

**Village of Waynesville
Council Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2024 at 7:00 pm**

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

Village Staff Present: Jeffery Forbes, Law Director; Gary Copeland, Village Manager and Director of Public Safety; Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council and Finance Director

***CLERK’S NOTE-** This is a summary of the Village Council Meeting held on Monday, April 1, 2024.*

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

Roll Call – 7 present

Mayor Acknowledgements

Mayor Isaacs said Franklin Road should be repaved soon. Things are getting better in the Village.

Disposition of Previous Minutes

Ms. Dedden motioned to approve the minutes of March 18, 2024 and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden
Second – Blankenship

Roll Call – 7 yeas

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Public Recognition/visitor’s comments

State Representative Adam Mathews from the 56th District introduced himself to Council and explained he was attending the meeting tonight at the request of Council to discuss HB 331. He clarified that the bill's purpose was to ensure good governance for residents and help restore an economic base to the State of Ohio. Ohio has more taxable jurisdictions than any other state, and it is hard to convince companies to stay or attract them to come. This bill will also simplify ways to disband villages that no longer serve the residents. There are eight reasons for the dissolution of a village; this bill proposes adding a 9th reason if the village does not have candidates on the ballot for all open village council positions. The bill states that villages would be evaluated every census year by their County's Budget Commission to ensure the village provides its residents with at least five of the nine requirements. This will provide an unbiased assessment. If the Commission decides a village does not meet these credentials, then the question of dissolution of the village will be presented to residents at the ballot. The intention is to decrease animosity and ensure the villages serve their residents. Rep. Mathews stated that this bill is still moving through the process.

Mr. Colvin asked Rep. Mathews what the adjudication process was. Rep. Mathews responded that their county's Budget Commission would review each village and determine if it provided the required services. If the village is found lacking, it will be put on the ballot for residents to decide to dissolve it. Mr. Gallagher asked who it would fall back onto if a village dissolved. Rep. Mathews said the area would go to the township because it would be unincorporated. He also elaborated that the recent HB 104 just cleaned up the process of the dissolution of a village. Mr. Gallagher asked what happened to all the village's assets when this happened. Rep. Mathews said that all the funds and assets go to the township, and it is up to the trustees to determine how to use those assets. They may determine the best use of the funds may not benefit the former village. Mr. Lauffer asked if Harveysburg just went through this. Rep. Mathews stated that this was a ballot initiative, and it failed. He further stated that HB 331 would help prevent ballot initiatives from being done out of animosity. Rep. Mathews stressed that the bill's purpose is to help residents who are being taxed, and the village does not provide services.

Mr. Colvin appreciated Mr. Mathews's attendance at tonight's meeting. He also wanted Rep. Mathews to elaborate on the proposed bill to eliminate the state income tax. Rep. Mathews said the plan of HB 386 is to eliminate the state income tax over six years.

Dawna Fogarty, Director of Warren County Community Services, introduced herself to Council. She thanked Council for their endorsement to become a federal designation as the Community Action Agency for Warren County. She is pleased to announce that WCCS was awarded this designation in January and is the 48th Community Action Agency in Ohio. She said her visit tonight was to summarize the services WCCS provides for the residents of Waynesville. Ms. Fogarty outlined the services.

- Carriage Hill provides 40 older adults a place for independent living.
- Head Start Early Learning Centers helped 379 children in the Waynesville area.
- Adult New Readers Program helped seven individuals in the area.
- Collaborated with Mary L. Cook Library with the Imagination Library.
- Assisted 56 households with home energy bills, including setting up a mobile outreach four times in the area to make receiving aid easier for families.

- Emergency support was provided to 400+ families, including 3 in the area.
- Home delivery meals are provided to at least 60 local individuals daily.
- Provided transportation needs for medical and nonmedical; 472 services were provided to Waynesville residents.
- Of the 2667 elderly management care, 68 were in Waynesville.

Mr. Gallagher said he appreciates all that WCCS does for the Village. He also asked about the eligibility of those who qualify for energy assistance. Ms. Fogarty responded that it is 135% of the federal poverty level.

The Council thanked Ms. Fogarty for attending tonight's meeting and explaining the invaluable services WCCS provides to Waynesville residents.

Ray Otto, 11 North Fourth Street, introduced himself to Council as a representative of the Waynesville Garden Club. He explained that he was there tonight to explain the pollinator pathway project. Mr. Otto stated an article (attached) would be in the Waynesville Magazine and wanted to familiarize the Council with the project in case they were asked any questions. He said the club has worked with the Ohio State Extension Office and Central State on the project. Mr. Otto explained that with growth, much of the habitat for wildlife has gone away, and islands have been created, which can be detrimental to the pollinators. This causes interbreeding and disease to spread. The plan is to reconnect these islands by creating pathways between them. After consultation with Warren County Water and Soil, it was determined to concentrate on certain plants to grow these pathways. This year, the club is concentrating on helping the endangered Blazing Star Moth and encouraging the planting of blazing star liatris and meadow mint. This is the main breeding and feeding plants for these moths. Grandma's Gardens is sponsoring a kickoff event in May, and individuals can purchase these plants at a discount. Grandma's is also aware of the event and should be a great resource for purchasing the plants. The plan is to create these pathways throughout Lebanon and Waynesville. Mr. Otto explained that local farmers have had to import European bees to pollinate their crops in the past six years. People need to start thinking about planting indigenous plant life to help the pollinators.

Council thanked Mr. Otto for his attendance and dedication to the pollinator community.

Old Business

None

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Reports

Finance

The Finance will meet on April 18th, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. and all are encouraged to attend.

Public Works Report

Met this evening to go over ongoing and future projects. The next meeting will be May 6, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Special Committee Report

MOMS will meet on April 29th, 2024 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Village Manager Report

- The Maintenance Department unclogged a storm drain on the 400 block of Main Street using the hydrovac.
- Third Street main water line is completed. Smith Corp has started on the laterals.
- The paving of Franklin should begin soon.
- ODOT has required the Village to abide by its specifications for the replacement of the catch basin on Route 42. This included renting electronic arrow signs and barricades. Ordinance 2024-009 is to approve the change order of \$26,170 over the initial bid.
- The Maintenance Department collected \$181.80 in scrap metal to be put back into the general fund.
- Waker Plumbing has completed the moving of gas lines that would be affected by the Franklin Phase II project.
- Chris Wojnicz is retiring from Warren County Water and Sewer. A flyer has been provided for his retirement ceremony.
- Annual Community Garage Sale dates have been set for June 20-23, 2024.

Police Report

- The next council report will include the Mayor's Court Report and Dispatched Calls for Service since Sunday was the last day of the month.
- An updated Code Enforcement report has been provided for review.
- Thank you to Warren County Communications for attending the Special Council meeting. Chief Copeland recommended that the Council tour the facility.
- Thank you to Commander Arrasmith for presenting the Warren County Drug Task Force year-end report at the last meeting.
- Thank you to Girl Scout Troop 4647 for donating cookies to the officers. They appreciated them.

Financial Director Report

None

Law Report

None

New Business

Ms. Dedden proposed that the Council start using iPads for Council packets. Chief Copeland stated he researched, and a 10.5” iPad was around \$296. Mr. Forbes stated he might have a contact for the Village to purchase these at state-bid prices. It was agreed to proceed and look at purchasing these. Mr. Gallagher added that this would save on paper and an officer’s time delivering the packets.

Legislation

First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 2024-009

Authorizing the Village Manager to Execute a Change Order to the Contract with Fed Excavating, Inc. in an Amount not to Exceed \$26,170 for the Rebuilding of Existing Catch Basins within the Village Stormwater System and Declaring an Emergency

Mr. Gallagher motioned to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance 2024-009, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher
Second – Miller

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mr. Gallagher motioned to adopt Ordinance 2024-009 as an emergency, and Ms. Dedden seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher
Second – Dedden

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Ordinance 2024- 010

Amending Various Sections of the Village Income Tax Code to Comply with Provisions of Ohio H.B. 33 and Declaring an Emergency

Ms. Dedden motioned to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance 2024-010, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden
Second – Miller

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mr. Colvin asked Mr. Forbes what this ordinance was about. Mr. Forbes responded that the State passed laws that if a municipality is to have an income tax, then it must be in compliance and consistent with State laws. This does not change anything for the Village's current tax law as the big change was that local income tax cannot tax the income of residents under the age of 18, which the Village has never taxed minors. Mr. Forbes further stated that if the Village does not pass this, the State can take away the right for a municipality to levy an income tax.

Mr. Gallagher asked if this violates Home Rule, to which Mr. Forbes responded that this exact point has been taken to court. The court has ruled that since the State allows a municipality to levy an income tax, it has the right to deny it. There is language in the ordinance stating that the Village disagrees with the State to require this but is doing so because the court has ruled that they have to. Mr. Forbes stated that is an attempt to make all municipal income tax uniform across the State.

Mrs. Miller motioned to adopt Ordinance 2024-010 as an emergency, and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller

Second – Colvin

**Roll Call – 6 yeas (Isaacs, Lauffer, Miller, Blankenship, Colvin, Dedden)
1 nay (Gallagher)**

Ordinance 2024- 011

An Ordinance Authorizing the Finance Director to Transfer Investment Funds (2 Year CD) and Declaring an Emergency (CD Rollover)

Ms. Dedden motioned to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance 2024-011, and Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden

Second – Lauffer

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mr. Gallagher motioned to adopt Ordinance 2024-011 as an emergency, and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher

Second – Colvin

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Ordinance No. 2024-012

Authorizing a Health Insurance Plan for Village Employees and Declaring an Emergency

Mr. Colvin motioned to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance 2024-012, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin

Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Ms. Dedden stated the Finance Committee met with Mr. Hough of Wade Insurance, who suggested changing the employee health care plan from Anthem to Aetna to help save the Village and employees money. She said the proposed plan is very similar to the current one with slight changes, such as paying about \$10 more for copays, but an emergency copay would be \$150 less. Rx orders will also be less expensive with this new plan. The Village will save approximately \$20K with this switch. Ms. Morley said she emailed employees about the possible change; several have looked up their current doctors and will not be affected. She has not heard from anyone that this would have a negative effect on their healthcare.

Ms. Dedden motioned to adopt Ordinance 2024-012 as an emergency, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden
Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Ordinance No. 2024-013

An Ordinance Authorizing the Transfer of Money from the General Fund (1000) to the Police Levy Fund (2901) and from the Water Fund (5101) to the Water Capital Fund (5701)

Mr. Gallagher motioned for the first reading rule for Ordinance 2024-013, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher
Second – Miller

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Ordinance No. 2024-014

Authorizing the Finance Director to Execute Documents Giving Certain Penalty and Interest Abatement Authorization to the Regional Income Tax Authority (RITA) and Declaring an Emergency

Ms. Dedden motioned to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance 2024-014, and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden
Second – Colvin

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mr. Blankenship motioned to adopt Ordinance 2024-014 as an emergency, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Blankenship
Second – Miller

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolution

Resolution No. 2024 - 007

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

Mr. Colvin motioned to adopt Resolution 2024-007, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin

Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Executive Session

None

All were in favor of adjourning at 8:33 p.m.

Date: _____

Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council