

**Village of Waynesville  
Council Meeting Minutes  
November 18, 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, November 18, 2024.*

.....

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

Roll Call – 7 present

**Mayor Acknowledgements**

Mayor Isaacs said he was contacted by a group cleaning up Veteran’s Park. They have offered to clean the glass of the street lights along Main Street to help make them brighter. He said he appreciated the group’s efforts and the Holiday Season.

Chief Copeland said he would be okay with them cleaning the globes, but they would have to fill out a liability form before. Mr. Colvin added that it would be best after the holidays, as the poles are decorated for Christmas.

Mrs. Miller wished everyone a Happy Veteran’s Day and thanked those who have served the country.

.....

**Disposition of Previous Minutes**

Mr. Colvin moved to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2024 meeting as written, and Mr. Gallagher seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin  
Second – Gallagher

**Roll Call – 7 yeas**

.....

**Public Recognition/Visitor’s Comments**

Ned Denlinger, 2779 Emerald Way, thanked Council on behalf of Waynesville Community Church for waiving the additional tap fees for increasing the meter size. The water flow has been improved, and a leak has been fixed in the process. He also thanked Brian Keith for his assistance.

**Old Business**

None

.....

**Reports**

**Finance**

The Finance Committee met this evening. Mr. Hough from Wade Insurance went over insurance options for employees, and several pieces of legislation will be introduced to renew policies. Everything is going well.

**Public Works Report**

Public Works will meet on December 2, 2024 at 6 p.m. to review current and future projects.

**Special Committee Report**

None

**Village Manager Report**

- The staff and Council Christmas Party date is December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
- The roof of the Government Center has been replaced after damage from the strong wind storm. An insurance claim was not filed as they would have only covered \$500 after the Village’s deductible.

- A guideline of rules and regulations for the DORA District has been provided for review. Chief Copeland thanked Ashley Richardson for her help in preparing the packet. Mr. Forbes has reviewed the packet. Chief Copeland said that Council will need to approve the DORA guidelines, and they will be provided to WMA, the Chamber, and the restaurants that serve. He also said that the Village will design and order the signs and WMA will reimburse the Village. There will also be a business meeting with the participating restaurants to review all the regulations.
- Fresh Paint completed painting the cold barn and looks very nice.
- Chief Copeland and Mayor Isaacs attended the Veteran's Day breakfast at Warren County Career Center.
- The Street Department continues to pick up leaves.
- Chief Copeland has received several permits to install fiber optics throughout Thatcher Hill and Ellis Drive. He has contacted the company, Sigma, with fees and will go over expectations for restoration.
- The windows at the front of the Government Center have been replaced after a rock from a lawn mower broke them.
- Chief Copeland and Mayor Isaacs attended the ribbon cutting for Taylor's Creamery.
- The Recycle Rally is scheduled for May 3, 2024 at Wayne Local Schools.

## **Police Report**

- Chief Copeland attended the Veteran's Court graduation.
- The Police Department completed Group 5 of the Ohio Collaborative and are in compliance with all the standards set forth on these topics.
- On December 20<sup>th</sup>, there will be a retirement party for Sheriff Larry Simms.

Mr. Gallagher wanted to ensure Chief Copeland met with the fiber optics company to reiterate the village's expectations and ensure they abide by the rules regarding other utilities. He stated that fiber optic subcontractors have cost other utility companies millions of dollars because they do not properly clear other utilities when boring. Chief Copeland said he plans to meet with the subcontractor and has a good contact number and insurance bonding information.

## **Financial Director Report**

None

## **Law Report**

Mr. Forbes said that the Village is not involved, but a lawsuit in Warren County Common Pleas Court between Pat's Gas and KT Holden claims loss of business due to the road closure. The

Village is not a party in the lawsuit, but because KT Holden was the Village's contractor for the OPWC Franklin Phase I project, they have requested to depose Chief Copeland, who was the Village's contact. Mr. Forbes stated that he would accompany Chief Copeland.

Ms. Morley reminded Council that the moratorium on adult recreational marijuana expires on January 16, 2025.

Mr. Forbes said state law allows for several options. The Village can do nothing and let the moratorium expire, limit the number of dispensaries, or not allow any dispensaries within the Village. If the Council decides to allow the moratorium to expire, then dispensaries would fall under the current zoning codes and be allowed anywhere retail stores are permitted.

Mrs. Miller asked Chief Copeland his opinion. He stated that he would not allow any. He said the smell is awful, and from the reaction of the public to the DORA district, he does not think the residents would want this.

Mr. Forbes said that the way the state law is written, Council would have to pass an ordinance prohibiting dispensaries. It does not have to go through the Planning Commission. He wanted to stress that this would only prohibit dispensaries, not residents smoking.

Mr. Lauffer stated he does not want the Village to miss out on a lucrative way to bring in additional revenue. Mr. Forbes said that the Village is not allowed to add additional fees or charges as it is prohibited by state law. The state has imposed an additional 10% tax on all sales. This goes to the state, where it is divided up into certain funds, including law enforcement and drug training. 30% of the 10% is divided among all the "host cities."

Mr. Forbes explained that the state law elaborates further on where dispensaries are allowed to go. He believes that a dispensary cannot be within 500 feet of schools and churches. There are also regulations that a dispensary cannot be within one mile of another dispensary, so technically, if the Council were to allow a dispensary, because of the Village size, the state would only allow for one dispensary.

Mr. Lauffer asked about going into some gas stations, which already look like dispensaries. Mr. Forbes said that because it is synthesized and has lower THC levels, they are able to sell it. He also said there is a bill at the state level that would prohibit this.

Mrs. Miller said she would like Mr. Forbes to draft legislation prohibiting dispensaries within Village limits. Mr. Gallagher added that Council can prohibit this and wait to see the effects on other municipalities. Mr. Forbes said he would prepare an ordinance for the next meeting and agreed that even if Council adopts it, nothing is stopping them from reversing the decision in the future.

## **New Business**

At this time, Council considered the updated Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) application with a more detailed map and regulations. Mr. Colvin asked in Section 4, Qualified Permit Holders, if each establishment must abide by the current liquor permit. Chief Copeland said yes, that each establishment could only sell what the license allows. Mr. Colvin also asked

for an explanation on section IX, which provides the authority to suspend operations temporarily. Chief Copeland explained this would be used under exemplifying conditions, such as if there was a big protest scheduled. In this event, he could suspend the DORA District during this event. Establishments would still be allowed to sell alcohol in their establishment, but individuals would not be allowed to leave the premises.

Mr. Gallagher asked about section 9(B), which states, “Patrons cannot carry DORA beverages from one participating DORA establishment to another.” He asked for clarification because he thought the point of the DORA district was to allow individuals to enjoy a beverage while going into different shops. Mr. Forbes explained that participating DORA establishments are the places selling the drinks. It is not the store. Chief Copeland explained that if someone buys a drink from Stonehouse, they cannot bring it into the Village Restaurant. The person would have to finish their drink or throw it out before entering another establishment selling alcohol. It was pointed out that all establishments must abide by the state codes concerning alcohol.

Mr. Colvin asked if the Township or Fire Department has expressed concerns regarding the proposed DORA District. Chief Copeland stated he had not heard anything.

Mr. Gallagher moved to approve the DORA guidelines, and Mr. Anthony seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher

Second – Anthony

**Roll Call – 7 yeas**

## **Legislation**

### **First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions**

#### **Ordinance No. 2024-040**

An Ordinance Establishing Certain Positions and Amending the Base Pay Rates and Ranges of Village of Waynesville Employees and Declaring an Emergency

Mrs. Miller motioned to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance No. 2024-040, and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Miller

Second – Colvin

**Roll Call – 7 yeas**

Mr. Colvin motioned to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-040 as an emergency and Mr. Anthony seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin

Second – Anthony

**Roll Call – 7 yeas**

**Ordinance No. 2024-041**

An Ordinance Authorizing Village Manager to Enter into a Contract with Chase Kirby for Prosecuting Services for the Village of Waynesville and Declaring an Emergency

Mr. Gallagher motioned to waive the two-reading rule for Ordinance No. 2024-041, and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Gallagher  
Second – Miller

**Roll Call – 7 yeas**

Mr. Lauffer motioned to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-041 as an emergency and Mr. Anthony seconded the motion.

Motion – Lauffer  
Second – Anthony

**Roll Call – 7 yeas**

**Ordinance No. 2024-042**

An Ordinance Appointing Jeffrey D. Forbes and the Law Firm of Wood & Lamping LLP as Law Director for the Village of Waynesville, Ohio, and Establishing the Compensation

Mr. Anthony moved to have the first reading of Ordinance No. 2024-042, and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Anthony  
Second – Colvin

**Roll Call – 7 yeas**

Mr. Colvin expressed the importance of having a long-term law director. His knowledge of the Village’s history is beneficial to Village affairs.

**Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions**

**Ordinance No. 2024-039**

Adopting a Schedule for Water Rates and Storm Sewer Rates for the Village of Waynesville Fee Schedule

Mr. Colvin motioned to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-039 and Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin  
Second – Miller

**Roll Call – 7 yeas**

**Executive Session**

Mr. Colvin moved to go into executive session at 8:03 p.m. to discuss the employment of public employees, and Mr. Lauffer seconded the motion.

Motion – Colvin

Second – Lauffer

**Roll Call – 7 yeas**

Council returned from Executive Session at 9:20 p.m., and seven members were present.

Mr. Colvin asked for ordinances to be drafted to amend Chief Copeland's and Ms. Morley's contracts for consideration at the next meeting.

All were in favor of adjourning at 9:21 p.m.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council