

**Village of Waynesville  
Council Meeting Minutes  
February 2, 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, February 2, 2026.*

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

Roll Call – 7 present

**Mayor Acknowledgements**

Mayor Isaacs stated that, unfortunately, Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow today, which means six more weeks of winter.

**Disposition of Previous Minutes**

Mr. Nation made a motion to approve the minutes as amended by adding the phrase “however, the chamber may have a conflict” under the Law Director’s Report for the Council meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Nation  
Second – Gallagher

**Roll Call – 7 years**

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**Public Recognition/Visitors Comments**

Matt and Wilda Rider, 8444 St Route 73, addressed Council as representatives of the American Legion Riders who help maintain Veterans’ Park. They provided a quote from Clean Cut Landscaping to repair the small retaining wall at the park for \$1,700. After discussing the park's

history and who is responsible for its upkeep, it was decided to send the quote to the Village Manager, who would arrange for the repair.

Mr. Gallagher motioned to approve Chief Copeland to spend up to \$2,000 to fix the retaining wall. wall at Veterans’ Park, and Mr. Nation seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher  
Second – Nation

**Roll Call – 7 yeas**

Chief Beckett, Wayne Township Fire Chief, thanked the Village Manager and the Village’s Street Department for helping the Fire Department clear their back parking lot with snow during the big storm.

Jeff Patton, 1064 Camp Creek, commended the Village for its proactive replacement of old waterlines. He stated that he saw in the news that American Water Works estimates 1.5 million miles of water main lines need to be replaced. He noted that the Village is ahead of many small towns. Mr. Colvin said this is largely due to the Village Manager's vision. Chief Copeland added that the Village was awarded another OPWC grant to replace the lines on Fifth and Sixth Streets, which should replace all the old lines within the Village.

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**Old Business**

Mrs. Miller asked the Council if anyone saw any updates or changes needed to the Rule of Council. She also inquired with Mr. Forbes about the rules, stating that the Council must meet by January 7th to organize and questioning what would happen if bad weather prevented them from meeting by then. Mr. Forbes responded that there is basically nothing to worry about. He mentioned that it's good to have such a rule, but if the meeting is canceled because of weather, there would be no harm. Mrs. Miller also requested that a typo be fixed on page 18.

Mr. Nation asked about the section requiring that all new business be placed on the agenda. He asked what to do if something comes up between the publication of the agenda and the meeting. Mr. Forbes stated that Council could suspend or waive the rules to add something to new business.

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**Reports**

**Finance**

The Finance Committee will meet on February 17<sup>th</sup> 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 met this evening and went over ongoing and future projects in the Village. The Committee will meet again on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend.

## **Special Committee Reports**

The MOMS Committee will meet on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

## **Village Manager Report**

- JL Cupp has been delayed in running the waterline to Well 10 due to weather.
- Chief Copeland gave kudos to the staff for doing a great job ensuring the Village streets were cleared during the snowstorm. He said that six staff members rotated shifts around the clock, with two guys on the roads at all times.
- Mary L. Cook has started construction for the new park on Old Stage Road.
- The Village's insurance will expire in March. Chief Copeland is gathering quotes from USI and Hylant and hopes to have these ready for review at the next meeting.
- SmithCorp is on hold for the Fourth Street project because of the weather.
- Brian Keith passed his Class III Water Operator exam. The Village now employs a Class III and Class II water operators.
- Due to heavy snow, there have been issues with snow buildup on Main Street. The Village would benefit from purchasing a skid loader to clear this snow, and the cost should be divided among the Streets, Storm Sewer, and Water departments, as all of these would benefit from this equipment.
- There is an ordinance to participate in the Warren County Salt Bid Program to give the Village the best price on road salt.
- There was a waterline break on Robindale, and the staff from water and streets worked together to repair it in-house.
- Fed Excavating allowed the Village to use the skid loader to clear Main Street of all the heavy snow. Chief Copeland stated that he received many complaints about driveways being plowed in. He explained that the Village cannot allocate resources to excavate driveways. The plow trucks do not scoop snow; they only push it.

## **Police Report**

- The Code Enforcement report has been provided for review. The report has been redone to improve readability and clarity. The Mayor's Court Month End and Calls for Service will be presented at the next meeting since the month ended on the weekend.
- The Village will participate in the annual DEA Drug Take Back Day on April 25th. Chief Copeland also reminded residents that there is a drug take-back box in the Government Center lobby.
- Chief Copeland commended SRO Mermann for addressing several kindergarten classes.
- Due to the Level II snow emergency, the Mayor's Court scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup> was cancelled, and all cases were moved to the next court date.

Mrs. Miller inquired whether it would be appropriate to reward Mr. Keith for obtaining his Class III Water Operator License. Chief Copeland responded that the Village reimbursed him for the testing fees and added that there is nothing in the Personnel Policy addressing this.

Mr. Rider of 8444 East St. Rt 73 asked if any of the addresses on the code enforcement report belonged to Veterans. He mentioned that the American Legion has funds to assist Veterans with home repairs, and several companies also provide this service. Mr. Gallagher suggested that the Legion issue a card with contact details to provide to individuals. Chief Copeland noted that Sgt. Denlinger is not always able to reach people and sends letters, but he can ask him if he interacts with the residents to inquire about their Veteran status. Mr. Rider said he would consider creating a card to distribute.

Mr. Nation stated he would like the Code Enforcement report to be more transparent and to explain why someone was not cited, given that they have been on the list for so long. Chief Copeland stated that he has emphasized to Sgt. Denlinger that he needs to be more proactive and progressive. Mr. Nation noted that, upon reviewing past reports, it seems the date under 'new contact' has been changed when a follow-up contact has been made. Chief Copeland said he would follow up on this. Mr. Colvin asked Chief Copeland to clarify the process that the Code Enforcer follows and whether it is subject to subjectivity. Chief Copeland stated that the code enforcer makes contact by knocking on the door or sending a letter and providing the resident with a date by which to rectify the code violation. If the violation is not completed by the agreed-upon date, a second contact is made with a new deadline. If the violation is not corrected by that date, a citation is issued. There is some subjectivity involved; for example, a roof needing replacement might be given more time to allow the resident to obtain quotes, whereas someone with tall grass and weeds would need to rectify the violation promptly.

Mr. Lauffer asked if outsourcing snow removal on Main Street would be an option. Chief Copeland stated that the cost would be very high and that this amount of snow is unusual.

Mr. Lauffer inquired about the Village's progress in hiring a Code Enforcer. Chief Copeland stated that he is currently preparing a job description. Mr. Nation added that he hopes code enforcement becomes more consistent, as he has received many complaints about code violations. Mr. Colvin suggested that Mr. Nation ask residents to attend a Council meeting. Mr. Gallagher agreed and noted that the Council is made up of seven members, which is why it is important for residents to address the entire Council.

## **Financial Director Report**

- Ms. Morley reminded the Council about the training scheduled for this Saturday and said she would send printouts if they are emailed before the class.

## **Law Report**

- Mr. Forbes stated that he has drafted a vacant building ordinance and will send it to Council for review. He suggested that it be reviewed by a committee.

## **New Business**

Mrs. Miller stated that there has been some consideration of approaching Corwin for a possible merger with the Village of Waynesville. She said that under HB 33, villages can be dissolved, and that Corwin will be on the 2030 ballot for dissolution. If the residents vote to dissolve the village, it will be absorbed into the township. She mentioned that Chief Copland and Ms. Morley have been tasked with gathering more data. Mr. Forbes said this is only the beginning of a long process and that there will be many questions about managing finances, debt, and elected officials.

## **Legislation**

### **First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions**

#### **Ordinance No. 2026-002**

Authorizing The Village Manager to Enter into a Contract with Warren County Engineer's Office for Purchase of Road Salt and Declaring an Emergency

Mr. Gallagher motioned to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance 2026-002, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher  
Second – Miller

**Roll Call – 7 yeas**

Mr. Gallagher motioned to adopt Ordinance 2026-002 as an emergency, and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher  
Second – Colvin

**Roll Call – 5 yeas**

**Ordinance No. 2026-003**

Authorizing the Purchase of a 2023 Kubota Skid Steer Sv197-2, Serial Number 77389, with 150 Hours, including a Blue Diamond HB84 Hopper Broom for \$75,000.00 from Fed Excavating and Declaring an Emergency

Mr. Gallagher motioned to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance 2026-003, and Mr. Powell seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher  
Second – Powell

**Roll Call – 7 yeas**

Mr. Gallagher motioned to adopt Ordinance 2026-003 as an emergency, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher  
Second – Miller

**Roll Call – 7 yeas**

**Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions**

None

**Tabled Ordinances and Resolutions**

None

**Executive Session**

None

All were in favor of adjourning at 8:12 p.m.

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

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Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council