

**Village of Waynesville
Council Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2023 at 7:00 pm**

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

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, December 4, 2023.

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

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Mayor Acknowledgments

It looked like everyone enjoyed themselves at Christmas in the Village this weekend.

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Disposition of Previous Minutes

Ms. Dedden motioned to approve the Council minutes as corrected for the November 20, 2023 Council meeting, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden
Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 7 yeas

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Public Recognition/Visitor’s Comments

Mr. Colvin stated that WMA was on the agenda to speak to the Council about creating a new committee to help decorate Main Street. However, no one was present at this time. Mr. Colvin

stated that MOMS (Maintaining Old Main Street) was created for the purpose of collaborating between the Village, the Chamber, and the merchants. He believes this committee would serve the purpose WMA was proposing. He will see about coordinating to have a meeting first of the year.

Chief Copeland introduced Chase Kirby as the proposed replacement for the current prosecutor of Mayor’s Court. Mr. Webb is resigning at the end of the year and has suggested Mr. Kirby as his replacement. Mr. Kirby approached Council to introduce himself. He said he graduated from Springboro High School and obtained his undergraduate degree from Ohio State and a law degree from the University of Dayton. Mr. Kirby further explained that he currently works with Mr. Webb and Magistrate Kauffman and was looking forward to working with the Village of Waynesville as the prosecutor for the Mayor’s Court.

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Old Business

Mr. Gallagher presented the Nominating Committee’s suggestions for Council members to serve on certain Committees.

Mr. Colvin motioned to accept the Nominating Committee’s recommendations of Council members to committees, and Ms. Dedden seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Dedden

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Ms. Morley stated she is still waiting to receive a quote from Nixel, a texting service similar to Textmygov. This service will likely cost approximately 3K a year with a three-year contract. She also said that she spoke with Textmygov about a one-year contract, and they said that they could do that, but the Village would not receive the discount and would pay \$3,800 for a year versus 3,000 a year with a two-year contract. Ms. Morley asked the Council for guidance as previously they had indicated that this was more than they would like to spend and did not want to commit to an extended contract. Ms. Dedden stated that she does not like the price and feels that the Village is transparent enough by posting on Facebook, the Village website, and the sign in front of the government building. She also does not feel residents would utilize the texting service enough to justify the cost. Mr. Lauffer stated he liked the idea and thought it would be a great way to reach more residents. Mr. Colvin added he would like Ms. Morley to continue collecting quotes, and then the Council can decide once all the information is presented. Ms. Morley stated she would continue to collect quotes and leave this item under old business for the next meeting.

Public Recognition/Visitor’s Comments (Continued)

Charolette Bryan, 3118 Lytle, introduced herself to Council as a member of WMA. She would like to see about putting together a committee to decorate Main Street. Mr. Colvin stated that the

MOMS (Maintaining Old Main Street) Committee's primary purpose is for the Chamber, WMA, and the Village to work together and feels this is the best way to move forward with Ms. Bryan's request. He elaborated that since Rick Whittaker retired, the MOMS Committee has not had any meetings. Mr. Colvin said the light posts are the property of the Village, and decorating these would require a signed waiver. He recommended that MOMS meet after the first of the year, and he will ensure WMA is invited. Ms. Bryan thanked the Colvin family for decorating Main Street for Christmas and looks forward to collaborating with the Village.

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Reports

Finance

Finance will meet on December 21, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Public Works Report

The Public Works Committee met this evening and discussed grants. The next Public Works meeting is on Tuesday, January 2, at 6:00 p.m. Anyone with any questions or interest in the infrastructure is invited to attend.

Special Committee Reports

The Parks and Rec Committee is scheduled to meet on December 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. However, Chief Copeland reported that a collaboration with the YMCA is not financially responsible as they require the Village to provide the building and land to the YMCA, which will take possession of it and run the business. The Village does not have the funds or property to do this. Chief Copeland also reported that there has been no further information on the park that the library is trying to establish. Mr. Colvin said he would inform committee members and cancel the meeting because there was no movement on the issues.

Village Manager Report

- The Village is participating in the Marine Corp. Toys for Tots program. If anyone wants to drop off new toys for less fortunate children, there are boxes in the foyer.
- The Village qualified for the 2024 OPWC Grant to fund 79% of the Franklin Phase II project. This is a 1.2-million-dollar project, and the Village will only be responsible for financing 21%. This project will replace water and storm lines and repave Franklin from Old Stage Road to Lytle.
- Applied for a water/wastewater grant under HB 168 to fund the replacement of waterlines along Fourth Street between High

and Franklin. This is the same grant the Village received, \$500K, to help fund the Third Street project.

- KT Holden is moving to the next section to replace the water and storm lines. They will be between Third Street and Old Stage. Once they finish each section, they fill the holes with cement and will return in the spring to repave Franklin from Route 42 to Old Stage.
- Met with Michael Spicer from Moody's to review the Well 10 project. After the 24-hour production test, the well is projected to produce 250 GPM. On December 10th, Moody's plans to do a prima cord explosion to open the well more and hopefully bring production up to 460 GPM. The prima cord explosion is a percussion-type explosion. Once it is done, they will vacuum up the debris and replace the screens. This was part of the quote and will not cost the Village more. The samples from the well came back great. Moody's hopes to have the well in production by the end of January.
- The Third Street project should begin after the New Year. The Village pledged to cover 41% of the project. However, the additional \$500K from the HB 168 Water/Wastewater Grant should cover the Village's portion. Unfortunately, the project will cause some traffic and parking issues, but it is much needed.
- A copy of the Warren County lining of sanitary lines throughout the Village has been provided.
- Backflow testing has been completed, and a report has been provided to the OEPA.
- Leaf pick up is to end Friday, so the Street Department can start to get ready for snow season.

Police Report

- November Calls for Service and Mayor's Court Month End Report have been provided. The Code Enforcement Report has also been provided for review.
- Ordinance on tonight's agenda to hire Chase Kirby as the replacement prosecutor for Mark Webb. His resume has been provided. Mr. Kirby has filled in for Mr. Webb several times, and both the magistrate and Mr. Webb recommend him for the position.
- Provided a copy of the Miami Valley Regional Crime Lab renewal. They process evidence for the Police Department.
- Wayne Local Schools had their annual evacuation drill. It went well and helped point to areas that need improvement.

Mr. Gallagher wanted to clarify that between PY 38 and HB 68 grants, the Village will have received 1.9 million in grants. Chief Copeland agreed with Mr. Gallagher's assessment and

stated his goal is to replace all the water lines in the older section of town, doing Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Streets next. He believes in being proactive. Mr. Lauffer asked why it is so important to change these lines. Chief Copeland responded that the older the line, the greater the possibility of lead service lines. Furthermore, sediment has built up within these lines over the years. The OEPA is putting more pressure on municipalities to document and change these lines. The Village will change out the service line to the meter pit. The Village is responsible for informing the homeowner if lead lines are beyond the meter. Still, the homeowner is responsible for replacing the line from the meter to the house.

Mr. Lauffer asked how many wells were needed to support the Village's water system. Chief Copeland explained that you never know when a well will stop producing. Currently, the Village is operating on Wells 6,7 and 8. All are pulling from a decent vein that provides good, clean water. But Well 6 was cavitating two summers ago. Well 10 should pull from a different vein closer to the Miami Valley River. This should put the Village in a good position if one of the older wells stops producing.

Mayor Isaacs stated he has been on the Council for 20-plus years and believes this is the best Council he has worked with. He feels the Council members genuinely care about the community and do what is best for the Village. He also added that he believes the current Village Manager is the best. He has replaced waterlines and accomplished projects that have been ignored for too long. Mayor Isaacs stated he is very thankful for the current Council and staff.

Mr. Colvin asked Chief Copeland when the School Resource Officer contract would need to be renewed. Chief Copeland responded that this must be addressed by the end of the school year as the contract expires. It was asked if Officer Mermann directed the school evacuation drill. Chief Copeland responded that he did not. He was there to support the effort and give input on improvement. Mr. Colvin further asked if there had been any issues concerning the ordinance changing the code concerning school grounds. Chief Copeland responded that there had been no issues.

Financial Director Report

- The audit for 2021 and 2022 is still ongoing.
- Plan to codify the ordinances at the beginning of next year, as there have been changes to the charter and codes.
- Ordinances 2023-055 and 2023-056 will need to be passed as an emergency to transfer funds to the Police Levy Fund. Of the \$200,000 being moved from the General Fund to the Police Levy Fund, \$100,000 is from the contingency line item.

Law Report

- Issue 2 passed at the November election, and adult recreational use of marijuana will become legal on December 7, 2023. It has been hard to make recommendations to municipalities as the State Legislature has proposed amendments to the law passed at the ballot. It is unknown whether those amendments

will be passed before the law goes into effect on December 7. Some of the proposed changes have to do with reducing the allowable amount of marijuana to 1 oz. versus the original amount of 2.5 oz. They are also considering reducing the number of plants allowed to be grown at home to 6 instead of 6 plants per adult, with a maximum of 12 plants. Because the bill is fluid and not sure how the final law will stand concerning adult-use cannabis, Council may want to consider passing a moratorium like the one passed when medical marijuana became legal. The moratorium would only control the dispensing and selling of recreational marijuana, not against personal use. The intent of issue 2 was for marijuana to be treated as alcohol. Once the law is finalized, Council can consider amending zoning laws as they did with medical marijuana. An ordinance could be presented at the next Council meeting for a moratorium.

Mayor Isaacs requested a quick recess at 8:13 p.m., and the Council resumed the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

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New Business

None

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Legislation

First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 2023-055

An Ordinance Authorizing the Transfer of Money from the General Fund (1000) to the Police Levy Fund (2901), Authorizing the Use of Contingency Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

Mrs. Miller motioned to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance 2023-055 and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller
Second – Blakenship

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Ms. Dedden stated that since the Police Levy replacement did not pass, the police officers’ salaries will need to be paid out of the General Fund and the Police Levy Fund. The ordinance will move 200K, including 100K, out of contingencies to the Police Levy to cover payroll. The

Police Levy Fund is drained and cannot support the police payroll alone without supplementation.

Mr. Lauffer motioned to adopt Ordinance 2023-055 as an emergency and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Lauffer
Second – Colvin

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Resolution No. 2023- 056

A Resolution Amending the Appropriations for the Village of Waynesville for Calendar Year 2023 and Declaring an Emergency (Amendment #2)

Mr. Gallagher motioned to waive the two-reading rule for Resolution 2023-056 and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher
Second – Colvin

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mr. Gallagher motioned to adopt Resolution 2023-056 as an emergency and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher
Second – Colvin

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Ordinance No. 2023-057

Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Amendment to the Employment Agreement with Gary L. Copeland and Declaring an Emergency

Mr. Colvin made a motion to amend Ordinance 2023-057 to fill in the blank in Section 2 to read \$152,250.00, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mr. Colvin motioned to have the first reading for Ordinance 2023-057, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Ordinance No. 2023-058

An Ordinance Establishing Certain Positions and Amending the Base Pay Rates and Ranges of Village of Waynesville Employees and Declaring an Emergency

Ms. Dedden motioned for the first reading for Ordinance 2023-058, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden
Second – Miller

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Ordinance No. 2023-059

An Ordinance Authorizing Village Manager to Enter into a Contract with Chase Kirby for Prosecuting Services for the Village of Waynesville and Declaring an Emergency

Ms. Dedden motioned for the first reading for Ordinance 2023-059, and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden
Second – Blankenship

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

None

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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 8:36 pm.

Date: _____

Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council