

VILLAGE OF WAYNESFIELD
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 27, 2023

1. The meeting was called to order on November 27, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. with the following answering Roll Call: Mayor Luna; present; Fox, present; Ball, present; Walti, present; Hutson, present; Miller, present; Nickles, present
2. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.
3. Fiscal Officer reported \$ 1,591,461.96 in all funds. \$ 261,673.09 in the General Fund.
4. The Bills were read. A motion was made by Miller, seconded by Fox to pay the bills presented.
VOTE: Fox, Yes; Ball, Yes; Walti, Yes; Hutson, Yes; Miller, Yes; Nickles, Yes.

5. GUESTS: NONE

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

UTILITIES:

The Utilities Committee met on November 21, 2023 at 4:30 pm.
The committee discussed the water leak on West Wapakoneta Street, there is a 2-3 million gallons estimated loss. There is also an electric and chemical loss with pumping and treatment. Hopefully the Village can get all the expenses reimbursed. Basecoat only in patch, contractor to check in spring for settling. The contractor will replace if necessary. There was a leak detection company used, Degan Excavating will cover this expense. A resident that was getting their tree trimmed caused an electrical issue for their neighbor. The neighbor called the Village and complained of flickering lights and exposed wires. AMP was called for repairs, this will be a 2-3 hours estimated charge. Should the private contractor contact their insurance to pay this expense? Administrator Bender discussed water meter reader problems, from 3 down to 1 with no replacements available. This will cause some estimation to meet 30-day meter reading requirement.

ZONING:

The Village of Waynesfield's Zoning Committee held a Public Hearing on October 30th at 6 pm. No community members were present for the meeting. Councilmembers as well as Zoning Inspector Aaron Bender discussed the need to have a new Zoning Map printed for display. Currently, the map includes the Webd property west of town that is no longer part of the Village. Councilmember Nickles will see about getting an updated Map printed for display. Councilmember Walti noted that Copeland Street is not labeled on the Map. Councilmember Miller also noted Church Street is not labeled at its north end. Councilmember Nickles will investigate both these oversights and see if they can be printed on the updated Map for display. No further discussion was had.

7. POLICE REPORT:

CDT UPDATE

The application for funding in the state budget has been completed and submitted to State Representative Manchester's office for consideration. Chief Motter is cautiously optimistic we will receive good news simply because the Village of Waynesfield has never explored this funding source in the past and with having State Representative Manchester having local ties, Chief Motter thinks that she could be a strong advocate for us. Councilmember Nickles thanked Chief Motter for putting all the work into applying for the Grants. She understands how difficult applying for this can be.

TRICK OR TREAT

The reports Chief Motter received about this year's Trick or Treat were largely positive. While he was absent during the event, he was told there were many, many children enjoying the evening that had great weather. The one concern Chief Motter received was vehicular traffic moving too quickly through town during the trick or treat times. He is currently exploring a couple different options that may help slow traffic down for that, and maybe even other events in the village. One option Chief Motter is considering would be to post attention-grabbing signage at the 4 main corridors of town with flashing lights around the signage.

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Since the passage of Issue 2 in the most recent election, Chief Motter has been asked multiple times about the Waynesfield Police Department's response to the legalization of recreational use of marijuana. While the issue did pass, there are multiple outstanding legal questions that have yet to be answered. So, we are patiently awaiting guidance from the Ohio Attorney General's Office, the Governor's Office, Prosecutor Office and the courts to determine how we handle marijuana issues moving forward.

Issues such as driving while impaired or under the influence of marijuana has been a problem for several years already, but the issue is likely only going to worsen. We are also going to see issues with people growing marijuana for personal use, then turning around and selling it for profit. We are also being warned by our colleagues from states that have already legalized recreational marijuana that juvenile consumption issues will likely increase as well.

There is no clear-cut direction on how this is going to be handled as other states are struggling with similar problems, so we are very much in a “wait and see what happens” position at the current time.

DRUG ISSUES

Aside from the marijuana issue, we have started to see an increase in other drug issues, specifically drug overdoses, in the area. The main drug seems to be fentanyl use. Just this past weekend, the village had an overdose. That marks the 3rd resident in the last couple months that we know has had a suspected drug overdose. Just so council is aware, we do have Narcan in our cruisers that we obtained for free from the Allen County Health Department. They provide first responders with free Narcan through a grant offered by the State of Ohio.

WG SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

We are now in the second quarter of the school year and things have been very busy at W-G. From a school resource officer perspective, Chief Motter has been busy with several investigations, including some involving children services. Some of the incidents are within the school, but there have been a lot more issues outside of school that kids are disclosing. So, it’s been very busy.

On November 27, 2023 the Auglaize County Sheriff’s Office, St. Marys Police Department, St. Marys Fire and EMS Department and Chief Motter trained W-G staff in a real-world scenario-based training on how to respond to an active threat and how to provide post-incident critical first aid. While the training was in a controlled environment at the school, staff experienced various levels of stress that might be encountered in an actual event. We have learned that having training, as close to reality as possible, will help equip people in the unlikely event they are ever in an active threat situation.

WEST WAPAKONETA STREET NO PARKING

Several residents have inquired with me about the current no parking allowed on the north side of West Wapakoneta Street. Now that the roadway is complete, the question was asked, can we remove the no parking restrictions from the north/south alley in the 100 block of West Wapakoneta Street to the Dollar General entrance? Chief Motter attached a map for clarity purposes.

If the council agrees with this action, Chief Motter has two ordinances for council to consider. They are both similar, but one is written if council wants to do it in three readings and the other is the same ordinance only written if council wants to pass it as an emergency.

8. VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Administrator Bender was absent from the council meeting but provided his report to council.

Electric

A resident had a tree trimmed, while being done a branch fell on the neighbor’s electrical service. When this happened, the neutral wire was broken and service pulled off the house. AMP was called in to fix the service. Village of Waynesfield will be getting in touch with the contractor to send a bill. AMP has been notified of what power source the Village will be wanting for the future upgrade.

Water and Sewer

A water leak on W. Wapak Street was discovered after finding chlorinated water in the storm drain. A leak detection company was called in and leak was pinpointed in the road. Upon excavation it was found that a gasket in the 12” main was bad due to improper installation. All work and leak detection will be covered under warranty. Administrator Bender will be talking with the engineer as to covering water loss cost.

The Village of Waynesfield is still waiting for the radio portion of the meters to come in so that meters can start being installed.

Gov Deals

Last round of equipment sold brought in \$28,444.00. Last round for the year will be started in the next few weeks.

9. MAYOR’S REPORT:

- a.** Mayor’s Court Report- \$ 438.00 was deposited into the General Fund from the Mayor’s Court Account for the month of September.

1. OLD BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Nickles, seconded by Miller to have the third reading and to adopt Resolution 23-9-1, a Resolution Establishing Fee Structures for Zoning Applications.

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

A motion was made by Miller, seconded by Fox, to suspend the rules of three readings and to declare an emergency to adopt Resolution 23-10-1, a Resolution to appropriating the object cost, to not exceed, \$1,739,976.00 for the West Wapak St project.

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

A motion was made by Nickles, seconded by Ball, to adopt Resolution 23-10-1, a Resolution to appropriating the object cost, to not exceed, \$1,739,976.00 for the West Wapak St project.

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

A motion was made by Miller, seconded by Fox, to suspend the rules of three readings and to declare an emergency to adopt Resolution 23-11-1, a Resolution to pay Administrator Aaron Bender back pay for working on-call during certain weekends between October 2022 and October 2023.

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

Emergency motion failed.

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

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

A motion was made by Miller, seconded by Fox, to suspend the rules of three readings and to declare an emergency to adopt Ordinance 2023-11-4, an Ordinance to amend Ordinance 23-10-3, an Ordinance to amend the annual appropriations ordinance.

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

A motion was made by Miller, seconded by Ball, to adopt Ordinance 23-11-4, an Ordinance to amend Ordinance 23-10-3, an Ordinance to amend the annual appropriations ordinance.

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

A motion was made by Nickles, seconded by Walti, to have the second reading of Ordinance 23-10-6, An Ordinance to accept the 2024 Appropriations.

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

A motion was made by Nickles, seconded by Miller to suspend the rules of three reading and to declare an emergency to adopt Ordinance 23-11-2, an Ordinance to move \$7000.00 to the General Fund from the acquired GovDeals sales to purchase a new truck.

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

A motion was made by Nickles, seconded by Hutson, to adopt Ordinance 23-11-2, an Ordinance to move \$7000.00 to the General Fund from the acquired GovDeals sales to purchase a new truck.

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

A motion was made by Nickles, seconded by Walti to suspend the rules of three reading and to declare an emergency to adopt Ordinance 23-11-6, an Ordinance to purchase a new truck for the Village at the price of \$49,122.50.

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

A motion was made by Nickles, seconded by Hutson, to adopt Ordinance 23-11-6, an Ordinance to purchase a new truck for the Village at the price of \$49,122.50.

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

A motion was made by Nickles, seconded by Ball, to have the second reading of Ordinance 23-10-1, An Ordinance adopting new Zoning regulations.

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

2. NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Nickles, seconded by Hutson to suspend the rules of three reading and to declare an emergency to adopt Ordinance 23-11-1, an Ordinance to Amend Appropriations Ordinance 22-11-1.

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

A motion was made by Nickles, seconded by Walti, to adopt Ordinance 23-11-1, an Ordinance to Amend Appropriations Ordinance 22-11-1.

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

A motion was made by Nickles, seconded by Miller to suspend the rules of three reading and to declare an emergency to adopt Ordinance 23-11-3, an Ordinance to authorize the Execution of the 2023 WASG Power Pool Participant schedule with American Municipal Power, Inc. (“AMP”).

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

A motion was made by Nickles, seconded by Miller, to adopt Ordinance 23-11-3, an Ordinance to authorize the Execution of the 2023 WASG Power Pool Participant schedule with American Municipal Power, Inc. (“AMP”).

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

Council discussed Resolution 23-11-2, A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute necessary paperwork to have the Village of Waynesfield join the Western Ohio Rural Planning Organization, that was given to us to approve by the Auglaize County Engineer.

Councilmember Nickles doesn't feel that this should be the job of the Administrator, she feels the Mayor or a member of council should attend this. Councilmember Nickles thinks it is a planning organization for future things and it seems to her that the mayor or a member of the council should be the representative and should be attending the meetings. From her understanding a regional planning committee would be trying to bring large businesses in. The administrator would have knowledge of our infrastructure but in terms of leadership the mayor should be attending. Councilmember Nickles questions delegating responsibility to Administrator Bender who already has a ton on his plate. She feels the mayor should do it.

The Solicitor stated that it is a rural transportation planning committee and he feels a majority of it has to do with transportation issues. And he feels that Administrator Bender would be most involved when it has to do with roads, sidewalks and construction within the Village. This could be projects with Grants and could help Administrator Bender apply for those Grants.

Councilmember Nickles stated the Ordinance is worded incorrectly. She is confused as to why it states the Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission. Councilmember Nickles would hate to delegate additional responsibilities to Administrator Bender if she doesn't even know what we would be doing. Councilmember Fox stated that if Bender has the most knowledge he should be delegated. Councilmember Nickles would like more information. The council would like to see if Andrew Baumer, the Auglaize County Engineer, could attend the next council meeting.

A motion was made by Miller, seconded by Hutson to suspend the rules of three reading and to declare an emergency to adopt Resolution 23-11-3, a Resolution setting wages and salaries for employees of the Village of Waynesfield.

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

A motion was made by Miller, seconded by Fox, to adopt Resolution 23-11-3, a Resolution setting wages and salaries for employees of the Village of Waynesfield.

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

A motion was made by Nickles, seconded by Fox, to have the first reading of Ordinance 23-11-5, an Ordinance to remove the “No Parking” signs on the North side of West Wapakoneta Street.

12. SOLICITOR REPORT:

The Solicitor inquired about potential vacancies for the Mayor or Council. Waynesfield has none. The Solicitor stated he was asking because other municipalities did have openings and he had had guidance if Waynesfield would have had a similar issue.

A motion to adjourn at 7:47 pm was made by Miller, seconded by Fox.
VOTE: Fox, Yes; Ball, Yes; Walli, Yes; Hutson, Yes; Miller, Yes; Nickles, Yes

Sarah Montgomery

Fiscal Officer

Robyn Arkin

Mayor

