

**Village of Waynesville  
Council Meeting Minutes  
October 6, 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, October 6, 2025.*

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

Roll Call – 7 present

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**Mayor Acknowledgements**

Mayor Isaacs congratulated Chief Copeland on the premiere of the movie *Smashing Machine*. Mayor Isaacs stated Chief Copeland did a phenomenal job in the movie and the movie is very good.

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**Disposition of Previous Minutes**

Mr. Blankenship motioned to approve the September 15, 2025, meeting minutes as written, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Blankenship  
Second – Miller

Roll Call – 7 yeas

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**Public Recognition/Visitor’s Comments**

Jeff Patton, 1064 Camp Creek, asked the Council to start planning for the proposed constitutional amendment to abolish property taxes. He believes this amendment will appear on

the spring ballot and likely pass, eliminating property taxes and impacting municipal budgets. He said the governor has formed a task force that has issued 20 recommendations to address the economic impact of eliminating property taxes. Mr. Patton added that school funding would be most affected if this passes. He wanted to ensure the Council is informed and has a strategy to get ahead of this.

Chief Copeland added that his community is considering an income tax to replace property tax revenue.

Mr. Gallagher asked if home rule could be used to keep property taxes in place. Mr. Forbes responded that this is a constitutional amendment, which completely trumps any home rule.

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**Old Business**

None

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**Reports**

**Finance**

The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet on October 20th at 6:00 p.m.; however, that is the same date as Meet the Candidates.

Mr. Colvin moved to cancel the Finance Committee Meeting and Council Meeting scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup>, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin  
Second – Miller

Roll Call – 7 yeas

**Public Works Report**

The Public Works Committee met this evening. The next meeting will be on November 3, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

**Special Committee Report**

None

## Village Manager Report

- Chief Copeland informed the Council about the status of the stoplight project at the intersection of Route 42 and North St. He stated that they are waiting for AES to complete the covers on the lines. Once that is finished, they will order the poles, which will take about 28 weeks to be delivered. He mentioned that there will be three strain lines, as the Hoffman property is too low for a fourth line.
- Monica Jones from the Ohio EPA reviewed the Village's water system. She examined the contingency and emergency plans, reviewed backflow reports, and inspected the facilities. She was very impressed with the system and said everything looked great.
- Chief Copeland asked Council to amend Resolution 2025-0028 to adopt it as an emergency to accept Warren County's multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan as it needs to be accepted by November.
- Following complaints, the yellow curb at the S-curve on Franklin has been lengthened, and no parking signs have been put up.
- The Water Department performed an in-house repair on a service line at 5099 Lytle Road. They did a great job.
- The Waynesville Merchants Association will replace most of the trees along Main Street. The Street Department will remove the trees the week after the Sauerkraut Festival, and Green Works will plant the new trees the following week. The trees were purchased through donations.
- An area near the maintenance barns on South Main Street has been fenced in, creating an impound lot and a storage area for barricades and the water trailer. This will secure Village possessions, especially after a theft occurred there five years ago.
- Clearcreek Township will be installing speed trailers on Thursday in preparation for the festival.
- The Water Department power-washed the water towers before the OEPA inspection.
- The Street Department has had salt delivered in preparation for the winter.

## **Police Report**

- September Calls for Service, Mayor’s Court Month End Report, and Code Enforcement report have been provided for review.
- Chief Copeland provided copies of letters distributed to retailers stating that there will be no DORA during the festival.
- School Resource Officer Mermann led a training session at Wayne Local Schools focusing on safety and emergency preparedness.
- The Space Force flag has been added to the poles at Veterans Park.
- Chief Copeland thanked Donna Bellman for her donation of baked goods to the employees. They appreciated it very much.

## **Financial Director Report**

- Ms. Morley stated there is an ordinance to transfer \$1 million to the STAR Ohio account. The funds will be liquid and able to be moved back with approval from Council. The fund’s interest rate is about 2% higher than the Sweep Account.
- Ms. Morley stated she has not heard back from the auditor on the exit interview for the 2023-2024 audit.
- Ms. Morley stated that she has received information on a class action suit for Discover misrepresenting credit cards. She said she would fill out the appropriate paperwork as long as Council has no objections.
- Ms. Morley explained that the Village’s Dropbox license renewal is coming up in November, and she will only be renewing three licenses to save money, one for her, Chief Copeland, and Mr. Forbes.

## **Law Report**

- Mr. Forbes stated he forwarded Council the findings from the Governor’s task force on how to deal with the possible removal of property taxes. He said he will be reviewing them and answer any questions at the next meeting.

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**New Business**

Mr. Colvin stated that he provided annual reviews for the Village Manager and Finance Director. He asked for Council to have them completed by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

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**Legislation**

**First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions**

**Ordinance No. 2025-027**

Authorizing the Finance Director to Transfer Funds to Star Ohio

Mrs. Miller motioned to have the first reading for Ordinance 2025-027, and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller  
Second – Blankenship

**Roll Call – 7 yeas**

**Resolution No. 2025-028**

A Resolution Adopting the Warren County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation 5 – Year Plan Update and Declaring an Emergency

Mr. Colvin motioned to amend Resolution 2025-028 and add the emergency clause, and Mr. Anthony seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin  
Second – Anthony

**Roll Call – 7 yeas**

Mr. Gallagher motioned to waive the two-reading rule for Resolution 2025-028, and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher  
Second – Colvin

**Roll Call – 7 yeas**

Mr. Colvin made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-028 as an emergency, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin  
Second – Gallagher

**Roll Call – 7 yeas**

**Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions**

None

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**Executive Session**

None

All were in favor of adjournment at 7:47 p.m.

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

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Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council