

VILLAGE OF WAYNESFIELD  
COUNCIL MEETING

October 27, 2025

1. The meeting was called to order on October 27, 2025, at 6:30 P.M. with the following answering Roll Call: Mayor Luma; present; Fox, present; Ball, present; Hutson, present; Nickles, present; Miller, absent; Walti, present.
2. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.
3. Fiscal Officer reported \$1,968,812.00 in all funds. \$395,241.24 in the General Fund.
4. The Bills were read. A motion was made by Nickles, seconded by Fox to pay the bills presented.

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

**GUESTS:**

Barb Earl attended the meeting. She discussed her stance on renaming the Mike Ridenour Walking Path. She feels that Mr. Ridenour had a vision for the walking path, he is the one that put it together and it should not be taken away. There are other memorable things at the park such as the plaque honoring Dr. David Nielson and a stone remembering our first police dog, Yukon. There is a tree honoring Jean Maxwell and the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Auglaize County. Ms. Earl stated the park is large enough to have more than one person/thing to be remembered in it.

Kristina Morris, a Judicial Candidate for Common Pleas Court Judge in Auglaize County also attended the meeting. She stated Judge Spees is unfortunately aging out and cannot run for reelection. Section 6 Article IV, of the Ohio Constitution, states a person cannot assume judicial office after reaching age 70. Judge Spees has been a judge for the Court of Common Pleas, Probate, Juvenile, and Domestic Relations divisions since 1994.

Mrs. Morris will be running for the position and wanted to introduce herself to the Council. She was born and raised in Auglaize County and worked in Montgomery County for 12 years as a law attorney in a practice. Currently she is a Shelby County prosecuting attorney and also has been the Magistrate for Shelby County for 6 years. Mrs. Morris has also worked for 4 different judges and what she is doing in Shelby County is what is needed for Auglaize County.

**5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

The Park Ad Hoc Committee met October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the White Memorial Library.

Old Business:

**a. Flag Display:**

Marilyn Shaw contacted Phil Valentine. The Village can use their Flag display. All Mr. Valentine needs is the dates. Aaron Bender suggested we pick the flags up on Wednesday, July 22, 2026, and return them Monday, July 27, 2026. Marilyn will confirm the dates with Mr. Valentine.

**b. Picnic 250:**

Lisa Nickles shared the information from the American 250-OH Website. The committee decided to register our event with the website as a 250 Picnic.

Food for the event was also discussed. Aaron Bender donated a whole hog to be processed into hot dogs. The processing cost to be covered by the committee. Aaron suggested Kah Meats in Wapakoneta. He will check to see what the cost for processing is. Garrett Miller is going to check with the athletic boosters to see if we can use their grill. We want to have a pre-sale for the picnic lunch.

**c. Ohio Muffins:**

Chad Spencer contacted the Ohio Muffins. They require a contract which outlines what the Ohio Muffins will supply and what the committee needs to provide. The Muffins do not charge, however they do require a minimum donation of \$300.00 to cover their costs, as well as food after the game. The committee decided to provide a \$500.00 donation. (Four committee members pledged \$100.00 each.) Chad will complete the contract and confirm the date with the Ohio Muffins organization. Another suggestion was to sell hotdogs and popcorn to the spectators, like would have been done “back in the day.”

**d. Update on Speaker Contact:**

Chief Nathan Motter contacted Senator Manchester. Her team has confirmed her participation. He also contacted Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Matt Huffman’s office. He has confirmation they received his email. He is waiting for a response.

Aaron Bender did speak with the County Commissioners office and is waiting for a response.

Lisa Nickles reported the Honor Guard used during a Memorial event to Honor the Gold Star Family’s utilized the Honor Guard out of Lima. Tom Hutson, a guest at our meeting, is associated with the Honor Guard in Lima, and he volunteered to contact them. However, he needs to know in what capacity we would want them to participate.

**e. Guided Tour of Memorial Walk:**

Chad Spencer and Jon Horn will organize the guided tour. Chad has experience in setting up this type of activity. He suggested we have a template for the presentations. He and Jon will work on this, but it will take time to complete. It was also suggested we have individuals stationed at each memorial to present information via the template about that specific memorial station.

**f. Corn Hole Tournament:**

Council member Vern Fox approached Lisa after the last council meeting and volunteer to contact a Corn Hole team out of Lima to see if they would be interested in coordinating a Corn Hole tournament.

**g. Proposed Schedule:**

The proposed schedule needs to be adjusted. The committee discussed the afternoon might be too congested with the Ohio Muffins game and the Guided tour. Chief Motter suggested moving the tour to the morning in conjunction with the Pediatric Cancer Walk. Garrett Miller will discuss the planning with the Pediatric Walk committee and report back.

**h. Tent, Tables, and chairs:**

Committee discussed having a tent with tables and chairs. Garrett thought the Lion’s Club could provide tables as well as chairs. The Club has reserved the date for the celebration.

A 40 x 40 tent would be the appropriate size. It was suggested to contact Turner Tents for rental.

**i. Flowers, planters etc. for decoration:**

Marilyn will discuss having flowers, planters etc. for decoration with the Muchinippi Garden Club at the next meeting.

She also requested an aerial type of map depicting what the Park will look like after the improvements.

Aaron Bender said he could provide copies at our next meeting.

Next Meeting Date: January 20, 2026, at 6PM

## **6. POLICE REPORTS:**

### **ZONING AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE ISSUES**

Chief Motter reported that we are still waiting on guidance from the Solicitor on how to proceed with code enforcement.

## **CONSTRUCTION ISSUES**

The traffic complaints regarding the construction have continued, but slowed down somewhat. Hopefully as the project comes to an end, some of the issues we've had on alternate streets will end.

## **TRICK OR TREAT**

The annual Waynesfield Beggar's Night is set for Thursday October 30<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Chief Motter will be passing out candy outside the office near the clock.

## **W-G SCHOOLS UPDATE**

The first quarter at W-G has ended and Chief Motter is happy to report we have not had any major incidents at the school. We did have six incidents (that involved Chief Motter in the capacity of SRO) with only one report that needed to be generated. For comparison purposes, last school year during the same time we had six incidents in which four had reports that needed to be generated.

On Wednesday, October 22, 2025, there was a call placed to St. Marys City Schools in reference to an active shooter showing up to the school. The call was a hoax, however it prompted a county-wide response. Because many law enforcement resources were dispatched to St. Marys City Schools, Chief Motter recommended to W-G Administration to go into a modified lockdown until the incident was cleared in St. Marys since many of our law enforcement resources were busy on the west side of the county. He remained at the school until school released and there were no issues at W-G. Staff and students were very appreciative of the extra presence in the building.

## **NEW REPORTING SYSTEM IN PLACE**

The police department's new reporting system is now in place. Earlier this month the police department was trained on the new system, which we had to move towards because the Sheriff's Office was switching. This new system has features the old doesn't have, such as the ability to see all the active calls in the county, dispatch being able to see our location, crash report enhancements, printed (instead of handwritten) traffic citations, and more! The best part about this new system is that there is actually a cost savings from the old system of Civica CMI to the new Sundance Emergency Services Software. The Sundance system will cost \$3,120 for the first year, whereas Civica CMI's cost was \$4,030.

## **LEADS AUDIT**

The Ohio Department of Public Safety conducted an audit of the Waynesfield Police Department on Thursday, October 9. The audit consisted of reviewing our training practices, documentation, and confidentiality procedures. The audit was a completely clean audit, meaning our established policies and procedures, training records, and measures to ensure records are kept confidential met or exceeded the State of Ohio's recommendations. The auditor even commented that if every agency was as organized as the Waynesfield Police Department, then his job would be very easy. This type of audit takes place every three years, and we have had a history of minimal to no issues each audit cycle since at least 2004.

## **VANDALISM/CRIMINAL DAMAGING**

Chief Motter reported that he is actively investigating multiple incidents (14 properties in total, not including roads/road signs) of vandalism that occurred between midnight and 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 12, 2025. Several properties, roads, and road signs throughout the Village of Waynesfield were spray-painted with vulgar graffiti during this time frame. Numerous tips have been submitted as well as various surveillance videos and still camera shots. Three of the 5 suspects have been identified. The case has not yet been referred to prosecutors, additional evidence came in on Monday October 27, 2025 and Chief Motter stated that he will keep the Council updated.

## **8. VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**

## **Electric**

Administrator Bender stated that AMP will be in the last week of this month. AMP will be taking down more open wire and replacing it with new. This will be a 2-day workload. Anyone impacted will be notified.

## **Water and Sewer**

Administrator Bender stated EPA will be in the 29<sup>th</sup> for the water inspection, this is a 3-year inspection. Will be scheduling a leak detection service to come and help find what we believe to be a leak that is not surfacing.

## **East Wapak St.**

Administrator Bender reported all curbs are poured as of 10-20-2025. Sidewalks and driveway approaches will be started 10-22-2025. The Village hopes to have all sidewalks in before trick or treat night, but the road will be closed, which should make it safer! The black top will follow along with seeding all areas. The Village could not extend the project due to funds. That portion of road has to be completely removed for new elevation. We may have enough funds to resurface Pearl St. We will know more once the next pay app is submitted.

## **Park**

Administrator Bender stated that the concrete slabs are poured, dirt was moved in and grass is seeded for the corn hole boards. The Village will need to get something weather tight to put the bags in for players that don't have bags with them to use. Splash pad will be ordered the week of the 26<sup>th</sup>. Once ordered 8 weeks until we receive it.

## **Other Notes**

### CDBG funding

Administrator Bender hopes to hear something by the end of the month regarding CDBG funding. This will be to finish E. Wapak street and new storm main along with other smaller pieces.

### Farm ground

Administrator Bender reviewed the current contract for the rented farmland and it does not end until December of 2026, so we will not bid this year.

### County MARXS Tower

The County has been out to do a little surveying. Once they have done that, next step will be for them to draft up legals so we can send it to our solicitor.

### Properties

Administrator Bender informed the council of funds that Auglaize County may have for blighted properties. Auglaize County is trying to make it available to residents that cannot match a percentage. If this would happen more residents may agree to have their properties cleaned up.

## **9. MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- a. Mayor's Court Report- \$1,302.00 was deposited in the General Fund from the Mayor's Court Account for the month of September.

## **10. OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Ordinance 25-9-1 (Solid Waste Plan--2<sup>nd</sup> reading emergency)**

Motion made by Nickles, seconded by Walti, to suspend the rules of three readings and to adopt Ordinance 25-9-1, An Ordinance to adopt the Solid Waste Management Plan Update for the Auglaize County Solid Waste Management District and to Declare an Emergency.

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

A motion was made by Nickles, seconded by Ball, to adopt Ordinance 25-9-1, An Ordinance to adopt the Solid Waste Management Plan Update for the Auglaize County Solid Waste Management District.

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

#### **Resolution 25-10-4**

The Council discussed changing the name of the walking path from the “Mike Ridenour Walking Path” to the “Gold Star Family Walking Path.”

Councilmember Fox was concerned with what Barb Earl said during her time at the meeting. He was questioning if we should keep it the same or not.

Councilmember Hutson stated that monuments placed through walking path, and by keeping it with the same name, defeats the purpose of memorials along walking path.

Motion made by Ball, seconded by Hutson, to have the first reading of Resolution 25-10-4. A Resolution Renaming the “Mike Ridenour Walking Path” to the “Gold Star Family Walking Path.”

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

### **11. NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Resolution 25-10-1 (Addressing Authority)**

A motion was made by Fox, seconded by Nickles, to have the first reading of Resolution 25-10-1. A Resolution in the Matter of Documenting the Position of the Village of Waynesfield Regarding Naming of Addressing Authority within the Jurisdiction of the Village of Waynesfield.

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

#### **Resolution 25-10-2 (Ohio Rural Planning)**

Motion made by Ball, seconded by Fox, to suspend the rules of three readings and to adopt Resolution 25-10-2. A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to execute necessary Paperwork to have the Village of Waynesfield Join the Western Ohio Rural Planning Organization and to Declare an Emergency.

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

A motion was made by Ball, seconded by Fox, to adopt Resolution 25-10-2. Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to execute necessary Paperwork to have the village of Waynesfield Join the Western Ohio Rural Planning Organization.

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

#### **Resolution 25-10-3 (Transfer Funds)**

Motion made by Ball, seconded by Nickles, to suspend the rules of three readings and to adopt Resolution 25-10-3. A Resolution Authorizing the Village of Waynesfield Fiscal Officer to Transfer Funds from the General Fund to the ODNR Grant Fund (2062) and to Declare an Emergency.

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

A motion was made by Ball, seconded by Nickles, to adopt Resolution 25-10-3. A Resolution Authorizing the Village of Waynesfield Fiscal Officer to Transfer Funds from the General Fund to the ODNR Grant Fund (2062)

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

**Ordinance 25-10-1 (2026 Permanent Appropriations)**

A motion was made by Nickles, seconded by Walti, to have the first reading of Ordinance 25-10-1. An ordinance to make appropriations for Current Expenses and other Expenditures of the Village of Waynesfield, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026.

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

Councilmember Nickles read through each total:

General Fund: \$428,570.55

Special Revenue- \$414,042.33

Debt Service: \$7,200.00

Capital Project: \$932,250.00

Enterprise Funds: \$1,718,998.55

Agency Funds: \$17,255.65

Total Appropriations: \$3,738,935.84

Without Grant Money: \$3,185,198.57

Without Both: \$2,252,948.57

**Ordinance 25-10-2 (PPM and Position Descriptions)**

A motion was made by Ball, seconded by Hutson, to have the first reading of Ordinance 25-10-2. An Ordinance Adopting the Amended Employee Handbook and Job Descriptions for the Village of Waynesfield, Auglaize County, Ohio.

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

**Joining Auglaize County Chamber of Commerce discussion**

Councilmember Nickles stated that she called Wapakoneta Area Chamber of Commerce. They were discussing with her the benefits of the Auglaize Chamber of Commerce. The Village of Waynesfield does not involve to either. We do belong to the Lake Chamber of Commerce, and she doesn't know why but we are not a member of the Wapakoneta Area Chamber of Commerce

Councilmember Nickles asked Chief Motter if he knew the reason, we joined the Indian Lake Chamber of Commerce. He stated we needed to join one for benefits of insurance rates when the previous Fiscal Officer was here. That's the only

rational Chief Motter can remember. Wapakoneta Area Chamber of Commerce is \$150. This chamber is in our county, and it may be a better benefit to the Village. Administrator Bender suggestion whoever is the president of council should be the person attending the Chamber of Commerce meetings.

**Executive Session for employee raises**

A motion was made by Ball, seconded by Nickles to conduct an executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, and compensation of a public employee or official with the Mayor and Village Administrator present at 7:46 pm.

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

Village Administrator excused at 8:08 pm.

A motion was made by Nickles, seconded by Ball to exit executive session at 8:26 pm.

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

**12. SOLICITOR REPORT: NONE**

A motion to adjourn was made by Nickles, seconded by Walti at 8:27 pm.

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



Mayor



Fiscal Officer