

**Village of Waynesville
Council Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2024 at 7:00 pm**

Present: Mayor Earl Isaacs
Mr. Lyle Anthony
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, August 19, 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 projects are being completed, and they should start repaving Third Street on Tuesday.

Disposition of Previous Minutes

Mr. Blankenship made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2024 meeting and Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Blankenship
Second – Lauffer

Roll Call – 7 years

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Public Recognition/Visitor’s Comments

Mathew McKeever, 759 Preston Dr., approached Council on his concerns for a DORA District and the proposed housing development discussed at the last Council meeting. He first addressed the housing development, stating that the proposed price point of 800K to 1.5 million was unrealistic for the current aging population in Waynesville. At this point, Chief Copeland interjected that the developer was no longer interested in developing the land after the last meeting. Mr. McKeever stated his second concern had to do with the DORA District. He noted that the proposed hours extend well after the shops usually close. He asked if this was the case and how this would benefit the shopkeepers unless they planned to stay open later. He also expressed concerns about the DORA District's effect on law enforcement. At the town hall meeting, he said residents were told that the Village would lose patrols if the police levy did not pass. Because the levy did not pass, Mr. McKeever asked how law enforcement could patrol the DORA district. Mr. McKeever also asked if Council is considering any law prohibiting recreational marijuana. Chief Copeland stated that there was a misconception about the police levy. The proposed levy was a replacement to tax properties at the current property tax rate. Right now, the levy taxes properties at the rate from around 2007. The Police Department has tightened its belt and can operate without cutting patrols. Chief Copeland also assured Mr. McKeever that a moratorium is in place against recreational marijuana. Mrs. Miller added that the Village income tax brought in more than expected and could supplement the police fund. Chief Copeland further said that police officers are in shortage and it is necessary to keep pay competitive to keep officers.

Scott Teeters, 1900 Dryden Road, representing AES, addressed the Council to follow up on questions concerning the AES project to replace the customer legacy system. He stated that AES is replacing residents' old drive-by reading meters with AMI communication meters. Residents should have received information on their bills.

Mr. Gallagher asked if this was a capital improvement project. Mr. Teeters said it is part of AES’s smart grid system project. He also informed Council that residents can opt out of a smart meter but will be charged an additional \$35 a month and an opt-out fee. This is to pay to maintain the legacy system and to have someone drive out to get the meter reading. Mr. Teeters wanted to stress that the smart meter only delivers the meter reading and does not transfer customer information.

Mr. Teeters outlined the benefits of the new meters, saying they will enable remote shut-off and turn-on of electricity for new owners—sometimes the same day, when it now takes an average of two days. Mr. Teeters said that the smart meters will also help during outages. The meter will ping the system when service is restored rather than having to send a crew out to check on services.

Old Business

None

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Reports

Finance

The Finance Committee met this evening and reviewed the Village's finances. Everything is going well. The next Finance Committee meeting will be in October because of the public hearing scheduled for September.

At this point, Mr. Colvin asked if Council needed to appoint a member to the Finance Committee to fill Ms. Dedden's spot. Mr. Gallagher asked if there was anyone on Public Works who wanted to move to the Finance Committee because Mr. Anthony would prefer to be on the Public Works Committee. Mrs. Miller volunteered to switch. Mr. Anthony is now on the Public Works Committee, and Mrs. Miller is on the Finance Committee.

Public Works Report

Public Works will meet on September 3, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Special Committee Report

Parks and Rec met this evening and Kelly Maloney gave updates on the new park at the library. There needs to be follow-up with the school concerning the bathrooms at Bicentennial Park. The next tentatively scheduled meeting is October 21, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

MOMS will meet on September 16th at 5:00 p.m. Chief Copeland will not be in attendance but hopefully can provide quotes for concrete work on Main Street.

Village Manager Report

- Chief Copeland stated he will be out of town on September 16 & 17.
- On August 8th, ODOT closed the bridge on Route 73. Chief Copeland put out a public notice explaining why the Village police officers were not directing traffic. It is an ODOT project, and with only one officer on duty, the police force does not have the manpower to do this. After many calls, ODOT did install a temporary stoplight. This will remain in place until after the Sauerkraut Festival. They are hoping to have one lane restored before the festival.
- Kelly Maloney, Director of Mary L. Cook Library, asked for a letter of support from the Village to help secure a grant for the new park. This has been provided for review. She is also asking about the price of water and sewer for the splash park.
- The public hearing for the DORA District is scheduled for September 16, 2024.

- The Water Department is rebuilding and repairing several fire hydrants around town.
- The Wayne Township Newsletter article is due by September 3.
- The Street Department has been out repairing potholes around town.
- Cox Paving will do full-depth repairs to a few areas and then repave Third Street on Tuesday.
- Ordinance 2024-027 allows the Village Manager to apply for an OPWC grant for a 1.3 million-dollar project. The State would cover 59% of the cost, and the Village would contribute 41%. The Township has agreed to collaborate, which will help the Village's chances.
- The Water Department has been going around town unburying valves and exercising them.
- The butterfly mural on Jamie Gabbard's building has been completed.
- There is also ordinance 2024-028 to have Fed Excavating replace several catch basins.
- There was a great public turnout for the last Council meeting.

Police Report

- Ashley Richardson found out at the Mayor's Court Clerk meeting that there is a program with the Department of Commerce to be able to claim unclaimed funds and will be implementing this.

Mrs. Miller asked Chief Copeland if he plans on paving any streets this year. Chief Copeland responded that with the OPWC repaving projects, he had not planned on milling and filling any roads. He added that Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Streets are all future OPWC projects.

Mr. Anthony thanked Chief Copeland for helping to get the temporary light at Route 42 and North Street.

Mr. Lauffer asked why the Police Department did not qualify at Spring Valley because it is free. Chief Copeland stated that reserve officers usually work during the week and cannot get off to qualify when it is offered for free. The weekend works best; using Franklin's range is only \$100.

Financial Director Report

- Ms. Morley reminded Council that a few have not completed the required State Auditor fraud training, which must be completed by September 28th.
- The bank reconciliation for July has been completed, and the Village earned about 25K in interest for the month.

- Ms. Morley stated that the charter allows Council to pass an ordinance charging a park 50% of the water rate. This has been done for Bicentennial Park.

Law Report

- Mr. Forbes reminded Council that they have passed a moratorium on recreational marijuana dispensaries, but this is not permanent, and the Council will need to take some action in the future. A municipality can prohibit them completely, limit them to certain zoning areas, or limit the number.
- Mr. Forbes stated that now that Council has received the code recommendations for solar panels, they will need to hold a public hearing. He recommended having a first reading and scheduling the public hearing.

Mr. Gallagher asked if he could amend the Planning Commission's recommended code on solar panels. Mr. Forbes responded that currently, Council does not have anything in front of them to amend. This would be done when Council decides to adopt the code.

New Business

Mr. Gallagher motioned to appoint Christopher Wade Palser to the BZA and Mr. Anthony seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher
Second – Anthony

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mr. Gallagher motioned to have legislation drawn up to consider the Planning Commission's code recommendation on solar panels and Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher
Second – Lauffer

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Legislation

First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 2024-027

Authorizing the Village Manager to Prepare and Submit an Application to Participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and /or Local Transportation Improvement Program(s) and to Execute Contracts as Required and Declaring an Emergency

Mr. Gallagher moved to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance No. 2024-027, and Mr. Blankenship seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher
Second – Blankenship

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Mr. Gallagher moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-027 as an emergency, and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher
Second – Colvin

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Ordinance No. 2024-028

Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract with Fed Excavating, Inc. in an Amount not to Exceed \$17,000 for the Repair of Existing Catch Basins within the Village Stormwater System

Mr. Gallagher moved to have the first reading of Ordinance No. 2024-028, and Mr. Anthony seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher
Second – Anthony

Roll Call – 7 yeas

Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolution

None

Executive Session

None

All were in favor of adjourning at 7:53 p.m.

Date: _____

Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council