

VILLAGE OF WAYNESFIELD
COUNCIL MEETING

April 28, 2025

1. The meeting was called to order on April 28, 2025, 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 were read and approved.
3. Fiscal Officer reported \$1,544,185.84 in all funds. \$355,383.89 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:

❖ Geraldine Stone

Geraldine Stone was present as a guest. She stated she came to pay her bill at the municipal building and discovered that rates were increased. She gets her bills emailed to her and was unaware of the changes. She never received a notification like the other residents did that do not receive ebilling. She stated an individual at her church told her that the bill was going up due to rate changes. Mrs. Stone expressed that she was really “pissed off.” Mrs. Stone stated that the notifications of increases should also be sent to the residents that receive ebills.

She stated no one has a problem contacting her when something needs to be approved, surveys or anything else for the village. However, her frustrations are that she is not notified when it comes to her ebills etc. She stated she will not pay the rate difference if it happens again.

Councilmember Nickles apologized to her for this mistake. She stated she will do everything to ensure that every resident will get notifications in the future.

❖ 7pm Second Public hearing for CDBG funding

Mr. Mescher attended the meeting for the second public hearing for the CDBG funding. He thanked everyone for coming. Mr. Mescher recapped the first meeting and again explained what the grant is again to refresh the residents that came.

Mr. Mescher explained that the village needs to show how the project is impacting the community. With the surveys, the top six were flood and drainage, street improvement, clearance, sidewalk improvement, parking improvement and public utilities.

There are clearance activities listed that would be very hard to do at this time. With this we would need to start 3 months out to have the property owners agree and sign off on it. Time does not allow it. There would have to be some back and forth on this and time does not allow it.

Some concerns were listed for the fire department. The fire department in the village is though the township not the village.

Mr. Mescher opened it up to the floor for any discussion.

Councilmember Nickles wanted a global timeline for the process and how it would work. Mr. Mescher stated that the application will go in in May. After that we typically hear back in September. Construction would then be able to start in 2027. We could look at other grants so we can wrap them all in one to get a bigger bang for our buck.

Councilmember Nickles asked how far will the East Wapakoneta St. be fixed to. Mr. Mescher stated that it would end at Pearl St.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Utilities

Bucket truck repairs were discussed. The hydraulic lines were replaced which was a safety issue. A Circleville company did repair work for \$7,000.00.

The Derick - digger truck issues were discussed. The grab claw and telescopic arm, with bare spots in fiberglass covering, posing possible electrical safety issues during use. Estimated repair cost, \$10,185.00. Funds are available. It was strongly suggested by committee to proceed with repairs.

On Wednesday the 16th at 2 pm there was a pre-construction meeting for East Wapakoneta street project.

Kip Wright, survey taker for CBGD funding was issued a \$1,347.50 payment.

The water meter rules resolution from solicitor will be brought to council.

The water and sewer rates discussed. With new meters, water loss is down from 50% to 20%. Administrator Bender is looking into a possible grant, at the end of the year, through Ohio Rural Water. This would be for a rate study on sewer and water rates. Comparisons of rates were given from like sized communities as to their rates.

The Village employees may be attending chlorine gas seminar at Russell's Point.

Safety

The Safety Committee met on March 27th at 5pm.

Attending: Committee members Ball, Walti and Miller, Administrator Bender and Chief Motter.

Items that were discussed during the meeting were the disaster plan, resources, emergency call list and possible tornado shelters.

Copies of the draft disaster plan would be given to council members. More discussion regarding this will be at a later date.

Park

Discussion held for naming the village park, The Waynesfield Veterans Memorial Park. Administrator Bender stated this could be done by resolution. If possible, to be done at the upcoming council meeting.

Also discussed was to coordinate with the school, America Legion and local law enforcement to possibly have the Memorial Day parade start from the park. This could be in conjunction with a proclamation from the mayor officially naming the park, if resolution is passed.

Updates for the upcoming park enhancement project: cost savings for the new playground surface shape freeing up money to be used on other planned projects. Projected start time for playground, late summer or early fall. More than

likely, early spring of next year, given all the planning necessary. Estimate of capacity, 106 children. Surface edge will be married into the sod, eliminating extra cost for concrete edging. This will be done for safety concerns. The surface should be maintenance free for 10 years.

Construction of the parking lot, in the old playground area, will not be simultaneous with the playground build. Due to this, the East Wapakoneta street surface grindings will be stockpiled elsewhere until they can be used for the parking lot construction.

It's suggested to first pursue at least three large projects due to the nature of the funding parameters. Administrator Bender and Fiscal Officer Montgomery can explain the reasoning. Playground, shelter house and splashpad being suggested.

Pickleball court is still being considered if funding would be available.

Building and Property Maintenance

Guest were Jared Ridenour and Joe Spillman.

Purpose of meeting is to consider allowing chickens in the Village of Waynesfield. The latest ordinance the Village has regarding animals in the village is 12-4-1. Committee member Nickles went over the ordinance and asked the committee how they would like to proceed with allowing chickens. Committee member Ball stated that we could have a survey.

Committee members Nickles suggested having a limit of the number of chickens and also require guidelines for sanitation, ie. cleaning of cages and removal of waste enforcement. This would be enforced by Chief Motter.

Chief Motter stated he did some research into other villages that allow chickens. Many villages have had difficulties with the chickens and no one claiming them allowing them to roam the villages and being a nuisance to the other residents.

Guest Ridenour suggested that we could have permits to allow chickens to ensure standards were followed and possibly a yearly inspection.

Committee member Walti stated that when you put chickens in cages they do not last long in that environment, then what will residents do with the chickens. Administrator Bender agreed that they are living creatures and should not be constantly caged.

Ball made a motion, seconded by Walti, stating that after investigation and discussion the committee is making a decision to not amend ordinance 12-4-1 to allow chickens or fowl in the village

Guest Ridenour asked if there was anything we could do regarding the stray cats in the village. Chief Motter stated that it is illegal to catch and dispose of animals.

Committee member Nickles asked about the conditions of the restrooms at the park. Administrator Bender stated that they were painted last year and they are looking into heating them.

7. POLICE REPORTS:

MOCK CRASH AND PROMENADE AT W-G SCHOOLS

Saturday, April 12th was the Waynesfield-Goshen Prom and to prepare for that, the Wayne Township Fire and Rescue Department held a mock car crash at the school in the afternoon on Friday, April 11th. The Waynesfield Police Department also participated. The police department was also on duty patrolling on prom night to ensure that everyone

was safe. Chief Motter was happy to report there was only one minor issue with two students in the Village Park after hours. They were warned for trespassing, advised of the park hours and sent home.

OHIO COLLABORATIVE RE-CERTIFICATION

Last month, Chief Motter reported that the Waynesfield Police Department was in the middle of re-certification for the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board through the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services. This annual re-certification typically takes place in March for the Waynesfield PD every year. They had to provide various documents, meet with an assessor from the state in an on-site visit and implement law enforcement best practices, such as hiring standards, body-worn camera protocol, vehicle pursuits, use of force, and community-oriented participation.

Over 600 law enforcement agencies employing over 29,000 officers (in all 88 counties, representing 87 percent of all law enforcement officers in Ohio and most of Ohio's metropolitan departments) are participating in the certification process.

Chief Motter is happy to report we have received re-certification for 2025.

ZONING AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE ISSUES

After consulting with the Solicitor, Chief Motter developed a Zoning Enforcement Workflow and explanation sheet of the workflow (see supplements with this report) and provided a copy of it to council. This process was approved by the solicitor and will be used as an aide in enforcing various code enforcement issues. This workflow should streamline and provide consistency in the enforcement process.

Chief Motter also included properties that are currently in the enforcement process. Chief Motter said his intention is to provide council with a monthly update on all properties that are in the code enforcement process. Code enforcement is typically worked on in between handling criminal cases and administrative duties.

Chief Motter also told council that he has sent two notices to property owners regarding their grass and more is likely to be generated in the near future. But because those issues are typically rectified fairly quickly, he will provide council with properties at the point in time that council will need to review a property to be abated. The vast majority will comply after they receive the initial notice.

The other major code enforcement issue is disabled, unlicensed, junk vehicles or parts of vehicles. Chief Motter did a village-wide inventory and there are approximately 26 properties that need to be investigated for having vehicles that do not comply with the zoning code and Ordinance 24-4-5.

However, before enforcement of the junk vehicle laws can begin, section 95.05 and 95.06 of Ordinance 24-4-5 needs to be amended to reflect the Zoning Board of Appeals and not Property Maintenance Committee since that committee does not exist anymore. So, Chief Motter recommended the Safety Committee meet to discuss amending Ordinance 24-4-5 so it is consistent with Zoning Ordinance 23-10-1.

LOOSE DOGS AND CAT COMPLAINTS

Chief Motter reported the police department has received a number of dogs running at large complaints. He said he expects this to continue along with barking dog complaints as the weather warms. Usually, for a first offense of a dog running at large, the owner receives a warning. Subsequent dog running at large incidents typically result in a citation into Auglaize County Municipal Court.

The police department also continues to receive complaints about the feral cats within the community. Residents often ask what can be done about what is described as a "cat problem" in town. Chief Motter said he explains that shooting, poisoning or otherwise harming any animals is unlawful, and that there is really no good answer to address their concern. Chief Motter said he has spoken with leaders in other communities and they have the same problem with no good way to address the problem.

8. VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Electric

Administrator Bender stated that the Bucket truck is fixed and is back in service. The line truck also went in to be repaired last week. The Village hopes to have the truck back in 2-3 weeks. Repairs will include new guides for stinger stage and recoat the head with fiberglass.

Administrator Bender stated AMP has changed how some of the training that they provide needs to be addressed. They are asking that council have an ordinance basically stating that AMP is not responsible for accidents if they occur.

Sewer and Water

Administrator Bender informed council that the solicitor has a resolution for new water rules.

EPA was here for annual inspection for wastewater. The only issues talked about is when the ponds freeze over and we are potentially not compliant. Otherwise, everything is in good shape.

The Village was made aware that the customers that receive their utility bills electronically did not receive notice of rate changes. We have since remedied the issue so that those customers will be notified moving forward. Councilmember Nickles suggested the village sending a letter with an apology to the residents that did not receive rate change letters and also send them the letter that was sent out initially. Administrator Bender agreed and will get it together to be mailed out.

Administrator Bender stated the he talked at the utility committee meeting about the possibility of a rate study for water and sewer rates. There has in the past been grant funding for these. As we get closer to that time grants will be looked into. Timeframe for this would hinge on grant process.

Councilmember Nickles asked when we had the water tower painted last year, the village talked about entering into a maintenance contract with someone, Councilmember Nickles asked if we did that yet. Administrator Bender stated that we did not and that the village has a 5-year grace period. Councilmember Nickles stated that we should not let it lapse, then the water tower could get bad again and the village could be in the same position we were as before. Councilmember Nickles asked if Administrator Bender could investigate so then the village can do something with next year's budget and appropriate it. She just wants to be proactive.

Park

Park committee has a good idea of what playground design will fit our needs. Next, we will be looking at splash pad designs. Have had conversations with contractors about the potential of an open shelter house with restrooms at the North end of the park. Some of the reasoning of what projects are being done first is how the Nature works grant has to be spent. We have to pay for the projects and then we will get reimbursed. We can request 1/3 of it up front and then we can get the projects started, after that we will have to pay for the rest up front and wait for us to be reimbursed. Councilmember Nickles asked how much time we have to spend the grant money? Administrator Bender stated about a year and half.

Councilmember Hutson stated there are no final decisions yet and we are still working on all the finals in the park projects.

Storm and streets

Had pre-construction meeting for East Wapak St. on March 16, 2025.

The contractor will likely start late June – early July. The contractor feels this still gives time to complete project in designated timeframe. Road closed signs will be put up as soon as project starts for detour routes. That being said, most in town traffic will have access thru working areas most of the time. Luckily, the village has alleys and other streets that can be used to get east of the road work unlike we did on the West Wapak street project. There will be a time that the whole road will need to be shut down similar to the last project. As we get closer to the start time of the project, all residents that will be affected will be notified.

Councilmember Nickles stated that she would like to see signs put up on the side roads stating “no semis” when the roads are closed during construction.

9. MAYOR’S REPORT:

- a. Mayor’s Court Report- \$660.00 was deposited in the General Fund from the Mayor’s Court Account for the month of March.

Councilmember Nickles mentioned the letter the council received in their packets from concerned residents. She stated she would like to go over it.

10. OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution 25-3-1

Motion made by Miller seconded by Walti to have the second reading for Resolution 25-3-1, A Resolution amending the Established Fee Structured for Zoning District Amendments

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

11. NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Luma let the council know that the garage sale date will be set to July 5th, 2025.

Ordinance 25-4-1

Motion made by Fox seconded by Miller to have the first reading for Ordinance 25-4-1, An Ordinance adopting the Fixed Asset Police for the Village of Waynesfield, State of Ohio.

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

Resolution 24-4-1

Councilmember Nickles had a question before we vote on resolution 24-4-1. She was wondering about the discussion that was previously had renaming the walking path and then having a ceremony. Is that something the village would like to wait and do? Or should we do it now. Councilmember Hutson stated that this is not a done deal today. It is being put out there today to get residents participation if wanted. Councilmember Nickles said she would like a big ceremony when everything is completed.

Motion made by Miller seconded by Nickles to have the first reading for Resolution 25-4-1, A Resolution designating The Waynesfield Park to “The Waynesfield Veterans Memorial Park.”

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

Resolution 25-4-2

Motion made by Nickles seconded by Hutson to have the first reading for Ordinance 25-4-2, An Ordinance adopting Rules and Regulations Governing the use of Municipal Utilities.

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

Councilmember Nickles would like to know if we could put a notice out of the new possible water rules. She would like us to send this to customers. The Village will have to check with the solicitor first. This is just a first reading and is not passed yet.

12. SOLICITOR REPORT: NONE

A motion to adjourn at 7:46 PM was made by Ball seconded by Fox.

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



Fiscal Officer



Mayor