

**Village of Waynesville  
Council Meeting Minutes  
February 18, 2025 at 7:00 pm**

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

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 summarizes the Village Council Meeting held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.*

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Mayor Isaacs called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call – 6 present

Mr. Blankenship motioned to excuse Mr. Anthony from tonight’s meeting and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Blankenship  
Second – Gallagher

**Roll Call – 6 yeas**

**Mayor Acknowledgements**

Mayor Isaacs noted that the Village has received a lot of snow this winter. He also stated the Franklin Road Phase II project is underway.

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**Disposition of Previous Minutes**

Mr. Colvin moved to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2025 meeting as written, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin  
Second – Gallagher

**Roll Call – 6 yeas**

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**Public Recognition/Visitor's Comments**

None

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**Old Business**

None

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**Reports**

**Finance**

The Finance Committee met this evening and reviewed the budget and finances for 2024. The Village's financials should be updated soon on Open Checkbook. The next meeting will be March 17 at 6:00 p.m.

**Public Works Report**

Public Works will meet on March 3, 2025 at 6 p.m. to discuss the Village's infrastructure and projects.

**Special Committee Report**

None

**Village Manager Report**

- SmithCorp began the Franklin Phase II project on January 27<sup>th</sup>, with a projected completion date of May 10<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, the weather has already caused some delays.
- The manager's report included a copy of the thank-you letter from the Crane family for the flowers.
- Chief Copeland registered to involve the Village in a class action lawsuit against PFAS. \$10.3 billion has been distributed so far, and he will let the Council know if the Village qualifies.
- The Maintenance Department took advantage of the slight warm-up, got the hot box out, and filled potholes.
- The Government building's backflow needed repairs. Unfortunately, the device was obsolete, and a new system had to be installed.

- An article for the Township Magazine is due next week. Chief Copeland volunteered to submit an article outlining the projects completed and upcoming projects.
- The Maintenance Department installed no-parking signs on Franklin Road between Third Street and Route 42. Chief Copeland said that, technically, parking has never been permitted on this double yellow-line road, but the signs will be more of a deterrent.
- No DORA Drink stickers have been provided to merchants who do not want to participate in DORA. So far, Canadian Goose, Cheap John's, and Wendy's Treasures have requested stickers.

## **Police Report**

- The Warren County Drug Task Force Annual Report has been provided for review.
- A quote for a new cruiser has been provided, along with an ordinance to purchase it. This also includes the cage and light bars from KT Rose. Chief Copeland said he plans to have an ordinance at the next meeting to declare the old cruiser surplus and a few other items. He also explained that this was part of the program to rotate older cruisers out every two years.
- The Police Department received its Ohio Collaborative certification, which signifies the Department is up to code and training.

Mr. Lauffer asked if the used car purchased last year is being used. Chief Copeland stated that it is in the rotation and assigned to an officer.

Mr. Gallagher noted an OVI on the calls for service and asked if that had anything to do with the DORA District. Chief Copeland stated that it did not. He also added that he did not think the DORA District was being used yet, as the weather has been pretty cold.

Mr. Gallagher also noted that on the Annual Report from the Drug Task Force, cocaine seizures were 4 to 5 times higher than in the past. He asked if there was a trend in cocaine use. Chief Copeland stated he has not heard anything, but one big bust can skew the numbers for the year.

Mrs. Miller thanked the Maintenance Department for installing the no-parking signs on Franklin, as she has had difficulty maneuvering around parked cars in that area. She also added that they have done a great job on snow removal this year. She can always tell the difference in the roads when she leaves the corporation limits. Mr. Blankenship also commented that he believes they have done a tremendous job.

## **Financial Director Report**

- Ms. Morley stated that Council had been provided with December 2024 and January 2025 month-end reports for review.

- Year-end reports have been sent to Warren County and State Auditors. Once the State Auditor has acknowledged receipt, she will have 2024 uploaded to Open Checkbook.

**Law Report**

None

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**New Business**

Division of Liquor Control gave notice of whether or not Council would like to request a hearing to transfer a liquor license to the new owners of Groceryland at 60 Marvins Lane. Chief Copeland stated he had no issue with the transfer. No one on Council asked for a hearing.

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**Legislation**

**First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions**

**Ordinance No. 2025-004**

Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract with Lebanon Ford for the Purchase of One 2025 Ford Explorer Police Vehicle

Mr. Gallagher moved to have the first reading of Ordinance No. 2025-004, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher  
Second – Miller

**Roll Call – 6 years**

Mr. Lauffer asked what accessories were included in the quote. Chief Copeland stated that this included everything needed to equip the vehicle to be a police car, minus the striping. So, everything from the cage to the light bar. Mrs. Miller asked how long a police vehicle was in service before trading it out. Chief Copeland said a car will usually be in service for 12 years. He also said that each officer was assigned their own car as this makes them accountable for the maintenance and upkeep of the vehicle.

**Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions**

**Ordinance No. 2025-001**

An Ordinance Authorizing a Fifty Percent Reduction of the Water Fees Related to the Park at the Mary L. Cook Library

Mr. Gallagher moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-001, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher

Second – Miller

**Roll Call – 6 yeas**

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**Executive Session**

Mr. Gallagher moved to go into executive session at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the purchase or sale of public property and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion

Motion – Gallagher

Second – Miller

**Roll Call – 6 yeas**

Council returned from Executive Session at 7:42 p.m. with 6 members present.

All were in favor of adjourning at 7:43 p.m.

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

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Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council