

**Village of Waynesville
Council Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2023 at 7:00 pm**

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

Village Staff Present: 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, December 18, 2023.*

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

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Mayor Acknowledgments

It looks like downtown has a lot of activities for the Christmas season. The staff and Council had a wonderful time at the Christmas party. Thank you to the Council members for all their hard work; I look forward to working with everyone next year.

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Disposition of Previous Minutes

Ms. Dedden motioned to approve the Council minutes as written for the December 4, 2023 Council meeting, and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden
Second – Blankenship

Roll Call – 7 yeas

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Public Recognition/Visitor’s Comments

None

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Old Business

Ms. Morley provided quotes and information from Textmygov and Everbridge in the Council packets. Textmygov is \$3,000 for a two-year contract and a \$1,500 set-up fee. Everbridge is \$3,000 with a three-year contract and \$240.00 set-up fee. Ms. Morley stated that she spoke with Textmygov, and after January, the price will return to \$3,800 a year. After speaking with both companies, they said the opt-out rate is very low, about 2%. Ms. Morley asked Council how they would like to proceed. Mr. Colvin stated he did not see a limitation to the number of communications with Everbridge as there was with Textmygov. He felt Everbridge would fit the Village’s needs better than Textmygov, and Mr. Gallagher agreed. Ms. Dedden and Mrs. Miller voiced concern about spending taxpayers' dollars on a product they do not believe will be utilized. Mr. Colvin feels more and more people use texting as the primary way of communication and thinks this service would benefit the Village in communicating with residents. Mr. Colvin asked Ms. Morley if she could get a quote from Everbridge for a one-year contract. After a year, Council can then look at the metrics to see if the program is worth continuing. Ms. Dedden stated she does not believe ½ of the people receiving texts will read them. Mrs. Miller asked how the Village can get an accurate metric; people may be signed up, but how will we know if they read the texts? Mr. Lauffer added he likes the idea of communicating with the residents through text and would like to see Ms. Morley follow through and reach out to Everbridge and ask about a one-year contract or an early termination fee. Ms. Morley agreed to follow up and get back to the Council.

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Reports

Finance

Finance will meet on December 21, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. The first meeting for 2024 will be on January 18th, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. The finance meetings will change to 6:00 p.m. before the second Council meeting in May.

Public Works Report

The Public Works will meet on Tuesday, January 2, at 6:00 p.m. Anyone with any questions or interest in the infrastructure is invited to attend.

Special Committee Reports

The Parks and Rec meeting scheduled for this evening was canceled.

MOMS Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Village Manager Report

- KT Holden continues to work on the OPWC Franklin Phase I project by updating storm and water lines. The storm line at the S bend on Franklin is in a much worse state than initially thought. This section of Franklin will probably not be opened to through traffic until after the first of the year. They will also be installing a PRV vault in this area. Unfortunately, due to the County not marking several sewer lines, KT Holden has hit several sewer lateral lines, which has delayed the project.
- Kevin Mann from Altafiber contacted the Village to inform the Village of plans to run fiber optic cable. According to the cited ORC 1332.32 letter, the Village must respond within ten days and notify the company of any franchise or video service fees. Altafiber was notified of the Village's fees, which Mr. Mann acknowledged.
- Received positive feedback from merchants and residents on Christmas in the Village. Additionally, there were no issues or calls for service.
- Received an updated quote for the traffic signal at the corner of Route 42 and North Street. EMT, the engineering company handling this project, quoted labor and materials higher than the original quote. The Village portion will be \$240,118. The CVT money will cover most of this, but the Village will have to pay about 75K. The Village has already paid 23K for engineering costs, bringing the Village's portion to 52K.
- Receive several complaints about the lampposts in Victoria Place. The poles have deteriorated and need attention. I want to discuss this at the next Public Works meeting to see how to proceed.
- A big thank you to the Council members for supporting the Village Christmas party. Everyone had a great time. Providing thank you letters to businesses that supported the party and would ask the Council to accept these donations.

Police Report

- Thank you to all those who supported the Tots-for-Tots toy drive. Retired Lt. Col. Steve Carl and his wife Barbara donated most of the toys.
- Provided a copy of the letter of support for the Warren County Drug Task Force to help them apply for grants.

Ms. Dedden motioned to accept the donations for the staff Christmas party, and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden
Second – Blankenship

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mr. Colvin asked about a section of lights on Main Street that remain lit throughout the day. Chief Copeland stated that the sensor had gone bad. He explained that several lights are daisy chained together and something is wrong with the underground wiring, which would be expensive to fix. Chief Copeland stated Council plans to change the lampposts eventually, and investing more money into the lights may not be cost-effective.

Mr. Lauffer asked about the light poles in Victoria Place. Chief Copeland explained that some domes are broken, some are missing finials, which allow water to get into them and cause electrical issues, or some have deteriorated. The Street Department is replacing the bulbs, but sometimes the repair requires an electrician. He asked to discuss this at the next Public Works Committee meeting to understand better how to proceed.

Mr. Gallagher asked about Warren County not properly marking the sewer lines for the Franklin Phase I project. Chief Copeland responded that they have reached out to Warren County and are not taking any responsibility for not marking sewer lines. After looking at the specifications, the ultimate responsibility lies with KT Holden. Unfortunately, Choice One based the plans for the project on the drawings provided by Warren County, and now they have had to be changed because of insufficient information provided by the County.

Financial Director Report

None

Law Report

None

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New Business

None

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Legislation

First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 2023 - 060

Imposing A Moratorium for a Period Of 360 Days on the Granting of any Permit Allowing Adult Use Cannabis Operators within the Village of Waynesville, Ohio and Declaring an Emergency

Ms. Dedden motioned to waive the two-reading for Ordinance 2023-060, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden

Second – Miller

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mr. Colvin motioned to adopt Ordinance 2023-060 as an emergency, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin

Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 2023-057

Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Amendment to the Employment Agreement with Gary L. Copeland and Declaring an Emergency

Ms. Dedden motioned to adopt Ordinance 2023-057 as an emergency, and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden

Second – Blankenship

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Ordinance No. 2023-058

An Ordinance Establishing Certain Positions and Amending the Base Pay Rates and Ranges of Village of Waynesville Employees and Declaring an Emergency

Ms. Dedden motioned to amend the dates in sections 1 and 2 of Ordinance 2023-058 to December 31, 2023, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden

Second – Miller

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mr. Colvin motioned to adopt Ordinance 2023-058 as an emergency, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin

Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Ordinance No. 2023-059

An Ordinance Authorizing Village Manager to Enter into a Contract with Chase Kirby for Prosecuting Services for the Village of Waynesville and Declaring an Emergency

Ms. Dedden motioned to adopt Ordinance 2023-059 as an emergency, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden
Second – Miller

Roll Call – 7 yeas

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Tabled Ordinances and Resolutions

None

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Executive Session

None

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All were in favor of adjourning at 7:58 pm.

Date: _____

Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council