

# Village of Waynesville Council Meeting Minutes July 7, 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: 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, July 7, 2025.*

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

Roll Call – 7 present

## **Mayor Acknowledgements**

Mayor Isaacs thanked everyone in Waynesville and the surrounding area for participating in the 4th of July parade and other events. He said he was honored to be the mayor of Waynesville and serve as the Grand Marshal for this year's parade. He expressed his love for the village and felt privileged to serve with the best Council ever. Because of their efforts, water, gas, and storm sewer lines are being repaired and replaced. Mayor Isaacs also highlighted that Waynesville is a safe community thanks to the Village Manager/Chief of Police, the Police Department, and dedicated Village staff. He shared the plaque he received for serving as the Grand Marshal.

## **Disposition of Previous Minutes**

Mr. Blankenship motioned to approve the June 16, 2025 meeting minutes as corrected, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Blankenship  
Second – Miller

Roll Call – 7 yeas

## **Public Recognition/Visitors Comments**

Kim Gaffey of 62 N Main and the Waynesville Merchants Association (WMA) asked the Council about their plans for downtown. He stated that many merchants are struggling and expressed concern about seeing empty buildings. Several customers have mentioned that the downtown needs repairs, such as fixing the brick pavers on the sidewalks. He wanted to confirm that the Council has plans to improve downtown. Chief Copeland said the Village needs to be careful with taxpayer dollars since, technically, sidewalk maintenance is the property owners' responsibility. He is researching grants and mentioned that he has received bids to replace the pavers. Ms. Morley said that Council has established a separate capital improvement fund to revitalize downtown, awaiting approval from the State Auditor before transferring funds. She added that the Council has saved \$60,000 over four years for replacing streetlights on Main Street and \$80,000 over two years for sidewalk replacements and electrical work downtown. Mr. Lauffer expressed his desire for downtown to look nice and new, but emphasized that responsible planning and saving are essential for these big projects. Chief Copeland pointed out that since the Village is primarily a bedroom community with little industry, finances must be managed. He explained that the current projects are infrastructure improvements funded by grants and the Village's enterprise funds. Mrs. Miller shared that she owns an Airbnb, and many guests comment on how quaint and charming downtown Waynesville looks. Chief Copeland added that the Village plans to rebrand itself and will hold a contest to create a new slogan, as "Antique Capital of the Midwest" no longer reflects the downtown area. Gaffey asked about progress on landlords improving curb appeal. Chief Copeland said he is working with the Fire Chief and Code Enforcer on this. Gaffey also mentioned that the WMA is working on a new brochure to highlight merchants and suggested creating a path linking to the bike trail. The Council inquired if merchants have considered putting up signage at the trail, and Gaffey said they are considering bike racks and need to improve advertising at that location. Additionally, he asked about the status of Gazebo Park. Chief Copeland explained that Wayne Township owns it. He has offered to take over the park since the Fire Department moved, but he has not received a reply. Gaffey stated that many merchants have contributed to maintaining the park. Mr. Colvin expressed appreciation for the merchants' initiative, emphasizing that these efforts should be a collaborative effort between merchants, the Village, and the Chamber. He remarked on the strong interest and energy to move projects forward, but Council must follow the process. Gaffey concluded that the merchants are present tonight to demonstrate their support and to raise awareness of the challenges faced by local shops. He also mentioned frustration with the property owner's handling of the Hammel House. Chief Copeland noted that the property owner was cited again and will be in court. Mr. Colvin highlighted that Council has limited ways to engage with the public, but appreciates the collaboration. Jona Powell of 260 High Street presented drafts of the new brochures and agreed with Chief Copeland that the old slogan "Antiques Capital of the Midwest" is hurting merchants, as it appeals to a very niche group. Ms. Morley offered to update the Village's website with the new brochure so visitors can be directed to the right sources. The Council agreed that this was acceptable.

Michael Sale stated he has a contract on a condo on Bayberry with a closing scheduled for the end of the month. He expressed concern because his backyard abuts the old Michner property driveway and worried that if a new development were built on that plot, his backyard would become a major road. He asked what is happening with the property and for insights on the

[illegible]

## None

[illegible]

## Finance

## Public Works Report

## Special Committee Report

## Village Manager Report

- Moody's has completed Well 8 rehab with a new pump, screen, and cleaned with a nitro blast. This should increase the flow. The new gallons per minute should be available at the next meeting.
- SmithCorp has run into several issues, including rain delays that have postponed repaving.
- The Village has received notice that the funding for the OPWC Fourth Street project has been released. Bids will be accepted for this project until July 24<sup>th</sup>.
- The retaining wall at LCNB is almost complete and has been monitored.
- The Sauerkraut Festival permit has been approved along with the police contract.

- Chief Copeland congratulated Mayor Isaacs for being selected to be the Grand Marshal for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade this year.
- The Warren County Veterans' appreciation luncheon will be at Hidden Valley Orchards on August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12 to 3.

## **Police Report**

- June's Calls for Service and Mayor's Court Month End reports have been provided for review. The Code enforcement report has also been submitted for review.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade was a great success. Chief Copeland thanked Katie Mackoway and Missy Conners for all their hard work coordinating everything. The festival was well attended and very successful.

## **Financial Director Report**

- Ms. Morley said she has submitted the paperwork requested from the State Auditor regarding conflict of interest at the dais and asked each Council member to complete it before leaving this evening. She also mentioned that the audit is wrapping up and everything seems to be going well.

Mr. Anthony moved to cancel the second Council meeting in July, scheduled for July 21, 2025.  
Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Anthony

Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 6 yeas (Blankenship, Colvin, Gallagher, Isaacs, Lauffer, Anthony)  
1 nay (Miller)

## **Law Report**

None

.....

## **New Business**

None

.....

## **Legislation**

**First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions**

None

**Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions**

None

.....

**Executive Session**

None

Mr. Blankenship moved to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. and all were in favor.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council