

# **Village of Waynesville Council Meeting Minutes March 17, 2025 at 7:00 pm**

Present: Mr. Lyle Anthony  
Mr. Brian Blankenship  
Mr. Chris Colvin  
Mr. Zack Gallagher  
Mayor Earl Isaacs  
Mr. Troy Lauffer  
Mrs. Connie Miller

Village Staff Present: Jeffery Forbes, Law Director; Gary Copeland, Village Manager and Director of Public Safety; Jamie Morley, Finance Director and Clerk of Council

**CLERK’S NOTE-** *This is a summary of the Village Council Meeting held on Monday, March 17, 2025.*

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Mayor Isaacs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call – 7 present

## **Mayor Acknowledgements**

Mayor Isaacs said the OPWC Franklin Road Phase II project is underway and looking forward to getting it finished and moving onto Fourth Street.

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## **Disposition of Previous Minutes**

Mr. Blankenship motioned to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2025, meeting as amended by changing “full-time” to “part-time” and adding “for 24-hour coverage”, and Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Blankenship  
Second – Lauffer

Roll Call – 7 yeas

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## **Public Recognition/Visitor’s Comments**

None

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## **Old Business**

None

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## **Reports**

### **Finance**

The Finance Committee met this evening and was joined by Mr. Hough from Wade Insurance, who made recommendations for employee health insurance renewals. The Committee also reviewed the reports provided by the Finance Director, and everything appears to be in order. The next meeting will be April 21st at 6:00 p.m.

### **Public Works Report**

Public Works will meet on April 7th, 2025, at 6 p.m. to discuss the Village's infrastructure and projects. The public is encouraged to attend to learn more about the Village's ongoing and future projects.

### **Special Committee Report**

A MOMS meeting has been scheduled for April 7 at 5:00 PM to discuss planting new trees on Main Street. The Committee will also be reengaging on the plans for Main Street.

### **Village Manager Report**

- ODOT put out bids for the paving for the Route 42 and North Street traffic light project. Barrett Paving had the lowest bid, but it was 7% higher than budgeted. ODOT District 8 has a Safety Program and will cover the increased cost for the paving. So far, the Village has received \$128K from the County Vehicle Tax money to cover the Village's \$250 contribution to the project.
- On March 7th, Chief Copeland met with Mr. Forbes and Mr. Elliott to discuss the issue with the description of Fourth Street near Friend's Church. They are working with the County Map Room to correct the description and prevent any future problems.
- SmithCorp is continuing to get Phase II done. They should be working on Lytle by the end of the week. They will be at this intersection for a couple of weeks to connect to the system and add a few new valves.
- The Village received \$808 from the surplus of scrap metal.
- Chief Copeland is working with the EPA to get Well 10 approved. They require a 300-foot radius easement. This goes slightly into the

Harvest Baptist Church property. There will be an ordinance at the next meeting to accept the easement. The EPA is requiring an easement, a 5-foot building surrounding the wellhead, payment of fees, and quarterly PFAS testing in order to approve Well 10.

- The 2016 Ford Taurus has been placed on the auction site Govdeals.com.
- There were several electrical upgrades done to the Wellness Center. Luckily, Officer Walker is a certified electrician and was able to do the work.
- Chief Copeland informed Council of the unfortunate passing of Mickey Reese, the former owner of McDonald's. He was a strong supporter of the police.
- The Village joined the PFAS class action lawsuit and should be receiving funding from 3M.

## **Police Report**

- The February Calls for Service, Mayor's Court end-of-month, and code enforcement reports have been provided for review. Chief Copeland stated that Officer Denlinger has been instructed to mandate that the owner of the Hammel House begin repairs after the fire. Otherwise, they will be cited for code violations.
- Chief Copeland stated he has applied for the Ohio Law Enforcement Bulletproof Vest Program grant to pay 75% of the replacement bulletproof vests for the officers.
- Mayor Isaacs swore in the new Reserve Officer Shawn Hershner. Officer Hershner has worked with the Warren County Drug Task Force and is active military duty.
- Council President Pro Tempore Colvin swore in new Reserve Officer Ted Bruner. Officer Bruner retired from the Darke County Sheriff's Department.

Mrs. Miller asked Chief Copeland if there was anything further that could be done about the trash situation on Fourth Street. He replied that the individual needs to give the individuals a little more time to take care of their trash. He stated that one time the individual placed trash on their doorstep to take to the dumpster, waiting for the rain to stop. A complaint was made before the rain stopped; the trash had only been on the porch for a few hours.

Mr. Gallagher asked for clarification on the issues with the property lines and County records concerning Fourth Street. Mr. Forbes responded that part of Fourth Street, adjacent to High Street, is paved and a public right-of-way. However, the map room has it shown as a private parcel when it is clearly a right-of-way. Mr. Forbes believes this occurred when the Friends' properties were divided, and this section was inadvertently recorded as private. He has reached out to the Map Room and the Prosecutor's Office to collaborate with them on having this recorded properly. Mr. Forbes stated that in the 1950s, this portion was shown as a road and right-of-way, but sometime over the years, this was lost.

## **Financial Director Report**

- February reports have been provided for review.
- The RITA Subpoena program netted \$65,282.
- Ms. Morley will be attending the Local Government Services Conference in Columbus on March 26-28.
- There will be an ordinance at the next Council meeting for the renewal of the employees' health insurance.

## **Law Report**

- Mr. Forbes stated his office is watching several pieces of legislation. Many are still in committee and are almost always modified. A couple worth mentioning:
- HB 28, which would strip a municipality of its authority to place a replacement levy on the ballot.
- HB 56 proposes a bunch of changes to the legalization of marijuana laws. However, this does not affect the Village. This would involve the communities that permitted dispensaries within their cooperation, with the understanding that they would receive revenue from the taxes. However, this proposal suggests that all the taxes be reinvested in the State budget.
- SB 86 would close the loophole on the sale of intoxicating hemp products. This is the synthetic stuff that can be purchased at gas stations. This would prohibit anyone from selling these products except for authorized sellers.
- SB 104 would preempt local communities from enacting regulations on short-term rentals.
- HB 113 is proposing changes to the annexation law, giving the County Commissioners the ability to say no to annexation.

Mr. Gallagher asked if home rule could be applied to any of these proposed pieces of legislation. Mr. Forbes responded that home rule could never be applied to any marijuana laws, as these are laws set at the state level. He added that the bill concerning short-term rentals will be interesting because it does not apply to all jurisdictions, so home rule could possibly be enacted. Mr. Forbes also elaborated on the annexation process, stating that 15-20 years ago, the law was changed to allow expedited annexation. If a municipality and a township agree to the annexation and meet a checklist, the County Commissioners could not deny it. Mr. Colvin asked if there would be any recourse if the annexation is denied. Mr. Forbes answered that it would depend on the final language of the legislation and if it outlines an appeals process. Mr. Colvin asked if the OML (Ohio Municipal League) is involved. Mr. Forbes stated they are very involved and suggested Council subscribe to their weekly legislative update.

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**New Business**

None

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**Legislation**

None

**Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions**

Ordinance No. 2025-007

An Ordinance Authorizing the Transfer of Money from the General Fund (1000) to the Police Levy Fund (2901) and from the Federal Grant Fund (2501) to the Water Capital Fund (5701)

Mr. Gallagher moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-007, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher

Second – Miller

**Roll Call – 7 yeas**

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**Executive Session**

None

All were in favor of adjourning at 7:46 p.m.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council