

**Village of Waynesville
Council Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2025 at 7:00 pm**

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

Village Staff Present: Jeff 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 Tuesday, January 21, 2025.*

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

Roll Call – 7 present

Mayor Acknowledgements

Mayor Isaacs was sad to announce the passing of Jim Crane, who was an excellent community leader, including being mayor of the Village of Waynesville for two terms. Mayor Isaacs also said he attended a ceremony to honor the accomplishments of his niece, Michelle Mays, CEO of FosterHub. FosterHub was awarded a 7.3 million dollar grant to rehab a house in Logan, Ohio to help individuals transition when they age out of the foster care program. Mayor Isaacs also displayed the board game Waynesvilleopoly. He was proud to say that the board game had many historic and prominent landmarks and buildings throughout the Village.

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Disposition of Previous Minutes

Mrs. Miller moved to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2024 meeting as written, and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller
Second –Blankenship

Roll Call – 7 yeas

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Public Recognition/Visitor's Comments

None

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Old Business

Mr. Gallagher announced that after review, he and Mr. Lauffer recommended that Council members remain on the current committee appointments, with the one change of Mr. Anthony replacing Mr. Lauffer on the Parks and Recreation Board.

Mr. Gallagher moved to approve the proposed Council committee appointments for 2025, and Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher
Second –Lauffer

Roll Call – 7 yeas

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Reports

Finance

The Finance Committee met this evening to review budgetary items. Ms. Morley met with Ms. Crockett, the former Finance Director, to help with year-end. The Committee should soon receive quotes from Mr. Hough of Wade Insurance to renew employee health care that must be renewed by 1 May.

Public Works Report

Public Works will be meeting on February 3, 2025 at 6 p.m.

Special Committee Report

Parks and Rec met this evening. Mary L. Cook is requesting legislation for the new park to receive water at a 50% rate, as has been approved for Bicentennial Park. They also ask that within the ordinance there be language that the Village supports and is in partnership with the library, which will help with applying for future grants. During the meeting, the Committee reviewed the proposed plans for the new park. The only suggested change was to widen the sidewalk around the children's playground area. Otherwise, the plans look nice. Chris Hice attended the meeting and requested a MOMS meeting to be scheduled for February. Mr. Colvin stated he would announce the date at a later time.

Village Manager Report

- Chief Copeland provided a copy of the final resolution with ODOT concerning the traffic light at Corwin Ave and Route 42. He explained that bid packets will be released on Feb. 27, and bids are due March 10th. The Village's portion of the project is 266K, but if bids come in higher, that could increase. The Village could use the Highway Fund since it is a State Route project.
- Chief Copeland said he will be meeting with Karie Novesl to go over the renewal of the Village's insurance policy. Legislation will be presented at the next Council meeting.
- DORA cups have come in, but they are hard plastic and not what was specified. Chief Copeland explained the soft-sided orange cups were unsuitable because of all the ridges. He suggested that a clear plastic cup be used with orange lettering.
- A report on the well withdraws has been provided for review. The time each well ran was disbursed relatively evenly.
- Franklin Phase II should begin on January 27th.
- Met with Chief Beckett from the Wayne Township Fire Department to review possible code infractions on Main Street.
- The paperwork for Well 10 required by the Ohio EPA has been submitted. The PFAS report on the draws for Well 10 was a little high, but it will be reduced significantly when blended with Wells 6 & 7 (which tested at zero PFAS). The line for Well 10 has been approved. Molly Conley of Warren County Soil and Water will provide a letter to the EPA supporting Well 10 because the well is in the floodplain.
- Chief Copeland said he has become aware of Dave O'Banion wanting to sell 27 acres of land directly upriver of the Village's Wellfield. He said he worries about what could be built there that could impact the wells. Mr. O'Banion wants \$30K per acre and is unwilling to break up the property.
- Met with Ms. Maloney and Mr. Hice to review plans for the proposed library park.
- Chief Copeland thanked the new owners of Fresh Marketplace for providing doughnuts to the staff.
- WMA provided a check reimbursing the Village for the purchase of DORA signs.

Police Report

- The Mayor's Court and Calls for Dispatch reports have been provided for review, and the updated Code Enforcement report has also been provided.
- There is an ordinance on the agenda about Mayor's Court Fees.
- SRO Mermann will attend ALICE instructor training. He can then train the other officers on the correct procedures.

- Warren County Drug Task Force has sent their annual invoice for the Village's contribution. This is for \$9K, as the Village has previously donated.
- This is a public notice that the Village has a 48-hour limit on-street parking. Chief Copeland said that vehicles did not move for a week during the snowstorm, and it was a hassle for the road crew to plow around these cars. Furthermore, cars are not allowed to park on snow routes with more than 2 inches of snow. This includes Main Street.

Mrs. Miller wanted to commend the Street Department on its great job on the streets during the storm. She also asked about the proposed new cups for the DORA District and wondered if orange lettering would be readable.

Mr. Gallagher also agreed with Mrs. Miller. He did not think orange lettering would be readable on a clear cup filled with yellow beer. Mrs. Miller suggested that the DORA establishments use the current cups and then reevaluate how they work. The Council's consensus agreed with Mrs. Miller's suggestion.

Mr. Anthony also wanted to thank the Street Department for a great job.

Mr. Gallagher asked if the Water Department could continue to monitor the PFAS levels and see if they get flushed out as the Well is put into service. Chief Copeland stated that the EPA suggested this could happen. Mr. Gallagher also asked if Chief Copeland could get more information on the purchase of the O'Banion property and ways to fund this purchase.

Mr. Colvin asked for clarification on what PFAS is. Mr. Forbes said that it stands for poly-fluoroalkyl substances or forever chemicals, which are manmade chemicals designed to be non-stick, waterproof, stain, and flame-resistant.

Mrs. Miller asked if the Village purchased the O'Banion property in the Township. Would the Village annex it? Mr. Forbes responded that yes, it would need to be annexed.

Financial Director Report

- Ms. Morley said she would not be at the next meeting, and Chief Copeland volunteered to keep the roll call.
- Ms. Morley also asked if any Council member wants to enroll in Ohio Deferred Comp; they will need to get the paperwork in soon in order for her to set this up.

Law Report

None

Mrs. Miller asked Mr. Forbes about the establishment of a Lighting District. Mr. Forbes explained that lighting districts cannot be established for current areas. But if there is an

improvement or creation of new lighting districts, then they can be established. He explained that there is a whole process. The Village must provide documentation on the cost and put the proposal on record for residents to challenge. If this is the route the Council wants to explore, then Mr. Forbes can lay out the process. Ms. Morley added that assessing property taxes would help the Village spread some of the cost to property owners.

New Business

Mr. Colvin asked Mr. Forbes to draft legislation allowing the new Mary L. Cook Park to receive water at a 50% rate reduction.

Legislation

First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

None

Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance 2024-051

Adopting Chapter 151 of the Village of Waynesville Codified Ordinances Regarding Special Purpose Flood Damage Reduction

Mrs. Miller moved to amend Ordinance 2024-051 to declare it an emergency and add the emergency clause, and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller

Second –Blankenship

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mayor Isaacs moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-051 as amended, and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Isaacs

Second –Colvin

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Ordinance 2024-052

Amending the Schedule of Fees and Charges for the Village of Waynesville Regarding Filing Fees for Pleas in Absentia in Mayor’s Court and Declaring an Emergency

Mrs. Miller moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-052 as an emergency, and Mr. Anthony seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller

Second –Anthony

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Executive Session

None

All were in favor of adjourning at 7:56 p.m.

Date: _____

Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council