

**Village of Waynesville
Council Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2025 at 7:00 pm**

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

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, December 15, 2025.

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

Roll Call – 7 present

Mayor Acknowledgements

Mayor Isaacs hoped everyone who attended Christmas in the Village had a great time and enjoyed themselves. He said it looked like a successful event. Mayor Isaacs wished everyone a Merry Christmas and expressed his excitement for 2026.

Disposition of Previous Minutes

Mr. Colvin made a motion to approve the minutes as amended for the December 1, 2025, Council meeting by removing the words “to consider the purchase of property for public purposes” under executive session, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 7 present

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Public Recognition/Visitors Comments

Mayor Isaacs presented Mr. Blankenship with a proclamation honoring his 9 years of service on the Council and declared December 15th “Brian Blankenship Day.”

Chief Copeland presented Officer William Bowman with 2025 Officer of the Year.

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Old Business

None

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Reports

Finance

The Finance Committee met this evening and discussed the 2023-2024 audit. The committee will meet again on January 20th 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 meeting scheduled for January 5th has been cancelled due to a lack of quorum. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend.

Special Committee Reports

The MOMS Committee will meet on January 20th at 5:00 p.m.

Village Manager Report

- Chief Copeland attended a preconstruction meeting for the OPWC Fourth St project. It is scheduled to start on December 15. He stated that notices have been sent to residents who will be affected by limited parking due to the project.
- Chief Copeland stated he attended Christmas in the Village. The event had a very good turnout.
- Chief Copeland stated it has been a pleasure working with Mr. Blankenship. He said he has done a great job and has been a great boss.
- Mr. Forbes drafted an ordinance for short-term parking in front of the Post Office.
- Chief Copeland stated he met with Greg Heinike from Ohio Plan to review the Village's loss ratio. It was very low due to a roof replacement claim that the Village declined and a vehicle accident in which the other driver was at fault for hitting a

Village truck. Chief Copeland mentioned he believes the loss ratio should be zero.

- Leaf pick-up ended on December 11th. The Street Department did a great job, collecting 48 loads of leaves.

Police Report

- The November dispatched calls for service and the Mayor's Court month-end have been provided for review.
- The owner of the Hammel House had a Mayor's Court hearing and was found guilty of seven charges. A sentence hearing is scheduled for February 9th.
- Congratulations to Officer Bowman for being awarded Officer of the Year.

Mrs. Miller asked why the Code Enforcer's report was not provided. Chief Copeland responded that it was in the last Council packet. He explained that because the month ended on the weekend after the packets were distributed, the Mayor's Court month-end and dispatched calls-for-service reports are not available for distribution.

Mr. Lauffer asked if there had been any issues with DORA. Chief Copeland responded that there have not been any.

Mr. Colvin stated that there were street vendors at this year's Christmas in the Village and asked if this caused any issues. Chief Copeland noted that there had not been any.

Finance Director's Report

- Ms. Morley stated that November 2025 had been balanced.
- The 2023-2024 audit report has been completed and should be available to the public soon.
- There is an ordinance to create a new fiduciary fund for the Mayor's Court. This is based on an audit finding. Ms. Morley stated that Mayor's Court has been this way from the beginning, but for some reason, the auditor requires it to be reflected in UAN.
- Warren County just contacted Ms. Morley with a price increase for 2026 on sewer prices.

Mr. Colvin asked Ms. Morley to explain what a fiduciary fund means. Ms. Morley stated that a fiduciary fund holds assets as a trustee. She explained to think of it as a "holding" fund where the Village holds money that belongs to someone else. She added that this is very similar to the Sewer Fiducial Fund, which holds sewer payments for Warren County.

Mr. Lauffer asked if the Village gains any benefit from collecting the sewer payments. Ms. Morley responded that the Village receives 3% of the collected amount.

Chief Copeland stated that he will be on vacation from December 22 to January 2, but will be available if anything needs his signature, so there is no need to appoint an Acting Manager.

Law Report

None

New Business

None

Legislation

First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 2025-042

An Ordinance Establishing On-Street Short-Term Parking Restrictions at the Waynesville Post Office

Mrs. Miller motioned to have the first-reading for Ordinance 2025-042, and Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller
Second – Lauffer

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Ordinance No. 2025-043

Establishing A New Fiduciary Fund for Mayor’s Court (Fund 9902) and Declaring an Emergency

Mr. Lauffer motioned to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance 2025-043, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Lauffer
Second – Miller

**Roll Call – 6 yeas (Colvin, Gallagher, Isaacs, Lauffer, Miller, Blankenship)
1 nay (Anthony)**

Mr. Blankenship motioned to adopt Ordinance 2025-043 as an emergency, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Blankenship
Second – Gallagher

**Roll Call – 6 yeas (Gallagher, Isaacs, Lauffer, Miller, Blankenship, Colvin)
1 nay (Anthony)**

Ordinance No. 2025-044

Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Amendment to the Employment Agreement with Gary L. Copeland and Declaring an Emergency

Mr. Gallagher motioned to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance 2025-044, and Mr. Anthony seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher
Second – Anthony

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mr. Gallagher motioned to adopt Ordinance 2025-044 as an emergency, and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher
Second – Colvin

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Ordinance No. 2025-045

Authorizing the Village Manager to Execute an Amendment to the Employment Agreement with Jamie Morley and Declaring an Emergency

Mr. Gallagher motioned to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance 2025-045, and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher
Second – Colvin

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mr. Blankenship motioned to adopt Ordinance 2025-045 as an emergency, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Blankenship
Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

None

Tabled Ordinances and Resolutions

None

Executive Session

None

Mr. Colvin recognized Mr. Anthony for his service in filling a vacant Council position and stated that he did a good job. He said Mr. Anthony was a great help and hopes to see him back. Mr. Colvin wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed Mr. Nation and Mr. Powell as the newest members of Council. He stated that Mr. Blankenship and Mr. Anthony will be missed.

Mayor Isaacs mentioned that the County Commissioners are giving County employees the Friday after Christmas off, and he asked whether the Council would like to do the same for Village employees.

Mrs. Miller motioned to give employees the day after Christmas, December 26, 2025, off, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller
Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mr. Gallagher asked how those individuals who have to work on Friday will be accommodated. Chief Copeland stated that those individuals will receive 8 hours to be used on another date.

All were in favor of adjourning at 7:37 p.m.

Date: _____

Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council