

**Village of Waynesville  
Special Council Meeting Minutes  
July 31, 2024 at 6:00 pm**

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

Village Staff Present: Jeff Forbes, Law Director; Jamie Morley, Finance Director and Clerk of Council

***CLERK'S NOTE-** This is a summary of the Special Village Council Meeting held on Wednesday, July 31, 2024.*

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Mayor Isaacs called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call – 6 present

**Executive Session**

Mayor Isaacs moved to go into executive session at 6:03 p.m. to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. Mr. Blankenship seconded this motion.

Motion – Isaacs  
Second – Blankenship

**Roll Call – 6 yeas**

Council returned to the chambers at 8:04 with all six members present.

Mr. Gallagher motioned for Lyle Anthony to fill the vacant Council seat, and Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher  
Second – Lauffer

**Roll Call – 4 yeas (Lauffer, Colvin, Gallagher, Isaacs) 2 nays (Miller, Blankenship)**

Mayor Isaacs said that this decision was one of the hardest ones he has had to make while serving on Council. He is very thankful for all of the qualified candidates and believes that Mr. Anthony will be a future asset to the Village. Mayor Isaacs said he appreciates all the good things Mr. Nation has done for the Village.

Mr. Gallagher said all the candidates were qualified and hoped to see them in the future. He also said he was thankful for their willingness to serve on the Council. Mr. Lauffer agreed with Mr. Gallagher's sentiments.

Mr. Colvin wanted to clarify a few things and asked to be put on record:

I would like to make a couple of comments for the record.

First, my motion to include 3 additional candidates for this Council appointment was made because I wanted to consider those applications which came prior to beginning deliberations involving candidate interviews in Executive Session.

Second, I have received letters and signatures on behalf of David Nation. While I can appreciate the desire of citizens to treat this appointment in the same context of an election, this appointment is determined by the votes of Council following the Village of Waynesville Charter rules. My consideration of the qualifications of these candidates is more than responding to a subset of the voters that want to advocate for a particular person. A subset of the voters does not indicate what the voters would decide in a actual election. The information I receive from the candidate application and Executive session interview are additional information for Council members to consider for the purpose of the "appointment of a public official". Therefore, my lack of support for David Nation in this appointment is due to his application including his resume with core achievements focused on "diversity and inclusion" and his efforts being a founding member of the Rainbow Alliance ERG which advocates for Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in "local government, businesses, and educational institutions". Thirty states, including Ohio, have taken steps to remove DEI initiatives because of their discriminatory practices and so I am very concerned about DEI policies being advocated in our municipality.  
Thank you

Mr. Blankenship welcomed Mr. Anthony. He added that Mr. Nation has done amazing things for the town and hopes to see him up on Council in the future. Mr. Blankenship said that he believes this Council is an great group of individuals and is proud of their accomplishments.

Mrs. Miller welcomed Mr. Anthony to Council and said she appreciates that others want to serve on Council, but Mr. Nation was the only one to submit his application on time. Furthermore, Mr. Nation demonstrated in his interview, resume, and devotion to the community that he was a great candidate.

Mayor Isaacs added that he hopes Mr. Nation is not discouraged and hopes to see him on Council in the future.

At this time, Mayor Isaacs swore in Mr. Lyle Anthony as the newest member of Council to fill the Council seat vacated by Ms. Dedden

All were in favor of adjourning at 8:15 p.m.

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

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Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council