

VILLAGE OF WAYNESFIELD  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 27, 2023

1. The meeting was called to order on February 27, 2023, at 7:30 P.M. with the following answering Roll Call: Mayor Luma, present; Ball, present; Nickles, present; Miller, present; Motter, present; Walti, present; Winegardner, present.
2. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved \_\_\_\_\_; corrected and approved X.
3. Fiscal Officer reported \$1,516,757.29 in all funds. \$175,094.67 in General Fund. Temporary Fiscal Officer Laura Bassett introduced herself to council. The temporary fiscal officer presented the bank reconciliation to council for their signature. All of council signed the reconciliation form.
4. The Bills were presented. Motion to pay the bills by Miller, seconded by Nickles pay the bills presented.

VOTE: Ball, yes; Miller, yes; Motter, yes; Nickles, yes; Walti, yes; Winegardner, yes.

**GUESTS:**

Craig Mescher with Access Engineering arrived at approximately 7 p.m. and provided updates on the West Wapakoneta Street project. West Wapakoneta Street will be closed to through truck traffic, but local traffic will be able to get through on a stone base for about two months beginning around March 20 and lasting until approximately June 20, 2023. Semi trucks and buses may have difficulty passing through. Council was provided a map of the detour route for their review. Mr. Mescher presented council with the entire project design for council's understanding. Councilmember Nickles questioned getting trucks in and out of Dollar General. Mr. Mescher advised Dollar General will not be able to get anything bigger than box trucks into and out of the parking lot. Someone will need to contact Dollar General to let them know. ODOT will be putting up signage announcing the road closure and detour route so everyone will be aware.

Mr. Mescher also provided information about the need to replace a water line in order to prevent a future problem for the village.

Nickles made a motion, seconded by Ball to extend and replace the 12" line to south of the electrical substation to where it can connect into the existing 8" line in the amount of \$50,000.

VOTE: Ball, yes; Miller, yes; Motter, yes; Nickles, yes; Walti, yes; Winegardner, yes.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a. Council member Walti reported that the Street Committee met on February 6 to discuss the West Wapakoneta Street project. Two guests were present and asked questions. The next meeting will be at 6 p.m. on March 13th in council chambers. Council received a copy of the street committee minutes for review.
- b. Council member Winegardner reported that the Utilities Committee met and discussed line worker training for employees, the Moyer Road issue, grant opportunities, discussion of possibility of doing bulk water sales.
- c. Council member Nickles report that the Records Committee did not meet because they had not received the inventory retention paperwork back from the mayor, who was to give the paperwork to the department heads.
- d. Council member Nickles also reported that the Zoning Board met and they are now to the point where they are ready to send the recommended zoning changes to a typist to be typed. A few items to be cleared up, but they are well on their way to get the minutes solidified by June or July. There were items that council needs to decide. The zoning inspector and code enforcement officer are two different positions. Council wants to keep the police chief as the code enforcement officer, but not the zoning inspector. Council wants the attorney to review compliance section of proposed zoning changes and provide legal advice. Council member Nickles said the Zoning Board wants to know how to proceed on who is going to type the proposed zoning manual.

A motion was made by Ball, seconded by Miller, to hire Trisha Kroeger to type the proposed zoning manual.

VOTE: Ball, yes; Miller, yes; Motter, yes; Nickles, yes; Walti, yes; Winegardner, yes.

Council member Nickles reported council needs to think about whether the new zoning needs to replace all zoning, or only parts of it. The solicitor said the new proposed zoning, if passed, would rescind and replace all previous zoning statutes so if there are sections of the current zoning that needs to remain unchanged, then it needs to be placed in the new proposed zoning.

Mayor Luma asked Council member Nickles if there is anything in the zoning regarding solar power. Nickles said there is some regulations about wind turbines but not solar power or solar panels. Nickles asked if other municipalities had anything in place. The Village Administrator said he is working with AMP in order to have proper language for a possible ordinance for the utilities committee to review for council approval.

**POLICE REPORTS:**

- a. Property Maintenance updates were provided to council. A brief discussion was held about 205 East Mulberry Street. It was learned that the property recently sold so options were considered on how to proceed with enforcement.
- b. Chief Motter reported that council meetings are now streamed online on both Facebook Live and Youtube.
- c. Chief Motter reported about the common phone, online and social media scams that are taking place in the area.
- d. Chief Motter also spoke about the upcoming total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. Chief Motter presented council with several questions to consider. Council member Nickles expressed concern about having enough law enforcement in Waynesfield during the eclipse. Chief Motter stated the next planning meeting is set to discuss first responder mobilization during the eclipse. It was also proposed to council that the Village Park not be rented out the weekend of the eclipse to allow for possible utilization by the Village during that weekend.

A motion was made by Walti, seconded by Nickles, to not rent the park April 6-8, 2024

VOTE: Ball, yes; Miller, yes; Motter, yes; Nickles, yes; Walti, yes; Winegardner, yes.

**VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**

- a. Administrator Bender provided a written report to council. Bid opening for electric and water meters were held and Mr. Mescher provided a letter of recommendation in the amount of \$238,620 for combined electric and water meters. Mr. Bender thought the electric meters might be in this calendar year. He said that plan would be for the company to send 6-12 meters initially to make sure they work with our system, then they will make the remaining number of meters. The cost for only the electric meters is \$105,350.
- b. Administrator Bender spoke about Moyer Road and what the Ball property could do to eliminate the issue on Moyer Road.
- c. Council member Walti asked about the kilowatt hour tax notification. Administrator Bender said the notification will go out with the bills being sent out with the March bills. There was a question if the kilowatt hour tax was on the March bills and Administrator Bender said it was. Council member Nickles said we did not give notice to the customers prior to the notification and was extremely unhappy about that. Administrator Bender said he misunderstood said he takes responsibility for that mix-up. Council member Walti pointed out that there was an ordinance passed and Administrator Bender re-iterated that three readings were given prior to the passage of the ordinance. Council member Nickles said not everyone reads the minutes or watches the meetings, and when she agreed to take the office of council member, she expressed a desire for transparency.
- d. Council member Nickles also said she had a resident complain about the fee being charged when a credit card or debit card is used. It was explained that the Village uses Govpay.net to manage the credit/debit card transactions and they charge a fee based on the total amount of the transaction. It was also explained that Govpay.net assures the village will receive the full amount of money owed to the village and if there is an account that has a stop payment on it, as an example, then Govpay.net will pursue compensation on their own behalf.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- a. Mayor's Court Report- \$340.00 was deposited into the General Fund from the Mayor's Court Account for the month of January 2023.

**OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. METERS**

A motion was made by Miller, seconded by Motter, to suspend the rules of three readings and to declare an emergency.

VOTE: Ball, yes; Miller, yes; Motter, yes; Nickles, yes; Walti, yes; Winegardner, yes.

A motion was made by Miller, seconded by Ball, to pass Resolution 23-2-1 for the bid from EJ Prescott for the water and electric meters as presented. Bids closed at 2 pm on February 24, 2023.

VOTE: Ball, yes; Miller, yes; Motter, yes; Nickles, yes; Walti, yes; Winegardner, yes. Ball

- b. Executive Session requested by: Miller, seconded by Walti, to discuss the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, and compensation of a public employee or official with the Mayor, Village Administrator and Fiscal Officer.

VOTE: Ball, yes; Miller, yes; Motter, yes; Nickles, yes; Walti, yes; Winegardner, yes.

In: 7:59 p.m.

A motion was made by Motter, seconded by Walti to exit executive session.

VOTE: Ball, yes; Miller, yes; Motter, yes; Nickles, yes; Walti, yes; Winegardner, yes.

Out: 8:45 p.m.

- c. Mayor recommended Sarah Montgomery as his appointment to the position of Fiscal Officer.

A motion was made by Miller, seconded by Walti, to suspend the rules of three readings and to declare an emergency.

VOTE: Ball, yes; Miller, yes; Motter, yes; Nickles, yes; Walti, yes; Winegardner, yes.

A motion was made by Miller, seconded by Ball, to hire Sarah Montgomery at an annual rate of \$42,640.

VOTE: Ball, yes; Miller, yes; Motter, no; Nickles, no; Walti, no; Winegardner, no.

**Motion failed.**

- d. A motion was made by Walti, seconded by Nickles to discuss the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, and compensation of a public employee or official with the Mayor, Village Administrator and Fiscal Officer.

VOTE: Ball, yes; Miller, yes; Motter, yes; Nickles, yes; Walti, yes; Winegardner, yes.

In: 8:54 p.m.

A motion was made by Motter, seconded by Walti to exit executive session.

VOTE: Ball, yes; Miller, yes; Motter, yes; Nickles, yes; Walti, yes; Winegardner, yes.

Out: 9:05 p.m.

- e. A motion was made by Nickles, seconded by Ball, to suspend the rules of three readings and to declare an emergency.

VOTE: Ball, yes; Miller, yes; Motter, yes; Nickles, yes; Walti, yes; Winegardner, yes.

- f. A motion was made by Nickles, seconded by Ball, to pass Ordinance 23-2-2, an ordinance to hire Sarah Montgomery at an annual salary rate of \$42,640, with a start date of "as soon as possible".

VOTE: Ball, yes; Miller, yes; Motter, yes; Nickles, yes; Walti, yes; Winegardner, yes.

**SOLICITOR REPORT:**

Solicitor commented on the audit findings and advised council that there was nothing major in the audit and there were no findings for recovery. The audit is set to be released on March 7, 2023.

A motion to adjourn was made by Motter, seconded by Nickles.

VOTE: Ball, yes; Miller, yes; Motter, yes; Nickles, yes; Walti, yes; Winegardner, yes.