

**OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE SPECIAL COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES**

**November 11, 2024 7:00 PM**

Call to Order – Mayor Thompson

7:00 PM

Village Representatives in Attendance

Mayor Thompson  
Councilwoman Dana Dunbar  
Councilman Dan Wimmers  
Councilwoman Wendy Greeley  
Interim Village Administrator April McDonald

Councilman Edward Shimborske III  
Councilwoman Heather Phillips  
Councilman John Lewis  
Solicitor Kati Tharp

Citizen Attendees

Nasrin Afjeh  
Yarko Kuk  
Brittany Ford  
Travis Tangeman  
Bryn Tangeman  
Tracey Tangeman  
Rachael Novak

Anne Ufer  
Laura Koprowski  
Larry Nameche  
Melissa Gagacki  
Becky Hauck  
Dan Lietaert  
David Karmol

Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Wimmers to approve the minutes from the October 29, 2024, Council meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments

Ms. Ford, TARTA Board Trustee, and Ms. Koprowski, TARTA CEO, provided an update on the transit agency's services and improvements. TARTA's mission remains focused on "empowering people to make connections" through three main services: TARTA Flex Micro (flexible routes), Fixed Route (scheduled bus routes), and Para Transit (door-to-door service for eligible individuals). Customer experience has been enhanced with new shelters, clearer bus stop signs, real-time tracking and mobile payment options, and a new website set to launch in 2025. TARTA is also working to modernize its fleet with accessible vehicles and is seeking grant funding for this effort. Additionally, the agency offers personalized support for Para Transit riders through travel trainers and partners with the local veterans' commission to provide half-price fares and free rides to the VA for veterans. Ms. Koprowski also addressed queries about finding bus stops and potential new signage in the village, committing to following up on the matter. Mayor Thompson and council expressed their gratitude for the presentation and the updates from TARTA.

Mrs. Novak addressed the council, requesting a donation for adjustable basketball hoops at Ottawa Hills Elementary School. The current hoops are unregulated and unsafe, with concerns about their stability. The goal is to install ten adjustable hoops (four in the old gym and six in the new gym) by 2025, ensuring safety and accessibility for students and the community.

Mrs. Gagacki shared that the school has received support from OSPA, Boosters, and the Foundation, with a total of \$5,500 each pledged towards the cause. The fundraising efforts have

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raised \$20,000 so far, halfway to their goal. These hoops will be mounted to the wall and adjustable to accommodate different age groups. The younger students (grades 2 and under) use 8-foot hoops, grades 3-4 use 9-foot hoops, and older students use the standard 10-foot hoops. The hoops are also used by the community and PE classes.

Mr. Wimmers inquired if the school had contributed to the fundraising effort, and Mrs. Gagacki explained that the school had not committed funds due to broader funding concerns. Mr. Lewis asked if the school might contribute later, to which Mrs. Gagacki indicated they planned to update the school on the fundraising progress and hope for a contribution in the future.

Mayor Thompson raised the point that the basketball hoops only serve a small portion of the community and student body, with only 14% of the student body and 10% of league and rec players benefiting from the current hoops. He emphasized that the community shares school facilities for activities, which is a unique aspect of Ottawa Hills. He expressed disappointment that the school has not yet committed funds and suggested that the school match donations made by the community organizations (OSPA, Boosters, Foundation). Ms. Phillips asked how long the current hoops have been in use, and Mrs. Hauck confirmed they have been in place for over 28 years.

A motion was made by Mr. Shimborske and seconded by Ms. Phillips to match an Ottawa Hills school donation not exceeding or up to \$5,500 for the basketball hoop donation. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Tangeman attended the meeting on behalf of the Ottawa Hills girls' tennis team to thank the Council. She shared that the team had signed a thank-you card and highlighted their successful season, including a sweep of their home invitational and first-place finishes at another. The team also sent five girls to districts. Mrs. Tangeman credited much of their success to the opportunity to practice and compete at home, thanking the Council for their support.

Mr. Karmol addressed the Council to raise concerns about traffic, particularly speeding, in the village. He noted an increase in speeds of 45-50 mph since the pandemic, which he believes poses a safety risk. He also mentioned being knocked over by an electric scooter while walking on the sidewalk and raised concerns about the danger of motorized scooters in pedestrian areas. Mr. Karmol requested more police patrols to address speeding and scooter use on sidewalks, suggesting scooters should be restricted to the road.

Mrs. Dunbar responded by mentioning that a safety meeting had recently taken place where the topics of scooters and electric bikes were discussed. She also noted that safety information was shared in the newsletter. In response to Mr. Karmol's incident, he confirmed that he had already filed a police report. Mrs. Dunbar further clarified that Chief Estok had attended the safety meeting and confirmed that motorized scooters should not be on the sidewalk, emphasizing the safety concern. Mrs. Dunbar thanked Mr. Karmol for bringing the issue to the Council's attention, and Mayor Thompson assured him that they would direct the concerns to the Police Chief for further action.

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Mrs. Urfer expressed concerns about traffic in the village, noting that Ottawa Hills once had a reputation for cautious driving due to the fear of tickets. She suggested the village should regain this reputation by cracking down on speeding and stop sign violations, particularly near Miner and Brookside, an area frequently mentioned in social media discussions. She also pointed out that half of the violations listed in the Village Stroll are warnings. Mrs. Urfer argued that stricter enforcement could improve safety and generate additional revenue. Mayor Thompson responded, emphasizing that the goal is to maintain a good quality of life and acknowledged that increased traffic stops might involve many local residents.

Mr. Lietaert addressed the Council to voice complaint about over-enforcement regarding property maintenance. He shared his frustration after being summoned to court and threatened with jail time over having a trailer on his property, which he uses for personal and business purposes. He felt the process was unfair, as he received summons letters without explanation, and he found it inappropriate for an officer to visit his home.

Mayor Thompson asked for clarification about the jail time threat, which Mr. Lietaert confirmed. Mrs. Tharp explained that jail time was a possible penalty, not a certain outcome. Mr. Lietaert emphasized that this was his first issue with the police in 54 years and felt it was overly harsh for something like a trailer.

He also pointed out several other violations he found around the village, including trailers and parking issues, questioning the consistency of enforcement. Mr. Lietaert suggested that more uniform enforcement would prevent him from feeling targeted.

Regarding violation notices, Ms. McDonald clarified that letters are delivered by an officer and also a copy is mailed. Mayor Thompson stated that the village aims to resolve issues cooperatively rather than issue citations. Ms. Phillips proposed more resident education on property maintenance and zoning requirements. Mr. Lietaert also raised a question about the legality of a Toys for Tots sign outside the village offices, which Mayor Thompson acknowledged.

Finance & Future Planning – Mr. Lewis

Mr. Lewis stated that the last meeting was a joint meeting with the Human Resources Committee. He mentioned that this meeting took place before the most recent Council meeting, but that some of the items discussed in that meeting, such as the budget and compensation, are included on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

Human Resources – Ms. Phillips

Ms. Phillips mentioned that during the joint meeting with the Finance Committee, they discussed several items, and as a result, a couple of ordinances on tonight's agenda will be addressing the employee handbook, which was updated following the audit, as well as the salary ordinance. Mayor Thompson asked if the legislation being presented tonight is consistent with the discussions that took place at the joint meeting, and Ms. Phillips confirmed that it is.

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Safety – Mrs. Dunbar

Mrs. Dunbar shared that during a meeting on October 22nd, there were a couple of parking requests on the agenda, but the citizens who had made the requests did not attend the meeting. The committee also discussed electric bikes and scooters, gaining a better understanding of the situation and what will be done to enforce the regulations. Mayor Thompson mentioned that as a pedestrian in the community, he has noticed a growing frequency of these issues, particularly with younger children using these vehicles. Mrs. Dunbar confirmed that she has personally observed double riders and riders without helmets. She also noted that the resident newsletter included information on the requirements for electric bikes and scooters, and she suggested the village continues to educate the community on this matter. Ms. Phillips added that the newsletter also provided a reminder about the headlights and rear lights required for riding at night.

Mrs. Dunbar pointed out that it is deer season, and the deer are very active. She recommended that in the next newsletter, the village reminds motorists to be cautious as deer can run across the road unexpectedly.

Services & Environment – Mrs. Greeley

Mrs. Greeley shared that during their meeting on October 24th, they had two speakers: Sara Zaleski, a Wildlife Research Technician from ODNR, and Debbie Dacquisto, an Environmental Health Specialist from Lucas County. Both speakers provided tips on how to control unwanted rodents and pests in people's yards, emphasizing that the key is to not feed them. They explained that food from bird feeders attracts both birds and rats. Mr. Shimborske added that the meeting also covered some misconceptions, such as the idea that items in your yard don't necessarily mean rodents are living there. However, if there is food nearby, it will attract them to inhabit the area. Mrs. Dunbar noted that they had the same discussion when she was chair, but compliance with these recommendations is very difficult to achieve. Mrs. Greeley clarified that while killing the rodents is allowable, it is only acceptable if the animals are not on the protected list. Ms. Phillips added that any chemicals used for pest control must be properly stored to ensure that they do not harm other animals or the environment.

Streets & Bridges – Mr. Shimborske

Mr. Shimborske announced that the village was awarded municipal bridge funds from the grant they applied for regarding the Evergreen Bridge. Mayor Thompson added that the awarded amount covers 95% of the construction costs, up to a maximum of \$2.5 million.

Utilities, Equipment, Buildings & Grounds – Mr. Wimmers

Mr. Wimmers mentioned that there was a request for a permit at 3516 Ridgewood Road to build a new game court, as the previous one was damaged by a tree. Mr. Lewis clarified that the previous court was a platform tennis court, while the new one would be at a lower ground and have different lighting. There were a couple of letters from neighbors in favor of the project, and no opposition was expressed. As a result, the permit was granted.

Solicitors Report – Mrs. Tharp

No Report

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Administrator's Report

Ms. McDonald reported that the deer cull has now been fulfilled, with the maximum of 15 deer being reached. Mr. Shimborske asked if the annual cull limit would be determined each year and whether the cull could be increased if there were more complaints. Mrs. Greeley explained that the committee decided to keep the cull limit at 15 for this year and would reassess the situation next year. Mr. Shimborske noted that this year, the cull limit has been reached faster than usual, and Mayor Thompson pointed out that the cull has never been this low before. Mrs. Greeley reiterated that the committee's decision was to maintain the limit of 15 deer this year, with the possibility of increasing it next year, if needed. Mr. Wimmers suggested that if there are further complaints, the situation could be reviewed next year.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Thompson announced that the Ottawa Hills School Foundation will soon launch a fundraising campaign, potentially for White Field remediation. The Foundation plans to survey the community to gauge interest in this project, along with 10 other initiatives. They asked if the village would contribute 50% of the costs, with the Foundation covering the rest. However, Mayor Thompson emphasized that the Foundation needed to seek Council approval before the survey was sent out. The survey will begin in late November or early December.

Mr. Wimmers inquired about White Field deed restrictions, to which Mr. Shimborske noted there is still no funding for the project. Mayor Thompson added that fundraising would likely happen in 2025 or early 2026, making the village's financial situation unlikely to improve by then.

Ms. Phillips questioned how many children could realistically use the field, given the lack of lights and limited practice hours. Mrs. Greeley recalled previous talks about involving younger kids, but Ms. Phillips highlighted the practical constraints.

Mayor Thompson shared that he met with Mr. White Jr., who expressed a desire to honor his father's wishes for the field to remain athletic-focused. They also discussed screening and maintenance, with assurances that tree planting would continue this year.

Mrs. Dunbar suggested that, even if the village doesn't have funding, the community could still vote on the project through a bond levy, similar to school building projects. Mr. Lewis confirmed that this could be an option if there is significant support. Mrs. Dunbar felt the survey would help gauge interest in resolving the issue.

Mr. Shimborske emphasized considering the baseball aspect of the project, ensuring all parties agree on the scope and flexibility. Mayor Thompson then asked whether the Council should allow the Foundation to proceed with the survey. Mr. Shimborske agreed, calling it an opportunity to assess public support. Ms. Phillips raised concerns about timing and prioritization of other projects, with Mrs. Dunbar agreeing on the need to stay focused.

Mr. Wimmers clarified that the survey is to gauge interest, not commit the village to the project. He wondered about community reactions if the village decided against the field after investing

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money. Ms. Phillips agreed to proceed but reminded everyone of the village's priorities and timing. Mayor Thompson reiterated that the village is not making any commitments at this stage.

Mr. Nameche asked if there are no trespassing signs on White Field so that the village does not get into additional liability. Mayor Thompson stated he does not believe there are no trespassing signs there, but the gate remains closed.

Mayor Thompson shared that the village was approached by an engineer from the City of Toledo regarding their Secor Road Project. The project involves widening Secor Road from Kenwood to just north of Central Avenue, with modifications including a prohibition of left turns and the addition of a multiuse path along the west side of the street.

Mr. Lewis inquired about how much land would be taken for the project, to which Mayor Thompson responded that it would involve very little land from the right-of-way. The taper for the project begins south of Kenwood on Secor Road and extends to the end of the taper at Gallatin. This would affect about 150 feet into Ottawa Hills, utilizing some of the grass right-of-way. Since the project will occur within Ottawa Hills' corporate limits, Toledo needs the village's approval to proceed, as they cannot allocate funds within Ottawa Hills limits. The estimated cost for the village's involvement is expected to be no more than \$20,000. The City of Toledo is seeking approval from the village to enter into an agreement in order to move forward with the project and secure their funding.

Mayor Thompson emphasized that the project is aimed at improving safety, particularly north of Kenwood, and he believes it's important to consider supporting the project for safety reasons. The village plans to invite the engineer to a Street Committee meeting for further discussion and details.

In another update, Mayor Thompson mentioned that the low-hanging utility line at the sled hill has now been addressed and taken care of.

Old Business

None

New Business

A motion was made by Mr. Shimborske and seconded by Mr. Lewis to approve the payment to Kati Tharp in the amount of \$798.00, for the period of October 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Shimborske and seconded by Mrs. Greeley to accept the Evergreen Bridge Grant. The motion passed unanimously.

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Ordinances & Resolutions

Mayor Thompson read Ordinance 2024-12:

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|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ordinance 2024-12 | Amending the Employee Handbook of the Village of Ottawa Hills, and declaring an emergency. |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Motion to waive three readings:

|          |                    |
|----------|--------------------|
| Motion – | Ms. Phillips       |
| Second – | Mrs. Greeley       |
|          | Unanimous Approval |

Motion to declare an emergency:

|          |                    |
|----------|--------------------|
| Motion – | Ms. Phillips       |
| Second – | Mrs. Greeley       |
|          | Unanimous Approval |

Motion to adopt legislation:

|            |                                                                                       |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Motion –   | Ms. Phillips                                                                          |
| Second –   | Mrs. Greeley                                                                          |
| Yeas (6) – | Mrs. Dunbar, Mr. Wimmers,<br>Ms. Phillips, Mr. Lewis,<br>Mr. Shimborske, Mrs. Greeley |
| Nays (0) – |                                                                                       |

Mayor Thompson read Ordinance 2024-13:

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|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ordinance 2024-13 | Annual appropriation Ordinance |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|

Motion to waive three readings:

|          |                    |
|----------|--------------------|
| Motion – | Mr. Lewis          |
| Second – | Mrs. Dunbar        |
|          | Unanimous Approval |

Motion to adopt legislation:

|            |                                                                                       |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Motion –   | Mr. Lewis                                                                             |
| Second –   | Mrs. Dunbar                                                                           |
| Yeas (6) – | Mrs. Dunbar, Mr. Wimmers,<br>Ms. Phillips, Mr. Lewis,<br>Mr. Shimborske, Mrs. Greeley |
| Nays (0) – |                                                                                       |

Mayor Thompson read Ordinance 2024-14:

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Ordinance 2024-14

Fixing the salaries for Village employees for 2025 and repealing Ordinance 2023-13, Ordinance 2024-6, and Ordinance 2024-10.

Motion to waive three readings:

Motion – Ms. Phillips  
Second – Mr. Lewis  
Unanimous Approval

Motion to adopt legislation:

Motion – Ms. Phillips  
Second – Mr. Lewis

Yeas (6) – Mrs. Dunbar, Mr. Wimmers,  
Ms. Phillips, Mr. Lewis,  
Mr. Shimborske, Mrs. Greeley

Nays (0) –

Next Meeting Date  
December 2, 2024

Adjournment  
9:09 PM



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Mayor Thompson