

**Village of Waynesville  
Council Meeting Minutes  
June 20, 2022 at 7:00 pm**

Present: Mayor Earl Isaacs  
Mr. Chris Colvin  
Ms. Joette Dedden  
Mr. Zack Gallagher  
Mr. Troy Lauffer  
Mrs. Connie Miller  
Absent: Mr. Brian Blankenship

Village Staff Present: Jeff Forbes, Law Director; 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, June 6, 2022.*

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

Roll Call – 6 present

Mr. Lauffer made a motion to excuse Mr. Blankenship. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gallagher.

Motion – Lauffer  
Second – Gallagher

**Roll Call – 6 yeas**

**Mayor Acknowledgements**

Would like to acknowledge how well the Village is looking and continues to move forward with projects.

**Disposition of Previous Minutes**

Ms. Dedden made a motion to approve the minutes for the Council meeting on June 6, 2022 as written and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden  
Second – Miller

**Roll Call – 6 yeas**

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**Public Recognition/Visitor’s Comments**

None

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**Old Business**

None

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**Reports**

**Finance**

The Finance Committee will meet this Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the small conference room at the Government Center. The public is welcome to join.

**Public Works Report**

Public Works will meet on July 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. The public is welcome to join.

**Special Committee Reports**

None

**Village Manager Report**

- The OPWC grant applications for Phase I of Franklin and Third Street are pending. The Village has a good chance of being selected. However, during the pre-application for Phase II of Franklin the Village lost 6 points, which dropped the Village to 60 points, well below the line of being selected. This is because the latest census increased the average income of Village residents. After consulting with Choice One, it was decided to increase the Village’s contribution to 51% and have 100% of the drawings prepared. This should score the Village 65 points. The pre-application cost estimate for this project is about 1.3 mil with the Village’s contribution being 663K. I recommend using 200K from the 300K appropriated from the general fund for paving roads and saving that for the Franklin Phase II OPWC. This will still leave 100K to use toward the paving of roads and implementing more micro-surfacing.
- The EPA is considering more stringent policies to make municipalities change out all lead service lines and is even

considering requiring municipalities to change out service lines from the meter to the home.

- The Maintenance Department repaired several potholes and areas of past water breaks with the hot box. They have plans to get the hot box out a couple more times to repair alleyways and missed potholes. The plan is to prioritize fixing high traffic areas first and then lower trafficked areas.
- PCI has almost completed the installation of new LED lightbulbs for Main Street lampposts. The old lightbulbs used 250 watts, the new ones only use 13 watts and put out 3000 lumens. The paint crew should be out in the next couple of weeks to paint the lampposts.
- The ODOT application for the Abbreviated Safety Grant has been completed. This should help pay for the extension of turning lanes on Route 42, which is a requirement from ODOT to install a new traffic light at the intersection of Route 42 and North Street. Choice One is holding off doing the plans for this project until we hear if the Village is awarded the Abbreviated Safety Funds. Will know by July.
- The clock is ready for dedication. Barry from Hour House has completed repairs and converted from battery-operated to electric. Mayor Isaacs painted Waynesville founded in 1797. The clock looks very nice.
- Strawser Construction is waiting on the Township to finish some chip and sealing projects before they begin micro-surfacing. The company plans to do Township and Village streets at the same time.
- A couple of ordinances are on the agenda to place an electric and natural gas aggregate on the ballot. Speaking with Gold Star, Trebel, and Aspen about partnering with them if the voters approve an opt-out aggregation.
- Still working with Wood & Lamping to get the contract finished for donating the Lockup to the Museum. There were a few minor changes that needed to be made to the initial contract.
- Mayor Isaacs met Senator Portman and during the meeting asked his office for assistance for the Village to get a stop light at North and Route 42.
- The parade is on July 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon. Magnets are available to borrow if any Council member wants to ride in the parade.
- Community Garage Sale Days start June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Police Report**

- Met with the Police Chief of Clearcreek Township and arranged to use their speed trailer on Route 73. The trailer speed will be covered up and will only be used to collect data, such as the

amount of traffic and average speeds. This data will be used to help justify reducing the speed limit from 50 to 45. Would like to see about reducing it down to 35MPH. This reduction would be from the doctor's office to the bridge over the Little Miami River. ODOT does plan to install a blinking light at the intersection of Route 73 and Old 73.

- Judge Loxley and Judge Fischer will be attending the Council meeting on August 16.
- Keith Anderson, Warren County Assistant Prosecutor, is set to retire and his open house retirement party will be on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Gallagher stated that he would like to see how the micro-surfacing works before funding is moved from repaving to OPWC grants. Chief Copeland said that the pre-application has been filed for Phase II of Franklin to occur in 2024. However, Council will have time to decide before committing to spending the funds. Chief Copeland also acknowledged that the streets that were really bad, have been repaved or are part of the OPWC plan. The OPWC will replace water lines, change out storm drains, and repave the roads. He also said he feels the water lines should be a priority. Ms. Dedden asked for clarification, the way she understood Chief Copeland's request was that in 2023, 300K would be used for repaving, and in 2024 only 100K would be used for repaving with 200K being diverted to the OPWC project. Chief Copeland stated that he thinks 200K should be set aside for both 2023 and 2024. This will help to start saving for the OPWC Grant projects. That would leave 100K for road repaving in 2023 and 2024. He also reiterated that there are not too many streets that are in dire need to be repaved that are not part of the OPWC projects.

Mr. Gallagher asked if there has been any more discussion of repealing the Ohio State gas tax? Chief Copeland stated he has not heard of anything, but stated that if that happens, he believes that OPWC grants will be gone. Mr. Gallagher asked if the OPWC grants disappear would that affect grants already applied for. Chief Copeland stated that he is pretty certain if the Village is approved for the 2023 OPWC grant projects for the Third Street and Phase I of Franklin that should be locked in.

Mr. Gallagher asked how the light on Route 42 and North Street would be funded. Chief Copeland stated that he is hoping the extended turn lanes will be covered by the Abbreviated Safety Grant which he has applied for. If that is covered then the light should only cost 250K to 300K at most.

Mr. Gallagher wanted to ensure that the trailer on Route 73 would not be used to issue tickets. Chief Copeland assured him that this was only to gather information. The trailer will be blacked out in hopes to obtain true data.

Ms. Dedden asked when the repairs will be made to the street where the valves were replaced at Chapman and Fourth Street. Chief Copeland stated that the gravel needs to settle and ensure the repair will hold, and then they will pave it. Probably next time they get the hotbox out.

## **Finance Director Report**

- There is an ordinance on tonight's agenda to have the first-reading approving the tax budget for 2023 as an emergency. There will be a public hearing of Council at the next meeting, July 6, 2022. At that meeting, the ordinance will need to be passed as an emergency to get the budget to the auditor's office by July 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **Law Report**

None

## **New Business**

None

## **Legislation**

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

#### **Resolution No. 2022-024**

A Resolution Approving the 2023 Annual Tax Budget for the Village of Waynesville and Declaring an Emergency

Ms. Dedden made a motion to have the first reading for Ordinance 2022-024 and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden

Second – Miller

#### **Roll Call – 6 yeas**

#### **Resolution 2022- 025**

A Resolution Authorizing All Actions Necessary to Effect a Governmental Electricity Aggregation Program with Opt-Out Provisions Pursuant to Section 4928.20, Ohio Revised Code, Directing the Warren County Board of Elections to Submit A Ballot Question to the Electors.

Mr. Colvin made a motion to have the first reading for Ordinance 2022-024 and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin

Second – Gallagher

Mr. Colvin asked about the wording in the fifth paragraph that references a “Council of Trustees” and asked if that was an error. Mr. Forbes explained that the way the aggregate works is that if the electors choose to enter into an aggregate, then a group of local governments get together and create a Council of Trustees. All this resolution does is put the question on the ballot.

Mr. Lauffer asked why it needs to be put on the ballot. Mr. Forbes explained the Village cannot join an aggregate unless the voters approve. Chief Copeland explained this allows the Village to band together and join other municipalities to get the best price for energy. Mr. Lauffer wanted to ensure that this does not require residents to enroll. Chief Copeland said that the program will allow residents to opt-out if they do not want to participate in the program. Mr. Forbes also explained that all this does is put the question on the ballot and see if residents want to take the next step. If it passes, Council will then choose a consultant and they will assist in a giant education program to explain to the residents how the program works, what steps they will need to take to opt-in or opt-out, and so forth. This is an opt-out program, so residents can opt-out and not be forced to join the aggregate. Furthermore, if a resident is already in a contract, they will not be forced to get out of the current contract and enroll in the Village's aggregate.

At this time, Diane Colvin of 4337 N Waynesville Road, stated that the Township did a ballot initiative three years ago to enter into a natural gas and electric aggregate. The program is an opt-out version, meaning residents of the Township were automatically enrolled in the program unless they opted-out. It is her understanding that even if residents opt-out, they can join the program anytime. Mr. Lauffer stated he was not sure he liked this as he is currently on a contract and there is an \$80 cancellation fee. As a resident, he would not be happy if he would be automatically enrolled causing him to incur a cancellation fee. Ms. Morley stated she was a Township resident when the aggregate passed in the Township. At the time, she was in a contract with a different company and the aggregate did not cancel her current contract. It was after her contract ended that she opted-in with the Township aggregate. Residents should only be opted-in if they are not currently in a contract.

**Roll Call – 6 yeas**

Ms. Dedden made a motion to amend the agenda to add Ordinance 2022-026 and the motion was seconded by Mr. Lauffer.

Motion – Dedden  
Second – Lauffer

**Roll Call – 6 yeas**

**Resolution 2022-026**

A Resolution Authorizing All Actions Necessary to Effect a Governmental Natural Gas Aggregation Program with Opt-Out Provisions Pursuant to Section 4929.26, Ohio Revised Code, Directing the Warren County Board of Elections to Submit a Ballot Question to the Electors of Village of Waynesville

Mr. Colvin made a motion to have the first reading for Ordinance 2022-024 and Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin  
Second – Lauffer

**Roll Call – 6 yeas**

**Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions**

None

**Tabled Ordinances and Resolutions**

None

**Executive Session**

None

All were in favor to adjourn at 7:42 p.m.

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

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Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council