

VILLAGE OF WAYNESFIELD
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 22, 2024

1. The meeting was called to order on July 22, 2024, at 6:30 P.M. with the following answering Roll Call: Mayor Luma, Present; Fox, Present; Ball, Present; Hutson, Present; Nickles, Present; Miller, Present; Walti, Present.
2. The Minutes of the previous meeting and Special Meeting were read and approved.
3. Fiscal Officer reported **\$1,529,109.80** in all funds. **\$334,485.30 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; Hutson, Yes; Nickles, Yes; Miller, Yes; Walti, Yes.

5. GUESTS: NONE

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Utilities:

The Utilities committee met on July 11th at 5:00 pm. Meeting called to order at 5:01 pm,

Present was Miller, Hutson, Administrator Bender and Fiscal Officer Montgomery.

The committee discussed educational upgrade opportunities discussed for utilities employees with corresponding wage increases.

Water and wastewater licenses are two separate tests as well as spraying licensure. There are testing and time constraints involved. The Village would pay for up to three times testing per employee. There would be a one-year obligation after passing.

Continuing education offered and demanded from state for all licenses. Most offered free online. The Village would cover cost if they were not free.

Lineman more involved with seven binders involved as well as apprenticeship hours. Again, village to pay for testing. Village would benefit financially with employees going as far as possible to handle "simple issues" so not having to call AMP every time. Aaron to assess binders needed to serve us best.

The committee stated they thought it was a great idea and would like to see more specifics. The Utilities committee will meet at a later date with specifics before taking it to council.

Building and Property Maintenance:

The Property and Property Maintenance committee met on July 10th at 5 pm.

Todd Nance came to the meeting to address the notice he received for his property at 206 and 206 1/2 Sugar St. The committee discussed with him what his plans were for the property. The roof is collapsing and has been vacant for several years. It is in disarray and is bringing in rodents to the surrounding neighbors. Mr. Nance stated that a few years back a tornado came through Waynesfield and only hit that property. The committee asked if he did have the funds would he tear down the property or what he would do. Mr. Nance stated he would not tear down the property, he would want to repair it and maybe rent it out. Mr. Nance told the committee that his mom is in the earlier stages of dementia and he has just been struggling with it. Committee member Nickles asked if he thinks he could clean up some of the debris within the properties. There is a junk car, pallets, trash, and other various junk on the property.

Chief Motter asked him about his current home he is occupying. There is a fridge, washer and dryer and bags of trash around the property. Chief Motter let Mr. Nance know that this coming Saturday, July 13, the Village is having their annual cleanup day. Dumpster will be available for the Village to use to clean up their property and throw the junk they no longer need away. This is a free service that the Village offers every year for their residents. Committee member Ball offered to discuss the situation with her brother, who owns a shop, to see if they would take any metal from the property to assist.

Committee members Walti and Nickles stated they would be willing to come on Sunday and help him load a few things on a trailer and take it to the dump to help clean up the property.

The committee stated that they just need a plan of action from him to get this property cleaned up and they would revisit the situation in two months to see where he is with it.

Chief Motter gave an update on the Karen St. property. He stated that the property will be finalized later this month and the intention is to remove the trailer and maintain the garage which was turned into a home.

No updates on Zoning. The committee is waiting for the solicitor for a few things.

Chief Motter stated that no new letters were sent regarding tall grass or property maintenance enforcement.

Committee chair Ball asked about appropriations and if we were projecting any for legal fees and demolition. The budget will need to be reviewed before making this decision.

Committee members Nickles asked how other municipalities seize properties. Chief Motter will be looking into due process of seizing properties.

Councilmember Nickles asked Mr. Bey if the Villages due process was correct. Solicitor Bey stated that he will prioritize it and touch base with Chief Motter when he returns to discuss.

7. POLICE REPORTS:

ABSENCE FROM MEETING

Chief Motter apologized for his absence from the council meeting as he was out of town and unavailable to attend. He said he should be present at the regularly scheduled council meeting for August 2024.

CASES/INVESTIGATIONS INCREASING

As is the case every summer, Chief Motter said the police department has seen their calls for service increase from where they were a few months ago. This is fairly typical for the summer months. Types of calls the police department has handled in this last month include traffic complaints, theft complaints, sex abuse allegations, juvenile issues, custody disputes, illegal drug use complaints, neighbor disputes, nuisance animal complaints, domestic violence, and identity theft/scams.

4TH OF JULY WEEKEND

The 4th of July week and weekend saw an increase in traffic through town at all hours of the day and night. Lots of traffic was seen passing through town and even in town on July 6 for the community garage sales. There were no major issues during the holiday week/weekend.

OHLEG AUDIT

On Wednesday, July 10, the Waynesfield Police Department was audited by Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) division of the Ohio Attorney General's Office to ensure the police department has adequate safety measures in place to protect law enforcement sensitive information and LEADS (Law Enforcement Automated Data Systems) information in the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG) system. This comprehensive audit was completed in-person and took a couple of hours to complete. The police department is audited approximately every two to three years to ensure compliance with state standards that is aimed at protecting classified information. Chief Motter was happy to report that the police department was in 100% compliance with the standards that BCI requires.

WIND EVENT RESPONSE FOR PD

Since the March 14 tornado near Fryburg and Indian Lake, Chief Motter has been working on a manual for the Waynesfield Police Department's response in the event we have a tornado here. The manual is coming along really well, and Chief Motter said he is now to the phase where he is working with entities outside the police department to try and have an infrastructure in place should a tornado (or other natural disaster) strike the village. Chief Motter plans to meet with the Village Administrator, Fire Chief, Sheriff (or one of his designees) and Emergency Management Agency Director to discuss the plan. Once those entities provide feedback and input, and Chief Motter will have the police department's official response in written form. The police department response can then be coupled with the other entities' plans.

8. VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

ELECTRIC

Admin Bender stated that AMP was in this month and removed poles and other miscellaneous projects. He is waiting to hear back from EJP on an update for electric meters.

WATER AND SEWER

Administrator Bender stated that he is waiting on quotes from a plumber to put the remaining meters in. The Village will soon be purchasing the equipment that we received the grant for from the EPA. Administrator Bender informed the council that both pumps at the lagoon were back to operating and the backup pump is currently at Buckeye Pump to see what it will take to fix it.

Administrator Bender stated that he is currently working on further education scales for employees. This will be for water, sewer, electric and pesticides licenses. More to come at future meeting.

PARK

The Village is waiting on the paperwork for the Grant funding from the State. Once the Village receives it, we will then know how the money can be spent and what the time line for it is to be used. Once we get all of the information in order the Village will be able to start on some of the projects hopefully this year.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT:

- a. Mayor's Court Report- \$1457.00 was deposited into the General Fund from the Mayor's Court Account for the month of June.

10. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

11. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

12. SOLICITOR REPORT: NONE

Councilmember Nickles asked Mr. Bey (Solicitor) if he had the same stance as the previous solicitor with only coming to meetings when needed. He stated he would leave that up to the customer, however he would be here whenever the Village needed him to. Councilmember Nickles also stated that in the past we would have ordinances that should have been resolutions and vice versa, Mr. Bey stated that he sees this a lot and he would look at them before they were presented to council to ensure they are correct.

A motion to adjourn was made by Miller, seconded by Fox at 6:55 pm.

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

Fiscal Officer

Mayor