

**Village of Waynesville  
Council Meeting Minutes  
November 3, 2025 at 7:00 pm**

Present: Mr. Lyle Anthony  
Mr. Brian Blankenship  
Mr. Chris Colvin  
Mr. Zack Gallagher  
Mr. Troy Lauffer  
Mrs. Connie Miller

Absent: Mayor Earl Isaacs

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, November 3, 2025.*

.....

President Pro Tempore Colvin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call – 6 present

Mr. Colvin made a motion to excuse Mayor Isaacs and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin  
Second – Blankenship

**Roll Call – 6 yeas**

**Mayor Acknowledgements**

Mr. Colvin reminded everyone that tomorrow was Election Day and asked everyone to go out and vote.

Mr. Colvin thanked his family, Steve Lee, Shane and Adrianna Rowlands, Robin and Casey Colvin, for donating their time to decorate Main Street with the lights and wreaths.

Mr. Colvin also mentioned that Mr. Blankenship is finishing his last term as a Council member. He thanked Mr. Blankenship for his service and said he would be missed.

**Disposition of Previous Minutes**

Mrs. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes for the Council meeting on October 6, 2025, as written, and Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller  
Second – Lauffer

**Roll Call – 6 yeas**

.....

**Public Recognition/Visitors Comments**

None

.....

**Old Business**

Mr. Colvin reminded Council members to submit the performance review forms for the Village Manager and Finance Director as soon as possible so he can compile them, and the results can be reviewed with Council at the next meeting.

.....

**Reports**

**Finance**

The Finance Committee will meet on November 17th at 6:00 p.m. in the small conference room at the Government Center. The public is welcome to attend.

**Public Works Report**

Public Works met tonight to review current and upcoming projects. The next meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., and the public is encouraged to attend.

**Special Committee Reports**

The MOMS Committee will hold a meeting to update the committee on the Main Street improvements. The meeting will either be on November 17<sup>th</sup> or December 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

**Village Manager Report**

- The stoplight at Route 42 and North Street remains at a standstill until AES works on the electrical lines. Chief

Copeland has contacted Andrew Jacobs, Regional Manager, to request a date for completion.

- Phase I of the Main Street revitalization has been completed, including the planting of new trees. The Street Department was able to remove all requested trees along with their roots, eliminating the need for stump grinding. Ohio Greenworks came the following week to plant the new trees.
- A huge thank you to Shelley Reese from the Utility Billing Department for putting together the packets and agenda for the Historical Preservation Board meeting.
- A schedule for leaf pickup has been provided and put on the website and Facebook.
- Chief Copeland will schedule a follow-up meeting with Choice One regarding the engineering for the Main Street revitalization project. Their initial proposal was too expensive. They divided the project into four phases, with the first phase estimated to cost \$1 million. This included replacing the sidewalks all the way to the buildings. Chief Copeland is suggesting that only the pavers be replaced, as many sidewalks go all the way up to the buildings and could pose issues when jackhammering so close to them. He is also suggesting sidewalk assessments to help cover the cost of paver replacement on adjacent properties.
- Mayor Isaacs represented the Village at the ribbon cutting for the new Warren County Courthouse. Chief Copeland stated that it looks very nice.
- Chief Copeland provided a copy of a thank-you letter from Sharon Jewell, thanking the Council for all the infrastructure improvements around the Village.
- A copy of the article from Wayne Township Magazine has been provided, requesting submissions for a new design and logo for the Village. Chief Copeland has reached out to the art teacher at Wayne Local High School, and she is working on involving the students.

## **Police Report**

- October Calls for Service and Mayor's Court Month-End Reports will be provided at the next meeting.
- The Village used the Mayor's Court Computer Fund to buy new televisions for the small conference room and Council Chambers. These will be used during Mayor's Court and can also be used for presentations to Council.
- The Calls for Service during the Sauerkraut Festival have been provided for review. It is estimated that 250K-300K people attended the Festival. Chief Copeland thanked the officers for working, many of whom worked 12-hour days.

- Beggar's Night was this past Friday and went smoothly without any incidents. The police on duty handed out candy, along with SRO Mermann, who was handing out candy from the Command Vehicle.
- The Waynesville Police Department and Wayne Local Schools participated in National Bus Safety Week with the Ohio State Highway Patrol from October 20th to 24th. It was a very successful event.
- The Waynesville Police Department took part in the touch-a-truck event on October 14th. The kids enjoyed themselves, and MBI Trees Services and the Wayne Township Fire Department also participated.
- Sgt. Denlinger's Code Enforcement report has been provided for review.
- The Village used Drug Forfeiture funds to equip all the police vehicles with ARs and shotguns.
- Chief Copeland invited all Veterans to attend the Veteran Appreciation Breakfast at the Warren County Career Center on November 7th. He will be the keynote speaker for the event.
- The Police Department received a thank you letter from Laura Brody about participating in the birthday parade for her son Elijah, who is fighting cancer.
- A thank you letter has been sent to the Warren County Kennel Club for the donation of the scanner for pet microchips.

Mr. Lauffer inquired about the quote received from Choice One for the Main Street revitalization project and whether engineering plans are even necessary. Chief Copeland stated he has a follow-up meeting with Choice One to "trim the fat." He also explained that engineering plans are required to apply for grants. Chief Copeland said he will discuss this further at the MOMS Committee meeting.

Mr. Blankenship asked if there were any updates on the shooting at the three-way stop sign on Ferry. Chief Copeland stated that a suspect is in custody and has been charged with attempted manslaughter. It was outside the Village's jurisdiction, so he does not have all the details.

Mr. Lauffer said there was some discussion about who was responsible for watering the newly planted trees along Main Street. Chief Copeland stated that the Village does not have the equipment or time to water the trees. At this time, Molly Wentworth approached the dias. She noted that the merchants have agreed to water the trees. She also said that Teresa has a bladder that she can use to go around and water the trees during dry periods. Ms. Wentworth mentioned that once the trees are established, watering will no longer be necessary.

Ms. Wentworth asked if the Village would be willing to commit to one-third of the cost of the greenery and flowers for decorating Main Street. She said the yearly cost is approximately \$1,200 per group—the Village of Waynesville, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Waynesville Merchants' Association. Mr. Colvin asked Mr. Forbes if this was a legal use of funds. Mr. Forbes responded that it was all good as it serves a public purpose.

Mr. Colvin made a motion to approve expenditures to beautify Main Street with flowers and greenery, and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin

Second – Blankenship

**Roll Call – 6 yeas**

### **Financial Director Report**

- Ms. Morley stated that a report has been provided explaining all the ordinances on the agenda, and she can answer any questions.

Mr. Lauffer said he received the email about the audit cost and asked if the Village could limit this expense. Mr. Forbes said no, it is up to the State. Mr. Lauffer also asked about the additional appropriation to cover the health insurance increase. He inquired if this was an extra increase. Ms. Morley explained that she usually pads the appropriations for employee health insurance since it renews midyear and the increase is unknown when appropriations are made at the beginning of the year. She stated she had not planned for a 60% increase, so she needed to increase appropriations. This is not an additional increase in employee health insurance, just an increase in appropriations.

Mr. Colvin asked when the Village will update Open Checkbook. Ms. Morley explained that this will be done when she closes out the year, usually sometime in February.

### **Law Report**

None

### **New Business**

None

### **Legislation**

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

##### **Ordinance 2025- 029**

An Ordinance Authorizing the Finance Director to Transfer Investment Funds (2 Year CDs) And Declaring an Emergency (CD Rollover)

Mr. Colvin stated that the previous Finance Director, Ms. Crockett, recommended investing the Village's extra funds into CDs to maximize the interest the Village can earn with its finances. Ms. Morley added that this approach will help diversify the Village's investments among the CDs, SWEEP account, and STAR Ohio.

Mr. Lauffer made a motion to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance 2025-029 and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Lauffer  
Second – Miller

**Roll Call – 6 yeas**

Mrs. Miller made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-029 as an emergency and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller  
Second – Gallagher

**Roll Call – 6 yeas**

**Ordinance No. 2025 – 030**

Authorizing the Write Off of Certain Funds in Order to Reconcile Fund Variances

Ms. Morley explained that she had asked the auditor how to correct inconsistencies in the bank reconciliation, which showed \$130.50 in the general account and \$42.07 in the Mayor’s Court Checking account. Both of these errors existed before either clerk assumed their current positions. Mr. Lauffer inquired about how to resolve this. Ms. Morley responded that a check would be issued to the Village, since in both cases, the bank reports that the Village’s balance exceeds what is recorded in the Village software.

Mr. Colvin made a motion to have the first reading for Ordinance 2025-030, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin  
Second – Gallagher

**Roll Call – 6 yeas**

**Resolution No. 2025- 031**

A Resolution Amending the Appropriations for the Village of Waynesville for Calendar Year 2025 and Declaring an Emergency

Ms. Morley explained that this was to increase the appropriations to cover the unforeseen huge increase in employee health insurance mid-year.

Mr. Gallagher made a motion to waive the two-reading rule for Resolution 2025-031 and Mr. Anthony seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher  
Second – Anthony

**Roll Call – 6 yeas**

Mr. Anthony made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-031 as an emergency and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Anthony  
Second – Gallagher

**Roll Call – 6 yeas**

**Ordinance No. 2025 - 032**

Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Fund Balances from Respective Funds to the General Fund by the Village Finance Director Pursuant to O.R.C. 5705.14

Ms. Morley explained that in 2012, the Village received a grant for a traffic study. This was a reimbursing grant, meaning the Village paid for the study and was reimbursed once it was completed. The money was receipted into the grant fund but was never “paid back” into the general fund. This ordinance is intended to restore the balance in the general fund and enable the Village to use these funds. Ms. Morley added that she worked with the auditor and Mr. Forbes to properly transfer these funds.

Mr. Gallagher made a motion to have the first reading of Ordinance 2025-032, and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher  
Second – Colvin

**Roll Call – 6 yeas**

**Ordinance No. 2025-033**

Authorizing The Village Manager to Execute a Change Order to the OPWC Franklin Phase 2 Project Contract, Amending Appropriations for Said Change Order, and Declaring an Emergency

Mr. Gallagher made a motion to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance 2025-033, and Mr. Anthony seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher  
Second – Anthony

**Roll Call – 6 yeas**

Mr. Gallagher made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-033 as an emergency, and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher  
Second – Blankenship

**Roll Call – 6 yeas**

**Ordinance No. 2025-034**

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

Chief Copeland explained that this will enable a 5% raise for police and a 3% raise for other employees. Mr. Colvin added that he felt, in the past, other Council members were too involved in determining employee pay rates, and that this provides the Village Manager with more discretion and flexibility to set employee pay rates based on merit.

Mr. Colvin made a motion to have the first reading for Ordinance 2025-034, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin  
Second – Gallagher

**Roll Call – 6 yeas**

### **Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions**

#### **Ordinance No. 2025-027**

Authorizing the Finance Director to Transfer Funds to Star Ohio

Mr. Lauffer made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-027, and Mr. Anthony seconded the motion.

Motion – Lauffer  
Second – Anthony

**Roll Call – 6 yeas**

### **Tabled Ordinances and Resolutions**

None

### **Executive Session**

None

Mr. Colvin inquired if Mr. Forbes had any recommendations on the report that he provided at the last Council meeting regarding the State’s Task Force recommendations on the possibility of a constitutional amendment to eliminate property taxes. Mr. Forbes stated that he reviewed the suggestions and that they are basic. Jeff Patton, from 1064 Camp Creek, added that the state is trying to stay ahead of this by proposing HB. 309, which will give the County Budget Commission more power and make municipalities more responsible for carryover balances. This passed the House and has been sent to the Senate.

Mr. Gallagher asked whether home rule would give the Village more flexibility. Mr. Forbes explained that property taxes are not covered by home rule. If state law changes, the Village must comply. Mr. Patton added that townships would be hit hardest, as property taxes are their primary source of income. They cannot levy income taxes. He stated that if this were to pass, he believes townships would dissolve and come under county rule. Mr. Forbes added that townships were the first form of government and the idea of giving back to the county is backwards.

Mr. Forbes explained that HB 309 would allow the County Budget Commission, which includes the County Auditor, Commissioner, and County Treasurer, to review a municipality’s levies and their carryover balances. For example, if a municipality has a 4-mill levy and does not spend the funds, the Commission could inform the municipality that the levy will be eliminated. The State believes this will make municipalities more accountable.

Mr. Gallagher asked about the bill that can give the Budget Commission the ability to dissolve a Village. Mr. Forbes responded that if a Village does not check enough boxes the Budget Commission can place the dissolution of a Village on the ballot. It is not an automatic dissolution but gives the voters the ability to decide.

Mr. Colvin thanked Mr. Forbes for his responsiveness and to keep Council informed of any updates.

All were in favor of adjourning at 8:27 p.m.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council