

VILLAGE OF WAYNESFIELD
COUNCIL MEETING

March 23, 2026

1. The meeting was called to order on March 23, 2026, at 6:30 P.M. with the following answering Roll Call: Mayor Luma, Absent; Davidson, Yes; Miller, Yes; Humes, Yes; Nickles, Yes; Ridenour, Yes; Walti, Yes.

2. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

3. Fiscal Officer reported **\$1,878,589.94** in all funds. **\$402,359.35** in the General Fund.

Fiscal Officer reported a savings of \$7,230.83 by switching to RITA municipal tax services.

4. The Bills were read. A motion was made by Miller, seconded by Walti, to pay the bills presented.

VOTE: Davidson, Yes; Miller, Yes; Humes, Yes; Nickles, Yes; Ridenour, Yes; Walti, Yes

5. GUESTS: NONE

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Safety

Sidewalk Snow Removal Discussion

The committee discussed recent issues regarding snow accumulation on sidewalks and the need for snow removal to ensure safe passage for students, residents, and emergency services.

Administrator Bender expressed concern about potential liability for the Village if the Village were to take responsibility for clearing sidewalks.

Council Member Ridenour suggested the possibility of contracting the work to an outside company, noting that such companies typically carry their own liability insurance. He also clarified that sidewalks do not belong to the residents, even though residents are generally responsible for maintaining them.

Council Member Nickles stated that the Village either needs to enforce the existing sidewalk snow removal ordinance or determine another solution. She added that the Village could potentially be considered partially liable if sidewalks remain uncleared and someone becomes injured.

Council Member Humes asked who is responsible for maintaining the sidewalks. Council Member Ridenour responded that the responsibility currently falls on the residents.

Council Member Humes suggested that the ordinance should include clearer specifications regarding sidewalk maintenance.

Council Member Nickles proposed that the Village could consider purchasing a brush machine to clear sidewalks.

It was also discussed that if snow accumulation is less than two inches, the Village may choose not to provide snow removal.

Council Member Walti will obtain an estimate from a company for possible contracted snow removal services.

Administrator Bender will contact the Village Solicitor for legal guidance regarding liability and potential options.

Council Member Walti will also look for a date for the next Safety Committee meeting.

Park Crosswalk Discussion

Council Member Walti stated that due to recent improvements at the park and the expected increase in traffic, the Village should consider installing a crosswalk near the park along with appropriate signage.

Walti asked whether the Village could complete the work in-house. Administrator Bender stated that he believes the Village could complete the work and will check on pricing for the necessary signage and paint.

Park Committee

The Park Committee met on March 11, 2026, at 4:00 PM.

Attending:

Administrator Bender, Fiscal Officer Montgomery, and Committee Members Nickles, Humes, and Davidson.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

Administrator Bender reviewed the grant information for the new Park Committee members. The Village received \$352,950.00 from the Ohio Office of Budget and Management and \$348,000.00 from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). ODNR administrative fees totaled \$6,960.00, bringing the total grant funding received to \$693,990.00.

Funds have already been spent for the purchase of playground equipment and Splash Pad equipment. The Village will use the remaining ODNR funds for installation of these items.

The Village has also received cornhole boards and fencing for the ball fields.

Administrator Bender asked the committee for input on how they would like to utilize the remaining funds. The committee discussed the possibility of constructing a shelter house with restrooms, and Administrator Bender stated that he will begin obtaining quotes for this project.

A Gaga Ball Pit was also discussed, but the committee decided to pause the discussion until next month.

The committee also discussed adding a pickleball court. Possible placement behind the current restroom facility was discussed, along with whether that location would be the best fit. This topic will remain under consideration for further discussion.

Committee Member Nickles, on behalf of the Gold Star Families Memorial Committee, asked whether the Village could support and assist the Gold Star Families Memorial Committee with framing and pouring the concrete pads for benches along the walking path, as well as with the monument installation. This request will be brought before Council for consideration.

Committee Member Nickles moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 PM.

Council Member Nickles stated that the committee has hired someone to complete the concrete pads and thanked the Village for its consideration and support.

Council Member Ridenour noted that there are restrictions on property owned by the buyer and on the land south of the water plant. He explained that due to wellhead protection regulations, structures cannot be built on that property.

Administrator Bender stated that he had spoken with inspectors and representatives from the EPA regarding the matter. He explained that installing a disc golf course on the property would be acceptable. However, they would not permit residential construction on the site because of the wellhead protection restrictions.

Administrator Bender added that other recreational uses that do not involve permanent structures may also be acceptable within those guidelines.

7. POLICE REPORT:

HONDURAS TRIP

Chief Motter reported on his recent trip to Honduras and how community development was the main focus during his time there.

TRAINING IN FULL SWING

Chief Motter reported that he and Officer Humes are still very busy completing mandatory training the State of Ohio requires.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Chief Motter reminded council and the public for residents to prepare a plan of action for severe weather, so they are not caught unaware.

GRAFFITI CASE UPDATE

Chief Motter requested that the Lands & Building & Property Maintenance Committee meet to discuss our options for enforcement of the clean-up of the properties that have vulgar messages on them.

OHIO COLLABORATIVE RE-CERTIFICATION ONGOING

Chief Motter reported the Waynesfield Police Department is currently 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.

8. VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Electric

Over the last month we have experienced a couple of isolated power outages. All issues were addressed and repaired by our crew. We also attended training at Lakeview with AMP last week. Fortunately, despite the recent high winds, we have not experienced any major issues with power lines or damage to buildings.

Park

Work has been ongoing at the park on several projects. The new parking lot where the old playground was located is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ complete but has been slowed due to weather. The sanitary line has been tapped for the splash pad, and the next step will be tapping the water line. The contractor is expected to begin construction of the new playground pad within the next couple of weeks, weather permitting.

The old playground equipment was sold on GovDeals for \$8,500.00. The fact that the equipment had already been disassembled was a major contributing factor to the sale.

We will also be obtaining pricing for a shelter house on the north end of the park, along with pickleball courts, to present to the Park Committee.

County MARCS Tower

A meeting was held with the county regarding the proposed MARCS tower. The project is currently at the state level for review. The county has funds set aside and is ready to move forward once approval is received.

As part of the project, 15 bat nesting trees will need to be removed. All trees are less than 5 inches in diameter. If the trees are not removed by the end of the month, they cannot be taken down until October. This is the reason for the ordinance and the need to pass it as an emergency.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT:

- a. Mayor's Court Report- \$762.00 was deposited in the General Fund from the Mayor's Court Account for the month of February.

10. OLD BUSINESS: NONE `

11. NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance 26-3-1 (Anthem Health Plan)

Motion made by Nickles, seconded by Davidson to suspend the rules of three reading and to adopt Ordinance 26-3-1, An Ordinance Authorizing the Village Administrator and Staff to Execute and Adopt Anthem Health Plan SOCA Benefit Plan Blue Access PPO 6600E/0%/6600 w/HAS-90YT with Ohio Insured Services for the Village of Waynesfield and Declaring an Emergency.

VOTE: Davidson, Yes; Miller, Yes; Humes, Yes; Nickles, Yes; Ridenour, Yes; Walti, Yes

Motion made by Walti, seconded by Miller, to pass Ordinance 26-3-1, An Ordinance Authorizing the Village Administrator and Staff to Execute and Adopt Anthem Health Plan SOCA Benefit Plan Blue Access PPO 6600E/0%/6600 w/HAS-90YT with Ohio Insured Services for the Village of Waynesfield

VOTE: Davidson, Yes; Miller, Yes; Humes, Yes; Nickles, Yes; Ridenour, Yes; Walti, Yes

Ordinance 26-3-2 (Cybersecurity)

Motion made by Nickles, seconded by Miller to suspend the rules of three reading and to adopt Ordinance 26-3-2, An Ordinance to Adopt the NIST Cybersecurity Framework for the Village of Waynesfield and to Authorize Implementation in Accordance with Ohio House Bill 96 and to Declare an Emergency.

VOTE: Davidson, Yes; Miller, Yes; Humes, Yes; Nickles, Yes; Ridenour, Yes; Walti, Yes

Motion made by Nickles, seconded by Walti to pass Ordinance 26-3-2, , An Ordinance to Adopt the NIST Cybersecurity Framework for the Village of Waynesfield and to Authorize Implementation in Accordance with Ohio House Bill 96.

VOTE: Davidson, Yes; Miller, Yes; Humes, Yes; Nickles, Yes; Ridenour, Yes; Walti, Yes

Resolution 26-3-1 (Tree Clearing Agreement)

Motion made by Ridenour, seconded by Miller to suspend the rules of three reading and to adopt Resolution 26-3-1, A Resolution Authorizing the Village of Waynesfield Village Administrator to Enter into a Tree Clearing Agreement with Auglaize County and to Declare an Emergency.

VOTE: Davidson, Yes; Miller, Yes; Humes, Yes; Nickles, Yes; Ridenour, Yes; Walti, Yes

Motion made by Walti seconded by Davidson to pass Ordinance 26-3-1, A Resolution Authorizing the Village of Waynesfield Village Administrator to Enter into a Tree Clearing Agreement with Auglaize County

VOTE: Davidson, Yes; Miller, Yes; Humes, Yes; Nickles, Yes; Ridenour, Yes; Walti, Yes

12. SOLICITOR REPORT: NONE

A motion to adjourn was made by Nickles, seconded by Walti.

VOTE: Davidson, Yes; Miller, Yes; Humes, Yes; Nickles, Yes; Ridenour, Yes; Walti, Yes



Mayor



Fiscal Officer