

**Village of Waynesville
Council Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2023 at 7:00 pm**

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

Absent: Mr. Chris Colvin

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 Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

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

Ms. Dedden made a motion to excuse Mr. Colvin and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden
Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 6 yeas

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Public Hearing of Council

At 7:03 p.m. Mayor Isaacs opened the public hearing for the 2024 Village of Waynesville’s Tax Budget. With no input or questions, the public hearing was closed at 7:05 p.m.

Ms. Dedden made a motion to close the public hearing and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden
Second – Blankenship

Roll Call – 6 yeas

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Mayor Acknowledgements

It was a very nice weekend downtown with the Saturday Stroll. A nice crowd turned out and they looked to have a good time.

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Disposition of Previous Minutes

Mrs. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes as written for the Council meeting on June 5, 2023, and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller
Second – Blankenship

Roll Call – 6 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 will meet this Thursday, June 22, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. The Committee will be discussing the Police Replacement Levy under New Business. The public is invited.

Public Works Report

The Public Works meeting is canceled on July 3, 2023. The next meeting will be on August 7 and the public is encouraged to attend.

Special Committee Reports

None

Village Manager Report

- There were two large water breaks in the past couple of weeks. One was at 5565 Lytle Road and the other was in the 900 block of Franklin. This was a good learning experience for the Water Department to understand what valves need to be shut down during breaks. Once the rain stops, they will restore the areas.
- Council will be voting tonight to approve the 2024 tax budget.
- There is also an ordinance to enter into a cooperative agreement with Wayne Township for an OPWC grant application for the repaving of Corwin Road. Part of this road is within Village limits.
- The Little Miami Leadership Float sponsored by Warren County Soil and Water is on July 26th, Council will need to RSVP by July 14th to participate.
- Michael Spicer of Moody's should begin digging Well 10 on July 5. The preliminary drawings for the easement with Harvest Baptist Church for the water line from the new well to connect to the lines from Wells 6 & 7 have been completed.
- Fed Excavating has completed the road from Bowman Park to Well 10 and they did a great job.
- Details for the OPWC projects have been provided in the Village Manager's report for Third, Franklin Phase I and II. Planning to apply for Fourth Street to be the next OPWC project for 2025.
- Strawser will begin the micro-surfacing project on June 28. They will put up no parking signs and hand out letters to residents two days before the project begins. A list of streets has been provided in the report.
- The Maintenance Department cleaned up brush and debris behind the Government Building.
- A Public Hearing of Council is scheduled for July 17 for Council to consider the rezoning of 407 High Street from R4 to SO.

Police Report

- Officers are prepared and scheduled for the parade, bike rodeo, and fireworks.
- The Warren County Victim Advocates has recently created and implemented a new portal system to report crimes against victims. This is in collaboration with the Ohio Attorney General's Office. This will allow officers to enter reports to help victims maintain privacy, provide safety, and offer assistance with any legal proceedings. Waynesville Police Department was the first agency in Warren County to use the new system. Officer Jim Walker did a great job inputting the

report into the new portal and has received accolades for his exemplary execution of the new system.

- Everything has been ordered to get the new cruiser into service.
- The firing range has been scheduled for August 20 for the officers to qualify for the required state-certified qualification.

Chief Copeland explained that back in 2021, the Village of Waynesville was not approved to receive funding for the Third Street project from the OPWC Board for PY35. The Village did not receive enough points. Chief Copeland stated he then applied for several other grants to fund the project of repaving and new water lines on Third Street. He related that he had just received word that the Village was awarded an Ohio Department of Development grant in the amount of \$499,750. The State DOD grant will be combined with the Ohio Public Works PY36 grant to replace the waterlines and repave Third Street. The two grants combined total \$999,243.00 and the entire project will be funded with little to no cost to the residents of Waynesville.

Chief Copeland also stated that he just received word from Warren County that they will be donating a cage to Waynesville Police Department for the new cruiser. Additionally, the radio that came with the vehicle can be reprogrammed and reused. Further saving the taxpayers money.

Financial Director Report

None

Law Report

- Council met in July and finalized two charter amendment issues to be placed on the ballot. Ordinances for these will have the first reading on July 17 and possible adoption on August 7. This will leave plenty of time to get these to the Board of Elections in time to be placed on the November 2023 ballot.

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New Business

Ms. Dedden stated that the Finance Committee has discussed the best way for Council to promote the replacement police levy that will be on the ballot in November. She read from the May 18, 2023, Finance Committee minutes “The Police Levy Fund is lessening after adding an extra officer and raises. In 2021 the fund started with a balance of 463K and 2024 is projected to start off with a 256K balance. There was a buildup from previous years and that is slowly being depleted. Currently, two officers and part of Chief’s salary are being taken out of the General Fund. The Levy needs to pass to be able to maintain the Police Levy Fund.” Ms. Dedden said this sums up why it is so important to the Village finances to have a replacement levy pass.

Ms. Dedden asked Mr. Forbes what Council can and cannot do to promote a levy. Mr. Forbes stated that Council is not allowed to spend public funds or take any position on ballot issues. The Village can provide factual and educational information on ballot issues but cannot advocate one way or the other. All funding will have to come from an independent Political Action Committee, of which Ron James is currently the Finance Director. Chief Copeland suggested putting an article together for the Township Newsletter providing information about the levy and the importance of the Police Department. He asked if there were any Council members that would be willing to write the article for the fall newsletter. Ms. Dedden and Mrs. Miller volunteered to write the article.

It was stated that it would cost the residents \$245 per \$100,000 of the estimated home value for the replacement levy. Ms. Dedden suggested Council have a special meeting and invite the community to inform them of upcoming ballot issues which include the Police Levy Replacement and the proposed charter amendments. Council decided to cancel the Public Works meeting on October 2, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. and schedule the Special Council Meeting for October 2, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Dedden asked that the information for the ballot issue informational meeting be placed on the September and October water bills.

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Legislation

First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution No. 2023-028

A Resolution Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Multijurisdictional Agreement with Wayne Township Related to the Corwin Avenue Repaving Project and Declaring an Emergency

Mrs. Miller made a motion to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance 2023-028 and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller
Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 6 yeas

Mr. Gallagher made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-028 as an emergency and Ms. Dedden seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher
Second – Dedden

Roll Call – 6 yeas

Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution No. 2023-024

A Resolution Approving the 2024 Annual Tax Budget for the Village of Waynesville and Declaring an Emergency

Mr. Gallagher made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-024 as an emergency and Ms. Dedden seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher
Second – Dedden

Roll Call – 6 yeas

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Tabled Ordinances and Resolutions

None

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Executive Session

None

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All were in favor of adjourning at 7:45 pm.

Date: _____

Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council