

**Village of Waynesville
Council Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2024 at 7:00 pm**

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

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

CLERK'S NOTE- This is a summary of the Village Council Meeting held on Monday, July 15, 2024.

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

Roll Call – 6 present

Mayor Acknowledgements

Mayor Isaacs asked for a moment of silence for the people who were shot in Pennsylvania.

Disposition of Previous Minutes

Mrs. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2024 meeting and Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller
Second – Lauffer

Roll Call – 6 years

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Public Recognition/visitor's comments

Ned Denlinger, 2799 Emerald Way, spoke to Council on behalf of Waynesville Community Church. He explained that the church is having pressure issues, and after speaking with

plumbers, it was suggested that the church increase the meter size to a 1” meter. Mr. Denlinger stated that he is asking the Village to waive the fee to upgrade the meter size. Mr. Gallagher asked if a calculation had been done. Mr. Denlinger responded that the church has had an addition that increased the number of bathrooms and square footage. It has been determined that a 1” meter would suffice and solve the pressure issues the church is currently having. Mr. Gallagher explained it is common practice among utility companies to base prices on meter size. The larger the meter, the more water the Village guarantees to provide to their customer. Council asked why they should consider waiving the additional fee to upgrade the meter size. Mr. Denlinger responded that the Community Baptist Church does quite a lot for the community.

Mrs. Miller asked who was responsible for the fee. Chief Copeland explained that the water connection fee is usually paid during construction. The church paid the tap fee when the building was initially built. Since the fee schedule is based on meter size, the Church would be responsible for the difference between the 5/8” water connection fee (\$4,300) and the 1” water connection fee (\$18,000). This is the fee the church is asking to be waived. Mr. Gallagher wanted to ensure the church would be doing all the plumbing work and did not have expectations of the Village. Mr. Colvin asked why Council should consider this as he does not want to appear giving favoritism. Mr. Denlinger stated the church does a lot for the community, and currently, they are just meeting expenses, and this fee would impact the budget significantly. Mr. Gallagher said he may be in favor of this as this is not a business, and the church gives back to the community. Mr. Colvin asked about the Village Manager’s position on granting this waiver. Chief Copeland responded that the church asked him for the waiver, and he told them he did not have the authority. So, this is why they are at the meeting. He suggested that this be referred to Public Works. Mr. Colvin asked Mr. Forbes if this was permitted. Mr. Forbes stated that it is well within Council’s authority to grant this waiver. They would have to pass legislation, and he can draft it up to be voted on at the next meeting if that is what the Council wants. Mr. Gallagher asked Mr. Denlinger to attend the Public Works meeting on August 5th to discuss further.

Ms. Dedden, 1232 Anthony Trace, warned Council to consider waiving fees carefully. She stated that they may set a precedent, and others may follow suit and ask for waivers. She reminded Council that Warren County is also requesting a fee waiver due to a large leak. She asked the Council to think hard before granting these waivers.

James Prickett, 374 Miami, stated that he believed if another church were to be built, it should pay the water connection fees. However, Waynesville Community Baptist Church paid the connection fee when the church was built, contributing to the water infrastructure when it paid the initial connection fee.

Old Business

None

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Reports

Finance

The Finance Committee met this evening and went over Village finances. The next Finance Committee meeting will be on August 19th, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Report

Public Works will meet on August 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. At this meeting, they will discuss Warren County's request for a waiver of water fees and Waynesville Community Church's waiver of fees for a meter size increase.

Special Committee Report

MOMS met this evening and continued discussing removing the sidewalk pavers, tree boxes, and replacement light poles. The Village Manager will continue to get quotes for the sidewalks and new trees.

Parks and Rec will meet on August 19, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. The discussion will include updates on the park at the library and Bicentennial Park.

Village Manager Report

- Photos of Ms. Dedden receiving her proclamation have been provided.
- The Water Department continues flushing and painting hydrants. A detailed report should be provided at the next meeting.
- Mr. Lauffer, Mrs. Miller, and Chief Copeland met with Design Homes to review proposed plans for a new development.
- The Street Department is painting yellow curbs around the Village.
- The Water Department received the purchased equipment using the Division of Groundwater Grant. A leak detector and handheld valve exerciser were purchased for \$9,638, which will be refunded to the Village.
- Warren County Water & Sewer has asked for a fee waiver due to a hefty bill caused by a leak. This has been referred to Public Works.
- The repaving of Third Street should be scheduled soon.
- SmithCorp won the bid for the OPWC Franklin Phase II project.
- Chief Copeland has a meeting on Thursday with ODOT to discuss the bridge project on Route 73 and the impact that will have on traffic during the Sauerkraut Festival.

- Photographs of the Fourth of July parade have been provided. There were no incidents, and the parade went smoothly.

Police Report

- Dispatched Calls for Service, Mayor's Court month end, and code enforcement reports have all been provided for review.
- Chief Copeland thanked Judge Loxley and Judge Fischer for attending last month's Council meeting.

Mrs. Miller asked Chief Copeland why there was a delay in paving Third Street. Chief Copeland stated that SmithCorp ran into a few issues with unmarked sewer lines, which caused a delay. The project also included additions, such as new valves on Miami and North Streets.

Mr. Lauffer suggested only allowing eastbound traffic on Route 73 during the festival. Chief Copeland stated he would allow ODOT to make the decisions as it is their project, and the liability rests with them. He noted that the Village does not have the manpower to direct traffic on Route 73. ODOT will likely have to hire a couple of troopers to do this.

Mr. Colvin asked why the bridge project was done before the traffic light at Route 42 and North Street. Chief Copeland responded that this decision was made at the state level and that the bridge was prioritized over the light. The light is to be completed in 2025.

Financial Director Report

- The Ohio State Auditor requires all employees and elected officials to complete new online fraud training by September 28th. Ms. Morley will send the link for the training.

Law Report

None

Mr. Forbes stated that even though Council set Wednesday as the deadline for applications for the open Council position, it is up to them whether they would like to consider the other three applicants, who submitted their paperwork today. Council asked Mr. Nation if he was agreeable to this, and he responded that he was okay with whatever they decided to do.

Mr. Colvin moved that Council interview and consider the other applicants for the open Council position. Mr. Gallagher seconded this motion.

Motion – Colvin

Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 5 yeas (Blankenship, Colvin, Gallagher, Isaacs, Lauffer); 1 nay (Miller)

New Business

James Prickett approached Council and expressed his displeasure about the Council's agreement to consider the other applicants. He stated that Mr. Nation is a great potential Council member who has attended meetings. He also said that Mr. Nation has done a fantastic job transforming the Lockup for the community and worked well with the Village Manager during the process. Mr. Prickett stated he wished Council would not consider the other applicants.

Chief Copeland stated that three of the four applicants were present for interviews. The other one is available by phone due to having COVID-19.

Ms. Dedden addressed Council, stating that one person applied immediately when they found out about the open Council position, turning in their application the next day. She asked that Council carefully consider the applicants and ensure they are prepared to commit to the position, as it is time-consuming.

Executive Session

Mrs. Miller moved to go into executive session at 8:00 p.m. to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. Mr. Blankenship seconded this motion.

Motion – Miller

Second – Blankenship

Roll Call – 6 years

Council returned to the chambers at 10:02 with all six members present.

Mayor Isaacs stated there were very good candidates for the open Council position. However, the Council cannot agree to choose one candidate at this time, so no decision will be made at this time.

Mr. Forbes explained that when a vacancy on Council occurs, Council has 45 days to choose a new Council member. If by the end of 45 days, Council is not prepared to make a decision, the choice reverts to the Mayor, who then appoints an individual to fill the vacancy. August 1 is the end of the 45 days for Council to choose. The next Council meeting is August 5th, so unless there is a special Council meeting, the Mayor must appoint someone to the open Council position.

Mrs. Miller moved to refer the waiver of fees for Warren County Water and Sewer to the Public Works Committee, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller

Second – Gallagher

Roll Call – 6 years

Legislation

First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 2024-022

Authorizing the Village Manager to Execute a Change Order to the OPWC Franklin Phase I Project Contract, Amending Appropriations for Said Change Order, and Declaring an Emergency

Mrs. Miller moved to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance No. 2024-022, and Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller
Second – Lauffer

Roll Call – 6 yeas

Mr. Colvin moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-022 as an emergency, and Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin
Second – Lauffer

Roll Call – 6 yeas

Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolution

None

All were in favor of adjourning at 10:14 p.m.

Date: _____

Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council