

**Village of Waynesville
Council Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2026 at 7:00 pm**

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

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 16, 2026.

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

Roll Call – 6 present

Mr. Colvin made a motion to excuse Mr. Lauffer from tonight’s meeting, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 6 years

Mayor Acknowledgements

Mayor Isaacs said the Village continues to move forward with projects and is looking good.

Disposition of Previous Minutes

Mrs. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes for the Council meeting on March 2, 2026, as written, and Mr. Nation seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller
Second – Nation

Roll Call – 6 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 met this evening with Mr. Hough from Wade Insurance to review the renewal of employee health insurance. There will be legislation at the next meeting for this renewal. The next meeting is scheduled for April 20th at 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Report

The Public Works Committee will meet 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 discussed the phone meeting Mr. Nation and Ms. Powell had with Heritage Ohio about their Main Street Ohio Program. Mr. Nation explained that representatives from Heritage Ohio will hold an informational meeting on April 20th at 4:00 p.m. to review what to expect and how to organize for the DART (Downtown Assessment Resource Team). Mr. Nation stated that this program will focus on the importance of community collaboration in creating a thriving downtown. Mr. Colvin added that the Main Street Ohio program will coordinate and work alongside the Special Interest District.

The MOMS Committee will meet again on April 6th and April 20th at 5:00 p.m.

Village Manager Report

- Chief Copeland informed the Council that he received a call from Warren County Prosecutor Dave Fornshel, asking if the Village would like to donate to the Warren County Child Advocacy Center, which is not funded by Warren County and relies heavily on donations. He mentioned that the Village often utilizes the services provided by this program.

- Chief Copeland said that the expansion of the turn lanes at the new stoplight on Route 42 and Corwin Road should start soon. The goal is to complete this project by the end of the summer.
- The paperwork for Well 10 has been submitted to the Ohio EPA. PCI will install the electrical components for this project, and Dave Stout of InControl will connect the new Well to the Village's SCADA system. The well is expected to be operational by April.
- Kelly Maloney from the Mary L. Cook Library called about standing water on Old Stage Road in front of the library. Upon inspection, a low spot on the road is preventing proper drainage. Fed Excavating will lower this area to address the drainage issue. Additionally, during the inspection of the catch basin, it was found that the fiber optics contractor had transected the line, which will be repaired during the work.
- Chief Copeland provided a list of all the municipalities that were awarded OPWC grants, and the Village locked in for Fifth and Sixth Street. He stated that the next OPWC project he would like to apply for would be to replace the water lines on Old 73 and complete the water loop.
- The Street Department has been out filling and sealing potholes.
- Chief Copeland has been in touch with potential buyers for the Hammel House. He has also been contacted by Jerry Hoffman regarding his plans for the property between the Mill Race and Route 42.
- A new code enforcement vehicle has been purchased.
- The Village received a check from Sigma Technologies for a right-of-way permit to install fiber optic lines throughout the Village.

Police Report

- February Calls for Service and Mayor Court month-end reports have been submitted for review.
- Chief Copeland attended the Warren County Veterans Court graduation.

Mrs. Miller motioned to donate \$1,000 to the Warren County Children's Advocacy Group, and Mr. Powell seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller
Second – Powell

Roll Call – 6 yeas

Mrs. Miller asked whether the Village should check other catch basins to ensure that the company laying fiber-optics has not transected any of them. Mr. Gallagher added that companies are supposed to dig one foot below existing utilities to prevent this, but he agreed with Mrs. Miller that it would be helpful to inspect other catch basins. Chief Copeland stated he will have

the Street Department review this when they compile a list of catch basins to be repaired this year.

Mr. Nation asked Chief Copeland about the complaint he received regarding code violations on Fourth Street. The resident said they have not received any follow-up on the complaint. Chief Copeland stated that Sgt. Denlinger visited the address at 3:00 p.m., and the property had been cleaned up. Mr. Nation asked for someone to please respond and follow up with the complainant.

Financial Director Report

None

Law Report

None

Mr. Nation mentioned a discussion about implementing a code requiring rental properties to register with the Village. Mr. Forbes said he could develop a rental registration code. Mrs. Miller agreed that this would be a good way to help protect properties. Mr. Forbes explained that there is a basic rental registration that would simply require property owners to register their property if they intend to rent it. The next level involves a rental inspection ordinance that would mandate inspections to ensure properties meet rental standards. This has been scrutinized because such inspections could be viewed as a violation of the Fourth Amendment.

Mr. Nation inquired about the vacant building ordinance code and said that, after discussion with Heritage Ohio, they suggested the annual fee be doubled each year the property remains vacant, with a cap. He also asked about the requirement for insurance on vacant buildings, as they are more susceptible to damage and vandalism. Mr. Forbes explained that the insurance requirement is part of the current ordinances, as owners must provide proof of insurance when registering. He mentioned he can incorporate the proposed changes to double the fee for commercial properties, and the exhibit can be amended when the Council considers adopting the code. Mr. Gallagher asked whether the fees would still be subject to discretion. Mr. Forbes responded that the owner can still apply for relief. He added that this is a good starting point to have a regulation in place and that it can always be amended. Mr. Nation concluded by saying that this will give the new Code Enforcer the tools to monitor these vacant buildings.

New Business

Legislation

First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 2026-009

Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract with Fed Excavating, Inc. in an Amount Not to Exceed \$12,000 for the Repair of Existing Catch Basins Within the Village Stormwater System

Mr. Colvin motioned to have the first-reading of Ordinance 2026-009, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 6 yeas

Ordinance No. 2026-010

An Ordinance Enacting Chapter 155 of the Waynesville Codified Ordinances Regarding Vacant Building Registration

Mr. Nation motioned to have the first-reading of Ordinance 2026-010, and Mr. Powell seconded the motion.

Motion – Nation
Second – Powell

Roll Call – 6 yeas

Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

None

Tabled Ordinances and Resolutions

None

Executive Session

None

All were in favor of adjourning at 7:49 p.m.

Date: _____

Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council