

**Village of Waynesville
Council Meeting Minutes
March 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, Clerk of Council

CLERK’S NOTE- This is a summary of the Village Council Meeting held on Monday, March 2, 2026.

.....

Mayor Isaacs called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call – 7 present

Mayor Acknowledgements

Mayor Isaacs said he was glad to see the Fourth Street project moving forward and happy that Council continues to make more improvements to the Village’s infrastructure.

Disposition of Previous Minutes

Mr. Colvin made a motion to approve the minutes for the Council meeting on February 17, 2026, as written, and Mr. Nation seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Nation

Roll Call – 7 yeas

.....

Public Recognition/Visitors Comments

Chief Jason Beckett of the Wayne Township Fire Department presented the department’s 2025 annual report. He stated that the fire department responded to a total of 1336 calls, with 901 EMS runs and 435 fire runs. He was proud to announce that response times have continued to

improve as the department's staff has increased. Chief Beckett noted that the fire department appropriated \$1,479,000 but spent only \$ 1 million. The department received \$60,905 in grants to purchase new radios, hoses, and AEDs. Chief Beckett mentioned that the department's 2026 goals include continuing ALS growth, maintaining fiscal discipline, and preserving the four-person staff.

Mrs. Miller asked what ALS stood for. Chief Beckett responded that it stands for Advanced Life Support, another level of EMS care staffed by certified paramedics that helps transport cardiac patients.

Mr. Lauffer asked why the numbers for Squad 91 decreased. Chief Beckett explained that this was because volunteer numbers are declining. Currently, there are two people on staff around the clock. Mr. Lauffer asked if the fire department charges people for services. Chief Beckett said they do soft billing, and insurance usually pays for EMS runs. The department recovered about \$200K last year through soft billing, which was a 40% increase in revenue over the past four years. His plan is to recover 75% through soft billing and hopes to get more EMS staffing, which makes up 85% of the runs.

.....

Old Business

Mr. Forbes stated that the Council has been provided with the latest version of the vacant building ordinance. He explained that this is a proposed update to the Village's code and would work alongside the current property maintenance codes. This would require property owners to register vacant buildings with the Village. There would be a registration process and an annual fee. The fee is tiered and proposed to be \$100 for residences, \$300 for other types of buildings, and \$1,000 for buildings within the historic district. Mr. Forbes explained that the high fee for the historic district is due to the importance of preserving the buildings, and that historic buildings are more likely to fall into disrepair when vacant. This would provide an extra layer of protection to the historic district. The ordinance would also give the zoning inspector the authority to conduct inspections to ensure buildings are properly maintained. Mr. Forbes continued to explain that this is not intended to be a hardship, and the ordinance provides for hardship exemptions, which could include fee reductions or waivers. This process is outlined in the ordinance and is handled on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Forbes stated that the next step would be to adopt the code, which would create a new chapter in the Village's code.

Mrs. Miller inquired whether residences within the historic District would be subject to the \$1,000 registration fee. Mr. Forbes responded that if the property is located in the Historical overlay District, then it would be. However, he mentioned there is an opportunity to apply for a reduction or exemption. Mr. Gallagher added that the wording allows staff to exercise discretion while adhering to built-in standards.

Ms. Morley asked if snowbirds need to register. Mr. Forbes responded that only vacant buildings, not unoccupied ones, must register.

Mr. Lauffer asked if Council would have the ability to waive the fees. Mr. Forbes suggested that be left to the discretion of the administrator. He explained that Council is the legislative body that sets the rules, and then staff is responsible for implementing them. He added that there is an appeal process; if an individual disagrees with the staff's opinion, they can present their case to Council.

Mr. Lauffer asked if this would apply to the entire Village. Mr. Forbes confirmed that it does, with a particular focus on the historic district, as these buildings can quickly fall into disrepair if not properly maintained.

Mr. Forbes stated that this proposed ordinance is a living document and can be amended in the future to address any issues that may arise. Mr. Powell added that the ordinance was introduced because Council members believe it is needed. If it does not work or the Council determines there is no longer a need for it, then it can always be repealed.

Mr. Colvin motioned to have Mr. Forbes draft legislation based on the presented draft for vacant buildings, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 7 years

Currently, Mr. Nation inquired about the status of the contest for the Village logo redesign. Chief Copeland mentioned he has received several entries; however, the High School Art teacher has her students working on a project to submit additional ideas and would like to give them a chance to participate. It was then discussed who would be responsible for selecting the winning logo. Mr. Lauffer nominated Mrs. Miller, Mr. Nation, and Mr. Gallagher to form a committee to review the entries and present their recommendations to the Council.

Mr. Nation asked if there has been any follow-up on the possible merger with Corwin. Chief Copeland stated that he placed a call to the Mayor of Corwin, but has not heard back.

Mr. Nation mentioned that there was a discussion at the last Finance Committee meeting regarding HB 96 and cybersecurity. The Chief stated he will continue to look into this.

.....

Reports

Finance

The Finance Committee will meet on March 16th at 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Report

The Public Works Committee met this evening and will meet again on April 6, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend.

Special Committee Reports

The MOMS Committee met this evening and will meet again on April 16, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. They continue to discuss and work on the potential creation of a SID (Special Improvement District). The group was very grateful for the Village's agreement to cover the fees for this process.

Village Manager Report

- Chief Copeland said he received a thank you from the Stubbs Family for providing flowers for Bill Stubbs's funeral.
- Ryan Oder of ODOT provided updates on the traffic light at North and Route 42. The poles are scheduled for delivery by May, and crews are expected to start widening the turning lanes and curb work in April.
- JL Kuck completed installing the 8-inch line from Well 10 to connect with the current system. Samples were tested and came back good. The line was pressure tested and connected to the Village's SCADA system. PCI is scheduled to run the electrical to the new well. The plan is to have Well 10 operational by April.
- SmithCorp is on schedule for Fourth Street despite the weather and is expected to be completed in May.
- Chief Copeland applied for an EMA Grant to cover expenses during the snowstorm, including reimbursement for salt, fuel, and overtime. The total amount the Village requested was \$28,900.
- Joe Garret from Trebel met with the Public Works Committee to discuss the Village's aggregate.
- Chief Copeland attended a walkthrough with the owner and his contractor for repairs to the Hammel House. The plan is to rebuild the building as it was before the fire. Chief Copeland stated he will continue to monitor this.
- Well, 7 has been showing fatigue, and Moody was hired to replace the motor and clean the screen.
- Chief Copeland shared the article he wrote for Township Magazine about email and phone scams. Unfortunately, these scams have been very common throughout the Village and Township.

Police Report

- February's Calls for Service and Mayor Court month-end reports will be provided at the next Council meeting since the month ended on the weekend.
- The Code Enforcement report was provided for review.

- The job description for the new Code Enforcement Officer has been shared for review.
- Chief Copeland presented at the Little Kings Career Day.

Mrs. Miller inquired about the address at 272 North Street. She mentioned that this is not the correct address, so any mail sent there likely wouldn't reach the property owner. She added that the address is vacant and located on the same parcel as 298 North Street. Chief Copeland stated he will have Sgt. Denlinger investigate this.

Financial Director Report

- Ms. Morley explained there are two ordinances on tonight's agenda. One to approve the final appropriations for 2026. The other is to increase the funds' revenues for the OPWC grants. She explained these revenues were based on the budget submitted to the County in April 2025. The Village now has more accurate numbers that need to be updated.

Law Report

None

Mr. Nation asked Mr. Forbes whether the Village can do anything about properties on Main Street that are connected to other properties and do not carry property insurance. He mentioned that it poses a direct threat to those connecting properties if a fire were to occur. Mr. Forbes said he would look into this.

Mr. Nation inquired about fire code violations and whether these properties can be recited. Mr. Forbes explained that in the Village's code, it is considered a minor misdemeanor, and each day constitutes a new violation. However, courts are not fond of this approach because each new citation creates a separate case, overloading the court system. It is preferable that each citation be resolved before reciting.

New Business

Joe Garrett of Trebel Energy presented the Council with an amendment to the contract for the Village's Aggregate Program. He stated that this is the same one that the Council previously approved, but it raises the upper limit of what Trebel can consider for the rates. He added that this will give them more time to lock in a better rate.

Mr. Gallagher motioned to approve the amendment to the Energy Consulting and Management Agreement, allowing limited agency authority to allow Trebel Energy LLC to purchase electric and natural gas supply for the Village's aggregate programs. Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher
Second – Lauffer

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mr. Nation motioned not to request a hearing for the transfer of the liquor license for the Village Family Restaurant, and Mr. Powell seconded the motion.

Motion – Nation
Second – Powell

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Legislation

First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution No. 2026-007

A Resolution Amending the Appropriations for the Village of Waynesville for Calendar Year 2026 (Amendment No. 2) and Declaring an Emergency

Mrs. Miller motioned to waive the two-reading rule for Resolution 2026-007, and Mr. Powell seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller
Second – Powell

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mrs. Miller motioned to adopt Resolution 2026-0007 as an emergency, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller
Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Resolution No. 2026-008

A Resolution Adopting the Permanent Appropriations for the Village of Waynesville for Calendar Year 2026 and Declaring an Emergency.

Mr. Colvin motioned to waive the two-reading rule for Resolution 2026-008, and Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Lauffer

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mrs. Miller motioned to adopt Resolution 2026-008 as an emergency, and Mr. Nation seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller
Second – Nation

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance 2026 – 004

Authorizing Participation in the Greater Warren County Drug Task Force and Authorizing the Village Manager to Execute the Related Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Lauffer motioned to adopt Ordinance 2026-004 as an emergency, and Mr. Powell seconded the motion.

Motion – Lauffer
Second – Powell

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Tabled Ordinances and Resolutions

None

Executive Session

None

All were in favor of adjourning at 8:28 p.m.

Date: _____

Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council