

**Village of Waynesville
Council Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2022 at 7:00 pm**

Present: Mayor Earl Isaacs
Mr. Chris Colvin
Ms. Joette Dedden
Mr. Zack Gallagher
Mr. Troy Lauffer
Mrs. Connie Miller

Absent: Mr. Brian Blankenship

Village Staff Present: Jeff Forbes, Law Director; Chief Gary Copeland, Village Manager and Safety Director; Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council

***CLERK'S NOTE-** This is a summary of the Village Council Meeting held on Monday, March 21, 2022.*

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

Roll Call – 6 present

Ms. Dedden made a motion to excuse Mr. Blankenship and Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden

Second – Lauffer

Roll Call – 6 yeas

Mayor Acknowledgements

Happy 225th birthday to the Village of Waynesville.

Disposition of Previous Minutes

Mrs. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes for the Council meeting on March 7, 2022 as written and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller

Second – Colvin

Roll Call – 6 yeas

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Public Recognition/Visitor's Comments

Warren County Sheriff, Larry Simms, addressed Council and provided them with a copy of the 2021 annual report. He stated that the administrative side moved to the new County Jail the first week of August and the inmates were moved the following week. There are still a few kinks and finishing touches that need to be done. Otherwise, the building is very nice, and the number of beds increased from 280 to 499. The current holding average is between 290 and 300.

Sheriff Simms also spoke briefly on the Constitutional Carry Bill that was recently signed into law and will go into effect on June 13th. He wanted to remind everyone that the laws for concealed carry are still in place. He also stated that he does not anticipate any issues with the change to a constitutional carry.

Council thanked Sheriff Simms for attending tonight's meeting.

Major Steve Arrasmith, Warren County Drug Task Force, presented Council with a year-end review. He thanked Council and the community for their support. Major Arrasmith explained that the funding for the Task Force is mainly comprised of grants and municipality contributions. The Task Force serves all of Warren County and the City of Wilmington. This area is a major pipeline for drug traffickers being between Dayton and Cincinnati. The Warren County Drug Task Force has been a member of HIDTA since 2004 that allows local, state, and federal staff to communicate and share information. Last year, Warren County Task Force had 609 cases, 331 arrests, and 1501 traffic stops. Methamphetamine and fentanyl are the main drugs being seen in the area. Major Arrasmith stated that it has been increasingly challenging to maintain funding for the Task Force; Community support makes up 30% of the funding.

Chief Copeland stated that Major Arrasmith and his staff have always been helpful and always respond to calls for help from the Village. He also suggested that the Council consider increasing the Village's yearly contribution as several municipalities donate an actual police officer, however, Waynesville does not have those resources.

Mr. Gallagher commended Major Arrasmith and his staff for the tremendous job they are doing. He pointed out that the Warren County Task Force ranked 3rd in all the counties for the most prescription drug seizures, 10th for fentanyl seizures, and 13th for methamphetamine seizures.

Mr. Lauffer asked how things have changed over the years pertaining to drug trafficking. Major Arrasmith responded that drug traffickers are becoming savvier and finding loopholes. They will use rental cars and even Ubers to distribute drugs. This has made it more difficult to identify drug traffickers because the car keeps changing and has hurt the budget because forfeitures used to make up a larger portion.

Mr. Colvin asked if drug traffickers were using cryptocurrency. Major Arrasmith said yes, they have run into some cases with Crypto. Mr. Colvin also asked if the Drug Task Force has seen human trafficking cases. Major Arrasmith stated that there is not too much human trafficking in Warren County, as that is seen more around the 275 loop and closer to highways. But drug and human trafficking are closely linked.

Council thanked Major Arrasmith for his time and service.

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Old Business

None

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Reports

Finance

The Finance Committee will meet this Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the small conference room at the Government Center. The public is welcome to join.

Public Works Report

Public Works met this evening and discussed the lampposts along Main Street and whether to refurbish or replace them. The next meeting will be on April 4, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. and the public is encouraged to attend.

Special Committee Reports

None

Village Manager Report

- The new Village website will be launching tomorrow.
- Attended a meeting as a representative for the Village for the One Ohio MOU opiate lawsuit. 30% of the funds are going to local municipalities and the meeting was to discuss the best way to use these funds.
- HEAP of Warren County Community Services contacted the Village to help spread the word about their services to help Warren County residents with utility bills. Aid is based on income.
- Discussed the possibility of purchasing new lampposts along Main Street at the last Public Works meeting. I was asked to research the possibility of refurbishing the current lampposts. A quote has been provided for both the lampposts and street signs to be refurbished for \$12,944. You can visit Springboro and see their poles that were recently refurbished by this company.
- Street Department went out last week and filled potholes. They will be out soon to do it again.

- Provided a photo of the flooding at the plot of land at the corner of Route 73 and 42. Still working with several agencies about the application to fill in the land.
- Andy and Brian put a new metal roof on the Covey Station control room.
- Continuing to work with Cindy Menth from WMA on planning the clock dedication ceremony at the gazebo downtown to commemorate Waynesville's 225 birthday. Barry from Hour House is trying to locate an electrical mechanism for the clock.
- The Village will receive approximately another \$1,200 from the American Rescue Plan. This was unclaimed money from municipalities that decided not to participate and was redistributed.
- The Village qualified for property tax exemption for two parcels and will receive a refund for taxes paid.

Police Report

- Appreciate Sheriff Simms and Major Arrasmith for attending tonight's meeting and presenting year-end reports.
- Would like Council to consider increasing the amount that they give to the Drug Task Force. Currently, the Village contributes \$2.00 per resident. The Task Force has helped the Village out many times and always responds when called.
- Obtained free pocket Constitution booklets for all eighth-graders at Wayne Local Schools from the Veteran's Commission.
- Street Department painted a stop bar for the new stop sign at the Government Center.

Ms. Dedden asked if the company would brush or spray the lampposts to refurbish them. Chief Copeland responded that he was not sure but would research it and let Council know. He also stated that the Springboro lights look very good. This would be a possible option to give the Village time to save more money for new lampposts and do research to come up with specifications to put the project out to bid since the project will be over the threshold.

Mrs. Miller asked Chief Copeland to get a quote to change the lampposts over to LEDs. Mr. Gallagher asked what the warranty was for the painting of the lampposts. Chief Copeland replied that he would have those answers at the next Council meeting.

Mrs. Miller and Mr. Lauffer asked Ms. Morley to advertise for a meeting to discuss the lampposts along Main Street this Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

Financial Director Report

None

Law Report

- Follow up on questions from the last Council meeting concerning changes in the Sunshine Law. There have been minor updates and changes but nothing that would affect how the Village conducts business.

New Business

Chief Copeland stated that Council decided to increase the Village's contribution to the Warren County Drug Task Force from \$1.00 to \$2.00 about three years ago. He asked if Council would consider increasing that amount. The Task Force has helped the Village out many times and always responds when called. Mr. Gallagher asked if the Finance Committee saw any issues with the budget if the amount was increased. Ms. Dedden responded that this is a small amount, and it should have a minimal effect.

Ms. Dedden made a motion to increase the Village's contribution to the Warren County Task Force to \$9,000 and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden

Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 6 yeas

Ms. Dedden stated that she and Mrs. Miller attended the Wayne Township Trustee meeting last Tuesday. They attended to ask Wayne Township if they could collaborate with the Village on two OPWC Grants in 2023. The Township's contribution would be up to 25K for each grant toward the purchase of new fire hydrants. The grants are for 2023, which would give the Township time to budget and appropriate for the contribution. Mrs. Miller stated that the Township Trustees were very appreciative for Council representatives attending the Township meeting. She suggested that Council arrange a rotating schedule for Council members to attend the meetings.

Legislation

First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

None

Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

None

Tabled Ordinances and Resolutions

None

Executive Session

None

All were in favor to adjourn at 8:08 p.m.

Date: _____

Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council