

Village of Waynesville
Working Session of Council Minutes
February 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

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 Public Safety Director; and Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council

Guests: Kelly Miller, Roger Butler, Andrea Downing

CLERK'S NOTE- This is a summary of the Village Working Session of Council held on Tuesday, February 18, 2020.

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Mr. Colvin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He explained the purpose of the meeting was to outline the processes of Council. Council Members take an oath to uphold the Constitution, Ohio Revised Code, and Charter of Waynesville. The Rules of Council provides a guidance to Council members on how to conduct business and a code of conduct. The process outlined in the Charter and Rules of Council is to be respected and followed.

Mr. Colvin summarized that the Charter outlines three main groupings of people 1) Council members 2) Employees of the Village and 3) Public. Mr. Colvin stated he believes the decisions made by Council should be reflective of all three groupings of people and embrace the process to take all three groups in consideration when making decisions. It is the obligation of staff and contractors to come prepared and be able to answer questions. The process takes time and poor planning does not mean that Council should speed up the process. Public servants serve the people and not contractors. Furthermore, Mr. Colvin stated that when making decisions Council should consider if it is the best for the public and keep the public informed through transparency. Mr. Colvin also asserted that if the public does not like the process then the public needs to update the Charter.

Mr. Colvin further expounded that the Charter and Rules of Council outline the appropriate lines of communication with staff. The Village Manager serves as a main conduit to staff. Mr. Colvin said it is important for all Council members to share information, so all Council members have the same data when making decisions. Council members represent only one member of a collective group of seven. Mr. Colvin wanted to thank those individuals that serve on Commissions and Boards. He also wanted to stress the importance of working together and

provide all data in order to make informed decisions. Mr. Colvin wanted to stress the importance of Council supporting Village employees and promoting employee retention.

Mr. Gallagher asked if Open Meetings Act or Sunshine Laws apply to subcommittees and boards also. Mr. Forbes stated yes.

At this time, Mr. Colvin turned the meeting over to Chief Copeland. He explained that the staff and Council are working together following the process to prepare and plan for the future. The Village's infrastructure must be constantly updated and repaired. The Village tries to obtain grants, but there are only so many grants available. Very few people understand the cost and manpower to run the Village and keep it in good repair. Chief Copeland suggested that by reading the reports the public can keep informed of what is being done around the Village. He also wanted to thank those for volunteering and providing input. Chief Copeland also stated that he is available and do not hesitate to contact him if anyone has questions.

Chief Copeland outlined some of the big projects the Village plans to accomplish in the near future:

- Well field upgrades
- OPWC Grant – replace water lines on High Street, Edwards, and Miami. Also complete a water main loop which will provide better fire flow.
- Emergency siren
- Repaving a couple streets
- Demolishing Sawyer Building and build a new water hauling station.

Mr. Forbes addressed the meeting stating that it was his job is to keep on track and ensure the rules are being followed. He asked that if there is an issue or a question to speak with him before a Council meeting so he can come prepared with answers. He also stated that Rules of Council are a living document and there is a process to make changes. This is the first place to look at to make changes.

Mr. Colvin stated that Council tries to be forward thinking and keeping abreast of local, county, and state issues that may have an effect on the community.

Mr. Gallagher stated that it is very important of always knowing what you are voting on. He stressed the importance that if you are unsure to please ask for clarification before voting.

Ms. K. Miller stated that the meeting was very helpful to see the larger picture of how local government works and that all the commission and boards work together.

Mr. Colvin made a motion to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. and all were in favor.

Date: _____

Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council