

VILLAGE OF WAYNESFIELD
COUNCIL MEETING

July 27, 2026

1. The meeting was called to order on July 27, 2026, at 6:30 P.M. with the following answering Roll Call: Mayor Luma, Present; Davidson, Present; Miller, Present; Humes, Present; Nickles, Present; Ridenour, Present; Walti, Present.
2. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.
3. The Minutes of the Special Council meeting were read, corrected and approved.
4. Fiscal Officer reported **\$1,925,957.33** in all funds. **\$396,873.03** in the General Fund.
5. The Bills were read. A motion was made by Miller, seconded by Humes to pay the bills presented.

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

6. GUESTS: Leatrice Runkle:

Leatrice Runkle questioned the Village's utility metering and billing practices, including whether municipal buildings pay for utilities and how residents are affected by increased utility rates. Administrator Bender explained that municipal buildings do not receive utility bills because payments would transfer funds between Village accounts. Council discussed meter replacements, noting that some residents may be seeing increased bills due to more accurate readings from replacement meters. Ms. Runkle also expressed concerns about the cost of the splash pad and the ability of residents on fixed incomes to afford increased utility rates. Administrator Bender and Council confirmed that meters have not been tampered with and that any such action would be illegal.

Council explained that the utility rate study and increase process began the previous year, with required public readings, posted notices, and opportunities for residents to comment. Councilmember Nickles requested that the Utility Committee consider including notices about proposed utility rate changes with customers' utility bills to improve public awareness. Administrator Bender agreed the committee could review the suggestion.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Park Ad Hoc Committee

Park Ad Hoc Chair Lisa Nickles read her report to council thanking everyone for their dedication and participation. For record keeping purposes see the full addendum attached.

7. POLICE REPORTS:

Chief Motter reported that the Fourth of July weekend was relatively quiet, with only a few minor incidents. The Stop CSAM Act continues to gain local support, and area law enforcement officials are scheduled to meet with Congressman Jordan in August to discuss the pending legislation. Chief Motter will travel to Honduras in August for a community development mission trip with Heart to Honduras.

Chief Motter reported approximately 10 recent encounters with non-English-speaking individuals, primarily during traffic stops, and noted that federal authorities did not request custody of the individuals. Preparations are underway for the 2026-2027 school year, including additional school resource officer training and a staff refresher on school safety and active threats. The first day of school is August 19.

Chief Motter thanked everyone involved in the Waynesfield Veterans Memorial Park dedication and expressed his hope that the event will lead to continued community engagement. Regarding the graffiti vandalism case, two individuals were found guilty and ordered to pay restitution through Auglaize County Court, along with a \$200 fine and court costs each.

8. VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Retrofit streetlights have been installed, with new light poles still awaiting delivery. The splash pad water line was repaired under warranty, and AOP will test the iron filter media for EPA compliance. The North Westminster water leak was attributed to inadequate backfill, with ODOT scheduled to patch the affected areas. Staff assisted with the July 25 community celebration, and the new playground and splash pad continue to see increased use. A Park Committee meeting will be held to review quotes and additional park amenities. ODOT also provided several hundred tons of asphalt millings for new parking at the north end of the park. The electrical outage during the celebration was caused by a vehicle striking a utility pole and was not related to Village infrastructure; Uniopolis and Indian Lake were also affected.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT:

- a. Mayor's Court Report- **\$2301.00** was deposited in the General Fund from the Mayor's Court Account for the month of June.

10. OLD BUSINESS:

Ordinance 26-7-1 (Water Rates)

Motion made by Humes, seconded by Davidson, to have the first reading for Ordinance 26-7-1. An Ordinance setting Water Rates and Fees for the Village of Waynesfield and Repealing Inconsistent Ordinances or Parts Thereof.

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

Ordinance 26-7-2 (Sewer Rates)

Motion made by Miller, seconded by Davidson, to have the first reading for Ordinance 26-7-2. An Ordinance setting Sewer Rates and Fees for the Village of Waynesfield and Repealing Inconsistent Ordinances or Parts Thereof.

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

11. NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 26-7-1 (Auglaize County Solid Waste District—emergency)

Motion made by Nickles, seconded by Miller, to suspend the rules of three readings and to adopt Resolution 26-7-1, A Resolution to Approve Generation Fee Abolishment/Repeal for the Auglaize County Solid Waste District and to Declare an Emergency.

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

A motion was made by Miller, seconded by Humes, to pass Resolution 26-7-1, A Resolution to Approve Generation Fee Abolishment/Repeal for the Auglaize County Solid Waste District.

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

Ordinance 26-7-3 (Fiscal Officer Bond)

Motion made by Nickles, seconded by Miller, to suspend the rules of three readings and to adopt Ordinance 26-7-3, An Ordinance Authorizing the Lowering of Bond for the Fiscal Officer and to Declare an Emergency.

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

A motion was made by Nickles, seconded by Humes, to adopt Ordinance 26-7-3, An Ordinance Authorizing the Lowering of Bond for the Fiscal Officer.

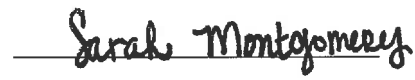
VOTE: Davidson, Yes; Miller. Yes; Humes. Yes; Nickles, Yes; Ridenour, Yes; Walti, Yes.

12. SOLICITOR REPORT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Nickles, seconded by Walti at 7:14 p.m.

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


Mayor


Fiscal Officer

Addendum

Park Dedication Ad Hoc Chairperson Lisa Nickles Report:

July 27, 2026

County Commissioner Doug Spencer quoted Futurist Joel Arthur Baker during his speech. I would like to restate it as part of my report.

“A Vision without action is merely a dream, Action without vision is just passing time. A vision with action can change the world”

What began as a vision by Chief Motter and the CDT was brought to life through funding granted to the Village by the State of Ohio, with the assistance and support of State Senator Susan Manchester and Ohio State Representative Matt Huffman. The vision for the Gold Star Memorial also became a reality through hard work, dedication, and private donations.

As Chair of both the Gold Star Families and Park Dedication Ad Hoc committees, I would like to thank the following individuals and organizations and include this acknowledgement in the permanent Village record:

First all the Park Dedication Ad Hoc committee members:

Co-Chair Nathan Motter, Aaron Bender, Ann Billings, Kerry Burden, Cynthia Douglas, Margie Humes, Jon Horn, Pamela Kennon, Sarah Montgomery, Tim Pence, Ron Pepple, Albert Presnell, Marilyn Shaw, Brian Shaw, Chad Spencer, Tod Tenaglia, Garret Miller, and Kerri Motter

Munchinippi Garden Club- who provided All the decorations and flowers at the event. As well as their continued support of the Village throughout the year.

Original Council Members of the Waynesfield Village Park Committee: former council members; Vern Fox, Tom Hutson. Current council member Tim Walti.

Waynesfield Lion's Club:

Jennifer Sutherland for changing the date for the Walk for Pediatric Cancer Research so it could be our “kick-off” event. Jennifer reported they had record numbers of walkers and the largest total contributions. A total of \$2,361,00 was raised.

Wapakoneta Chamber of Commerce for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Selfless Souls Law Enforcement Motorcycle club for donating the bicycles for the Bike give away and assisting through out the day at the event.

Motteriffic Creations, owners Kerri and Dan Motter. Kerri spent countless hours working with Chad Spencer to create the Gold Star Families Memorial Memory Book honoring the 13 community members who were Killed in Action. As well as the production of all the marketing materials and beautiful signage utilized before and during the event. Kerri accepted calls at all hours of the day and night. Dan assisted with the sound systems, assembly of bikes and many other things I'm not aware of.

Council person Margie Humes for coordinating the Bike Give-Away and the Buckland Bistro Food Truck

Ralph Reynolds for providing the large American Flags that were placed at the Gold Star Families Memorial and signage at the entrance marker listing the 13 service members honored by the memorial.

Traci and Craig Buffenbarger, Golf Cart World who supplied the golf carts for the Golf Cart tour of the memorial

Alice Turner Carter, Jacob Howell and Kimberly Barnes photographers for the event. All whom donated their time.

Auglaize County CERT team for coordinating the parking.

Ohio Village Muffins and Ohio Diamonds baseball teams for playing two 1850's style exhibition baseball games.

The Waynesfield Clod Hoppers:

Nathan Motter

Zach Oats

Harold Lambert

Nathan Swaney

Tom Brookhart

Time Pence

Josh Hutson

Josh Spencer

Troy Spencer

Landin DeWitt

TR Doty

Garret Miller

Jeff Finney

Waynesfield Gems:

Sarah Montgomery

Lisa Oakes

Taryn Tate

Amber Belisle

Margie Mercado

Nicole Schlegel

Irma Mullins

Lizzy Finney

Zoe Schlegel

Katy Knoth

Kandee Shook

I wanted to thank each of these individuals for playing in the exhibition games.

Wayne Township EMS for being on standby

Tim Pence, Superintendent Waynesfield Goshen Schools for making a “one call” on Friday to remind residents of the event.

Gold Star Families committee members:

Marilyn Shaw

Tom Hutson

Kerry Burden

(Chair: Lisa Nickles)

Their commitment and hard work were critical in the design of the memorial and securing donations for funding.

All the businesses and individuals who donated money for the Gold Star Families Memorial. As of today, a total of \$33,500.00 has been raised. A plaque will be placed at the memorial acknowledging the donors to this phenomenon memorial.

The Wayne-Goshen Area Community Foundation for handling all the donations received for both the Park Dedication and Gold Star Families Memorial Fund

Special thanks to Roger Sanders, treasurer of the Wayne-Goshen Area Community Foundation. He was always available to write checks and handle contributions.

Martha Manchester for donating red, white and blue decorations

Phil Valentine, member of Roots and Shoots Garden Club in Wapakoneta Ohio for supplying 100 small American Flags that were placed along the walking path.

Craig and Marilyn Shaw for supplying the large American Flags utilized around the gazebo and shelter house.

There were approximately 150 American Flags displayed at the event.

Kerri Motter and Margie Humes for operating the registration desk.

Everyone who donated money to the Park Dedication Committee and to the Gold Star Families Memorial fund.

The event speakers included Pastor Todd Tenaglia, Pastor Jon Horn, Mayor Rodney Luma, County Commissioner Doug Spencer, POW/MIA State Chairman Ralph Reynolds, Tyler Wright, US Senator Jon Husted Constituent Services Representative and State Senator Susan Manchester, who also performed the National Anthem. Sergeant Chris Stanford of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who served with Staff Sergeant Sonny Zimmerman, KIA in Afghanistan, who read aloud the names of the 13 service members who lost their lives in defense of our country.

Local Veterans, Rita Motter, Bob Howard, and Tim Walti, Wapakoneta VFW officers: Jeff Goodes, Josh Laird, Chris Zimmerman, Father to Sonny Zimmerman for laying 6 roses at the foot of the Gold Star monument during the event.

Special thanks to Waynesfield Police Chief Nathan Motter for coordinating speakers and acting as Master of Ceremonies for the Dedication. He did a phenomenal job.

Waynesfield Lion's club for supplying chairs. Donating Vouchers for the Fall Festival to be raffled

Special thanks to Garret Miller for delivering the chairs and taking them down.

Cynthia Douglas, New Hampshire Nazarene Church for operating the Kids Activity Tent

Gretchen Schmitz, Blue Star Mothers for having an information tent.

Texas Roadhouse supplying peanuts for the exhibition baseball games.

Turner Tents, Buckland Acre Bistro Food Truck, Auglaize Memorials, LLC, and Dave Little

Vicki Zimmerman (we commandeered her golf cart to get ice for the Muffins teams)

The Village Employees:

Special thanks to Albert Presnell, Joe Spillman, and Jay Carter for working and participating in the event. The unfortunate power outage had little to no effect on the event.

Chad Spencer for the thousands of hours he spent researching the 13 Waynesfield service members who were killed in action and are honored at the Gold Star Families Memorial.

Thank you to my family for supporting me throughout the past year and for their patience and understanding when phone calls and emails interrupted family meals, events, and time together.

Finally, thank you to the residents and everyone who supported this event by attending and taking part in the celebration of our park and in honoring the Waynesfield-area service members who gave their lives in defense of our country.

I have tried very hard to thank everyone. If anyone knows someone or would like to add to this official list of thanks, please let me know and we can amend this report.

General report about the event:

Attendance:

Approximately 250-275 people attended. The CERT team estimated parking approximately 140-150 cars throughout the day.

People from all over Auglaize County and as far as Pittsburgh Pennsylvania attended.

Buckland Acre Bistro ran out of buns and water. They had a lot of business throughout the day.

The bicycle raffle and helmet give away was a great success. I have seen several children since Saturday riding new bicycles with helmets in the community.

The Park Ad Hoc committee will have a meeting on Aug 25, 6 PM White Memorial Library to evaluate the planning, execution and logistics of the event. I will have a final financial report at our next council meeting.

On a personal note, thank you for allowing me to chair this committee. It has been an honor and privilege to work with its members and the broader community they represent. As a Village, we have much to be proud of and grateful for. This event was a highly positive experience not only for Waynesfield residents, but also for the surrounding community. WLIO's news coverage in Lima helped show viewers that Waynesfield, Ohio, is not only a great place to live, but also a caring and generous community.