

VILLAGE OF WAYNESFIELD
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 18, 2023

1. The meeting was called to order on December 18, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. with the following answering Roll Call:
2. Mayor Luna, present; Fox, present; Ball, present; Hutson, present; Miller, present; Walti, present; Nickles, present.
3. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.
- 4.
5. Fiscal Officer reported \$ 1,549,718.01 in all funds. \$ 275,440.57 in the General Fund.
6. The Bills were read. A motion was made by Miller, seconded by Fox to pay the bills presented.
7. VOTE: Fox, Yes; Ball, Yes; Hutson; Yes; Miller, Yes; Walti, Yes; Nickles, Yes.
8. GUESTS:
Craig Mescher with Access Engineering.

Mr. Mescher touched base with the council regarding the water issue they had on West Wapak Street after it was completed. A gasket went out and while completing the road the gasket is not something that would have showed up on a pressure test. Mr. Mescher stated that when the problem was presented it was tested immediately and the problem was resolved. Mr. Mescher stated that there is a year maintenance bond, however, this is through Auglaize County and we would need to contact them if needed. Councilmember Nickles asked about moving forward with the 1. Wapak Grants. Administrator Bender stated that the surveys will be sent out in the January utility bills.

9. Swearing in the Mayor and Council members for 2024:

Mayor Luna was sworn in by Council President Lisa Nickles for the next four-year term. Mayor Luna also swore in Council Members Miller and Nickles for the next four-year term.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

7. POLICE REPORTS:

Chief Motter provided his report to Council.

CDT UPDATE

The Community Development Team met on December 12 to go over the application for funding in the rate budget for the park. The application was submitted to State Representative Susan Manchester's office on December 13 and now we will wait to hear from her office. I don't currently have a timeframe on when we might hear something.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS COMPETITION ONGOING

The annual Holiday Lights Competition is going on now in the village until December 25th. I will say, there are some really nice-looking properties in the village this year. The winners will be announced on the Waynesfield PD Facebook page on December 26th. Sometime between December 1 and 24th, three non-resident judges will canvass the village to judge the properties. All properties with holiday lights illuminated at the time the judges go by will be judged, so no one has to sign up to have their property viewed.

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

As I reported just three weeks ago, the legalization of recreational marijuana is here. Even since the passage of Issue 2, the legislature has made changes to the law.

ROAD OPENING / ISSUES

Since the re-opening of State Route 117 in Westminster, traffic in the village has resumed to normal like we had before the road closure.

Since the completion of the West Wapakoneta Street project, the Waynesfield PD has been monitoring traffic on West Wapakoneta Street. The speed zones eastbound traffic changed when the project was completed, as the 35 mph zone now begins at Wayne Street and the 25 mph zone now begins across from the Dollar General. So far, we have primarily been issuing warnings for speed violations in those areas to allow for an adjustment period. Beginning in 2024, however, we will start issuing citations as the roadway has been open for multiple months and folks should be acclimated with the changes.

I do want to note that the speed zones for westbound traffic remain unchanged as the speed limit is 35 mph from the American Legion Hall to just west of the Dollar General, where the speed limit increase to 50 mph until after the corporation limit.

It also important to mention that, because West Wapakoneta Street is a state route, the village does not set these speed zones. These zones are set based on the Uniform Traffic Code and has to do with various factors such as sidewalk location, leaving the village versus entering the municipality, etc.

SHOP WITH THE BLUE

Chief Motter participated in the Shop with the Blue Saturday December 16th.

SCHOOL THREAT

The region recently experienced an email hoax that included a bomb threat at schools allegedly by a Russian terror group. There were multiple districts in the area that received the email, however Waynesfield-Goshen was not one of them. A similar, likely related hoax, occurred in the spring of last school year and W-G was not affected by that one either. While we did not receive a threat, the Waynesfield PD and school coordinated on a response as we knew there would be questions, concerns, etc. We do have a protocol in place when a threat does occur.

END OF YEAR AND ANNUAL REPORT

As we finally conclude 2023, I am currently transitioning my records in preparation of 2023. Thanks to the computer system we currently use, this is a much easier task than it used to be. I still have paper files that have to manually be transferred to our records storage, though. So, I will be spending a couple of hours transitioning from 2023 to 2024.

In the regularly scheduled January 2024 meeting, I will be providing the end of the year statistics as well as my annual report to council. I will outline where we came from and where I would like to see the department go.

Councilmember Nickles would like to see a breakdown of Chief Motter's Budget and all the other department budgets. Fiscal Officer Montgomery will get all that information for her when the year is over.

8. VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Administrator Bender provided his report to Council.

Electric

Administrator Bender stated that AMP has been in touch with AES as to what power the Village has chosen for the coming upgrade. AES, AMP and the Village will be having meetings in the future for a path of progression.

Sewer and Water

Still waiting on the radio portion of the meters to start the installation.

The EPA has set new regulations for water infrastructure. By October 2024 the EPA will need to know what type of service lines each house in the system has. This will take a considerable amount of time. When we start installing new meters some of this information will be collected. This all stems from the Lead and Copper rules.

Survey for East Wapak St. will go out in January with the December bills. We will also post on Facebook to ask residents for their participation.

Council member Nickles noticed that the last few months there has been issues with reading the meters. This is due to the fact that the Village is down to one-meter reading tool. Councilmember Nickles stated that she thought it would be a good idea to put together a resolution extending the window to read meters. Administrator Bender agreed.

Gov Deals

As of 12/14/2023 Year to date amount sold

\$96,167

The last round for this year will be completed 12/15/2023

As spoke of before, the PD and myself will be looking into obtaining new equipment over the winter.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT:

- a. Mayor's Court Report- \$464.00 was deposited into the General Fund from the Mayor's Court Account for the month of November.

10. OLD BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Miller seconded by Fox, to have the second reading of Resolution 23-11-1, a Resolution to pay the Village Administrator back pay for working on-call during certain weekends between October 2022 and October 2023.

VOTE: Fox, Yes; Ball, No; Hutson, Yes; Miller, Yes; Walti, No; Nickles, No.

A motion was made by Nickles seconded by Miller, to pass Ordinance 23-10-1. The Village of Waynesfield Zoning Ordinance.

VOTE: Fox, Yes; Ball, Yes Hutson; Yes; Miller; Yes; Walti, Yes; Nickles, Yes.

A motion was made by Miller seconded by Fox, to have the Third reading of Ordinance 23-10-6, an Ordinance for the approval of the 2024 Appropriations.

VOTE: Fox, Yes; Ball, Yes Hutson; Yes; Miller, Yes; Walti, Yes; Nickles, Yes

A motion was made by Miller seconded by Fox, to have the second reading to remove the "No Parking" signs on the North side of the West Wapakoneta Street

VOTE: Fox, Yes; Ball, Yes Hutson; Yes; Miller; Yes; Walti, Yes; Nickles, Yes

The council had a few questions regarding this. They are worried about people parking and have other concerns. The committee will look further into this before the third reading.

Nickles brought up investigating for another tax firm beside CCA to see if we could save money. Fiscal Officer Montgomery said she would look further into this.

A Motion was made by Miller, seconded by Walti to go into executive session for the purposes of conferences with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action and preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment at 7:52 pm.

VOTE: Fox, Yes; Ball, Yes Hutson; Yes; Miller; Yes; Walti, Yes; Nickles, Yes

Motion made by Nickles seconded by Walti to exit Executive session at 8:25 pm

VOTE: Fox, Yes; Ball, Yes Hutson; Yes; Miller; Yes; Walti, Yes; Nickles, Yes

Motion made by Nickles seconded by Hutson to suspend the rules of three readings and to declare an emergency to enter into contract with Dinkler Law for to act as Village Solicitor for term starting January 2024 to December 31, 2026.

VOTE: Fox, Yes; Ball, Yes Hutson; Yes; Miller; Yes; Walti, Yes; Nickles, Yes

A motion was made by Nickles seconded by Ball, to pass Resolution 23-12-1, a Resolution to enter into contract with Dinkler Law for to act as Village Solicitor for term starting January 2024 to December 31, 2026.

VOTE: Fox, Yes; Ball, Yes Hutson; Yes; Miller; Yes; Walti, Yes; Nickles, Yes

Councilmember Miller thanked Jeff Williams for his years of service to the Village

11. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

12. SOLICITOR REPORT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Nickles, seconded by Ball at 8:29 pm.

VOTE: Fox, Yes; Ball, Yes Hutson; Yes; Miller; Yes; Walti, Yes; Nickles, Yes



Fiscal Officer


Mayor

