

**Village of Waynesville
Council Meeting Minutes
March 3, 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: Jeffery Forbes, Law Director; Gary Copeland, Village Manager and Director of Public Safety; Jamie Morley, Finance Director and Clerk of Council

CLERK’S NOTE- This is a summary of the Village Council Meeting held on Monday March 3, 2025.

.....

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

Roll Call – 7 present

Mayor Acknowledgements

Mayor Isaacs said the OPWC Franklin Road Phase II project is underway, with more projects to start in May.

.....

Disposition of Previous Minutes

Mrs. Miller moved to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2025 meeting as written, and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller
Second – Blankenship

Roll Call – 7 years

.....

Public Recognition/Visitor’s Comments

Chief Jason Beckett of the Wayne Township Fire Department presented Council with the department's end-of-year report for 2024. He offered a quick recap of 2024 vs 2023. 2024 had 91 more runs than 2023, a 6.8% increase. He said he was working with staff to reduce chute time to two minutes. He explained that chute time is between when a call is received and when the department leaves en route. He said that as they add full-time staff, he sees these numbers go down. The time was 4 minutes and two seconds in 2023, and since adding two part-time

employees for 24-hour coverage, the average time has decreased to two minutes and seventeen seconds. Chief Beckett also reviewed the grants the Wayne Township Fire Department was awarded in 2024, totaling \$109,252.08.

Mrs. Miller asked Chief Beckett if he thought the area would ever be affected by wildfires like those in North Carolina. Chief Beckett responded that he would never say never but believes it is doubtful.

Mr. Gallagher commended the department for the decrease in the chute time. He also asked if there would be any levies on future ballots. Chief Beckett stated that there will be one on the fall ballot, which is a continuation of a current levy and means there will be no tax increase. He also elaborated that Wayne Township is planning a strategic planning committee to understand what the community wants for the Fire Department's future. He stated that he would appreciate a couple of Council members joining the committee to get their point of view.

Mr. Gallagher asked if the department plans to perform inspections to ensure the safety of the downtown businesses. Chief Beckett responded that was one of his goals for 2025. Mrs. Miller followed up and asked what kind of authority the fire department had over rental property. Chief Beckett explained that common areas, such as shared hallways, were under his inspection, but private areas were not subject to inspection.

.....

Old Business

None

.....

Reports

Finance

The Finance Committee's next meeting will be on March 17 at 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Report

Public Works met this evening and will meet again on April 7, 2025 at 6 p.m. to discuss the Village's infrastructure and projects.

Special Committee Report

Mr. Colvin stated he needs to plan a MOMS meeting to discuss planting new trees along Main Street. A Parks and Rec meeting will need to be scheduled to discuss security cameras to be placed at Bicentennial Park.

Village Manager's Report

- SmithCorp continues to work on Franklin Phase II and is progressing well with a few setbacks due to weather. The completion date is still set for May 10th.
- Choice One has agreed to pay for the change order to replace the lid for the PRV vault from Phase I. The engineering plans originally called for aluminum to be replaced with a cast iron lid. Choice One acknowledged that the plans should never have called for this light of a lid on a heavily traveled road.
- The traffic light at North and Route 42 is projected to break ground on May 9th. The projected cost of the project is \$1.3 million. The Village's portion of the project is \$266,555.70, which the CVT money that Warren County holds for the Village will pay for \$219,603.43. The Village should only pay \$46K out of the general fund.
- The dry sprinkler system at the Government Center needed repairs, which the Water Department was able to repair in-house.
- The Maintenance Department has been busy cleaning the storm drains and preparing for the rainy season.
- Ordinance 2025-008 will surplus items, including a Ford Taurus police vehicle.
- The article that was submitted to the Wayne Township Magazine was provided for review.
- The Water Department has been using the leak detector to check for leaks in the system. They have found several leaking fire hydrants. To help with water loss, they have also been replacing poorly functioning meters.

Police Report

- The February Calls for Service and Mayor's Court Month End reports will be provided at the next meeting. The Code Enforcement report has been provided for review.
- Chief Copeland provided a copy of his Ohio Association Chief of Police recertification as a State-Certified Law Enforcement Executive (CLEE), which is good until 2027.
- The Warren County Sheriff's Department has donated new hearing protection to the Waynesville Police Department for qualifying firearms.
- Chief Copeland said he planned to apply for a grant to help offset the cost of replacing the officer's vests.

Mr. Lauffer asked about the time frame for replacing vests and tasers. Chief Copeland stated that the vests were last replaced six years ago, and the tasers are over ten years old.

Financial Director Report

- Ms. Morley said the 2024 financials have been uploaded to Open Checkbook.
- She also explained three pieces of legislation concerning the Village’s finances. The first is for the adoption of final appropriations for 2025. The second is an amendment to the budget, which reflects the most up-to-date numbers for the OPWC grants and a decrease in the expected revenue to the Storm Sewer Fund since the fee was reduced from \$6.00 to \$4.00. The third is to transfer funds from the Federal Grant Fund to the Water Capital Fund. She stated that the 60K left over in this fund is the engineering cost for Third Street. The Village paid for this before being awarded the BUILDS grant. Ms. Morley asked Council to amend this resolution as initially, she thought the money would be transferred to the General Fund. After conferring with the Ohio State Auditor, it was determined that the funds should return to the Water Capital fund since that fund paid for the engineering. This ordinance also transfers \$250K into the Police Levy Fund. She explained that Council's intent when they raised the income tax by .25% was to help fund the police levy.

Law Report

- Mr. Forbes stated that his firm is tracking bills in the state legislature that may affect local government. There is HB 109 that proposes restrictions on what local governments can do to restrict short-term rentals. The only thing that may impact the Village is the requirement for owner-occupied rentals in residential-zoned areas and a \$20 fee limit for short-term rentals. He reminded Council that this is still in the committee stages and that changes are imminent.

Mr. Gallagher asked if Home Rule would allow the Village’s current legislation to stay in place. Mr. Forbes responded that this would be a wait-and-see situation if the courts would permit it. Again, he reminded Council that the bill was not in its final form and to see what changes come from the committees. Mr. Forbes explained that the Home Rule does not apply to laws that need to be applied uniformly across the state, such as gun laws.

Mr. Colvin asked about the status of the bill proposed last year regarding the dissolution of villages. Mr. Forbes stated that the bill did pass, but he is unaware of the specifics and will get back to Council on that.

.....

New Business

None

.....
Legislation

First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution No. 2025-005

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

Mrs. Miller moved to waive the two-reading rule for Resolution 2025-005, and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller
Second – Blankenship

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mr. Gallagher moved to adopt Resolution 2025-005 as an emergency, and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher
Second – Colvin

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Resolution No. 2025-006

A Resolution Amending the Appropriations for The Village of Waynesville for Calendar Year 2025 (Amendment No. 1) and Declaring an Emergency

Mr. Colvin moved to waive the two-reading rule for Resolution 2025-006, and Mr. Anthony seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Anthony

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mr. Colvin moved to amend the exhibit for Resolution 2025-006 to change General Fund (1000) to Water Capital Fund (5701) under increasing revenue, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mr. Blankenship moved to adopt Resolution 2025-006 as amended and an emergency, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Blankenship
Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Ordinance No. 2025-007

An Ordinance Authorizing the Transfer of Money from the General Fund (1000) to the Police Levy Fund (2901) and from the Federal Grant Fund (2501) to the General Fund (1000)
Mr. Colvin moved to amend Ordinance 2025-007 to change General Fund (1000) to Water Capital Fund (5701) in the title and under section 2, and Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Lauffer

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Ordinance No. 2025-008

An Ordinance Authorizing the Disposal of Obsolete, Unneeded and Unfit for Public Use Personal Property Pursuant to R.C. 721.15 And Declaring an Emergency

Mr. Colvin moved to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance 2025-008, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Miller

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mr. Lauffer moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-008 as an emergency, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Lauffer
Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 2025-004

Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract with Lebanon Ford for the Purchase of One 2025 Ford Explorer Police Vehicle

Mr. Colvin moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-004, and Mr. Anthony seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Anthony

Roll Call – 7 yeas

.....

Executive Session

None

All were in favor of adjourning at 8:12 p.m.

Date: _____

Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council