

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting  
Held in Village Hall  
**September 16, 2019**  
Meeting Minutes

**Call to Order:** By Council President Zwissler at 7:04 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence:** Lead by Council President Zwissler.

**Roll Call:** Present: Doug Poorman (0,1), Arletta Ruton (0,0), Tom Wolfe (0,1),  
(Consecutive, Total Absences) Kitty Zwissler (0,0), Bill French (0,0), John Geiger (0,0)

Mayor Wells

Absent: Robert Masone, (0,7)

**Staff Present:** Valerie Hans, Clerk of Council; Vicki Wardlow, Police Chief.

Mary Kay Andrews, Superintendent, Lakewood Local School District, spoke to council members and the public about the upcoming bond and levy. She passed out a flier and briefly explained that the bond issue is for the construction of a new Pre-K-5 building that will be constructed on land that the district already owns. The levy is a renewal and will not cost the taxpayers any additional money. Ms. Andrews stated that there is a community forum at Lakewood High School on 10/1/19 at 7pm for voters to attend. She stated that if you are unable to attend, the community forum will be live streamed as well. A copy of the levy flier is attached to the council record.

Mayor Wells asked if there is someone lined up to attend the candidates' night on 10/15/19.

Council President Zwissler stated that the candidates' nights are on 9/17/19 and 10/23/19 from 6-8pm.

Mayor Wells stated that it is not on 10/23.

Council President Zwissler stated that it most certainly is as we set it up.

Mayor Wells stated that the League of Women Voter's has a candidates' night scheduled for 10/15/19 at the community church.

**ORDINANCES:**

**2019-36** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2010-45, 2011-14, 2012-07, 2012-13, 2012-15, 2013-01, 2013-04, 2013-24, 2015-13, 2016-08, 2018-11, 2018-14, 2018-29 AND 2019-23 REGARDLESS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE, CREATING PAY LEVELS AND SALARY SCHEDULES FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilor Ruton moved to override Mayor Wells veto of Ordinance 2019-36, seconded by Councilor Wolfe.

Council Clerk Hans brought to council's attention that there was a typo corrected on the original ordinance. The Sergeant's pay was originally shown as \$16.75/hour although it was shown correctly on the attachment as \$17.00/hour. The Clerk/Treasurer attempted to text the Clerk of Council during the meeting to alert her to the typo. However, the Clerk/Treasurer did not see the text message until after the meeting. After the meeting, the Council President instructed the Clerk of Council to correct the typo, which she did.

Mayor Wells stated that she doesn't consider this a typo. She stated that it is inappropriate for the Council President to change the legislation after a vote.

Council President Zwissler read a memo to Mayor Wells which was signed by the council members. The body of that memo is listed below and a copy of the memo is attached to the council record.

*We all know that these pay-raises are greatly needed for the Police, Fire-Fighters and EMS and have been discussed many times before our decision to place a Police Levy and Operating Levy on the November Ballot of 2018.*

*The residents obviously agreed that they wanted the Safety and Security of a strong Police Department, Fire Department as well as qualified Emergency Medical Services as they passed the Levies. You have stated in the past that you were against the Levies. It appears that you still do not support the fair funding of our Buckeye Lake Police Department, Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services.*

*It is imperative that we pass these funds on to the Police, Fire-Fighters and EMS as soon as possible, in order to treat them with dignity and respect by paying them a fair and just wage. We are in danger of losing employees to other Villages and Towns that are paying competitive salaries. This was demonstrated by the loss of an impressive candidate, who just graduated from the Police Academy, to another entity because they offered him more money. Losing staff is very costly to this Village.*

*There have been numerous public discussions of the low wages and poor vehicles used by our Police and we have every intention to continue our goal of increasing these pay ranges. We believe that you, as Mayor should support this effort.*

*The residents of this Village deserve the sense of Safety and Security that they will receive with a Strong Police Department, Fire Department and Qualified Emergency Medical Services.*

Mayor Wells responded to the letter stating her reasons for the veto that were listed on the signed ordinance. Those reasons are listed below as well.

- 1) *Due to the fact that the ordinance was revised after council approval. Council President Zwissler ordered the Clerk to change the hourly rate of PD Sergeant from 16.75/hr to 17.00/hr.*
- 2) *The pay increases for the PD do not allow for sufficient operational costs.  
(According to Clerk/Treasurer Menningen)*
- 3) *No public discussion from council on pay increases.*

Mayor Wells also stated that I'm sure Clerk/Treasurer Menningen, Councilor French and Councilor Wolfe communicated the same thing during the special meeting they had today outside of the rest of you at Pizza Cottage. She also stated that Clerk/Treasurer Menningen went with her to meet with the Police Chief today. Mayor Wells stated that she agrees with a lot of what Clerk/Treasurer Menningen said. Mayor Wells still has concerns about the operating budget. I just want to make sure the Police Department has enough money to operate. You are going to do whatever you are going to do anyway. Come next year when we are in a pinch according to Clerk/Treasurer Menningen; hopefully we will have some new faces and we will get some better judgment. Councilor Wolfe stated hold on this isn't a campaign speech.

Councilor Ruton called for the question.

**Roll call vote: Yays: Poorman, Ruton, Wolfe, Zwissler, French, Geiger  
Motion Passed 7-0.**

The Veto of Ordinance 2019-36 was overridden by a 6-0 vote.

Council Clerk Hans asked Mayor Wells again to please not write below the signature lines on the original ordinance as that is where she places language if council chooses to take additional action on an ordinance.

Mayor Wells stated that legal counsel instructed her to write there on the ordinance.

Councilor Ruton stated that the reasons Mayor Wells gave on the ordinance and tonight are not the same as the reasons she gave in her 9/11/19 email. Councilor Ruton read the email.

*I have vetoed ordinance 2019-36 (pay levels and salary schedules) and have detailed my objections on the attachment. Please note that I also stated during the council meeting that our legal counsel has advised us that the language "regardless of the effective date" should be removed. In fact, his 5/10/19 email points out other issues with the ordinance his comments about our pay ordinance are above and below my objections. However, I thought it important for you to consider including these corrections before presenting the same language which has been deemed inadequate by legal counsel.*

Councilor Geiger stated that there is a cost of employee turnover and that cost is detrimental to organizations.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:** Charlene Hayden, 67 Lighthouse Lane, Buckeye Lake. Ms. Hayden stated that she agrees with what Council President Zwissler read. The police department needs it and the residents wanted it or they wouldn't have voted for the levy. It is obviously not coming from the top.

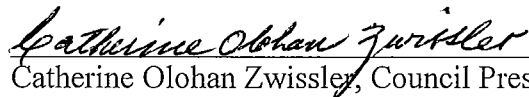
**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Council President Zwissler to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Poorman.

**VOTE: IN-FAVOR: All YEAS; MOTION CARRIED 6-0**  
Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: September 23, 2019



Valerie L. Hans, Clerk of Council



Catherine Olohan Zwissler, Council President

