

**Village of Waynesville
Council Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2023 at 7:00 pm**

Present: Mr. Brian Blankenship
Mr. Chris Colvin
Ms. Joette Dedden
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 Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

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

Roll Call – 7 present

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Mayor Acknowledgements

Thanked Ms. Dedden for filling in for him during his absence.

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Disposition of Previous Minutes

Mrs. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes as written for the Council meeting on January 3, 2023 and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller
Second – Colvin

Roll Call – 7 yeas

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Public Recognition/Visitor’s Comments

Candice Wieland, 1120 Crimson Ct., introduced herself to Council. She stated she is a realtor at Coldwell Banker in Springboro and is getting her C2EX through NAR and one of the activities is to attend a local Council meeting. Council welcomed her and thanked her for attending the meeting.

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Old Business

At this time Council considered the need to make a motion to adopt the Operation and Governance Plans for natural gas and electric. This was discussed at the last Council meeting, and several Council members had questions concerning the documents. Chief Copeland was asked to contact the appropriate people to gather answers to these questions. Chief Copeland apologized as he was unable to get the answers. It was discussed whether this was time sensitive. Ms. Morley stated that these documents must be filed with the PUCO and it takes at least 30 days after this before the Village can put the aggregate out to bid. Waiting till the next Council meeting may delay plans to do this in early spring.

Mr. Gallagher made a motion for a ten-minute recess and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher

Second – Blankenship

Roll Call – 7 yeas

At the return from the recess, Chief Copeland had Joe Garrett from Trebel on speakerphone to answer questions about the PUCO Operation and Governance Plans. Mr. Gallagher wanted to ensure nothing in the paperwork differed from standard PUCO language. Mr. Garrett stated that the documents were standard and the same for every municipality Trebel represents. He also added that the paperwork was straight from the PUCO, the only thing Trebel added was filling in blanks with information to help make it easier for the Village to fill out.

Mr. Colvin asked about the personal information provided to the companies bidding on the aggregate and to ensure that it was protected. Mr. Garrett stated the only information provided was load data, such as name, address, account number, and usage. He stated that the supplier must fill out a form to have permission to have the right to get this data. Mr. Colvin asked for clarification that the Village does not provide this information, but it is coming from AES or Center Point. Mr. Garrett stated this was true.

Mr. Colvin asked about the area in the application concerning customer rating, he wanted to know who determines the customer rating. Mr. Garrett explained that customers with a bad payment history with the power companies may not qualify for the aggregate and letters will be sent to non-eligible residents.

Mr. Gallagher asked for it to be on the record that Trebel did not add anything to the paperwork that was nonstandard. Mr. Forbes stated that everything in the documents is PUCO standard language. Mr. Garrett also added that if this was the case it would be fraud on the part of Trebel

and these are the exact same documents used for their other 160 programs. He also stated that the language is purposefully vague in case the Ohio State Legislature makes changes to laws concerning aggregates. This would ensure the Village stays compliant and operates within the laws, otherwise, the Village would have to go through the process again which would affect the residents.

Mrs. Miller made a motion to adopt the Operation and Governance Plans for natural gas and electric and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller
Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mr. Colvin made a motion to appoint Chief Copeland permission to sign the applications for gas and electric to the PUCO and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 7 yeas

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Reports

Finance

The Finance Committee will meet this Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

Public Works Report

Public Works will meet on February 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend.

Special Committee Reports

The Parks and Rec Board meet this evening and discussed different properties for a new park and ball diamonds. A new member was added to the committee, which leaves only one more position to fill. The next meeting will be on March 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

There will be a Planning Commission Meeting on January 31 at 6:00 p.m.

Village Manager Report

- Staff repaired patches on Lytle Road from water main breaks.
- There is an ordinance on tonight’s agenda to approve the multijurisdictional group rate for road salt with Warren County.

This is for the 2023-2024 season and will reserve 200 tons for the Village.

- Provided an email for the revised quote from Hylant that includes the increased cybersecurity coverage.
- Brain Keith applied for an EPA grant for Ohio communities for water. This would allow the Village to purchase a handheld fire hydrant exerciser, flow meter, and leak detector. The total cost for these items is \$10,633 and will be free to the Village if awarded the grant.
- The Street Department took down the Christmas decorations on Main Street.
- The Water Department is organizing the maps in the map room and listing all the maps in a spreadsheet.
- Invited Rick Cogan to the next Public Works meeting from the Ohio River Foundation. He would like to suggest the Village do away with the dam on the Little Miami River.

Police Report

- Dispatch calls for service, Mayor's Court Year End, and Sgt Denlinger's code enforcement reports have all been provided for review.
- Sgt. Denlinger, Lt. Bledsoe, and I will be attending a class on sovereign citizens and the best way to deal with them.
- Attended a Law Enforcement Appreciation event at the Warren County Career Center with Sgt. Denlinger. The culinary group did a great job preparing a meal for us.

Mr. Colvin asked if Ms. Morley was responsible for creating the spreadsheet of all the contracts for the Village of Waynesville and the dates that they will need to be renewed. Ms. Morley stated she did create the spreadsheet. Mr. Colvin thanked her and asked how often this would be updated and provided to Council. She responded that she would update it as needed and can provide it to Council as often as wanted. It was decided to give updated copies of the spreadsheet around October, so they can see what needs to be renewed at the beginning of the year.

Mr. Gallagher asked about the current situation on salt for the Village. Chief Copeland stated that there are approximately 200 tons of salt in the salt bin, with 100 tons on standby if the Village needs to order more for this season. The ordinance tonight is for next winter.

Financial Director Report

None

Law Report

None

Mr. Colvin asked Mr. Forbes his opinion on sovereign citizens. Mr. Forbes stated that they need to be handled carefully as they are known to be very litigious. Lawsuits in the past have not been very successful, but do cost the municipality time and money and pull the officers away from their normal duties.

Chief Copeland stated that there was an issue in Riverside, where a man was walking around with an AR on his back. He claimed to be a sovereign citizen, and this was his right. This event ended up going to court and the case was settled out of court, costing the city.

Mr. Forbes added that he thought it was great the AG is offering classes on the best way to handle situations with sovereign citizens and that the Waynesville Police Department is taking advantage of the class. There is very little the legislature can do about these individuals as they are claiming the law does not apply to them; they believe the Constitution was illegally adopted and they are governed by Article 4 of the Articles of Confederation.

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New Business

None

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Legislation

First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 2023-004

Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract with Warren County Engineer’s Office for Purchase of Road Salt and Declaring an Emergency

Mr. Colvin made a motion to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance 2023-004 and Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Lauffer

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mr. Lauffer made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-004 as an emergency and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Lauffer
Second – Blankenship

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 2023-001

An Ordinance Appointing Jeffrey D. Forbes and The Law Firm of Wood & Lamping LLP as Law Director for the Village of Waynesville, Ohio, and Establishing the Compensation

Mr. Blankenship made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-001 and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Blankenship
Second – Colvin

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Ordinance No. 2023-003

Authorizing the Village Manager to Award Property and Liability Insurance Coverage for the Village of Waynesville

Mr. Lauffer made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-003 and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Lauffer
Second – Miller

Roll Call – 7 yeas

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Tabled Ordinances and Resolutions

None

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Executive Session

None

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All were in favor to adjourn at 8:03 pm.

Date: _____

Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council