

**Village of Waynesville
Council Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2024 at 7:00 pm**

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

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 18, 2024.

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Mayor Isaacs called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Mr. Colvin motioned to excuse Mr. Lauffer and Mr. Gallagher from tonight's meeting, and Ms. Dedden seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Dedden

Roll Call – 5 yeas

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Mayor Acknowledgments

Mayor Isaacs said construction continues. It is nice to see things getting fixed around the Village, but it will be even nicer when everything is completed.

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Disposition of Previous Minutes

Mr. Colvin motioned to approve the Council minutes as written for the March 4, 2024 Council meeting, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Miller

Roll Call – 5 yeas

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Public Recognition/Visitor's Comments

Major Arrasmith of Warren County Drug Task Force presented Council with the 2023 annual report. He also provided a contribution sheet for 2024 and thanked Council for their kind contribution this year. Major Arrasmith said that funding for the task force relies heavily on local jurisdiction contributions, making up about 30% of the task force budget. He explained that since 2004, the City of Wilmington has been a task force member because Route 73 connects Route 75 and Route 71, which can be a major thoroughfare for traffickers. Major Arrasmith told the Council that the task force is still seeing an increase in the arrests of out-of-town traffickers. Ten years ago, addicts would go to a certain house to obtain drugs; now, dealers will travel and deliver. Major Arrasmith described the task force's makeup, consisting of 17 full-time personnel from 12 agencies. This is down from 2022 but will hopefully return to 20 in 2024. Since 2004, the task force has been a member of HYDRA, which brings federal, state, and local agencies together under one roof. The task force reports monthly to a policy board of local police chiefs, providing them with updates and keeping them involved. In 2023, the investigative activity of the staff included 331 new cases. These investigations resulted in 114 felony arrests, 125 search warrants, 58 firearms seized, and 1,673 traffic stops. Major Arrasmith stated that Warren County has a lot of drug activity because of its geological location. It is between Cincinnati and Dayton, and Routes 75 and 71 merge in the County. The trend toward methamphetamines and fentanyl continues to increase. Drug seizures for 2023 included 18.5 lbs. of cocaine, 35+ lbs. of methamphetamine, and 6 lbs. of fentanyl. Furthermore, overdose deaths are down to 33. Major Arrasmith thanked the Council for their continued support and looks forward to seeing them next year.

Chief Beckett introduced himself to Council as the new Wayne Township Fire Department Chief. He is currently working on revamping new policies and procedures. He said he is excited to join the community and create new relationships with Chief Copeland, Council, and residents. Chief Copeland suggested setting up a tour for Council of the new Fire Station.

Kent Pelton, Pastor of the Nazarene Church on Route 73, spoke to Council about the possibility of his congregation helping the community, such as picking up trash. It was suggested he make an appointment with Chief Copeland.

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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 next Public Works Committee 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. Mr. Colvin stated he spoke with Ms. Garofalo, who appreciated the Streets Department trimming and removing the trees along Main Street so quickly. Chief Copeland recommended that the Committee replace the trees or fill the holes soon. He said they have moved flowerpots over the holes and placed cones, but it still is a risk factor.

Mr. Colvin stated he needs to plan a Parks and Rec Board meeting to follow up on some items. He will contact members to arrange a meeting.

Ms. Dedden stated that the Planning Commission will meet on March 26 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss codes concerning solar panels.

Village Manager Report

- Chief Copeland attended the Flood Plain Managers meeting and met with Jacob Bench afterward to discuss the Hoffman property at the corner of Route 73 and 42. In 2018, FEMA accepted the CLOMR. It has been determined that if this area were filled in, the flood levels would not rise more than ½". However, a LOMR (Letter of Map Revision) may have to be obtained depending on the type of fill and proposed construction. Mr. Hoffman currently has the land for sale.
- On March 13, Warren County Water and Sewer notified the Village of a sewer rate increase and the addition of a maintenance and repair fee effective immediately. Chief Copeland spoke with Chris Brausch and explained that the billing contract states the Village will be given 60 days' notice of any price increases. The Utility Billing Department is currently working with them on the best way to implement the new rates and charges.

- The Maintenance Department built a concrete pad to wash vehicles. This will help with the dust and debris that gets kicked up when washing vehicles.
- Chief Copeland attended a walkthrough with KT Holden and Choice One to review the Franklin Phase I project. KT Holden plans to repave that section of Franklin as soon as the asphalt companies reopen for the season.
- CenterPoint has hired a company to replace gas lines in anticipation of the second phase of the Franklin Project. This will replace water and storm lines from Lytle to Old Stage Road. The state usually releases the funding at the end of July, and once the project is put out to bid and awarded, it is already September. Because of the Sauerkraut Festival, the earliest companies can start the project is November.
- The replacement of the catch basin on Route 42 has become a much bigger project than anticipated. Because it is in a Limited Access Area (LA), the Village must abide by ODOT specifications. This includes barriers and an attenuator, which costs \$12.5K to rent for two weeks.

Police Report

- Thank you to Warren County Public Safety Network for attending the Special Council Meeting to educate Council members on the emergency communications system. Council may want to consider taking a tour of the facilities.
- Thank you to Major Arrasmith for attending tonight's Council meeting and giving Warren County's Annual Drug Task Force Report. He does a great job and is always willing to help the Village when asked.
- There is an ordinance tonight to accept the Warren County 9-1-1 Emergency Plan. Chief Copeland recommended adopting this as an emergency.

Mrs. Miller asked Chief Copeland about the status of the metal plates on Franklin Road. He explained that once all the new gas lines are installed, the company will backfill all the holes at the same time.

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

Resolution No. 2024 - 007

Affirming the Determination of Council to Donate \$500 to the Maintenance of Old Main Street (Moms) Committee

Mrs. Miller motioned for the first reading for Resolution No. 2024-007, and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller
Second – Blankenship

Roll Call – 5 yeas

Ordinance No. 2024-008

An Ordinance Appointing Jamie Morley to the Position of Finance Director and Authorizing the Village Manager to Execute Any Necessary and Related Contracts and Declaring an Emergency

Ms. Dedden motioned to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance No. 2024-008, and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden
Second – Blankenship

Roll Call – 5 yeas

Mr. Colvin motioned to adopt Ordinance 2024-008 as an emergency, and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Blankenship

Roll Call – 5 yeas

Resolution No. 2024-009

A Resolution Approving the Countywide 9-1-1 Final Plan and Declaring an Emergency

Ms. Dedden motioned to waive the two-reading rule for Resolution No. 2024-009, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden
Second – Miller

Roll Call – 5 yeas

Mr. Blankenship motioned to adopt Resolution 2024-009, and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Blankenship
Second – Colvin

Roll Call – 5 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

None

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All were in favor of adjourning at 7:46 pm.

Date: _____

Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council