

**Village of Waynesville
Council Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2025 at 7:00 pm**

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

Absent: Mr. Brian Blankenship
Mr. Chris Colvin

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 16, 2025.*

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

Roll Call – 5 present

Mayor Isaacs moved to excuse Mr. Blankenship and Mr. Colvin from tonight's meeting, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Isaacs

Second – Colvin

Roll Call – 5 yeas

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Mayor Isaacs opened the public hearing for consideration of the 2026 tax budget at 7:02 pm.

There was no public comment.

Mr. Gallagher moved to close the public hearing at 7:03 pm, and Mr. Anthony seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher

Second – Anthony

Roll Call – 5 yeas

Mayor Acknowledgements

Mayor Isaacs said the Franklin Road project is still progressing. Unfortunately, there have been several delays due to weather. He stated that repaving of the road is scheduled for July 7.

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Disposition of Previous Minutes

Mrs. Miller motioned to approve the June 2, 2025, meeting minutes as corrected, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller
Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 5 yeas

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Public Recognition/Visitors Comments

Chief Copeland and Mayor Isaacs awarded Officer Kirsch and Corporal Jarod Morris the life-saving award for their exceptional service in helping save two lives.

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Old Business

None

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Reports

Finance

The Finance Committee met this evening and reviewed the Village's finances; everything looks good. The next meeting will be June 21st at 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Report

The next Public Works meeting is scheduled for July 7th, 2025, at 6 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

Special Committee Report

None

Village Manager Report

- Moody's will begin boring the water line from Well 10 to the water system on July 7th.
- The power plant has been completed for Well 10 and has been connected to the other lines. This has all been approved by the EPA.
- Chief Copeland expressed a desire to rebrand the Village since the downtown area now offers more than just antiques, and the number of antique stores is dwindling. He has discussed this idea with the Council and local merchants, all of whom are excited about it. He suggested holding a contest to involve the entire community.
- Chief Copeland, Mrs. Miller, and Mr. Blankenship attended an initial proposal meeting with Rockford Homes regarding the development of the old Michner property. They are suggesting about 100 homes and 20 acres of green space. Chief Copeland mentioned that this was only the first meeting, like a meet and greet.
- SmithCorp is still working on installing the six new insertion valves. They are scheduled to pave Franklin Road on July 7th.
- The MOMS Committee met downtown to review the removal and replacement of trees along Main Street. The Committee proposes retaining only three of the current trees. The Maintenance Department will remove the remaining trees. Chief Copeland asked the Committee to give them a week's notice before the replacement, so the holes are not exposed for too long. The Committee will be responsible for digging the holes and planting the new trees. He mentioned that the goal is to finish this project before the Sauerkraut Festival.
- The Fourth Street bid packets are being compiled and should be opened on July 24th. Just waiting for the State to release the OPWC funds.
- The LCNB retaining wall is under repair and is expected to be finished by July 4th.
- Congratulations to Mayor Isaacs, who will serve as the grand marshal for this year's Fourth of July Parade.
- Chief Copeland announced he will be out of town from June 23 to 30 and requested the Council to appoint Lt. Bledsoe as Acting Village Manager.

Police Report

- May's Calls for Service and Mayor's Court Month-End reports have been provided for review.
- A photograph of the new patch for the Police Department squad room has been provided.

- Cpl. Morris and Officer Kirsch were presented with the life-saving awards.
- Officer Mermann attended the funeral for Daniel Scherrer, a Morrow County Deputy Sheriff who was killed in the line of duty during an unfortunate shooting.
- The Fourth of July activities are planned for Friday, July 4th as determined by the Sons of the Legion. The parade will begin at noon.

Mr. Gallagher asked about the requirements for green space as outlined in our code. Ms. Morley explained that Code requires R1 to have 2.5% of the development as green space, R2 and R3 require 5%, and R4 and R5 allocate 7.5% for green space. Mr. Forbes also suggested that the council consider a PRD (Planned Residential Development), which requires 20% green space, but only if the developer requests a rezoning. Currently, any property annexed into the Village is classified as R1 unless a rezoning request is made. Chief Copeland reminded everyone that these are preliminary discussions only, and no plans have been submitted for review.

Mrs. Miller motioned to appoint Lt. Bledsoe as Acting Manager from June 23-30, and Mr. Anthony seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller
Second – Anthony

Roll Call – 5 yeas

Financial Director Report

- Ms. Morley stated that May has been reconciled, and reports have been provided for review.
- The 2023-2024 audit is still underway.
- Ms. Morley provided Warren County Auditor Matt Nolan's response to the proposed HB 335. She asked if Mr. Forbes could explain the bill further.

Mr. Forbes explained that, as the law currently stands, all property taxes are subject to a 10-mill limit; this is considered inside millage. Sometimes, a municipality decides that this is not enough and proposes a levy. Levies are considered outside millage. Most of the inside millage is distributed to the schools. According to Mr. Nolan's report, the Village's estimated inside millage is approximately \$ 174,000 per year. HB 335 proposes to eliminate all inside millage.

Mrs. Miller asked if this was part of the movement to eliminate property taxes. Mr. Forbes stated that the proposed elimination of all property taxes is a ballot initiative that would eliminate both inside and outside millage.

Mrs. Miller asked how it is determined how the inside millage is divided. Mr. Forbes responded that it is a highly complex formula and is determined by the County Auditor.

Mr. Forbes stated that the ballot issue eliminates both inside and outside millage, including all levies. HB 335 proposes to eliminate only the inside millage. He noted that the bill's two sponsors suggest that communities will need to find alternative ways to support the services

provided, but have not offered any alternatives. He added that his office will continue to monitor the bill, as it had only been introduced a week and a half ago.

Law Report

None

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New Business

None

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Legislation

First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

None

Second 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

Mrs. Miller moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-020 as an emergency, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller
Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 5 yeas

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Executive Session

None

All were in favor of adjourning at 7:43 p.m.

Date: _____

Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council