

**Village of Waynesville
Council Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2025 at 7:00 pm**

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

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, June 2, 2025.

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

Roll Call – 6 present

Mr. Colvin moved to excuse Mr. Gallagher from tonight's meeting, and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Blankenship

Roll Call – 6 yeas

Mayor Acknowledgements

Mayor Isaacs noted that a lot of work is being done in the Village. He visited Hometown Market, where the new manager is working hard to ensure the store is well-stocked and tidy. It is looking good.

Disposition of Previous Minutes

Mr. Colvin motioned to approve the May 19, 2025 meeting minutes as written, and Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Lauffer

Roll Call – 6 yeas

Public Recognition/Visitor's Comments

Matt Latham, CEO of the Warren County Park District, introduced himself to the Council. He stated that the district manages 12 parks and 6 conservation areas. He noted that Waynesville has excellent access to several parks, including Bowman, Clint Fultz, Hisey, and Hatton-Lukens Parks. Mr. Latham explained that their mission is to enhance the community's well-being by preserving quality natural spaces where everyone is invited to discover and experience the great outdoors. The parks provide a connection to nature through activities like fishing, canoeing, playgrounds, golf, sports fields, and conservation. Mr. Latham clarified that the Park District is not a county department but an independent entity. It is governed by a three-member Board of Park Commissioners, including Chris Hice, who resides in Waynesville. He mentioned that the district has several major capital improvement projects planned for the future, including enhancements to Landen-Deerfield Park and Armco Park. The plan for Landen-Deerfield Park involves creating a nature habitat and conservation area. This will not only offer a space for nature education but also reduce long-term maintenance costs. Another significant capital improvement project aims to establish a paved trail connecting Union Village and Otterbein Senior Life. Mr. Latham expressed his desire to collaborate with the Village of Waynesville in the future to improve access to the Little Miami Bike Trail. He outlined that the Warren County Park District's funding primarily comes from Warren County's Local Government Funds and user fees. Mr. Latham noted that, to commence his term as CEO, the park district undertook a strategic planning process to define its identity and objectives. He thanked the Council for their time.

Mr. Colvin asked if the Warren County Park District collaborates with the Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Latham responded that they indeed confer with them on projects.

Mrs. Miller asked what Mr. Latham envisioned for connecting the bike trail to the Village. Mr. Latham stated it would most likely be a side path along Corwin Ave. He added that the biggest hurdle would be the bridges.

Mr. Lauffer inquired about any updates regarding the archery range. Mr. Latham mentioned that there has been no significant progress due to the numerous other projects underway.

Santhosh Kethiri, the new owner of Hometown Market at 60 S. Marvin Lane, introduced himself to the Council. He stated that he took over the business on May 1 and decided to change the name of the store back to Hometown Market, which he believes the community most associates with. He mentioned that his plans to improve the store are divided into stages. The first stage is to clean up the store, then bring key products back and ensure the shelves are stocked, followed by refreshing the store's appearance. Finally, he plans to take requests from the community to stock the store with desired products and will use a suggestion box. His main goal is to meet the needs of the community.

Mr. Lauffer asked what the main requests have been through the suggestion box. Mr. Kethiri responded that the suggestions have requested critical basic needs, such as better restocking of products.

Mr. Blankenship thanked the new owners for their ongoing support of the Local Food Pantry by maintaining the round-up program.

Mayor Isaacs stated he went to the store and saw all the nice changes and updates to the store. He thanked them for the improvements and is looking forward to more.

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Old Business

None

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Reports

Finance

The next Finance Committee meeting will be June 16th at 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Report

Public Works met this evening and will meet again on July 7th, 2025, at 6 p.m.

Special Committee Report

MOMS met this evening on Main Street at LCNB to identify trees that need replacing. This project is progressing, and the financing to purchase the trees is coming along. The Committee will meet again in September to finalize the tree planting.

Village Manager Report

- SmithCorp is moving along on Franklin; however, they have run into some setbacks, including weather. They will be replacing six insertion valves that were not originally planned to be replaced. The laterals and storm lines have been completed. The plan is for repaving to happen at the end of the month.
- The Village will be receiving \$532.00 for their quarterly payment from the opioid settlement lawsuits.
- The Maintenance Department went out and filled potholes. They will return to address the ones they missed.
- Chief Copeland stated he is working with FEMA to secure a safety grant for the bollards to block the streets during events. Currently,

funds are frozen because they are federal money. He plans on getting bids for installation.

- Chief Copeland said he has met with the new owners of HomeTown Market, and they are doing a great job of cleaning up, providing quality products, and meeting the community's needs. He added that the community just lost the pharmacy and does not want to see it lose its grocery store. He noticed that since the new owners took ownership on May 1st, the shelves have been restocked.
- Choice One finalized the specifications for the 4th Street project. Bid packets are being assembled and should be sent out by mid-June, with bids expected by mid to late July.
- Chief Copeland said he plans for the next OPWC project to be on Fifth and Sixth Streets. These streets are relatively small, and he believes they can be completed in a single project. He will reach out to the Township to discuss a multijurisdictional project. Chief Copeland stated that once this project is finished, all the lines in the older part of town should be replaced, alleviating any concerns about lead lines.
- Chief Copeland has a meeting tomorrow with Rockford Homes from Columbus to discuss a potential development on the old Michener property.
- Chief Copeland stated he has heard from many business owners that the slogan "Antiques Capital of the Midwest" is no longer appropriate for the Village. He suggested a rebranding and new logo for the Village. Mrs. Miller has volunteered to write an article for the Township Newsletter and proposed a competition to create a rebrand.
- The Veteran's Commission donated 15 new American flags for Main Street.

Police Report

- Mayor's Court and Calls for Service reports will be provided at the next meeting. Sgt. Denlinger's Code Enforcement report has been provided for review.
- SRO Mermann volunteered and prepared an appreciation lunch for the staff at Wayne Local Schools.
- Chief Copeland and Mayor Isaacs attended the DARE graduation held in the new Performing Arts Building. He was a guest speaker for the event. 110 Fifth graders graduated.
- Chief Copeland met with the new representative for BCI, Savannah Brock, to discuss how this organization can assist the Police Department.
- The Village's 4th of July festivities are scheduled for Friday, July 4th. The Legion sent a letter asking for donations for fireworks.

- Chief Copeland congratulated the 139 seniors graduating from Waynesville High School.

Mrs. Miller motioned to donate \$2,500 to the American Legion for the Fourth of July Fireworks, and Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller
Second – Lauffer

Roll Call – 6 yeas

Financial Director Report

- Ms. Morley stated that there is an ordinance tonight to have a first reading for the 2026 budget. She said that there will be a public hearing at the next meeting.
- Ms. Morley informed that the Village would receive an additional \$3,901.82. This refund represents the political district's share of excess funds withheld from previous settlements as the Auditor's Real Estate Assessment Fees.

Mr. Colvin inquired about the audit's progress. Ms. Morley replied that she had not had much interaction with the auditor since she was finishing up another audit.

Law Report

None

New Business

None

Legislation

First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution No. 2025-020

A Resolution Approving the 2026 Annual Tax Budget for the Village of Waynesville and Declaring an Emergency

Mr. Colvin moved to have the first reading for Ordinance No. 2025-020, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Miller

Roll Call – 6 yeas

Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

None

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Executive Session

None

All were in favor of adjourning at 7:48 p.m.

Date: _____

Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council