

VILLAGE OF WAYNESFIELD
COUNCIL MEETING

May 19, 2025

1. The meeting was called to order on May 19, 2025, at 6:30 P.M. with the following answering Roll Call: Mayor Luma, present; Fox, absent; Ball, absent; Hutson, present; Nickles, present; Miller, present; Walti, present.
2. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and corrected and approved.
3. Fiscal Officer reported **\$1,578,738.29** in all funds. **\$364,949.78** in the General Fund.
4. The Bills were read. A motion was made by Miller, seconded by Walti to pay the bills presented.

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

5. GUESTS: NONE

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Park

Council member Hutson shared with the committee about a conversation he had with council member Nickles. There will be possible collaboration with Muchinippi Garden Club in helping to fund the Veteran benches on the park bike/walking path. The June club meeting will be attended by council members Nickles and Hutson.

Mike Hoel family requesting June 14th use of Veterans park for a 2-hour celebration of life with military honors. Paperwork required, the fee to be waived recommendation.

Playground (and splashpad) update: The Park committee will present an outlay at council meeting for consideration.

The current merry-go-round is unusable for safety reasons. A new merry-go-round is added to the proposal. The Village of Waynesfield doing the in-house site prep is in question. The committee would like 4 benches included in planned play area at \$1000 - \$2000 each. Stone for site prep is an extra \$10,000, this is not in contractors estimated cost. There will be about a 2-month playground downtime from start to finish. 100% of the cost is due at end of project. A possible 6' concrete pad between playground and stone parking/driveway area. Estimate, \$240,000.

Splashpad: A pump and dump system will be considered over reclaim and filter due to discussion with other villages and their experience with both. 2 shade sails were recommended. Cloth non-removable for maintenance savings. \$7000 - \$10,000 per sail, with concrete extra. Extra concrete, for benches at playground and splashpad, discussed as to placing for bench install now or later date. Common sense rules to be posted. 6x6 shed required for splashpad controls. 2" water line and sanitary line hook-up required. Village water pressure is adequate for operation. Possible operating time, 10am - 8pm. Overhead power lines are no concern for splashpad location. Possible 6' sidewalks between play areas and shelters. 50% to start, 50% at completion. Estimate, \$205,000. There is also an estimated 5-to-6-man hours per week for maintenance.

Grant stuff: Trying to adhere to guidelines for spending both sets of funding. Shelter house and restrooms, \$5000 - \$6000 just for prints. Possible as separate projects, pad then shelter then restrooms. The Village could contact a contractor off Ohio Buys for pad and shelter without red tape constrictions. Water, sewer and electric would have to be ready for through floor placement.

Council member Hutson suggested that the Village possibly have tickets for the opening of the splash pad to get the community involved. Whoever would get winning ticket would get to press the start button on the splash pad for the first time.

Council members Nickles asked about the merry-go-round at the park. She is wondering since the Village is aware that the slide and merry-go-round is not in compliance, will the Village be held liable if someone gets hurt. Council members Nickles stated that the Village should speak to the solicitor.

Council members Nickles asked about the Park Grants the village received and how much the village would have to cover while waiting to be reimbursed. Administrator Bender and Fiscal Officer Montgomery discussed it with the council.

Council member Nickles discussed speaking with the Muchinippi Garden Club and their interest in the park project. Council member Nickles and Council member Hutson will be attending their next meeting for more details.

6. POLICE REPORTS:

W-G SCHOOLS UPDATES

Sunday, May 18, 2025, is the Waynesfield-Goshen Graduation. Congratulations to the Class of 2025! Thursday, May 22 is the last day of school with students being released at 1 p.m. Chief Motter will have a statistics sheet for next month's meeting to show the incidents/calls that were handled at the school this past school year.

LEXIPOL CONNECT 2024 GOLD AWARD

The Waynesfield Police Department has been awarded a plaque for excellence in law enforcement policy management. For the fourth year in a row, the department has been awarded the highest honor by Lexipol Connect as the police department has greatly exceeded all of Lexipol's minimum standards for consistent and effective policy dissemination, timely policy updates as laws change, and officer training.

ZONING AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE ISSUES

Chief Motter provided a list of properties that are currently in the enforcement process with his report and said council needed to discuss a few of the properties during new business.

The Safety Committee still needs to meet to discuss the junk vehicle ordinance.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

The annual American Legion Memorial Day Parade will be at 9 a.m. on Monday, May 26, 2025. The parade will begin in front of the Waynesfield American Legion and travel east to Willow Branch Cemetery where there will be a brief ceremony.

LET'S BACK THE BLUE

Chief Motter offered a special thanks to Let's Back the Blue for honoring the Waynesfield Police Department and all law enforcement in Auglaize County during National Police Week. Let's Back the Blue placed a banner in the front yard of the Municipal building and surprised every officer in the county with special treats throughout the week. The organization has done a tremendous amount of good for law enforcement in Waynesfield and Auglaize County.

Chief Motter had a couple of additional pieces of information for council as they should have his report and the properties that are listed in the code enforcement process. Chief Motter stated that they will need to talk more about a couple specific properties in new business. Chief Motter mentioned that the process the Village has in place seems to be pretty effective and clear cut.

Chief Motter stated that the graduation ceremony went well yesterday. Thankfully there were no major issues and the ceremony went as planned.

Lastly, Chief Motter showed the Council the plaque the police department received from Lexipol for their outstanding policy management practices in the police department as he mentioned in his written report.

8. VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Electric

AMP will be in this month to help with a couple jobs that are scheduled. Waiting for an update on Digger truck. We did experience some fluttering last week on the electric. This was due to a limb on the transmission line that feeds the village.

Water and Sewer

Working with billing company to get letters added (when needed) to all electronic billed customers.

Park

Will talk about it in the committee report.

Zoning

Administrator Bender stated he spoke with the solicitor regarding board of zoning appeals.

Husband and Wife is not recommended. Police officers can be on the board. Also, the board needs to consist of 5 members. The mayor is looking into selecting 2 more members.

Council member Nickles stated that she wanted to be sure that the Village doesn't get into a predicament where we are not correctly assigning members. She asked the council to consider another legal stance. She stated that since the Police Chief is the Zoning Enforcement Agent, she is concerned that if we have the part-time police officer on the board this may be a conflict. Council member Nickles stated she just wants to be cautious creating anything that could be perceived to be loading the board, so the correct decisions are made. Council member Walti stated we have an ordinance for this and either it is followed or not followed.

Chief Motter stated that he would be concerned having any of his police officers on any Board of Appeals. The reasoning is because some of the properties that may be in violation may have residents that they have dealt with in a criminal manner. Chief Motter doesn't want a situation to arise that the residents of properties that may be in violation feel like the Waynesfield Police Department is coming after them because of criminal matters.

Administrator Bender let the council know that village employees got called in on Friday due to trees and branches down from the storm. Ohio Street, Sugar Street and Pearl Street is where the damages occurred. Also, on Saturday a resident called and stated they had a branch on a power line. The Administrator and crew went out to take care of that as well.

Mayor Luma stated that he found 5 people for the Zoning Board of Appeals. They are as follows:

Margie Humes

Bille Jo Boughan

Brian Carter

Brian Davidson

Sam Luma

Miller made a motion seconded by Hutson to accept the five individuals recommended by the Mayor for the Zoning Board of appeals.

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

9. MAYOR'S REPORT:

- a. Mayor's Court Report- **\$948.00** was deposited in the General Fund from the Mayor's Court Account for the month of April.

10. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Resolution 25-3-1 (Amending Zoning Fee Structures) ---Third Reading**
- b. **Ordinance 25-4-1 (Fixed Asset Policy) ---Second Reading**
- c. **Resolution 25-4-1 (Naming Park) ---Second Reading**
- d. **Resolution 25-4-2 (Water Rules) ---Second Reading**

Resolution 25-3-1

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

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

Ordinance 25-4-1

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

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

Resolution 25-4-1

Motion made by Hutson seconded by Miller to have the second reading for Resolution 25-4-1, A Resolution designating The Waynesfield Park to "The Waynesfield Veterans Memorial Park."

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

Resolution 25-4-2

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

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

11. NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance 25-5-1

This will be the first reading. Since there are only 4 council members present, the Village cannot pass Ordinance 25-5-1 as an emergency at this time.

Motion made by Nickles seconded by Miller to have the first reading of Ordinance 25-5-1. An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 24-4-5, an Ordinance Repealing Chapter 95: Unclaimed and abandoned vehicles of the 2024 Edition of the

Ohio Basic Code adopted by Ordinance 24-2-1, and replacing it with Junk and abandoned motor vehicles, attached as exhibit A.

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

Code Enforcement Properties

- I. The Todd Ranes property was partially mowed this weekend. About half the property still has grass that is about 2-3 feet deep. There has been zero movement on cleaning up the trash, broken down golf cart, trailer, and dilapidated shed. If council chooses to pass a motion to continue enforcement against Mr. Ranes, the next step in the enforcement process would be to send him a certified letter with a right to appeal the violation findings. Mr. Ranes would then have 7 days to appeal the ruling or have the issue(s) resolved. If the issues are not resolved by the next council meeting and no hearing request is made, then Council would have to decide whether or not to proceed with abatement of the problems on the property.

A motion was made by Nickles seconded by Miller to send a certified letter to Mr. Ranes.

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

- II. The Samantha Danner property was partially cleaned up after the first letter was generated. However, as you can see in the pictures I provided council, there are still problems on the property. I checked the property this morning and the pictures you have are an accurate depiction of what is still there. This is another situation where if council chooses to pass a motion to continue enforcement against Ms. Danner, then a certified letter with appellate rights would be sent with the same process being followed as the previous property I mentioned.

A motion was made by Nickles seconded by Walti to send a certified letter to Ms. Danner.

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

- III. The Connie Standingclear property (blue house near Salty Heifer Fan's Pizza). Per our Solicitor, the Village of Waynesfield's only obligation for code enforcement is to attempt to deliver violation notices to the property owner via certified mail and posting on the property that is in violation. If the certified mail is rejected or otherwise unclaimed, then the notice placed on the property (with photographic evidence of the posting) is sufficient. The solicitor said we can deliver a notice to the property owner (or pay a process server to deliver the notice) and post it on the property where the owner lives, however it is not required. There was also a concern that if we do opt to hand deliver notices to where ever a property owner may live, then we would need to do that for all code enforcement violations because we have set procedural precedent. And if we don't follow the same procedure in every situation, then it could create a litigious issue should the Village of Waynesfield get sued.
 - a. If council elects, we could attempt one final certified letter to Ms. Standingclear and see if she will claim it as well as post it on the property. The last letter was sent in October, so it might be worth a shot to at least show the paper trail.

A motion was made by Nickles seconded by Walti to send a certified letter to Ms. Standingclear.

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

Motion made by Nickles seconded by Hutson to establish July 12th from 9am to 2pm as the Village of Waynesfield cleanup day.


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

The council discussed Mike Hoel's request to have a celebration of life for his late father at the Veterans Memorial Park. Council member Nickles stated that she feels that we are setting a precedent to allowing people to have a celebration of life without renting park shelters. Council member Walti stated he feel that we should respect this, Mr. Hoel's father was military and his name is on the Memorial Wall at the park. The council decided that Mr. Hoel will not have to fill out paperwork and they thank him for letting them know.

12. SOLICITOR REPORT: NONE

A motion to adjourn at 7:21 pm was made by Walti, seconded by Hutson.

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



Fiscal Officer



Mayor