, is that all finished up and everything? **Tapp:** I don't know that everything is finished up. They are still cleaning out the facility, they still have people working in there. But as far as fire stuff, we are done with business over there. **Davis:** Okay, because I was surprised that May was the last recording in EPA whatever reports for them. All right, thank you. **Nikolic:** Really briefly with the handbook, I just wanted to follow up. I know you've been in contact with the Law Director regarding updating the sections with that. So, if you could just keep us in the loop with where you are with that. Because it's my understanding that when the handbook was updated. The Fire Department did not have their input, is that correct? **Hardin:** They have their own. **Nikolic:** So, if you could keep us up to date with where you are with the process of updating your sections with that. **Tapp:** Yeah, I can keep you updated. **Nikolic:** Okay, any other questions or comments for the Fire Chief? Hearing none, may we hear from our Building Director?

Building-Marinucci **Marinucci:** Thank you, Madam President. Ms. Williams, I was incorrect about what I said two weeks ago. I did send the certificate of occupancy report. I always thought it was tied into the point of sale. But when we were generating it. The memory came back on how difficult it is to get the information. I met with Tom Souza for extensive hours. To get into the program to try to really give us the data that we want. For instance, the certificate of occupancy on residential. You'll get a commercial application for a contractor that puts an electrical permit in. So, what we did, to see is, are we inputting this wrong? But what we went into, we backed into all the permits. We got into issues that were generated that shouldn't be in the database. And we do not make any inputting errors. That would have been easy on our part to fix. So, once we were able to figure out that. Now we're in touch with the holder of the... it's a proprietary software. So, we are in touch to see if we can get a couple of these bugs worked out. And for instance, when you look at that report. The first numbers that come in are the rental properties. The reason why was the first ones. The people we took to court last year were the first ones this year to pay the rental fees and we have to give them a certificate of occupancy. But that certificate occupancy for the rentals is not really somebody moving new into your jurisdiction or ward. Upon which you really want to know. But the report encompasses a lot of information that you'd have to go through line by line. And there's 385 pages, I believe, in the report that that I sent. But we're working on it, hopefully, we can get it resolved. And basically, I'm here for questions then. **Williams:** Did I hear my name? Were you directing it? **Marinucci:** Yeah. **Williams:** I missed that, what were you talking about? **Marinucci:** I mischaracterized when you mentioned that a year ago I gave you that information. I said I was giving you point of sale information, and I was wrong, you were right. I issued a report a year ago, that's a certificate of occupancy. That is what you mentioned to me, and you were correct on that. I was just trying to get you what you needed. **Williams:** So, a year -ago I think I remember you saying you all were having trouble with the software. Is there someone that can...because I know that we purchased new software that was costly. Is there someone that can provide you all training on how to use it? **Marinucci:** We know how you use the software. Using it is pretty easy, It's the capability of the software. And more than once, I have requested, let's get a new firm in. But when you call around and Tom has done this, and I had talked to other jurisdictions. They are all having a problem with this. See, SOPO was really good because it was around for 20, 30 years. But when they sold out all these new people came in. And so, all jurisdictions changed, and this is the second one we've been in since the change. When I talked to Tom Souza about making a switch. It's kind of going back to square one again. I would like to get the issues fixed if we can. Like yesterday, I'll give you an example that drove Lillie crazy. She could not get the deposits to show up in the list of deposits in it. It was logged in properly, but the report won't generate the deposits to give to Brian. So, we're having some minor issues. And Tom Souza has been over a lot to work on those kind of things. I'm hoping that we can get it resolved. **Williams:** Is Tom IT for us? **Marinucci:** Yes. **Williams:** Do they not have a technical assistance center for the software? **Marinucci:** I don't know where the owner of the software is. It's a third party, we contracted with them. **Williams:** So, we purchased... **Marinucci:** It was City Force... Thompson: I think it's City Force, they pay an annual support agreement to get technical services. **Williams:** Did you hear what he just said? **Marinucci:** Yes. **Williams:** Okay, so who would be in charge of contacting that number, making sure you all have... **Marinucci:** I go to Tom Souza. **Williams:**

Who on your team, though? Because Tom is IT, right? **Marinucci:** Yeah! I talk to Tom Souza.

Williams: And then you train your teams about how to use the software? **Marinucci:** Yeah, we don't have an issue on how to use the software. That's not the issue, we know how use it. We've had extensive training on it. **Williams:** Okay. we're going in circles, let me just pause. What I'm trying to get to is, we've been talking about how to give this information into a report for a year. So, either you all are going to have to do an excel spreadsheet or contact the Technical Assistance Center. But it sounds like we pay for this for them to support you. So, maybe we're not asking the right question. But it sounds like you're saying. You all still don't have the full function of using and getting the information you need. **Marinucci:** All I know is, we will give you all the spreadsheets you want. As soon as you get me another person to come into this office. We are so understaffed, we had Dave and Crystal and we lost one. And we haven't replaced them because all the resumes that came in. Wanted three times the amount of money that we were willing to pay. So, they were never replaced. So, we don't have the time to be doing spreadsheets upon spreadsheets on top of this. I don't have the personnel to do it. **Williams:** Let me finish my comment. You always seem to create an issue that doesn't exist. What I'm asking of you is to figure out who needs to help support you in getting whatever you need out of that software. You're making this bigger than it is, and it doesn't have to be. **Marinucci:** I'm just explaining what we're trying to do to get the software going. **Warren:** Okay this is the problem and I understand exactly what she's saying. If you have software and I'm not a computer person, I'm a bricks and mortar person. But if you had a software that you paying for. And the company sells it to you, why are we hiring or why do we have a third party resolving the issues. Rather than having the creator of the software resolve the issue? Whoever owns the software should be the ones providing the technical assistance. That will be able to train you, so that we can get the full effect of what we're paying for. But if we are going through a third party, paying him and it's not getting anything resolved. So, why wouldn't we send an email or call a person from the company. And have them to come directly to the Building Department. Film it so that you can see if Souza is saying he's doing something. Not knocking nobody but if somebody is doing some for a year and this isn't resolved. Then the question becomes bring all of the parties together. Bring the software person together, bring your IT person together and sit down with your staff. Or even if you don't want your staff, sit -down and get the issues resolved. Tell them just like the Council president, we are sending the directors questions that we have. Why don't we just write out everything, the problems that we're having. Which you always articulate. Write them all out and say these are the problems that we're having. How can you resolve it because your software is supposed to do it? **Marinucci:** That's what's going on now. The holder of the software, City Force, knows what we want to do. I'm told they're working on it. **Nikolic:** Just to bring it into context and make sure I'm clear. I'm understanding the basis of conversation. The purpose is to get, because if I'm understanding correctly. The software is supposed to tell us who is moving into the Village and when. Is that the purpose? Is that the information we're trying to get? **Marinucci:** Not at all, the software's supposed tell us the residential certificate of occupancy. **Nikolic:** But from that we wanted to know who was moving into the Village? **Marinucci:** That's whoever holds the Certificate. So, every year, you'll get any new person that comes in. And every rental property issued will be in it. You'll have those two areas in that. But you wouldn't have permits in there, and you won't have the commercial end of it coming into the

residential end. So, it's in their purview of how they're pulling the information out of the dab.

Nikolic: Okay, but the root of request is so we would know who was moving into the Village

when. Is that correct, Councilwoman Williams? **Marinucci:** You would who the certificate

owner is. **Nikolic:** Because the request is so we understand who is moving into the Village when.

Is the software the only way to understand this question? Through that software? **Marinucci:**

That is where the information goes, so you generate the reports. **Williams:** Okay, so we just kind

of restated the same thing. You all asked to purchase that software and we approve the budget for

it. So, when you ask for something and then we then give the budget for it. Then you come back

and say, we can't work with it or we can't get what you want. But we need another person. We

need you to get what we're asking for done. It can't just go unresolved for a year. Another

person, us spending more money for it to go unresolved for a year is not a solution. **Marinucci:** I

hope we do get it for you. **Hardin:** Madam Chair, I'd like to go on public record. I'm going to

ask a question. I think the Council chair has come up with a real solution to some of what may

be a misunderstanding. And that you're being asked a question and then sometimes you might

forget to put it on your to -do list. So, I'm going to ask you to put this on your To -Do List. What

I am asking you to give, and you can give it at the next meeting. I would like to know what your

hours are. **Marinucci:** I'll tell you right now, I work three days a week. I work three days a week,

in the Village, at the Mayor's request. And I do a lot of work at home. **Hardin:** Gotcha, and the

staff hours, the hours that your department is open, how many? **Marinucci:** The staff hours go

from 7:30am to 4:30pm. At 7:30a.m., three personnel works, Lillie comes in later. Lillie leaves,

tonight Lillie left at 6 o'clock in the evening. So she covers the phone system and doing her

work later in evening. **Hardin:** Do you have anyone working with any type of remote access to

the office? **Marinucci:** I don't know anything about that. If you mean like can I get into my files

and into emails and stuff here in the Village. Yes, I can do that, Tom set me up on the computer.

Hardin: Are any calls forwarded to you? **Marinucci:** No. **Hardin:** Okay, but you're only the one

that has that access, right? **Marinucci:** Outside access? **Hardin:** The access that you are

referring to. **Marinucci:** The one we were talking about? I have a computer that's owned by the

Village. It's a laptop that Tom put the City Forces on so I can get into that mechanism. I could get

into emails and letters and things like that. **Hardin:** Now my final question is, as it relates to

physical actual customers coming into your department. Do you have any training on the

customer service aspect of that job? **Marinucci:** Yeah, we talked about it and you know, Debbie's

been there for 25 years, Lillie has been here for 30 years. **Hardin:** We're not talking longevity;

I'm talking actual training. **Marinucci:** But they know how to do it. And since I've been here I've

sent them both to different courses. The last two years I don't think so, but if you go longer than

that. **Hardin:** Well, it's a matter of record, you've responded to most of my questions. But the

training as it relates to customer service. I don't want you to give me that verbally. I want to you

give it to me in writing, that's it. **Marinucci:** I'm going to make a comment. **Hardin:** Yes, sir.

Marinucci: Because the day after you mentioned the way the phone calls are being made,

because I was shocked. I've been there a long, long time and I'm very comfortable, the

professionalism that the Building Department shows. It was interesting because it really did

catch me off guard and bothered me all night. But the very day, the Mayor came in. He came in

on different issues, he talked to Aaron and Aaron explained the conversation. And he made a

comment, and his understanding of what actually went on were two different understandings

about that particular issue. When he commented to me on it, he was very confident in that. I want to go back to one other thing. The person who's the roughest is me. And giving the example that that's going on. I've been getting, this is just one example, a constant email from a contractor. We don't answer the phone, which is a lie. We don't do this, we don't this, and I talk to Lillie. Lillie tells me, "Dan, I talked to the gentleman more than once". Debbie emailed him, I emailed them, that until you give us the paperwork I can't finalize. I can't give it a final until he gives me the paperwork so we can finalized it. Then we find out that the contractor is in a fight with the owner of the house. So, the owner is not giving us to paperwork. Which he is the one who has to give us the paperwork. So, that's their issue, I'm not going to allow it to come on and us. And one other thing I want Council to know. and I talked to Ed Hren on it and Jim at the time. A dispute between neighbors. And so, after emails coming in to me, I said, you know, I got to get these people together. So, I did a mediation, and it was very effective. I'm going to implement it more. So, what I did was, I brought the two homeowners in. I made it very clear to them, one, Oakwood Villages Engineering Department will not get involved. Oakwood Village's Law Department will not getting involved. And Oakwood Village Building Department is not getting involved. But I'm going to get involved and I want to get you guys in to get it resolved. We had a give and take for an hour and a half. When it was over they shook hands and I believe. I won't know the end result of this. Because, what they agreed on, and I sanctioned it. We will know in a couple of months. You need the raining season to come in. It deals with water distribution on a piece of property. But when I walked away, and I was doing the mediation with Aaron and the office, I liked it. And that led to two residents that were fist fighting, shaking hands, and leaving. So, I'm hoping that this would... **Hardin:** Well, we're going to kind of shorten a little bit because we have others coming. But I do want you to respond to me with in writing. And this mediation type setting that you started. Is that what you're going to start training your people to do?

Marinucci: I don't think we need training on that. But I'm going to do it and let them handle it. But I'm not too sure I understand what you want in writing. **Hardin:** I'll repeat, as a part of your ongoing...in the old world we used to call a continuation training. When you have a customer service environment. Every once in a while, it's good to remind me as a person that's interfacing with the public if I'm the employee. How to handle as you stated different situations and still remain courteous. **Marinucci:** Now I do have what I call professional meetings. **Hardin:** Oh. **Marinucci:** I've had more than one conversations with the group on how important it is to be professional today, above all. And I just want to end by saying some residents will never be happy when they hear the word no. And so, some of that, and I'm the one who says no, And I can't do that for you, I can't do it that way. **Hardin:** I kind of hear you and I'm going to stop this now. What I hear you saying is your employees tend to emulate you. So, just kind to keep that in mind as you interface with the people coming in. **Davis:** Question, this is a different topic but the activity logs, you were going to give me updated activity log. **Marinucci:** You're going get them again. There's not much going on right now. **Davis:** Well, you have things from May of last year 2023. I talked to Aaron; he's got things that have not been complied with since May. **Marinucci:** Aaron said that? **Davis:** It was on your thing, the last time some of the things were complied with was May of 2023. There's a lot on that list that's never been checked, complied with, or followed through. **Marinucci:** When I talked to him about that issue, a lot of it is high grass. **Davis:** That was before, that's not all. I have properties with mailboxes down, property

maintenance, things like that that have not been fixed. **Marinucci:** I'll have them check the mailboxes. Because I told him that, how do you know when it's completed? He said if it is not completed, the next thing is we file to go to court. **Davis:** Work on that activity list, I appreciate it. **Marinucci:** I will definitely jump on that. **Scruggs:** My question goes back to the software and the third -party contract that is in place that we're paying for. If we have a contract and we are currently paying for it, and this company is not providing you with the service that you feel that you need. Because you're saying you are reaching out to them and you kind of waiting on them to get back with you and help you. Then we need to renegotiate or get out of our contract. So that's just my thought as I was listening to it. I'm just wondering, and usually with a paper trail. If we kind of write down dates and say hey this is the last time I talked with this service contract. And I reached out to you and asked you for this and this is not going forward. Then, if I'm not getting this service then we don't have a relationship. We need to cut ties and we can cut some of that funding out. So, that's just my question to you, is that what is going on? And if so, then do you feel we'd need to at this point. Renegotiate and get out of this contract if they're not giving you what you need? **Marinucci:** Yeah, I'm taking that, I understand. When I talk to those things, the IT guys, say no. You just can't make a smooth transition in this, that's the scary part. Because all this data that's here. When you get somebody else coming in, you can't get that data from there to over here. So, our best avenue on this is where I'm at on it, and I don't like it. It's just the procedure that has been put on me. To get it resolved, to get it worked out, and there's been issues. There's been issue that didn't work out in the past, that they got to work out, you know. So, it's not like everything is in limbo, but this one issue that I really want to get resolved, I'd like to get that resolved as fast as I can. **Nikolic:** Any other questions for our building director? I have one follow -up for Finance Director who also doubles as our HR specialist. I was hearing Councilwoman Hardin ask about training. Can you speak to if at all our employees have received any type of customer service training or is that something that you've initiated at all? **Thompson:** I don't have anything current that would have been initiated. I haven't done that on a mass. Sometimes like department heads say they would take some initiatives themselves. But straight answer at this time no. **Nikolic:** Any other questions for building director? Hearing none may we hear from our Engineer?

Engineer- Jones: | **Jones:** Madam President, good evening, I just have a few quick items here. Just to let everyone know that the bids came in for the Forbes Road Force Main Project that we had discussed at a previous meeting. The bids came in at about \$253,000. In addition to that, we also previously put out a request for quotes from the materials, that came at about \$22,000. So, we're in the range of \$275,000, which is within the range that we were initially thinking. So, you know again we as we discussed at that previous meeting. The County Department of Public Works reimbursement fund will be available to reimburse our costs for that. And if necessary we also can use a community cost share dollars through our Regional Sewer District if necessary. But again, our intent is to target primarily the Department of public works funding for that. Also, on Forbes Road the County Resurfacing Project will be coming up fairly soon. We don't have exact date on that yet. We're still waiting for the County to actually award that contract and set up a pre -construction meeting. They're telling us they are targeting a mid -April start for that. Our understanding is that the initial phase of construction will be at the west end of the job,

which is the concrete area. So basically, from interstate ramp to just east of first place, that's arguably the worst section. So, it's sort of glad to see that that will be happening. Then that force main project will actually probably overlap slightly with that. But since they'll be working on two different sections of Forbes Road. They won't be tripping over each other, so that's a good thing. I heard towards the end of the finance committee meeting. I did hear some mention about ARPA funds, the \$250,000. That money is actually trying to be used on Oak Leaf just as an FYI. That is the intent for that money. **Davis:** What are you doing on Oak Leaf? **Jones:** Oak Leaf is going to be a project very similar to what Fair Oaks had last year. So, you know extensive concrete repairs and asphalt overlay. So, it's a similar scope to Fair Oak's. Then one final thing, I would like to respectfully request with regard to Ordinance 2024-03 which is the CVE contract. If there are no further questions or comments about it. And again, I'm here to answer any questions anybody may have that are still hanging out there. But if there's no more discussion about it I would respectfully ask that the rules be suspended on that item this evening. And that contract will pass tonight. But I'm open to discussion on that and also any other questions if anyone has any. **Davis:** Have you heard anything from Mr. Gustafin about Garden Road? The fixing of the flooding and all that. We haven't heard anything more; they came and checked every house. **Jones:** Right. **Davis:** They did that, I don't know about everyone but the ones that wanted it. We haven't heard a single word. They said, January they were going to contact you again to start the work. It's February and I haven't... **Jones:** Yeah, so Ed is actually handling that one still. So, I can pass the question on and ask them to send a response to you. **Davis:** I appreciate it. **Haba:** I know he was still talking to the residents there. I think that was about a month ago. **Jones:** Yeah and I know that some work has been done. There were backflow preventers installed for a few residents. To be honest with you, I'm not handling that. Ed is the lead on that, so I will ask him to respond. **Davis:** Appreciate that. **Nikolic:** One thing, tonight we do have an executive session. And there was some information I got from you that I wanted to share with Council about the contract. So, if I could have that opportunity this evening to speak with them about that. Then we could definitely move at the next meeting. I just want to make sure the Council is all set with any questions they have based on the information that I received from you. **Jones:** Sure. **Nikolic:** Would that be okay? **Jones:** Yeah, that's fine, again I was only requesting it if there was no further discussion. But if there are, that is totally fine I understand. **Nikolic:** We appreciate you, any other questions for our Engineer? **Hardin:** Thank you for Forbes and for getting it paid for. Hearing none, may we hear from our Police Chief please.

Police- **Garratt| Garratt:** Thank you, Madam President. As the Fire Department stated before, we've been really busy. We actually got our stats back from last year with just under 11,000 calls for service. That was surprising to me, that's about 30 calls a day. That's gone up a lot in the last probably three or four years. Also, I want to bring you guys up to speed. Our contract is going to be expiring for jailing services at the city of Solon. I'm going to email out to you the new contract and the old contract. So, you can review both together and their prior legislation from two years ago. This new contract has proposed three years, so we don't have to entertain as much. And so, we won't be giving them a chance to raise their prices for us. So, that's going to be coming your way to entertain for the next meeting. Any questions, I can answer them after you have a chance to review the old and new one. Only changes on the new contract will be the

amount. It's going up \$4,000 for a three-year contract. Other than that, everything else is arranged. **Warren:** \$4,000 per year or \$4,000 over the three years? **Garratt:** \$4,000 per a year, from \$50,000 a year to \$54,000. That's the only difference I can find on the contract. **Davis:** And this is, I may ask, this is still with Solon? **Garratt:** Yeah, it's still a Solon, it has worked out really well with them. They can do our video arraignments for Bedford Municipal Court. And we've been keeping them really busy lately. They've been great though. We haven't had any turnaways. You know, sometimes you get issues on cities. When they don't have a contract, they can just go per diem. A lot of times what happens is they'll refuse prisoners if they are full. And that's a problem, as you can see. The County wants to build a new building because the jails are just full. We can't house anybody, so it's important to have that contract in place. So, they're bound by it, but they've been great with us. **Davis:** Do they have females housing there also? **Garratt:** Yes, and they are obviously separated. **Davis:** Okay. **Hardin:** Chief, we need to talk with you regarding the change in the court system. We didn't know it had changed and for the amount of time that it has changed. We need in-depth information on how the operation has changed, and how it's to be manned. And we don't need go through it tonight. It's up to you, but we need in great detail how those jobs have changed in that department. **Garratt:** I could give you a briefing really quick, just to go over it a little bit. Right now, it really hasn't changed at all. The two people that work there are still doing the same job they were before. It's a traffic bureau now so we have waivable fines that are coming in. They house the records there if they don't pay them within X amount of days. I believe seven days, then those cases have to be forwarded to Bedford court. So, they have to have logs of the records there, and it's basically the same thing as they did before. The only difference is we don't house a Mayor's court two times a month. We don't do that anymore, that's the only difference. That's where the savings is, and that is not just the court employees. Because it's only two of them, my employees. I mean, really, we have the staff, and we pull the people off the road, and detectives, and everything else. We got to work with the metal detector, and then the other savings is not having the Magistrate here. That was the savings on that. But getting back to the employees, they're still doing the same job they were doing before. Honestly, we may migrate and make changes as time gone. But it's only been a month, we got to just go through the process a little further. **Hardin:** We were told it happened... **Garratt:** No, it was January 9th of this year. So, we're still trying to sift through and get... there might be some changes down the road. Meaning not as much personnel needed, but we have to get to that point and figure that out and get it smooth. We kind of mimic Bedford Heights. Bedford Heights did the same thing. They went from, as I said now if you're at at this meeting. But we did basically what they did. Mayor's Courts are going (inaudible). We're pretty much one of the last ones in Cuyahoga County to have a Mayor's Court. So, what they're doing is everybody's going to municipal court, Bedford Heights did it too. But we would like to get an opportunity to have more funding. By doing waivable amounts they can pay before it goes to the municipal level. Now, that's not saying we don't get money when it goes to a municipal. We still get the finals; we just don't get the court cost. Because obviously we don't hear the cases. So, that's your difference, your main difference. Bedford Heights runs one full -time or one part-time. **Hardin:** Hold yourself for one second. What is that dollar amount that we won't be getting based on that last scenario? **Garratt:** We were losing money for the last two years of Mayor's Court. I think it was barely making or just right on the fringe there. I mean but, the numbers

Brian had didn't include my employees' numbers. So, when we calculated my employees that have to work at every single Mayor's Court. Now you're definitely losing money on it. **Hardin:** By having the Mayor's Court. **Garratt:** By having the Mayor's Court here. Now it was profitable when we had 80 people in there. We did that up until Covid, and that worked out, then we needed the personnel do that. After Covid we were lucky to get five, six, seven people in and it's been continuously like that. We had to make this change. In my opinion it was foolish to keep that. **Hardin:** You mentioned the Magistrate since we are getting into this. You mentioned the Magistrate and we have legislation in front of us regarding the two attorneys. How does that correlate with... **Garratt:** That's separate, they pay the Magistrate fee separately. It has nothing to do with what you guys were looking at with the other two. Montello and Cirincione, what you're looking at legislation wise, has nothing new with the Magistrate paid. That was a separate line item for Mayor's Court, period. **Hardin:** Cirincione, he was not involved in Mayor's Court? **Garratt:** He was not, Montello was the Magistrate. Montello was paid separately out of Mayor's Court money. The stuff you are looking enough for prosecuting, that's totally different. That's with the Law Directors. **Climer:** Ross would appear as the Prosecutor in Mayor's Court, I believe. **Hardin:** I've seen him sitting there. **Climer:** Yeah, he also prosecuted in Bedford Court for us. **Hardin:** So, he's doing the same thing but over there? Is that what you're saying? **Climer:** Yeah, correct, he prosecutes in both places. **Garratt:** But the pay for the Magistrate was out of Mayor's Court. **Hardin:** So, who was the Magistrate? **Garratt:** Montello, John Montell. **Hardin:** And where is he? What does he... **Garratt:** Well, he's not... **Hardin:** So, he's no longer on the payroll at all anymore? **Garratt:** No. **Hardin:** Okay, just want to make sure. I'm just trying to follow what has happened. **Garratt:** And let me go forward on the Bedford Heights thing. They have one full timer and one part timer. Now they've eliminated this Mayor's Court, for traffic bureau, if you will, for a while. They got it pretty smooth; we've gone over it several times and they've helped us make this transition. However, we write considerably more citations than they do. So, that's why I don't want to immediately follow exactly what they're doing with staffing. Because we don't know how it's shaking out. Give me a little more time and I can make recommendations for that. I'll bring it up to the Mayor what my recommendation is for staffing. **Scruggs:** I have a question to your department as well as fire. But you're saying that the number of calls that are coming in has increased. Is there any information that would be great to send out to residents. To kind of say from the Police Department, from the Fire Department here's some quick tips on how to handle things. Kind of almost like a did you know type of information to kind of help. I don't know what type a call you're getting. But to kind of to give to the residence about helping you getting these calls down. **Garratt:** And we both do that on our websites too if they ever go to our website. I brought up last time, right now is a bad time for scammers. Especially targeting seniors and people getting tax returns. So, they'll call as you know your tax return service or whatever the case may be. And we brought that up last time. We've posted that, we do it on our website, we get out the information. But I'll be happy to put it out to anyone that's doing a newsletter. We can help you with that too. So, if there's something you want to add at any time. You can get a hold of me, and we'll get something out of there. **Nikolic:** Like a decision tree, is anyone dead? **Garratt:** Call 911, don't call 911! It is true, there is a lot of stuff. But I don't ever tell anybody not to call us. Because if you have any questions, I'd rather you call us. Then we say no, you've got to call Tommy about picking up the garbage. But bring it to us, if

we don't have the answer, we're going to get you the answers. But sometimes they call and think these emergencies aren't emergencies. And they are emergencies, and the Fire Department deals with that all the time. You know, I have a bit of a headache and I can't feel my arm. You know it's a problem. So always tell people, you know call the Police. If you have any questions, comments, concerns? Call us and we can at least get you in the right direction. But I'd like to get somebody over there and just evaluate. **Nikolic:** One last follow -up, I know about the Mayor's court. There's an outstanding request regarding the job descriptions for the Clerks. Would that come from you, or would that come from Brian? **Garratt:** I don't have a job description for Mayor's Court. I don't technically supervise the Mayor's Court, it's not under mimes. **Nikolic:** Okay. **Thompson:** Yeah but I'll probably put them together eternally, what they're doing. I think we had them before when we discussed their budget. But I will look back and research to get the job descriptions. **Nikolic:** Okay, so the request is with you? **Thompson:** Yeah, I will follow through on it. **Nikolic:** Any other questions for our Chief, comments? Hearing none may we hear from our Recreation Director.

REC, Perez | **Perez:** **Davis:** Okay, and Mondays is the only day it's at the senior center, the other two days Mount Zion?. **Perez:** Mondays and Wednesdays. **Williams:** Thank you for coming, I think there's been a disconnect for a long time because we can't have this dialog. And we're not here during the day most of us. So, this is great that you're here. I had a few things that they've already touched upon, so I'll just make a few comments and then just make sure I help me follow up and get these things down. But I know you mentioned the kids stopped coming. And I think sometimes we're making statements without really knowing what's happening. So, we could be communicating to people in a archaic way for today's parents. So, you may be sending something out, but that's not the way those parents receive information. So it's out there, but they're not actually getting it. So, that could have been a reason for the trickle off. Sometimes we're not actually fully fleshing out why things are happening. And I think that needs to happen because our kids are I mean, we want people to grow up and buy homes here and or go to college or go off to work, come back here. Like that's how you live and continue to build a community, so that's one thing. I hope we follow up with our polling to get how our how do you want to be reached after we communicate with you and build that out. Because we've talked about it too. When we have events, we need to be able to send text or emails and blah blah blah. So, we need to build that database as well. So that's one let's get some more things for the youth all year long. The summer camp is great, but how can we engage the kids all year long because they're here. **Perez:** Can you give me some suggestions; I'll work on it. **Williams:** Of things to do? **Perez:** Just give me one thing. **Williams:** Teen party, we could look at bring back teen parties. When I grew up here, I lived in Bedford High School there all my life. We had teen parties, and we had staff there that were excited to be at the teen party. Not staff there that were making the teens miserable. That is a huge point, right, that are actually excited to be in the room with teens. **Perez:** Okay. **Williams:** So just want to make that point. I want to go back to Councilman Davis's point about the list. We are paying for residents in other communities to attend or come out to our services. And I can't go to another community and do things there for free, I know that for a fact. So, I just hope you can think through how we can create a system. Where we actually have a list and are finding out who's a resident, who's a nonresident. And

attribute a fee to that and make sure we're collecting on the services that we're providing for nonresidents. Because we should be collecting, not that we have to solve that problem tonight. But we should have a solid way to get that information and collect it. And then just as a piggyback to that we all need to build a better database. So, when you're collecting that information with like a list and get the phone numbers and emails. If we can start putting that into a database in some way. So, that we get all stars in and things out. So, people are getting information in multiple forms that will be very helpful as well. So those are just a few things I have. **Perez:** I have a list of everyone that attended class, an email list with phone numbers. If you want a copy of it, I can send you a copy of that because there's about 15 pages that you can get. **Williams:** I don't need a copy; I just need it for when we all have things. That it's a database somewhere that we all have access to, and everybody can get these things. **Perez:** Okay. **Williams:** And we're not trying to figure out how to have service drop fliers or we drop the fliers, we can get it out in multiple different ways. Everybody does not look at what's on their mailbox or even in their mailbox. My mail stay stacked for weeks until I have time to sit down and look at it, because I do everything online. So, just thinking that through. **Nikolic:** I would suggest Tanya, our clerk, she we have access to constant contact, and I know she found the database. We have about 500 names, so we can continue to add to that list. You asked for suggestions, I would suggest, afterschool meal program for the youth in conjunction with tutoring and academic program. I spoke with the Mayor about it, and it would function similarly. Specifically, a meal program, as we talked about the meal for the seniors. You mentioned that a lot of people were coming there, but you refused to serve my son there. **Perez:** I didn't refuse but... **Nikolic:** I'm just saying children are not served at the senior lunches. So, with that, I'm saying we should have a lunch for the youth. Just like the seniors, weekly. **Matlock:** In the daytime, while they are in school? **Nikolic:** After school. **Perez:** What time would you serve? **Warren:** Kids come home, they got to do their homework and everything else. **Nikolic:** They will do their homework over there. **Warren:** Oh, no. **Nikolic:** It's tutoring, help would be there, there would be a meal. There would be there would be different people there to support. If you look at our stats in our schools, you will know that our children need additional supports. Councilman Warren, you're snickering, but I've already spoke to the Mayor, and he said he's in support of it. And to further, he agrees that it's something that needs to be done. I'm sorry that he's not here to speak on that behalf. But the point is, if we have a meal for the seniors, it can also go towards the youth. And with that, they can also get the tutoring and the supports that they need to get up to standard. Because if you have 80% of children that are at a basic or limited proficiency levels in our schools. We need to be thinking about what the municipalities can be doing to support our kids here. **Perez:** So, you're saying an afterschool program with tutoring one day after a week after. **Nikolic:** It would be right after school 3pm to 6pm. **Williams:** It's a posed idea, so of course, you know, I think that thinking it through and figuring out what is going to work best. **Perez:** I want to do this because I really want you guys to see. I really want you to put your eyes on what I see and what I do. So, in running this summer camp, there's 65 kids in the camp. It used to be 125, but it dropped down to 65. By the end of the summer camp, you got 25 people, maybe. They don't come just like the adults don't come, I'm sorry. But I'm going to do this, to let you see the numbers. Actions speak louder than words. **Nikolic:** To your point, I've been speaking to Rome about it. Rome used to have a program in place very similar to this. And

they said that they had upwards of 30 children coming to this event. That the church did themselves with just volunteers. Now, with Village support, we can amplify that. So, what I'm saying is, before we start making discussions about why we can't have it. Let's talk about the need and what we're going to do to make it happen. Because the Mayor has already said that he supports it. So, the Administration is already on board, we just need to discuss the logistics.

Williams: What? Let me add a few things in, because we also have to bring Council and discuss, because its budget. We are all a team and I think we've been operating as though we are not. Just something we greatly need to work on. We all support Oakwood Village, administrative, legislative, we're all here for the same residents. So, I don't... we got to get off of that track. That if someone is in support of it over here and someone is not, we just have to start doing better as working as a team. I can understand if you don't have young children, how you might think like this might not be valuable. But what I see happening with us over and over again. We represent residents and have conversations about what we think needs to happen for residents. We need to have a conversations with residents, to talk to them about how their needs can be met. So, that's why I said it's a proposed idea. I have children, my children are different from the children she's raising. So, I don't want to speak for every parent in the community. We need to get out and talk to the people and find out how their needs need to be met. And that just goes back to the polling. Yes, it sounds like a great idea, but maybe it needs to be tweaked in some way to better meet our residents' needs. And I just want to make the point of that if that is where we need to get to. Let's talk to our residents and find out what the need is so we know how many people will show up.

That's the missing thing here. We keep doing things without talking to the residents we're actually serving. To find out if it's meeting what they need. **Perez:** Okay, and can we do that (inaudible)... **Williams:** We don't have to solve it tonight. I'm just saying... **Perez:** We can do it that way. **Williams:** We just keep missing that ease of connecting with residents. **Warren:** You know what I was going to say, in conjunction with what Councilperson Williams is saying. Is that we could put it out in our newsletter. To let them know that a survey is coming. To let them know what venues they can go and access that service. Whether it could be a piece of mail dropped off or whether it'd be on us online and everything. But to tell them to look out for it.

Perez: Okay. **Davis:** You talked about the helicopter drop, I was there last year, and the helicopter only dropped one time. Is it going to have three age groups? **Perez:** He will drop three. **Davis:** Is that for sure? **Perez:** (inaudible) I was there... **Davis:** I was there also, and remember they had they were supposed to be little kids and everything. But everybody just scrambled because he got confused and dropped once. **Unknown:** We did two last year.

Perez: I know they did more than once. **Davis:** But the Mayor said it was only dropping once because he got confused in the walkie talkie or whatever. **Perez:** But he concluded that there were two, because we give him the eggs. **Williams:** Okay, thank you for that because I did have a question about that. What day did you said it's going to be on? **Perez:** On March 31st, this year. **Williams:** Just remember per, the auditors that we need to have legislation come before us about that. Is it still the cash drop? You still putting cash in the eggs? **Perez:** Yeah. **Williams:** So just a reminder to you that that still has to come through us for approval. And it should be the same boilerplate language that we had last year. This shouldn't be a terribly difficult process; they can just pull it from last year. Change the date and we can approve it. I want to give you a heads up.

Perez: Okay, the helicopter, I had to rent it immediately because they were booked. So, if I need

to call them, let me know this can't happen. **Williams:** The only thing that we need to approve is that cash that's coming out of the Village's... **Perez:** I don't know how much he spends every year. So, I'll find out that information. Oh, one thing, I didn't mention the Fourth of July event. We had a discussion about that last time last night, the Recreation Committee. They just said instead of doing a community day Fourth of July event. We should change it to...Paggie what was it, September? Was it September instead of doing the Fourth of July community day?

Matlock: You talking about community day, we are just moving from July 4th to Labor Day weekend. Basically, with our October fest. But like I was going to say before, all of that was just tentative. It is not written and there's no budget. There's room for changes inside of that request as she has. Because she stated that that's what they were doing all the time with the Mayor. There are changes that can take place. The \$200,000 in which they insinuated was part of the budget. That's not part of the budget. Basically, a lot of that is, the summer camp, which in my opinion, that summer camp could kind of like be revamped a little bit. And it could save on a lot of the budget dollars just coming in. But we only met for like a period of an hour yesterday. We didn't get into no details just to actually see what was there. What we could put on the on a calendar, knowing what we are working with for the year. Because we hate coming up with last-minute information and functions that are planned two weeks in advance. That's not enough time to get out to the community and let them know that this is taking place. And then you may have 100 or 200 people show up versus ten people show up. Just looking at the marketing and the word of information and getting the program out. So that's it, your kid program could be put into her actual program, that's no problem. Kid programs for teens, believe me, we're all moms. Thank God mines are grown, but there are programs. I'm willing to work with her, any one of them, to put some programs together for teens, and little young ones that we have. For the families they can have some family fun and enjoy living in Oakwood. Because Oakwood is an enjoyable place, I grew up in it. Being able to just ride a bike down the street, we grew up in it. **Williams:**

So, are we not doing July 4th? **Matlock:** We have not brought this to you guys yet. But it was a change that we wanted to make, but we haven't brought it to you guys yet. We were going to discuss it July 4th, and we had the October Fest, and we had it like in October. Instead of doing it like that July 4th thing that they have... I don't know about you but to me, July 4th from 10:00am to 1:00pm doesn't work. But if we have them do it in September, for Labor Day. We can have a festival that starts about 11:00am and it ends at about 7:00pm. And you can have, you know, everything there for the kids. it's like an Oakwood fun day, like the October festival with the bouncy houses, the bands and everything. **Williams:** So, we wouldn't do October Fest, you're thinking Labor Day? **Matlock:** I'm thinking Labor Day, the only reason why is because up October in Ohio is very iffy. You don't know if you're going to get rain, you don't know if you're going to get snow. Or it could be, you know, we got funny weather. The past year we planned it, it was nice that whole week. Then when it hit on that October day, we were supposed to have it. It was cold, we had to end up bringing it inside to Mount Zion and moving haystacks everywhere, etc. So, I think September is a little better, it's warm around Labor Day weekend.

Williams: Well, just a suggestion before we think about nixing July 4th. The other cities have wondered why we don't participate with them. So, we may not want to nix that, we're the only city missing parade. **Matlock:** That's why we were going to discuss it. It wasn't something written in stone. But if you want to go to that parade July 4th. You probably can go to it, if

everybody approves and they are in agreement with making the October Fest in September.

Williams: That was just my suggestion. **Matlock:** Yeah, that's fine. **Warren:** One of the things I was saying is that you got your sons. We ought to ask the children what they want and what they do. **Williams:** I also want to suggest you add (inaudible) to the list. There's already an established committee, and something happening in concert with all the other cities that you can easily grow into to. **Perez:** Okay. **Nikolic:** Any other comments or questions for Recreation director?

Moving on to agenda item number seven. The floor is now open for comments from our residents.

Open Floor Comments:

Karen Howse, Address Unknown, Howse: First of all, I'd like to say wow, thank you for that suggestion for getting the opinions of other people regarding the recreation program. Because I don't know, I think most of you remember. Often times I would come to Council and ask, why can't we have different options just for the concerts? You know, my taste may not be the same as someone else's. But if it was eclectic, you know, instead of I mean, I think Mike Albert's been here over 20 years. So, it's refreshing to even consider something else. You know, to kind of tap, this community is very diverse. And I think although at the time when it came, Mike Albert's and the other people, it attracts other communities too. I mean, it's open, it's exposed. So, yeah, you know, sure out of curiosity people come. But I think it should be eclectic, you know, to represent everybody, the young and the old. There's a different ranges, so I just wanted to thank you guys for just bringing that up. Because I think I've been asking that forever. I did have a question to add when the Recreation Director was here. We have this beautiful park, Oakwood Village Park. Why didn't we do the meditation garden there? Does anybody like... Brian, how did that come into... I don't know why that keeps coming to my mind. Like what? How did that happen?

Whereas we have a beautiful park. **Thompson:** Yeah, you'd have to dialog with the Mayor on that. **Howse:** Okay, yeah, that's fair. I just don't... does anybody know of how that came about? I mean it is \$10,000 on private property. But we have a park why didn't we invest it there. That would have been nice because she said they would go to the meditation or the prayer. Do you know the origin of that? Why would you spend \$10,000 to have, meditation garden on private property such as a church. As opposed to us having it at our own park. **Perez:** That that would be the Mayor, of course, I'm sorry. **Howse:** The other thing is, is there a salary... there has to be a salary ordinance that exists. Do we know? Because I don't think that's the origin of how you determine how people get raises. **Thompson:** Yeah, there is one that exists, it just needs to be updated. **Howse:** So, my question is, and this may not be your question. So, I'm putting it out there and then maybe I will follow up. Ordinance salaries are controlled... the purse strings are controlled by Council. So, a salary ordinance has to exist in order to appropriate funds in order to pay people. So, what I don't understand is the last Council meeting. What I understood was that, indeed, the employees did receive a raise or 2% or something like that. **Thompson:** Depending on what year. **Howse:** Yeah, okay, but they did receive a raise and they're asking for a raise this year. And so, I think it's reasonable to say, I got the impression that Council is in support of giving the employees raises. But you got to function off of a salary ordinance for the nonunion employees. So, I don't know how you give raises to make sure. Is the salary ordinance in a range? If it's in a range, how do you get raises without knowing what the range is? To make sure

that nobody has exceeded the range. So, I would think that the employers are, like, really eager to get a raise. But they need help to make that decision. Like, if the Council Clerk and I know you just got here, I know. But just trying to find that because that's the basis of how you determine what it raise is. Then you get a pay register, the pay register from the last year tells you what everybody made. It tells them what they made for the year, and it tells them what their base pay is on a pay register. So, I'm just hoping that... I agree that, you know, some employers should get their get a raise. But I think also as a budgetary issue. You need to know when you're given a raise what you're basing it off of. I've been here for quite a bit, and I know that's been asked. What is a salary ordinance? It's ordinance, it should be easily found. And then you say if the last two increases were 2% or whatever that number is. To determine how that raises to be done and what's the job descriptions. And the raises should be based on the job description and not on the person. So, keep the personal feelings out of the person you know on their performance. So, I would like to see, okay public record. I would like to see the last salary ordinance that you guys have been operating on to determine how you gave raises in the last couple of years. Who am I requesting that from? **Thompson:** The ordinance will be on file to the court. **Nikolic:** That's exactly what we've asked. **Haba:** There was an ordinance for years, but probably the last one was probably, I don't know. **Warren:** Post Covid. **Haba:** Five or six years ago, some years ago. So, it was just Council giving whatever percent. **Howse:** Off of the base? So, if that's the case, it should be clear based on that last ordinance. **Haba:** Yeah. **Howse:** Because how do you know, like, based on that last ordinance. How do you know I got 5%? Is the last ordinance you passed based on individual? Did you just say... **Warren:** I think that really the ordinance, the pay raises were always followed for years and years and years for whatever the Police Department negotiate it. So, if they negotiated a 2%, then everybody got 2%. And if they, you know, you remember that they got 3%. And it was done by ordinance, but that's how it went. We gave the nonunion employees the same thing that we gave the only union employee. Which is the Police Department, and we just gave them the same percentage that we gave. **Howse:** And that's easy-to-follow suit and so the question comes. I can't assume that everything's been the same since I was here. But the question comes, it might be a good idea to say, let's review the ordinance. **Warren:** You're right. **Howse:** You know, so that people understand, the employees understand. It's not that they... I never got the sense once that you guys did not want to give them raises. I heard the opposite; you want to give raises. But you need to know what they're making and that makes so much sense to me. But maybe that should be reevaluated. If it has just been 2% or 3% or based on the ordinance. That's not unusual that you base it on the union. Update from that point, from that last 3% that's going to be the base. Then you determine the what they get from that point on. **Warren:** But going along with what you said. One of the things that we're looking at ourselves. Is you don't give a person a raise that started 60 days before the end of the year. That's some of the things that we got to look at. **Howse:** You don't have a person that's saying if you are hired six months or a year ago, you're paused. But you don't have that in place. You guys have to get something in place. The other question is, I have groundhogs. They are tearing up underneath my deck. It's almost to the point where I think I have like a whole generation. I have done all these YouTube tricks. You know, all this stuff, it's not working. **Warren:** I know a resident that had groundhogs under her deck, and we threw the mothballs. Let me just tell you, we went out to look the next morning. The groundhogs had took them from

underneath the deck. **Howse:** Yeah, I'm asking for help though, because it's almost scary. Like they are just the way it's... and then I fill it back up and then they come back. The one thing I was fortunate in was nature. It wasn't like I asked for it, but the neighbor behind me, they had a family of foxes. That was the first year that I had not seen any groundhogs. But I saw a lot of fur in my backyard but no groundhogs. **Warren:** I can give you a suggestion to consider anyway. It cost, but they had a lattice. And what you do is you take the lattice in the open part from the bottom of your deck. And you have lattice in, those things that's square like that. But what we do typically is put screening behind the lattice. So little chipmunks and stuff couldn't get through the screening. So, you put it behind the lattice, and you just put the lattice around the perimeter of your deck, and that usually will. That will probably be a preventative measure. **Garratt:** I'll call animal control tomorrow and see what the limitation is. A lot of times they'll come out. **Howse:** Is that something they put traps to? **Garratt:** Yeah, I think they'll do it for us as long as I prove it for a groundhog situation and also the foundation of House. It could be a safety issue at some point in time. So, I'll call them tomorrow if you want to give me a call tomorrow. **Howse:** Okay, all right, that's it. **Climer:** Oh, I was just going to say, based on what Johnny said. I use some screening for that. You put plaster on it and that keeps them from digging it. **Howse:** Is that a YouTube thing? **Climer:** It looked like a good idea. **Nikolic:** Any other comments from the residents?

Tonya Dixon, (Unknown Address), Dixon: Well, I guess the questions I had, the people left. I wanted to ask the Building Director, Daniel, how many people are in his office, and also it's like. When he speaks, he mumbles to himself. I won't be able to hear you guys or understand what you guys are saying. So, to connect, I just try to figure out all the sound of the crowd. I know I mumble sometimes, so I have to be aware of myself to speak up. But anyway, getting back with Daniel, I just think it's a joke. I mean if you've been here for so many years. You have staff and you're telling me that we're actually paying for someone and they're not doing a job. Do you really have to do something about that? He adds, the only person I heard was Lillie. I think he has another staff; I didn't get the name. But whoever she is, I mean, they have to be able to get trained and use the computer. You know, for me to do stand up here, I work hard for my money. I don't know what anybody else, but I work really hard. And for the Building Department, I had an issue. I spoke about it, and it's been two years, it's still not resolved. But this guy needs to be trained, flat out. The recreational person, I know, it's probably hard for her, I can just imagine. But she needs some help, too. Maybe we can ask her to maybe hook up with committees, go to the cities and ask them. What do you guys do for recreation? What do you guys do? And kind of piggyback. I used to work for the CVB Convention Visitors Bureau twenty something years back. And what we did, we traveled around the world. We used to go to London or Paris all the time and different cities. Because we want to know what you're doing, what you're doing, and bring it back to Cleveland. So, maybe if she goes to different cities or goes to different committees and get some different ideas. Also, there's a lot of money and there's a lot of young people out there that can help the people that do not know how to use computers. With \$200,000 a year, we can pay a young person part time to help out do a spreadsheet. But this is ridiculous to come up here, spend all this money and don't know... I'm losing it right now, but he needs to go, I don't even know him, but he needs to go. A whole year, a whole year, nothing is done.

Kenneth Kennedy, (Unknown Address) Kennedy: Hi, I'm a resident for three years in Oakwood Village. And that's my wife Denise Kennedy, we have a lot to do with cars. And I'm interested in doing something in 2025. You know, I'm looking at property at the corner of our street between Free Ave and Wright Ave. That corner, I don't know who owns it, but I can get a thousand cars here. Like, I don't know, all race cars, street cars, hot rods, and stuff like that. Been doing that ever since high school, you know, I think when y'all passed something a couple years ago when we first moved in. It was real nice going straight down Broadway. And if you need any help, I had my daughter here. **Denise Kennedy:** She went to go pick up our granddaughter. **Kennedy:** We own No Static radio, kids, and adults alike. We all have our phones and use the internet. Well, it is an internet radio station. And if y'all want to get the word out. Y'all got to get to something like that because everybody got a problem. Kids can check it, we could come up with a program, anything. So, we came here to explain everything. So, I thank you for your time and we'll try to make another meeting. **Denise Kennedy:** I'm going to say it from here because my legs are just not that young anymore. I have been going through surgeries and what have you. But Candace and I actually talked about having a block party. We moved into the house at the end of Free Ave. But we really want to be a part of Oakwood Village. It's so wonderful being here, I think I've made so many friends. I've met people that I've known for years and didn't even know they were here. So, whatever you need us for. We talked about that, and I really want to kind of put that block party off. Or do you still want to do it? **Williams:** Oh, we can. **Denise Kennedy:** Yeah, because I love doing it and like he said we can bring the hot rods. We'll be at the IX Center and good stuff like that. In 2025, I'm going to do an international race. It's going to be all weekend, we drag race. Several championships, our kids drag race, they are grown. But we're giving an all-weekend race. Drag racing entails all sorts of great types of races, I won't go into it. But in an international race, I have people coming from Denmark, from Australia, Ireland, Germany, from France. So, we want to include this city in that. **Nikolic:** Where will you have the race? **Denise Kennedy:** The race will be at race 22, which is an awesome track. It is gorgeous if you have ever been to Blossom. That track looks like Blossom. The track and stuff is actually below ground. So, you sit on the hill, and you bring your food, bring your dog, your cat, your kids and have a wonderful time. **Hardin:** I'm just say this Oakwood Village is second to none, I think we are. So, the resources in this little four-square miles, unbelievable. And everyone is important, but when you really stop and talk to people here. The young lady that spoke, you have no idea who she really is. Everybody is somebody, don't get me wrong. But the resources here, if we really reached out, this place would be even better. So, thank you for coming and I know who you are. **Denise Kennedy:** Yes, and I just want to be a part of all of this. Because I love it and I'm just that person, so here I am. **Nikolic:** I would just make a suggestion. The old mansion, I think it's in Akron. I think the Firestone families to own it. I think it may be Stan Hywet, it's gorgeous. And they do an antique car show on Father's Day. So, I'm thinking maybe with, you know, my son loves to touch a truck. I mean, maybe we could combine something with, you know, with Fire or Police and then have, like, an antique or Hot Rod. **Denise Kennedy:** Because believe it or not drag racing starts at seven years old. They're called junior dragsters. And they have a respect for what's under the hood. They go up to 65, 75 mph and they also make the most fantastic mathematicians on the planet. Because everything is a number, so to do something like that. And one thing I love about drag racing is that you can always take your car. Because you

can drive anything on the track. NASCAR goes around looking for a circle. We looking for a finish line we go straight. But it's a family sport, i trained my kids going to that track. And I never had to worry about them as teenagers. Now they got teenagers, and they don't have to worry about them. Because drag racing gives you scholarships. And you can do all kinds of things. There are things that you just don't know. I think a lot of times kids stop going to things because it's routine. It's the same thing over and over again. **Nikolic:** And you know one of the board members for Bedford is here. They are starting up their CTE program. So, they have an auto section. Perhaps there's some way you could collaborate. **Denise Kennedy:** When I do a back to school. We usually have a game truck, a gospel stage, i usually bring in the Cleveland Zoo. I have a smoke truck from the Fire Department. So, they can know what to do if their house got caught on fire. Plus, we have face paint, and we do a bicycle drag race. We give them a route, we have lights and put helmets on them. And the last two standing, they can take those bikes home. **Nikolic:** Sounds like a good time. Any other comments from the floor? **Davis:** Can you get into contact with our Recreation Director and tell her about this so she can book it now? **Denise Kennedy:** I just gave her my card. **Davis:** Okay, thank you.

Williams: If there's no comments. I would like to invite Bedford School District Board member Angela Carter. If there's anything you want to share but thank you for attending the meeting.

Carter, (BCSD), Carter: Hello, everybody I just want to say thank you for having me. Lots of great information, this is my first one here, but I plan on making all of them. There's a lot of great information that's being stated, especially about our youth. I highly suggest you come to our board meetings. You have to present this information to the board so we can help. We want to help in every way possible in order to make sure our students are getting what they need. Each community is able to do that. We want to work with every municipality that we have. So definitely attend our board meetings and bring this information. This meeting is coming up on the 7th. We have public participation, definitely come and present information. So then that way we can discuss it and bring it back. We would love to work with everybody. So definitely please, please, please. You know, we know you love our babies. We love our babies; we just want to be able to connect with everybody and be able to make sure our babies are getting what they need. **Williams:** Yes, ma'am.

Howse: I apologize if the Clerk Council, could you add this to my thing? Because this is the one thing I forgot to say. When I was teaching the kickboxing class here. I did it for 17 years and it was split. The residents were charged a certain fee, and nonresidents were charged a certain fee and they had to sign in. And that's how we kept track of who attended. So, there was a charge to offset the cost. **Davis:** For residents and nonresidents. **Howse:** Right, and I didn't just quit. I mean, my mom died, so my mind wasn't there. **Nikolic:** Are there any additional comments? **Williams:** So, for the school district, there is a family civic engagement night on March 6th. All of the communities have Council people participating. I'll share with you all. Also, if you want to be present, you can participate. Then on March 22nd, the City of Bedford led a youth employment fair. So, every city is participating in that. If you would like to, mock interview students are during the school day so that the students are already in the building. But those are

two events, community are welcome to come. Especially to the family civic engagement items for students, families, and communities. **Carter:** Yes, and also, we will be having our engagement nights for the community engagement evening. Please do not quote me, but I want to say that come November, December the 1st Saturday, we will be in your city. We'll have two board members at each meeting to be able to answer questions. If you have any questions or concerns, we may not necessarily be able to give you all the information there. But we want to get a lot of feedback from our community members. So, if there's things that you want to bring to the table, if you're not able to come to a meeting. Those three, first Saturdays each month we will be in your community. Please make sure you write no questions, comments, or concerns. So, in that way we can bring it back to our board as a whole. And be able to provide you with information back. But again, we're trying to include our communities as much as possible. And we can't do that without your participation. **Hardin:** Madam chair, I made a suggestion, and I'd like to make it again. Would you consider? And I don't know the costs. Repeating what we just passed, the issue. What schools will be torn down, where are you building, costs? Just give another rundown, could you send that out to the community? **Carter:** We sure we can. **Hardin:** We still support you, and I'm going to say this much. It was with great sacrifice. I'm at that age where my community, my group, we didn't let you down. **Carter:** And I appreciate we truly I will say, I think I speak for all of the board members. We certainly appreciate that; I will say this. We will make sure that information gets out. But that is also on the Diversity School District website. We actually have a tab strictly for that. **Hardin:** How about this... **Carter:** Yes, ma'am. **Hardin:** Those of us that voted, we're still sending out pigeons. **Carter:** Yes, I'll make sure... **Hardin:** Thank you so much and we pray for your continued success. We pray that our babies get the equipment that they need, the buildings that they need. And that we have a hand in making certain that what they need is there for their success. God bless you. **Carter:** Thank you. **Nikolic:** And, Angelique, I've come to the meetings. But please feel free to reach out to me or any other Council member if you need anything as well. Any other comments or questions? Floor is now closed. Moving on to agenda item number eight legislation.

Floor closed

Climer: Proceeded to read legislation:

<p>2023-55 Introduced 12-22-23 By Mayor and Council as a whole 1st read 12-22-23 2nd read 1-9-24 tabled 1-23-24</p>	<p>AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF ROSS CIRINCIONE AND JOHN MONTELLO TO THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT LAW DIRECTOR/PROSECUTOR WITH THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD</p>
<p>2024-03 Introduced 1-23-24 By Mayor and Council as a whole 1st read 2-13-24 2nd read 2-27-24</p>	<p>AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CHAGRIN VALLEY ENGINEERING LTD. AND SETTING FOR THE COMPENSATION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE VILLAGE ENGINEER AND HIS FIRM</p>

Nikolic: Again, we have some further details to discuss. We'll continue through the third reading.

Climer: That's the end of the agenda that there is an executive session. **Nikolic:** There's an executive session, we will have a work session after the executive session. If anyone wants to stay any longer. But we will have an executive session now and then we'll continue with the work session, which is a public meeting as well. But we will have to close the room now for residents and thank you.

Motion to enter executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of the public employers made by Hardin seconded by Davis

YES VOTE: Nikolic, Warren, Scruggs, Hardin, Matlock, Davis, Williams

MOTION PASSED

Entered Executive Session at 9:25p.m.

Exited Executive Session at 11:11p.m.

Nikolic: So, I'd like to propose March 4th. **Hardin:** Needless to say, everything that we received is confidential. Make sure none of that is moved around. **Nikolic:** Do we have to get rid of these? Do we give it to her to shred? **Hardin:** I don't know, we should have asked, I don't know.

Nikolic: Tanya, did you say we have a shred box or something? **Joseph:** In the foyer area there is a box. **Warren:** Why don't we just give them to her for disposal whenever she has a chance.

Matlock: No, we put it in the box and then shred them. **Warren:** Okay. **Nikolic:** The box is on the way out? **Matlock:** Yeah. **Nikolic:** Okay, we're discussing changing the meeting date because we'll be in NLC. So, the fourth...

Davis: Which is a what day? **Nikolic:** Monday, or the seventh? **Davis:** March 4th would be better for me. **Nikolic:** The fourth or the seventh, what do you guys think? What do you think, Johnnie? Mary prefers the fourth... **Davis:** Monday the fourth. **Hardin:** Monday night is just fine. **Warren:** It's fine with me. **Davis:** That's not a finance meeting, that's just a regular Council Meeting? **Nikolic:** The seventh Taunya? **Scruggs:** No.

Nikolic: The seventh is better? **Scruggs:** Yes. **Nikolic:** Okay. **Davis:** What day is that? **Warren:** Thursday. **Davis:** I don't know until I go home, I just know Monday I'm available. **Hardin:** Okay, so we're doing Thursday? **Nikolic:** Ms. Williams the seventh works for you? **Williams:** Yes. **Scruggs:** You know what I am sorry, both of those days are bad for me. **Matlock:** Hey Taunya, we're going to have to vote you off the ship. **Warren:** What you got something on Thursday? **Scruggs:** Yeah, I'm a choir director, so I have to get ready for choir. I have choir rehearsal that Thursday evening. That Monday... **Hardin:** What about Wednesday? **Williams:** Wednesday is the event for the school. **Hardin:** How about Tuesday? **Nikolic:** I can't do Tuesday, what about Friday? **Williams:** Friday, March 8th? **Hardin:** Yes. **Davis:** I don't know until I go home. **Nikolic:** So, the 8th, is everyone... **Warren:** Mhmhm, is everyone okay with that? **Nikolic:** Do you still want it to be at 7:00pm or do you want to do it a little earlier? Six, maybe... **Williams:** Is 7:00pm a charter time? **Warren:** Well, if we're changing the day, we can change the time. It says in the Charter the second and fourth Tuesday. **Hardin:** We've complied, yes? **Williams:** It does say the time of the regular meeting shall be prescribed by ordinance. So,

seven must be prescribed ordinance, so it has to be seven. **Hardin:** Seven, what? **Davis:** P.m. on that Friday, March 8th. **Hardin:** What about it? **Davis:** It has to be 7:00p.m. to start. **Williams:** She was saying can we do it earlier? I said the Charter should tell us. The charter says is prescribed by ordinance. So, it must be prescribed to be seven. **Hardin:** Okay. **Williams:** So, then we have to start with that time. **Hardin:** Yes, ma'am. **Williams:** I made copies of the Charter for everybody to keep here and put in their folders. For if we need to refer to them to get things moving in the right direction. **Nikolic:** We need to adjourn this general meeting. **Williams:** Let me say this, though. My hope is that we can set things in order for Council. So, when new Council people come, we have processes and procedures and people know their role. Because we are doing things in order by a Charter and Ordinance. When we make comments like "well, the Administration is on board so we can move forward" We are each one seventh of an equal vote. We should not override our own power. **Nikolic:** No, it doesn't... **Williams:** But let me finish what I'm saying. If we make comments like "the Administration agrees so we can move forward." Nothing happens in this Village, or a lot of things, without an Ordinance, or Legislation. And we have to approve that. **Nikolic:** No, you misunderstood... **Williams:** We shouldn't be giving our power away by making a comment like that. Anything attached to the budget. We got to have a majority vote up here. **Nikolic:** You misunderstood; I was just saying he was in support of it. Because she answers to the Mayor. So, I was letting her know because she was having an issue with it. Not to say to usurp any of our problems. I was letting her know because she was saying, oh, I don't know the kids aren't going to come. I was letting her know that her boss was in support of it. Not to say that we didn't have to, you know, still talk about it to have the budget. I just let her know that who she answers to is on board with it. **Williams:** That wasn't the first time I heard it. So, I just want to make sure that we are not undermining ourselves and our authority, our power, and our ability to work together to put things in order. That would be hugely detrimental to us being able to get the things accomplished. That we know have... and all of us have been here for different ranges of time, all of us. So, let's just keep that at the forefront. Teamwork, the power of our vote, the authority we have attached to the budget. So, that we are all on the same page. We can have meetings with separate people all the time. But we are one seventh of a whole and it takes a majority. **Nikolic:** Right, but what you should also understand, Candace. Is that when I say the Mayor is on board, it's not to say that we don't have power. It's to say that because we are working as a team with the Administration, right? It's not us against them. So, we also have to understand that by saying the Administration supports this, it's not to say that we don't have any say. It's to say they're a part of a team because we're all working for the residents. So, if I say I've had a conversation with the head of the Administration that is in support of it. It's not to say that we don't have our powers. It's to say they're in support of what we're doing, right? Because we do work as a team with the Administration. We're not against the Administration. So, for me to say that we have their support is further saying we're all working together, Administration and Council for the greater good of the residents. I'm never saying that Council doesn't have its power, but I say we have the Administration support. By saying we have the Administration support is just to say that we together with the Administration. This is something that we're all going to consider, but the Administration... **Williams:** I'm very clear on that, however, in the current context and climate of what we have happening here in this Village. Comments like that, they are not landing the way you probably

intend them to. And that's all I'm going to say. **Warren:** And the other thing is that the Administration, don't fool yourself, is never working with us. He's manipulating himself to get what he wants, ask her. He's manipulating himself to get what he wants. **Williams:** We all need to work together, I agree. **Scruggs:** The comment that was made, I took it as the Mayor's on board, so let's do it. I was kind of thinking... I thought, initially you had to present to Council our ideas of events that we would like to have throughout the calendar year. The when the comment was made tonight. I took it as well put this on your agenda. And she was like...got it. **Nikolic:** And that's what it (inaudible) to me as suggestions. **Williams:** But are you hearing what she said when you said it? It sounded like the Mayor is on board and it's going to get done. But there are six more of us sitting here. **Scruggs:** I remember you asking us to come bring our thoughts to the table, and we haven't done it yet. But I do remember you saying to everyone, come up with your ideas. We'll sit down, we'll talk about it, and you know what we can do. And I don't know, but when that happened. It just kind of seemed like she was grabbing it, like, okay, this is on the list too. **Nikolic:** Well, she wrote down all the suggestions too, she wrote down the other suggestions. she just gave me push back about the idea. **Matlock:** I want to say this too, the afterschool program with the kids, with the lunch and whatever. I wanted to ask Angela did they have anything in the school for after-school lunch. Those types of things are provided in the school budget. **Williams:** Not after school. **Matlock:** No longer after school? There are tutoring programs because I know my sister works for the school. The school pays her... **Williams:** They have to seek extra funding for that. So, some districts do it and some don't. But it's not automatically included in a budget, it's supplemental. **Matlock:** Then I think you said Rome, does Rome still have that program? **Nikolic:** They do not. But they said it was successful when they did. **Matlock:** Then they should start it back up. **Nikolic:** Exactly, that's what I'm saying. **Matlock:** Then they just have a meal in their church after school. **Nikolic:** Exactly, that's exactly the idea. **Matlock:** But, if parents got together and needed something like a tutoring session for their kids after school or whatever. All they got to do is go to the school and talk to them. They'll pull something together for afterschool and for tutoring, especially for tutoring. **Williams:** We got to keep in mind unions now, the schools are unionized too. **Matlock:** I know they have their unions. **Williams:** So, anything after their hours. **Matlock:** I know they have their unions, but the school will pay for it. But believe me, with all this money they got going around now after Covid. They can find that money. They have so much money now flying around these schools after Covid. Because the kids are so behind that they will get them tutoring. **Nikolic:** Great, they can send them to the church. **Matlock:** They can hire a teacher if the teacher wants to go a church or whatever. However, it is done, but that's in their field. **Warren:** And the thing is that we're talking about cutting budgets and then we're adding stuff. **Nikolic:** Any other matters to be discussed? **Williams:** Yes, we need to schedule a full finance meeting. We're not going to get this done in an hour. **Warren:** We might as well be prepared, as Candace suggested. To just go ahead and start the second, third budget. And this way we're not going to have them trying to have us under the gun. We just approve another third budget, and it gives us the time to really get what we need to go. **Williams:** It will be a quarter budget, right? **Warren:** Yeah, another quarter, right. **Williams:** But we still need to have a full. **Warren:** Oh yeah, definitely, that's what I'm saying. It would give us the chance. **Nikolic:** It's just not possible, I suggested it before. Do you want to meet again? That'd be great... **Hardin:** Oh Yeah, we have to. **Nikolic:** So, what do you

want? Do you want to do it before or after NLC? **Williams:** After. **Warren:** So, shall we let Tanya know to send Brian an email. Telling him that we want him to prepare another budget for a quarter? **Williams:** Yeah. **Warren:** And that'll take us through June, and that'll be plenty of time. **Nikolic:** The week of the 18th for the next finance meeting? **Warren:** 18th of what? **Nikolic:** March. **Williams:** That's too soon after meeting, we'll be coming back from NLC. **Nikolic:** Okay, so do we wait until later in the week? **Warren:** Why don't we just wait until our next Council meeting and figure it out from there. We'll try to anyway... **Matlock:** Mary, you've been awfully quiet over there. **Davis:** I'm just tired. **Matlock:** I know we've been here since 5:30pm. **Hardin:** Speaking of that, somebody as a Council. It's almost 12:00a.m., what's going on now, Tanya is very unusual. I would like to give her permission to either. I don't know if you want to comp her time. But there's no way she should be required to try to be back here at 8 o'clock tomorrow. **Williams:** You comp your time don't you? **Matlock:** She hasn't been. **Joseph:** I just come to work... **Williams:** But you could comp any day in the week. You don't have to...you could come in later that day, or you can come in an hour on Friday. It doesn't matter where you comp it. But you shouldn't, no, if you're here and you worked eight hours already today and this is an additional 4 or 5 hours. Then on Friday you only work three hours. **Joseph:** I have minutes I have to... **Hardin:** No, no, no, we have to end this. What you're doing is appreciated, but it's too much. Listen to how this works. You cannot and you are not expected, even by law. To turn around and be back in here within X number of hours, okay. **Joseph:** Okay. **Hardin:** So, I asked her if she was hitting a time clock, and she's not. Was Debbie hitting the time clock? **Warren:** No. **Joseph:** I did ask Carla to get me one so that I can start next week. Because this is the end of the two week pay period. Because I usually fill one out. But I did ask here to get me one. **Hardin:** Okay, and that's fine. If you want to hit the clock, that's fine. But along with that, you have to comp yourself. So don't come in tomorrow morning at 8:00a.m. If you're leaving out of here at midnight, that's not acceptable. And so, as a Council and as her managers. We need to let her know tonight what to do. Because that's crazy... **Williams:** What time did you come in today? **Joseph:** I came in today for 1:00pm because we have the meeting. I got to be here for 9:00a.m in the morning. Usually when we have meeting days, I come around 12p.m. or 1:00p.m. **Williams:** Okay. **Joseph:** But it's been longer, so I just... **Williams:** So, then you are covering your time. But then you need to compensate for the extra hours outside of eight hours. So, if you are starting at 12p.m., that's a 12p.m., to 8:00p.m. day, right? So, if you are here pass 8:00p.m., to 11:00p.m., that's another three hours that you need to.. you understand that? **Joseph:** Yeah. **Williams:** That's another three hours you need to take off sometime later in the week. And then you just share what those hours will be. I thought we made that very clear in the beginning. You're not supposed to work over 40 hours. If you want to check March 28th for the finance, we do need a set a finance. **Davis:** Is the second one in March already scheduled? **Matlock:** Can I make a recommendation now? You've been dealing with finance since I've been on for two years. Can I make a recommendation that Candace, that you be the chairperson for Finance committee. **Nikolic:** I'm the chair. **Hardin:** Well, okay, so let's do this, I've been here a long time, we're in deep. How about if we...just for a while...we really need the expertise for a while. I'll second it. **Warren:** I'll third it. **Scruggs:** We are all still on the committee right? **Hardin:** As a whole, no one person can handle. **Matlock:** Because there's a lot of stuff that we have been requesting for the two years I've been here. That still hasn't got going. I'm sorry, you

know what I didn't know I thought it was just the committee. We were going to vote for a chairperson. And I was just making the recommendation that you be the chairperson. Because you have been handling this now for... I've been watching you for two years since I've been on this board. Asking him different questions and stuff about different finances and what we should be doing. **Hardin:** Tonight said something. **Matlock:** And I'm just recommending, it's nothing against you. **Hardin:** I know the Charter says that you are chair, but it's just a matter of time. **Nikolic:** That's fine. **Hardin:** And this is not to blindside you, but tonight was different. **Nikolic:** Well, what about tonight? **Hardin:** We need somebody that's going to push this... **Warren:** And understand municipal finance. **Nikolic:** Well, just to be clear. All the documents that we looked at in the session were requested by me. **Hardin:** Okay, you know what you did say that you did some. **Nikolic:** Yeah, all because, the number was my concern. So, all of and I requested the handbook, documents, everything that you looked at to come to your conclusion was requested by me. **Hardin:** Okay, Okay, I'm sorry, because just I'm rarely at a loss for words. I was at a loss for words but thank you. **Nikolic:** Right, because the number that was reflected for me didn't make sense. So, I needed, and I requested the documentation. To make sure we all could look at it and get a clear understanding of why they came to that number. With the documentation in hand, we were able to understand it was not the proper calculation, so that was it. **Hardin:** You got it. **Williams:** Let me walk us back, what just happened? So, do we have power in the Charter to nominate different chairs? **Matlock:** Yes we do. **Williams:** We would have to do this on record. **Hardin:** No, what we did was on record. **Williams:** I'm sorry, so I understand, you were nominating me as Chair? **Matlock:** You got it. **Williams:** Okay, well, I do appreciate the nomination. I do appreciate that confidence, thank you. **Hardin:** Well, I'll second it, but I will give you your kudos. Because we would not have gotten through tonight. You made the night easy. **Williams:** You're going to have to take a vote. **Scruggs:** Do you accept the nomination? I mean, how does that go? **Williams:** I'll accept it. **Hardin:** Thank you, Madam President, thank you for allowing us to do this.

Motion to nominate Candace Williams as the Finance Committee Chair made by Hardin seconded by Warren

YES VOTE: Nikolic, Warren, Scruggs, Matlock, Williams, Davis, Hardin,

MOTION PASSED

Nikolic: Can I get a motion to adjourn?

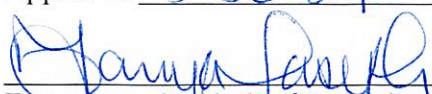
Motion to adjourn made by Davis seconded by Hardin

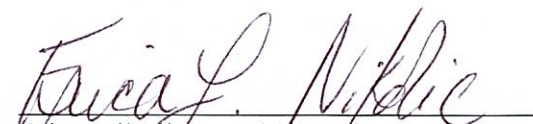
YES VOTE: Davis, Scruggs, Hardin, Nikolic, Warren, Matlock, Williams

MOTION PASSED

Adjourned at 11:37 p.m.

Approved 5.28.24


Tanya Joseph, Clerk of Council


Erica Nikolic, President of Council