

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting
Held in Village Hall
April 9, 2012
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: By Council President Hayden at 7:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence: Lead by Council President Hayden

Roll Call: Present: Gerry Neff (0, 0), Arletta Ruton (0, 2), Clay Carroll (0, 0), Kay Hartman (0, 0),
(Consecutive, Total Absences) Charlene Hayden (0, 1), Patrick Brighton (0, 0)
Mayor Baker

Absent: Jeryne Peterson (2, 3)

Staff Present: Valerie Hans, Clerk of Council; Rod Riley, Code Enforcement, & James Hanzey, Police Captain.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Councilor Ruton to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2012 council meeting, seconded by Councilor Hartman

Roll Call Vote; Yea: Neff, Ruton, Carroll, Hartman, Brighton, Hayden

Motion Passed 6-0

Approval of Clerk Treasurer's Report:

Motion by Councilor Ruton to approve the Treasurer's Report dated April 9, 2012 subject to the clarification on Mark Gardner's \$336.00 bill being paid out of the computer fund, and pay the bills that are listed on the attached list, seconded by Councilor Hartman.

Roll Call Vote; Yea: Neff, Ruton, Carroll, Hartman, Brighton, Hayden

Motion Passed 6-0

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Karen Cookston spoke to update council on Planning and Zoning issues in the Village. She stated that Planning Commission understands that the Village does not have a Development Director, but certain tasks are not getting done. She further stated that there have been 4 issues of this occurring recently. Cookston stated that clearly 1 person can't hold more than 1 position; however a person could pick up these tasks and get paid to do so.

Cookston stated that in a March 20th email to council some of these issues and the time spent were outlined. The Planning Commission chair spend several hours working on these issues and is requesting helps from Council to alleviate some of this burden. She further stated that even if a Development Director is hired in the next month there will still be another six month transition to bring the person up to speed. She recently had a Planning Commission member resign over not being able to get the job done, citing specific issues that need to be addressed.

Mayor stated that he didn't know where to begin, but wished that Planning Commission Chair would have called him before coming to council. He further stated that he has always said the commission should be a Board of Zoning Appeals. The problem with the sign shouldn't have gone this far. The applicant went through too much and the issues went too far in his opinion. Mayor Baker stated that time and time again the Planning Commission has put people through too much and it shouldn't be that tough.

Cookston stated that she sent e-mail to everyone to bring the issues to light and help council to grapple with the issues. A business person walked away very unhappy as a result of the sign issues. She further stated that, if she's going to identify an issue, she feels that she should also be part of the solution. Cookston stated as the Planning Commission chairperson it is difficult to do her job without cooperation. She stated that she is willing to be part of the solution but she needs to stop putting out fires. Lastly, Cookston stated that there are potential gaps that simply need to be fixed.

Hayden asked Cookston to provide solutions and give them to the Village Council in writing.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Parks Commission: No Report

Planning Commission & Board of Zoning Appeals: No Report

COMMITTEE MEETING AND/OR REPORT:

Public Safety Committee: Councilor Carroll scheduled a committee meeting for Monday, April 16, 2012 at 6:30pm to discuss golf cart legislation.

Finance Committee: Councilor Hartman scheduled a combined Finance and Personnel committee meeting for Monday, April 16, 2012 immediately following the Public Safety Committee meeting.

Public Service Committee: No report

Rules Committee: No report

Community Development Committee: No report

Personnel Committee: No report

COMMUNICATIONS: None

CITIZEN'S COMMENT: Kay Allen asked when people come down here when and how can they get an answer to their questions.

Bonnie Mansfield stated that she would like to hear more on the golf cart legislation. She further stated that if we are going to make people get a license for their golf cart, she has an issue with that. Ms. Mansfield also asked that village council revisit the mandatory spay/neuter legislation as she would like the village government's support.

Donna Thompson stated that the people sitting in the elected seats are there because of the residents of the village. She further added that the elected officials need to relate to the people of the village. Lastly, she stated that when it becomes levy time they will know.

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT: No report

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: No report

MAYOR'S REPORT: Stated that he met with a Development Director candidate and is waiting for a response on whether he will take the job. He further stated that he wished that citizens would voice their opinions during the committee meetings where they could talk more freely and receive answers to their questions. The mayor encouraged the citizens to attend the committee meetings. Lastly the Mayor read a letter from Hebron Mayor Cliff Mason thanking the village employees for their assistance during the recent Hebron flooding.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL: Hayden read and submitted a written report. She mentioned that there will be a chamber of commerce benefit for Clay's Café at the Buckeye Lake Yacht Club on April 10, 2012 from 6-9 pm to raise money for the business as they attempt to recover from the flooding.

ORDINANCES

3rd Reading

2nd Reading

ORDINANCE 2012-07 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2010-45 AND 2011-14 AND CREATING PAY LEVELS AND SALARY SCHEDULES FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE, OHIO.

Motion by Councilor Hartman to suspend the rules on Ordinance 2012-07, seconded by Councilor Carroll.

Roll Call Vote; Yea: Neff, Carroll, Hartman, Brighton, Hayden

No: Ruton

Motion Passed 5-1

Motion by Councilor Carroll to table Ordinance 2012-07 and send it back to the Personnel and Finance Committees until all items are resolved, seconded by Councilor Brighton.

Roll Call Vote; Yea: Neff, Carroll, Hartman, Brighton, Hayden

No: Ruton

Motion Passed 5-1

1st Reading

ORDINANCE 2012-08 AN ORDINANCE AWARDING THE BID FOR THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1 AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE AND SAID CONTRACTOR SUBJECT TO FUNDING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilor Hartman to suspend the rules on Ordinance 2012-08, seconded by Councilor Carroll.

Roll Call Vote; Yea: Neff, Ruton, Carroll, Hartman, Brighton, Hayden

Motion Passed 6-0

Motion by Councilor Hartman to adopt Ordinance 2012-08, seconded by Councilor Brighton.

Roll Call Vote; Yea: Neff, Ruton, Carroll, Hartman, Brighton, Hayden

Motion Passed 6-0

ORDINANCE 2012-09 AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE UNDER-SPEED VEHICLES, INCLUDING GOLF CARTS, REGARDING STOPPING VEHICLE; SLOW SPEED; AND POSTED MINIMUM SPEEDS.

ORDINANCE 2012-10 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE LICKING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ON THE BUCKEYE LAKE SR 79 CURB & SIDEWALK PROJECT – PHASE III AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilor Hartman to suspend the rules on Ordinance 2012-10, seconded by Councilor Brighton.

Roll Call Vote; Yea: Neff, Ruton, Carroll, Hartman, Brighton, Hayden

Motion Passed 6-0

Motion by Councilor Hartman to adopt Ordinance 2012-10, seconded by Councilor Neff.

Roll Call Vote; Yea: Neff, Ruton, Carroll, Hartman, Brighton, Hayden

Motion Passed 6-0

RESOLUTIONS:

3rd Reading

2nd Reading

1st Reading

Citizen's Comments: Rod Riley stated that he has a problem with the Blue Heron Boardwalk. He understands that the property was split when the new building was constructed a few years back. However, these properties need to be assigned two different addresses for safety services to be able to easily locate them.

Karen Cookston stated that the second address was assigned when the three lots were reconfigured into two lots. She further added that the Development Director typically assigned the addresses to the buildings.

Karen Cookston stated that she had a concern that the definition of low speed vehicle is vague in the golf cart ordinance. She further stated that the ordinance needs more definition. Furthermore, she asked what would be involved in the inspection.

Bonnie Mansfield stated that she doesn't point out specific people when coming to the council meetings. People have questions that simply deserve answers. She further stated that she has been coming to council meetings for the past year in vain. She was present for a council committee meeting where the chairperson pulled another council member out of the audience in order to get a quorum for the committee meeting. Lastly, Ms. Mansfield asked if council could open up the dialogue to the public during certain times of the council meetings, possibly having a question and answer section of the meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:

Arletta Ruton: No comment

Kaye Hartman: No comment.

Gerry Neff: No comment.

Clay Carroll: Carroll read and submitted the following statement.

I would like to say first of all that these are my feelings and I certainly can't speak for everyone on council or everyone who is involved with village management or operations.

With that being said, it is really upsetting that when decisions need to be made, most people don't want to get involved or share their opinions until the 9th hour and then just want to complain about what the people who did get involved decide.

To my knowledge there are no secret midnight meetings conducted on any village issue. Almost everything is reviewed by committee's before being presented before council. Those committee meetings are publically posted and I believe that if a resident expressed an interest in being notified when a particular committee (such as public safety) was meeting, that a reasonable effort would be made to let them know.

These committee meetings are the time for banter, discussion and if really necessary, argument. A committee can conduct as many meetings as are necessary to reach a reasonable opinion on something before it goes to council. I do not feel that council meetings are the time or place for this banter as many people who attend a council meeting are there for a particular item on the agenda and should not be forced to sit thru the minutia of things that should have been long put to rest at a committee meeting. If a topic appears before council and it is determined that additional consideration is in order then it should be sent back to committee for further investigation. Time in the council meeting is set aside for "public comment" not "let's argue." I feel that council has an obligation to consider those comments and if deemed necessary, send an item back to committee. It is not only unreasonable but unfair to expect any council member to make a split second response to a public comment without affording them the time to reflect on the comment and then hold them under scrutiny for their response.

People who make comments such as the recent comment about don't approve any more levy's, should really be ashamed of themselves, they should start their comment with "I seldom if ever attended a committee meeting or try to help out or to be a positive influence in any way but now I would like to complain." Take the comments about the police levy for example which failed to point out that the funds provided by that levy barely cover ½ the cost of operating the department. Can the department tighten their belts a little? Probably, but as the comment said "operate as a business" I don't believe I know of any business that can operate when it is undercapitalized by 50%, Brilliant comment!

In closing, I would like to say that I feel that as council members we are expected and obligated to convey and vote in a way that most residents would or in the absence of their input, to what we believe is best for the ongoing progress of the village. We can't convey or consider what we don't have. I would like to urge people to get involved, come to committee meetings, get their information straight from the source and even help research different topics.

Working together can get things done, this process of waiting for someone else to come up with a plan or idea then complaining about it and waiting for them to come up with another and then complaining again and on and on and on is not only a waste of time but very counterproductive. There are many residents who have sat on council or in some position in the village and I would think that they would be the first to realize the lack of input and step forward in a positive manner. They must have cared about the village at one time. Is it that it's easier to complain or just more fun to stir up discontent?

One fine example of this is an issue that the public safety committee has been considering since September of 2010 regarding crosswalks in the village. The committee has met over ½ dozen times with discussion on this topic, met with representatives from ODOT, talked to the local school Transportation Supervisor, Fire Department, Police Department and Street Supervisor. Aside from the 80+ people who signed a petition that was circulated on this item, there has been less than a dozen people express any interest. When this finally comes before council, I'm certain somebody will step forward with complaints.

Patrick Brighton: Stated that his comments will be a little shorter than Councilor Carroll's. Last month council rules committee met to create regular scheduled meeting dates during each month. Council committees will meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. Obviously, there will be times when emergency meetings need to be scheduled and these will be called as needed. This should allow the public to have a set night where they can attend committee meetings, openly discuss their concerns and ask questions. He encouraged citizen's comments and asked more people to get involved in hopes that this will bring more ideas to the table.

Charlene Hayden: Stated that she appreciates Councilor Carroll's comments and has thought about the same things from time to time. She further stated that if people want the pay ordinance to go back to council committees then it should. However, she still feels that the ordinance is justified.

Adjournment: Motion by Councilor Ruton to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Councilor Brighton.

VOTE: IN-FAVOR: ALL YEAS; MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: April 23, 2012



Valerie Hans, Clerk of Council



Charlene Hayden, Council President