

**Village of Waynesville  
Council Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2025 at 7:00 pm**

Present: Mr. Brian Blankenship  
Mr. Chris Colvin  
Mr. Zack Gallagher  
Mayor Earl Isaacs  
Mrs. Connie Miller

Absent: Mr. Lyle Anthony  
Mr. Troy Lauffer

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 17, 2025.*

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

Roll Call – 5 present

Mr. Gallagher made a motion to excuse Mr. Anthony and Mr. Lauffer and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher  
Second – Colvin

**Roll Call – 5 yeas**

**Mayor Acknowledgements**

Mayor Isaacs said that the Warren County Career Center had an excellent breakfast honoring veterans, and the keynote speaker, Chief Copeland, did an outstanding job. He believed Chief Copeland represented the Village well, and his speech was very good.

**Disposition of Previous Minutes**

Mr. Colvin made a motion to approve the minutes for the Council meeting on November 3, 2025, as written, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin  
Second – Miller

**Roll Call – 5 yeas**

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**Public Recognition/Visitors Comments**

Mathew and Wilda Rider of 8443 E St Route 73 approached the Council, stating that he is a member of the Legion Riders, who help maintain Veterans' Park. He asked for advice on the best way to get a small retaining wall at Veterans' Park repaired. Mathew stated that the wall is not holding the dirt back and that it is covering the pavers with names honoring servicemen. He was unsure who was responsible for the park and was told that the Village of Waynesville owns it. Currently, Gene Isaacs is the primary caretaker of the park, and Mr. Rider would like to recruit more members to help maintain it.

Chief Copeland explained that South Street was initially planned to extend to Route 42. However, ODOT did not approve this, so at Legion's request, it was turned over to them to maintain as a Veterans' Park. Mr. Gallagher asked if it was the Village's responsibility and whether Mr. Rider had obtained an estimate. Chief Copeland recommended that Mr. Rider develop a plan with estimates and present it to the Warren County Veterans' Commission. He noted that the Commission just approved assisting with the pavers at Lebanon's Veterans' Park and believes they would be willing to help. He added that the Commissioners meet on the first and third Monday of every month at 7:30 a.m.

Mayor Isaacs thanked the Riders for volunteering their time and helping to maintain Veterans' Park.

Ms. Rider asked whether the Village could check the Waynesville sign on Route 73, as it was falling over. Chief Copeland assured her he would have the Maintenance Department review it this week. She also inquired about the status of the Hammel House, emphasizing its historical significance and importance to Waynesville. She expressed concern that it is left open to the elements, with a hole in the roof and no tarp to protect it. Chief Copeland replied that the owner has been cited, and the case is currently being heard in Mayor's Court. Mr. Gallagher mentioned this issue was brought up at Meet the Candidates Night and asked why the Village isn't taking the same actions as in Lebanon. Chief Copeland explained that the Village is following a similar approach; Lebanon started court proceedings before the Village did.

Council thanked the Riders for their contributions to the community.

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**Old Business**

None

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## **Reports**

### **Finance**

The Finance Committee met this evening with Jim Hough of Wade Insurance. Legislation regarding employee insurance renewals will be introduced at the next meeting. Mr. Hough will meet with employees at the beginning of the year to review insurance. The next Finance Meeting will be on December 15 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 again on December 1, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend.

### **Special Committee Reports**

The MOMS Committee met this evening to discuss improvements on Main Street. There was a strong turnout and participation from the Chamber, Council, and WMA. The discussion highlighted that safety and the installation of safety bollards are the top priorities. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for January 20th at 5:00 p.m.

Mrs. Miller asked Mr. Forbes about implementing a sales tax to help fund the Main Street improvement efforts. Mr. Forbes responded that municipalities do not have that authority. He said there are options, such as creating a Special Improvement District to generate additional fees, but that is different from a sales tax. He mentioned he could research the possibility of a Special Improvement District if that is the direction the Village wants to pursue.

### **Village Manager Report**

- Chief Copeland stated he would like to speak with Council in executive session to discuss the possible acquisition of property.
- Chief Copeland contacted Andrew Jacob to help expedite AES in wiring the stoplight at Route 42. AES moved the pole. The footer for the strand pole has been dug, and the pole has been ordered. This will take about 26 weeks.
- Chief Copeland wanted to clarify any confusion about the Village's water system. He mentioned he had heard misinformation claiming the water system couldn't support growth. He emphasized that this is entirely false. According to the Wessler water module, the Village will only reach 55% capacity by 2026.
- Moody is currently working on boring the line to connect Well 10 to the water system.
- The staff Christmas party is scheduled for December 12 at 6:00 p.m.

- The Water Department, with the help of the Maintenance Department, repaired a break on Robindale. This repair was done entirely in-house.
- The Maintenance Department is currently doing leaf pickup.
- There were a couple of things the EPA required to be addressed when they conducted their inspection. The Water Department quickly fixed all issues, including cleaning the buildup around wellhead 6, replacing screens, and painting and sealing the base of the Ferry water tower.

## **Police Report**

- October Calls for Service and Mayor's Court Month-End reports have been provided for review.
- Photographs of the officers handing out candy during trick-or-treat have been provided for review.
- Chief Copeland was the keynote speaker at the Warren County Career Center's Veterans' Day breakfast.
- Thank you to Kim and Bryan Sharp for providing Village employees with a catered lunch from Chipotle. Staff really appreciated it.

Mr. Gallagher inquired about the storm drain work along Franklin Road. Chief Copeland clarified that SmithCorp is finishing the punch list for the OPWC Franklin Phase II project.

## **Financial Director Report**

None

Mr. Gallagher asked if the state audit was over. Ms. Morley responded that the Village is still waiting for the exit interview. It has been over two months since one was requested.

## **Law Report**

None

Mr. Forbes stated that he may not be at the next meeting, but will have Ms. Puthoff attend in his place.

## **New Business**

Mayor Isaacs appointed Mr. Gallagher and Mrs. Miller to the nominating committee responsible for selecting Council members for various committees. This appointment must be approved at the first January meeting.

## **Legislation**

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

None

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

#### **Ordinance No. 2025 – 030**

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

Mrs. Miller motioned to adopt Ordinance 2025-030, and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller

Second – Blankenship

**Roll Call – 5 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

Mr. Colvin motioned to adopt Ordinance 2025-032, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin

Second – Gallagher

**Roll Call – 5 yeas**

#### **Ordinance No. 2025-034**

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

Mrs. Miller motioned to adopt Ordinance 2025-034, and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller

Second – Blankenship

**Roll Call – 5 yeas**

### **Tabled Ordinances and Resolutions**

None

**Executive Session**

Mr. Gallagher motioned to go into executive session at 7:39 p.m. to consider the purchase of property for public purposes and to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher  
Second – Colvin

**Roll Call – 5 yeas**

The executive session ended at 8:30 p.m. with five Council members present.

All were in favor of adjourning at 8:31 p.m.

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

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Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council