

**Village of Waynesville
Council Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2024 at 7:00 pm**

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

Village Staff Present: Jeff Forbes, Law Director; 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, March 4, 2024.

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

Mayor Isaacs motioned to excuse Mr. Blankenship from tonight's meeting, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Isaacs
Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 6 yeas

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Mayor Acknowledgments

Mayor Isaacs said construction continues throughout the Village and it will be nice when everything is completed.

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Disposition of Previous Minutes

Mr. Colvin motioned to amend the February 20th minutes under new business by adding “and” and deleting the period in the third-to-last sentence. He also asked to replace “he” with “Mr. Forbes” in the second-to-last sentence. Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Lauffer

Roll Call – 6 yeas

Mr. Lauffer motioned to approve the Council minutes as amended for the February 20, 2024 Council meeting, and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Lauffer
Second – Colvin

Roll Call – 6 yeas

Ms. Dedden asked Mr. Forbes about the motion at the last meeting to donate \$500 to the MOMS Committee. She wanted to ensure this was allowed as she remembers in the past, it was determined that dues to the Chamber were not permissible, as donations must be patriotic. Mr. Forbes responded that the auditor’s primary concern would be whether the donation had a valid public purpose; if so, it is okay. He stated that the auditor does not look beyond that. Ms. Dedden said she felt the auditor would appreciate a paper trail and suggested a resolution be prepared for this purpose. Mr. Forbes said that is acceptable and this donation is acceptable as it is a valid public purpose as the committee’s purpose benefits the Village. Mr. Colvin wanted to clarify that Council members are active committee members and that the committee's purpose is to maintain old Main Street. He also added that this donation is different than a donation to the American Legion, as Council representatives attend MOMS meetings. Ms. Dedden asked if this donation would be a one-time or a yearly donation. Mr. Colvin stated he was not sure. Mr. Lauffer added that he has been to several MOMS meetings over the years, and this is the first time there have been more than a few members actively interested in benefiting the community and continuing the purpose of MOMS. Mr. Lauffer added he is happy to have more people interested in working together to help improve downtown.

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Public Recognition/Visitor’s Comments

Scott Teeters, representing AES, 1900 Dryden Road, informed Council that on February 8, 2024, AES submitted the second phase of the Smart Grid Plan to PUCO. Phase I started in 2021 and will expire in July of 2025. Phase II will continue the installation of smart meters and updating the grid to become a self-healing system to help isolate issues and keep outages to a minimum. Mr. Gallagher asked if this plan falls under capital improvement or a rate increase. Mr. Teeter responded that it would be a capital investment. Mr. Colvin wondered if there are any concerns about privacy issues with smart meters, such as people being able to look at usage and tell if people are home. Mr. Teeters responded that privacy is a significant concern for AES, and they take protecting it seriously by having several safeguards in place. Mr. Colvin asked if individuals can opt out of a smart meter. Mr. Teeters responded yes, but there will be an upfront charge with a monthly fee. He is unsure about the price but will have more information when Waynesville is scheduled to receive smart meters. Mr. Gallagher added that working in the utility industry, there is a considerable push from the government to upgrade to smart systems. Mr. Teeters said the benefits of this next phase would help cut times of outages, explaining that currently, AES does not know when there is an outage unless customers report it. The smart grid will notify AES immediately of outages and isolate it, so the fewest customers are affected. The AMI meter will ping the system if an outage has been resolved. Currently, a truck is dispatched only to find the outage has been fixed. The smart grid will save time so a truck is only

dispatched to current outages. Mr. Teeters also informed Council that AES has just announced Tom Raga as the newest president.

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Old Business

None

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Reports

Finance

The Finance Committee will meet on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Public Works Report

The Public Works met this evening and went over the progress of current and future projects. The next meeting will be on April 1 at 6:00 p.m.

Special Committee Reports

The MOMS Committee is scheduled for March 25 from 6:00 to 7:00.

The Personnel Committee will meet on March 11 at 6:00 p.m.

Village Manager Report

- The MOMS Committee marked several trees along Main Street for removal and trimming. The Street Department worked together to remove the marked trees and trimmed the other trees the next day. Several merchants have asked why their tree was removed. Chief Copeland asked if the Chamber could let the merchants know this was a joint decision of WMA, the Chamber, and the Village.
- On March 14, Chief Copeland will attend a Flood Plain meeting at the Warren County Soil and Water. This meeting will address the land at the corner of Route 42 and Route 73.
- Mayor Isaacs and Chief Copeland met with an engineer from EMH&T to discuss the plans for the stoplight at the corner of Route 42 and North Street. The project will not be completed until spring 2025, but they may work on the turn lanes this summer. Centerpoint has been moving several gas lines in

anticipation of this project. To maintain uniformity, the light will be very similar to the light on Routes 73 and 42.

- KT Holden has completed the water main and storm lines on Franklin Road and is now replacing the laterals to the customer's meters. Chief Copeland has a meeting this week to discuss the final phase of repaving the project area, which will be completed sometime in the spring. Choice One has assured him that the crown created by the PRV vault will be evened out during the repaving.
- Smith Corp has completed the water main on Third Street and will begin replacing the laterals and adding the storm line.
- Chief Copeland spoke with Michael Spicer from Moody's and confirmed that the motor for Well 10 is a 40HP according to specs. They are finishing up testing the well and then will soon begin running the lateral under the Mill Race and connecting Well 10 to the system.
- The Street Department fixed a low spot running to Well 10 in the road. There was standing water, making reaching the well difficult. They installed a galvanized pipe under the road, and with all the rain, this area no longer has standing water.
- Surplus items were sold on Gov Deals for a total of \$2842.01. Several small items will still be auctioned off at an in-house auction in the spring.
- Public Works discussed a customer's significant water break. Waiting for Council's direction on how to proceed.

Police Report

- Dispatch calls for service and the Mayor's Court month-end have been provided for review. There are no code enforcement updates as Sgt. Denlinger is on paternity leave.
- Officer Walker attended ARIDE (Advanced Roadside Impairment Training Enforcement) to enhance his skills in detecting and dealing with OVIs. He works the third shift on weekends, and this training should help him tremendously.
- A special Council Meeting with Warren County Emergency Communication is scheduled for March 16 at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will go into an executive session because the village's security will be discussed.

Mr. Lauffer asked about the large water break for a customer. Chief Copeland responded that it was discussed during Public Works. The leak lasted for 45 days and used about 1 million gallons.

Financial Director Report

- There is an ordinance tonight to approve final appropriations. The only change from the Finance meeting was the line item for saving for new street lights on Main Street was increased to 180K as Council agreed to save 60K every year. It also includes 25K committed to Wayne Township for the multijurisdictional OPWC grant to repave Corwin Road.

Law Report

None

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New Business

None

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Legislation

First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution No. 2024-006

A Resolution Adopting the Permanent Appropriations for the Village of Waynesville for Calendar Year 2024 and Declaring an Emergency

Ms. Dedden motioned to waive the two-reading rule for Resolution No. 2024-006, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden

Second – Miller

Roll Call – 6 yeas

Ms. Dedden motioned to adopt Resolution 2024-006, and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden

Second – Colvin

Roll Call – 6 yeas

Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance 2024-005

Amending the Rules of Council

Ms. Dedden motioned to adopt Ordinance 2024-005, and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden

Second – Colvin

Roll Call – 6 yeas

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Tabled Ordinances and Resolutions

None

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Executive Session

Mr. Colvin motioned to go into executive session at 7:47 p.m. to discuss the employment of a public employee and Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin

Second – Lauffer

Roll Call – 6 yeas

Council returned from executive session at 8:55 p.m., and all six members were present.

Ms. Dedden motioned to have the Law Director write up legislation with a contract appointing Ms. Morley as Finance Director starting April 1, 2024. Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden

Second – Colvin

Roll Call – 6 yeas

Mr. Colvin canceled the Personnel meeting scheduled for March 11 since the reason for the meeting was resolved during the executive session.

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All were in favor of adjourning at 8:56 pm.

Date: _____

Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council