

Village of Waynesville Council Meeting Minutes April 5, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Present: Mayor Earl Isaacs
Mr. Brian Blankenship
Mr. Chris Colvin
Ms. Joette Dedden
Mr. Zack Gallagher
Mrs. Connie Miller
Absent: 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, April 5, 2021.

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

Roll Call – 6 present

Ms. Dedden made a motion to excuse Mr. Lauffer from tonight's meeting and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden
Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 6 years

At Mayor Isaacs's request, Chief Copeland led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Blankenship led Council in a moment of prayer.

Mayor Acknowledgements

None

Disposition of Previous Minutes

Mr. Colvin made a motion to approve the minutes of March 15, 2021 as written and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Miller

Roll Call – 6 years

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Public Recognition/visitor’s comments

Zack McDaniel, 1030 Hunter Run, from Talbert House Prevention Services spoke about the rise of binge drinking in Warren and Clinton County. He wanted to inform Council about their new “Be One of Us” initiative that aims to increase awareness regarding binge drinking. The purpose is to spread knowledge and ultimately break the misconceptions about binge drinking that are so prevalent in communities.

Sharon Jewell, 661 Robindale, presented to Council a petition signed by concerned residents against allowing a possible Airbnb on Robindale. She felt this would bring down property values and expressed concerns about the element of some renters. Ms. Jewell asked if there was any legislation that addresses Airbnbs. It was confirmed that the Village does not have any codes in place that covers short-term rentals. Ms. Jewell asked Council to resolve the lack of legislation. She felt it would be bad for the community to allow Airbnbs in single-family residentially zoned areas.

Chief Copeland said he agreed with most of Ms. Jewell’s statements. He also confirmed that the Village lacks codes that addresses short term rentals. He suggested Council create a temporary committee to look over the way to address short term rentals of 30 days or less within the community. Ms. Dedden concurred with Chief Copeland that the best way to handle this would be to form a temporary committee that would research, work with the law director, and find the best solution for the Village. Mr. Colvin suggested a working session of Council.

Mr. Forbes stated that a committee would be the wisest route as this topic would most likely take more than one meeting. He would advise that Council study and research the topic thoroughly before passing any regulations. He would be willing to work with the committee to find out the best legislation for the Village and make sure it falls within the authority of Council.

At this time, Council discussed the best way to approach addressing short-term rentals. It was decided to form a committee of three Council members. Ms. Dedden asked Chief Copeland to attend meetings. Mr. Forbes reminded Council that a committee of Council is subject to all the Sunshine Laws and must advertise and make all meetings public. Also, only three members from Council can be on a committee.

Mr. Colvin asked Mr. Forbes if it would be in the Village’s best interest to pass a moratorium to restrict any short-term rentals until the new committee can complete due diligence on how to best address short term rentals within the entire Village. Mr. Forbes agreed that a moratorium would be an appropriate way to put short term rentals on hold until the Committee and Council can research and decide what is best for the Village. Mr. Forbes stated he would have one prepared for the next meeting. He also stressed that an Airbnb is different from a Bed and

Breakfast. The Village has codes for Bed and Breakfasts, the committee would only be researching short-term rental regulations.

Ms. Morley stated residents could provide an email to follow progress on the short-term rental discussion and receive announcements for meetings. She emails the Council Agenda twice a month which will include any upcoming meetings and minutes of past Council and Committees meetings.

Travis Hatmaker, 722 Joycie Lane, addressed Council to express his concerns about Airbnbs within residential communities. He stated that there have been two drive by shootings happen in nearby municipalities where individuals have been renting out Airbnbs. He stated that he did not think residentially zoned areas were appropriate for Airbnbs.

Old Business

None

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Reports

Finance

The Finance Committee will meet Thursday on April 22, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the Government Center.

Public Works Report

Met this evening and discussed the need to upgrade the wiring to the wellheads. The Committee has asked Chief Copeland to have an ordinance prepared for the next Council meeting to accept the bid. The next Public Works Committee meeting will be on May 3, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. and the public is encouraged to attend.

At this time, Mayor Isaacs announced Mr. Blankenship had to leave the meeting due to prior commitments. He also thanked Mr. Blankenship for the beautiful Easter lilies.

Special Committee Report

Mr. Colvin stated the Chamber of Commerce announced the Sauerkraut Festival will be held this October. He asked Chief Copeland if there needed to be any follow up concerning the recommended insurance policy for the festival. Chief Copeland stated that the Chamber is in compliance with insurance requirements requested by the Village.

Village Manager Report

- Did not prepare a Village Manager's report as was on vacation, will touch briefly on projects going on within the Village.
- Having a quote prepared for rewiring Well 7. The current wiring is only producing 400 volts and needs 480 volts to get the pump to run. Will have an ordinance at the next meeting as an emergency for about \$39K. This will be an emergency as Well 7 is an important well and is out of the flood zone. The funds will come out of the water tower painting project fund that has leftover funds because the project came in under bid.
- It does appear the Village will be receiving about \$630K from the American Rescue Plan. Would like to research using the funds to build a new water pumping station to help with the chlorination contact time.
- The fencing to secure the maintenance building and wellfields should be done in the next couple weeks.
- The new water distribution center is almost completed.
- Attended a walk through with Choice One to check the status of the Miami, High, Edwards OPWC Project. There are a few things on the checklist that will need to be taken care of. The line going under Quaker Heights has been abandoned. The streets should be repaved in the next month or so.

Police Report

- Police department is doing well and running smooth.

Financial Director Report

- Provided copies of the 2021 Oakwood Water and Sewer Rate Survey. The cost of water for Village residents falls about \$26 dollars less than the average cost of water for 62 nearby municipalities.

Law Report

- Senate Bill 22 passed in the State Legislature and was vetoed by the Governor. There were enough votes to override the veto and will become law in June. This was to limit legislative oversight of the Governor in terms of health orders and provide the State Legislature the ability to revoke health orders after 30 days.

Mrs. Miller asked about the court case involving the state keeping a portion of municipal income tax. Mr. Forbes stated the ruling of the court was that it was improper for the state to withhold .5% from local municipal tax as an administrative fee for filing with the state. The state was ordered by the court to give this fee back.

New Business

Mayor Isaacs stated that at this time it would be determined who would serve on the temporary Council Committee to research the best way to address short term rentals. Mrs. Miller, Ms. Dedden, and Mr. Gallagher volunteered to form the temporary committee.

Ms. Dedden asked Council to review the Rules of Council. There will be a working session of Council on April 19 at 6:00 p.m. to propose changes and updates.

Legislation

First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance 2021-013

Adopting Section 50.107 of the Waynesville Codified Ordinances Related to Closed/Inactive Water Accounts

Ms. Dedden made a motion to have the first reading of Ordinance 2021-013 and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden
Second – Miller

Roll Call – 5 yeas

Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 2021-008

Authorizing a Health Insurance Plan for Village Employees

Ms. Dedden made a motion to take Ordinance 2021-008 off the table and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden
Second – Miller

Roll Call – 5 yeas

Ms. Dedden made a motion to amend Ordinance 2021-008 as an emergency and add emergency clause and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden
Second – Colvin

Roll Call – 5 yeas

Ms. Dedden explained that the ordinance had to be passed as an emergency because the Village was waiting on a quote from another insurance company to compare rates. Mr. Colvin asked

now that the other quote has been received, what is the Finance Committee's recommendation for employee health insurance. Ms. Dedden stated that the employees have had Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield for several years with no complaints. United Healthcare was less expensive but there were too many changes compared to the current plan that were not employee friendly. She stated that she felt Anthem was in the employee's best interest. Mrs. Miller agreed with Ms. Dedden's assessment. Chief Copeland stated he had spoken with employees and they are happy with current the insurance policy.

Mr. Colvin explained the MEWA policies being considered by the Village and is only available to companies with less than 50 employees. Ms. Morley explained that MEWA is a self-funded policy that takes into consideration the overall health of the employees instead of ACA standards that only considers an employee's age, sex, and locality. By joining the MEWA, the Village was able to save over 30K last year.

Mr. Colvin made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-008 as an emergency and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 5 yeas

Tabled Ordinances and Resolutions

Executive Session

None

Ms. Dedden made the motion to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. and was seconded by Mr. Colvin. All were in favor.

Date: _____

Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council