

**Village of Waynesville  
Council Meeting Minutes  
January 5, 2026 at 7:00 pm**

Present: Mr. Chris Colvin  
Mr. Zack Gallagher  
Mayor Earl Isaacs  
Mr. Troy Lauffer  
Mrs. Connie Miller  
Mr. David Nation  
Mr. Adam Powell

Village Staff Present: Jeffery Forbes, Law Director; Chief Gary Copeland, Village Manager and Safety Director; Jamie Morley, Finance Director and Clerk of Council

*CLERK’S NOTE- This is a summary of the Village Council Meeting held on Monday, January 5, 2026.*

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

Mr. Forbes swore in the new Council Members, Mr. Colvin, Mr. Lauffer, Mr. Nation, and Mr. Powell

Roll Call – 7 present

**Mayor Acknowledgements**

Mayor Isaacs wished everyone a Happy New Year. He said he was looking forward to another great year serving the Village residents.

**Disposition of Previous Minutes**

Mrs. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes for the Council meeting on December 15, 2025, as written, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller  
Second – Gallagher

**Roll Call – 7 years**

Mrs. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes for the Special Council meeting on December 18, 2025, as written, and Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller  
Second – Lauffer

**Roll Call – 7 years**

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**Public Recognition/Visitors Comments**

None

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**Old Business**

None

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**Reports**

**Finance**

The Finance Committee will meet on January 20th at 6:00 p.m. in the small conference room at the Government Center. The public is welcome to attend.

**Public Works Report**

The Public Works Committee will meet on February 2nd at 6:00 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend to learn more about ongoing and future infrastructure projects.

**Special Committee Reports**

The MOMS Committee will meet on January 20th at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the Main Street project and coordinate with the Chamber and Merchants' Association.

**Village Manager Report**

- The pump for Well 10 has been installed, and the samples came back with a very good rate of over 300 gallons per minute. The next step to getting the Well operational is to run the line under the Mill Race to blend with the other wells.
- The temporary parking signs outside the Post Office have been installed. Chief Copeland has already received positive feedback from residents.
- The Water Department has replaced and cleaned all the lines and valves in the chlorine room.
- The Village received a refund of \$697.60 from the OPWC Corwin project in Wayne Township.
- Photographs have been provided to honor Mr. Blankenship's nine years of service.

- SmithCorp has started bringing equipment for the OPWC Fourth St project.
- The Village has been approved for the OPWC project for Fifth and Sixth Street.

## **Police Report**

- The Code Enforcement Report has been provided for review. December Calls for service and Mayor's Court Month-end will be provided at the next meeting.

Mr. Lauffer asked if Well 10 is the well off Bowman Park. Chief Copeland replied that it is. The well isn't on line yet, but will be once the line is bored under the Mill Race. He said this will put the Village in a good position for any type of growth.

Mrs. Miller asked whether there are plans to paint parking lines in front of the Post Office. Chief Copeland said that it is not a good time to paint due to the weather, but it will be done when it warms up.

Mrs. Miller noted that the Code Enforcement Report contains several violations that have not been updated since August and September, and inquired about their status. Chief Copeland responded that he would speak with Officer Denlinger and update the report to be more user-friendly, as well as to follow up on these violations. Mr. Colvin asked Chief Copeland to describe the code enforcement process. Chief Copeland explained that the Code Enforcer will contact residents through a letter and follow-up communication. Depending on the offense, a time limit will be set to allow residents to address the issue. For example, a resident with high grass will need to address it immediately, while an offense like needing to repair or replace a roof will require more time to get quotes and schedule repairs. Chief Copeland stated that if the resident does not take any action within this time frame, a citation will be issued. He added that the time limits are discretionary, and residents must show some action to receive leniency. Mr. Colvin asked whether the letter provided for this report is new and if there are any privacy concerns. Chief Copeland said that the letters included in the report are examples of what residents receive. He also noted that since it is all public record, there are no privacy concerns. Mr. Lauffer asked whether the Village should hire a full-time code enforcer. Chief Copeland said that there isn't enough work for a full-time position, which could be about 6-8 hours a week. Mr. Forbes mentioned that several steps on the business side need to be addressed before hiring someone, such as adding the position to the rates and ranges, and establishing the position.

## **Financial Director Report**

- The Rules of Council have been distributed for review.
- Ms. Morley stated that there is usually a seminar for newly elected officials. Once she gets notice of this, she will relay the information to Council.

## **Law Report**

- Mr. Forbes stated that the State Legislature has adopted four new property tax bills and is currently in the 90-day waiting period. His office is reviewing the new bills and will pass on information about their impact to the Village.
- Mr. Forbes explained that the Rules of Council will need to be reviewed, and if anyone has any updates or changes, those will need to be adopted by ordinance by Council. If Council does not see any need for changes, then no action is needed.

Mr. Colvin asked Mr. Forbes to address social media use by public officials for the newer Council members. Mr. Forbes stated that he recommends the Council not engage in social media regarding Village business. If a Council member wishes to engage on social media, he suggests creating a separate account solely for public office use. This is because once a Council member comments in their capacity as a public official, it becomes a public record. Mr. Forbes also reminded Council members that they are one of seven and cannot make comments on behalf of the entire body. He advised that if a Council member has a question, they should contact him directly, which could save the Village time and resources in the long run. Mr. Forbes emphasized that emails are subject to public record laws and are public records. He asked that when receiving emails from staff, Council members reply directly to the sender rather than using 'reply all,' as doing so can be seen as conducting business and may violate open meeting laws. Under the Sunshine Law, all business must be conducted in a public setting. Mr. Lauffer added that three or four Council members cannot meet and discuss Village business; such discussions must occur in a public forum.

Mr. Nation inquired about the status of the legislation to eliminate property taxes altogether. Mr. Forbes responded that, as far as he knew, there were not enough signatures to place it on the spring ballot. He believes it will appear on the fall ballot, giving the public time to review the newly passed property tax reforms and determine whether they provide any property tax relief. Mr. Nation asked Mr. Forbes to keep the Council informed, as he would like to ensure the Village is prepared if property taxes are eliminated.

## **New Business**

Mayor Isaacs motioned to approve the committee assignments for Council members for 2026, and Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Isaacs  
Second – Lauffer

## **Roll Call – 7 yeas**

There was a discussion about the committee assignments. Mr. Nation wanted to ensure he could still participate and attend MOMS Committee meetings. It was explained that he could attend as a resident but not as a Council representative.

Mayor Isaacs motioned to nominate Mr. Colvin as President Pro Tempore for 2026, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Isaacs  
Second – Gallagher

**Roll Call – 7 yeas**

Mr. Forbes explained that the President Pro Tempore would chair the Council meeting when the Mayor is absent.

**Legislation**

**First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions**

None

**Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions**

**Ordinance No. 2025-042**

An Ordinance Establishing On-Street Short-Term Parking Restrictions at the Waynesville Post Office

Mr. Gallagher motioned to adopt Ordinance 2025-042, and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher  
Second – Colvin

**Roll Call – 7 yeas**

Mr. Powell asked whether this was to be enforced only during Post Office operating hours. Chief Copeland responded that it will be enforced at all times, as people are checking their PO Boxes even when the Post Office is closed.

**Tabled Ordinances and Resolutions**

None

**Executive Session**

Mayor Isaacs motioned to go into executive session at 7:53 p.m. to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Isaacs  
Second – Lauffer

**Roll Call – 7 yeas**

The executive session ended at 8:18 p.m. with seven Council members present.

Mr. Powell asked to be excused from the next Council meeting as he is unable to attend.

All were in favor of adjourning at 8:19 p.m.

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

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Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council