

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting  
Held in Village Hall  
**December 9, 2019**  
Meeting Minutes

**Call to Order:** By Council President Zwissler at 7:05 p.m.

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

**Roll Call:** Present: John Geiger (0,0), Robert Masone (0,12), Doug Poorman (0,2),  
(Consecutive, Total Absences) Arletta Ruton (0,1), Tom Wolfe (0,2), Kitty Zwissler (0,0), Bill French (0,0)

Mayor Wells

Absent: None

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion by Councilor French to approve the council meeting minutes dated November 25, 2019,  
seconded by Councilor Wolfe.

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Geiger, Poorman, Ruton, Wolfe, Zwissler, French**  
**Abstentions: Masone**

**Motion Passed 7-0.**

**Approval of Clerk Treasurer's Report:**

Motion by Councilor Wolfe to approve the Treasurer's report dated December 4, 2019, seconded by  
Councilor French.

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Geiger, Masone, Poorman, Ruton, Wolfe, Zwissler, French**  
**Motion Passed 7-0.**

**APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

Police Chief Wardlow introduced a new police officer candidate. She stated that Aaron Wolfe has  
2.5 years' experience as a police officer and is coming to the village from Vinton County. He holds  
several training certificates and will be an asset to the department.

Mayor Wells swore in Officer Wolfe and welcomed him to the department.

**UNFINISHED/OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

**COMMITTEES SHALL GIVE REPORTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:**

**Finance Committee:** Councilor Wolfe stated that his committee proposed the 2020 budget to  
council this evening. He stated that there are a few additional items that will be addressed when  
they get to Ordinance 2019-51 on the agenda.

**Public Safety Committee:** No report.

**Public Service Committee:** Councilor Ruton's committee met last Monday to go over the year end items. She stated that there were no new updates on the storm water.

**Rules Committee:** No report.

**Community Development Committee:** No report.

**Personnel Committee:** No report.

**REPORT OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT:**

Council President Zwissler thanked the council members for the hard work they have done over the last year and how much we appreciated them. She also welcomed Officer Wolfe to the police department. She stated that unfortunately we have lost 2 police officers in the last few weeks and a police clerk. Council President Zwissler stated that unfortunately we are going to the Clerk/Treasurer as she turned in her resignation. She stated that this is so unfortunate because these are valuable personnel and you know how costly it is to lose the people and the institutional history.

**REPORT OF MAYOR WRITTEN, AND VERBALLY BY REQUEST OF COUNCIL:**

Mayor Wells stated that she did not have a written report. She stated that she will have a report at the end of the month. Mayor Wells stated that the village was selected to be a POW-MIA Village by the Jefferson Barracks POW-MIA Museum. She stated that there are 33 men from Licking County who are MIA. Mayor Wells stated that the sign will be placed at the entrance to the village. She stated that this is an honor to be included in this. Speaker of the House Larry Householder gave the village a proclamation for this recognition in addition to the proclamation that was received from the Jefferson Barracks POW-MIA Museum in Jefferson, Missouri.

Mayor Wells thanked Councilors Poorman, Masone, Wolfe and Ruton for their service on village council. She stated that she is looking forward to working with the new council members.

**ORDINANCES**

**3rd Reading**

**2019-45 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF LEGAL COUNSEL FOR INDIGENT DEFENDANTS FOR THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO.**

Motion by Councilor French to adopt Ordinance 2019-45 as presented, seconded by Councilor Poorman.

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

**2019-46 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LICKING COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS.**

Motion by Councilor French to adopt Ordinance 2019-46 as presented, seconded by Councilor Wolfe.

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

**2019-47 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A NEW CONTRACT WITH MED BILL RESOURCES FOR EMS SOFT BILLING SERVICES FOR THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE, OHIO.**

Motion by Councilor Wolfe to adopt Ordinance 2019-47 as presented, seconded by Councilor French.

Councilor Ruton asked if we discussed how long the contract is for? Council Clerk Hans stated that the contract is ongoing and can be terminated by either party with notice.

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

**2nd Reading**

**1st Reading**

**2019-51 2020 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Councilor French to suspend the rules on Ordinance 2019-51, seconded by Councilor Poorman.

**Roll call vote:** Yays: Geiger, Masone, Poorman, Ruton, Wolfe, Zwissler, French  
**Rules Suspended 7-0.**

Motion by Councilor French to adopt Ordinance 2019-51 as amended with the new attached budget dated 12/9/19, seconded by Councilor Poorman.

Councilor Wolfe stated that a revised copy of the budget was passed out this evening reflecting changes to the fire department line items. He stated that the fire department will get money for their men, money for new equipment and we know that the cost of their meds will go up. We will have to address that throughout the year with supplements instead of transferring it all into their funds now.

Council President Zwissler stated that \$40K was supposed to be earmarked for an ambulance. She asked, "Where is it?"

Councilor Rutons stated that there were different line items to make payroll.

Council President Zwissler asked, "How do we assure that the \$40K will only be used for an ambulance."

Councilor French stated that it is in the capital outlay.

Ms. Menningen stated that she brought something over for you to look at. She stated that the only way she can move money out of capital outlay because of the way we are budgeted is if council does a supplemental ordinance. Ms. Menningen stated that she has a list of all the supplementals and she will be happy to share them with council. That is what happened this year. Council set the \$46K and we transferred it because it was needed for operating. We moved it through supplemental appropriation ordinances to get us through the year. She stated that there is still some money left in that capital but it goes into that pot for the carryover for the fire fund. That is why you are re-appropriating it.

Councilor Ruton stated that if memory serves her correctly when we did the permanent budget earlier this year, we brought the fire department's budget up to \$410K.

Council President Zwissler stated that was correct.

Councilor Wolfe stated that it was \$400K.

Councilor Ruton for 2019 when we approved it, the budget was actually for \$355K and not the \$410K. So, something got changed some way somehow when the permanent budget got approved for the fire department. Councilor Ruton stated that is what she is trying to make sure doesn't happen again for next year. She stated that the fire department should've got their medic this year. The money we appropriated was for the medic and for personnel. However, the numbers got changed from \$410K to \$355K.

Councilor Wolfe stated that council's intent was to leave money for the emergency squad, personnel and to supplement the medications.

Mayor Wells stated that the total revenue is \$355K and you want \$410K.

Councilor Wolfe they have to transfer some money in for drugs.

Council President Zwissler stated that they can't do it now because the auditors are coming this week and she doesn't have the money.

Councilor Ruton asked for clarification that the auditors are coming in this week.

Council President Zwissler stated that she would be overspending; and therefore, can't do it now.

Mayor Wells corrected Council President Zwissler stating that they are not auditors, they are local government services (LGS). They are from the auditor's department but they do not call themselves auditors.

**Roll call vote:**       **Yays:** Geiger, Masone, Poorman, Ruton, Wolfe, Zwissler, French  
                              **Nays:** Masone, Ruton

**Motion Passed 5-2.**

**2019-52 AMENDING ORDINANCE 2019-14 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Councilor French to suspend the rules on Ordinance 2019-52, seconded by Councilor Poorman.

**Roll call vote:** Yays: Geiger, Masone, Poorman, Ruton, Wolfe, Zwissler, French  
**Rules Suspended 7-0.**

Motion by Councilor French to adopt Ordinance 2019-52 as presented, seconded by Councilor Wolfe.

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

**2019-53 AMENDING ORDINANCE 2019-14 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Councilor Poorman to suspend the rules on Ordinance 2019-53, seconded by Councilor French.

**Roll call vote:** Yays: Geiger, Masone, Poorman, Ruton, Wolfe, Zwissler, French  
**Rules Suspended 6-0.**

Motion by Councilor Poorman to adopt Ordinance 2019-53 as presented, seconded by Councilor French.

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

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**3rd Reading**  
**2nd Reading**  
**1st Reading**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Mayor Wells stated that the Clerk/Treasurer left quickly because a comment made toward her was offensive. She stated that is also the reason that she has submitted her two weeks' notice to resign. Mayor Wells stated that the piece of legislation was passed by council and council members should know what they are passing. She stated that she doesn't know how the village is going to keep a Clerk/Treasurer.

Council President Zwissler stated that she didn't hear an offensive comment made.

Councilor Ruton stated that council agreed to a \$410K budget but the passed amount was \$355K.

Mayor Wells stated that you haven't been paying attention if you didn't hear how it got changed.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Councilor Geiger made a motion to change the first council meeting in January to January 6, 2020. This will allow Ohio State fans such as him to watch the game that evening. Councilor French seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote:** Yays: Geiger, Masone, Poorman, Ruton, Wolfe, Zwissler, French

**Motion Passed 7-0.**

**CITIZEN’S COMMENTS:** Charlene Hayden, 67 Lighthouse Lane, Buckeye Lake. Ms. Hayden stated that she would like to say a few words about the people who are leaving council at the end of the year and then proceeded to read a letter.

*To those of you who are leaving council, I want to make sure that you know I appreciate all the time you have given to this Village and all the effort you have put into trying to move this Village forward. You are to be commended for always asking yourself, “What is best for the Village” before making a decision. I know you have been concerned about losing so many Village staff, especially those with longevity as a Village employee. You have also looked into what each staff member does for the Village and tried to be of help to them as much as possible. You knew their jobs were not easy.*

*Dr. Poorman, I want to especially thank you for all the help you have given in getting The Harbor started. I’m sure you have done way more for The Harbor than you ever reported during council meetings. I am also sure you have donated to The Harbor many times.*

*Dr. Masone, I wasn’t expecting you to be here this evening, but glad you are. I would like to thank Dr. Masone for his thoughtful caring with regards to our Police Department and our Fire Department. We all know Dr. Masone felt slammed and disgusted when two of our former police officers were not reinstated even after council unanimously voted for them to be reinstated.*

*I want to thank Tom Wolfe for all the time he gave and the expertise he provided as chair of the Finance Committee. I have never seen a Finance Committee Chair as knowledgeable about the Village finances and I have never seen a chair take such an active role in helping to prepare the budget for the upcoming year. I hope the next chair will ask Tom for help while learning about the budget for the Village and for help while preparing the budget for the next fiscal year.*

*I want to recognize Arletta Ruton for her wealth of knowledge about the Village. Years ago, she was a paramedic, she served on the Planning Commission at one time and, over the years, she attended the majority of council meetings as an interested citizen. She knows a lot about Village history. Also, thanks Arletta for being vigilant with regards to our stormwater sewer project and for working with Toby to understand what needs to be done and when it needs to be done. Most of all, thank you for the courage to speak out about things you feel are wrong and/or inappropriate. Village residents deserve to know the real facts and having a public record of these concerns is important for the future.*

*The new council has a lot to live up to when they take office!!!*

*Have a wonderful Christmas Holiday and a Happy New Year*

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**Councilor Masone:** Councilor Masone suggested that someone, maybe council member elect John Lemmon, should do exit interviews to determine why employees are leaving the village for a while. He stated that although people have been leaving for a long time, he has not received one report as to why they are leaving. He stated that in his business when someone leaves, the whole leadership team meets to go over why they left. This is done so they can grow and improve. Councilor Masone stated that he gave a lot of time and energy but those 2 police officers stormed someone’s trailer in the dark, thinking they were facing an armed man who had just killed someone. That is pure bravery. So may their legacy live on. Councilor Masone stated that he thinks he has been on council for 5 years. He stated that he feels like he has been bullied and he has witnessed incredible lawlessness and disrespect for the law except for 3 months. The 3 months that Peggy was censured.

**Councilor Poorman:** Councilor Poorman stated that the Harbor is getting a facelift beginning this week. He stated hopefully by the end of the year the exterior of the building will be looking much nicer. Councilor Poorman stated that they have things planned for the greenspace next to the building. Hopefully that area will also be a little nicer looking by spring.

**Councilor French:** Councilor French welcomed Officer Wolfe to the police department. He thanked the council members that are leaving, Ruton, Masone, Wolfe and Poorman, and stated that he has learned a lot from them.

**Councilor Ruton:** Councilor Ruton thanked everyone who contributed to the coats, hats, scarves and gloves campaign. They were able to donate 40 coats, 3 pairs of cabin socks, 2 scarves, 21 pairs of gloves and 21 hats. Pastor Bob and some of the community members were there and they were able to fulfill the rest of their list. There were 30 people (adults and kids) that still needed winter clothes. Kroger and everyone that donated, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. The Toys for Kids campaign Englefield Oil is delivering toys this Friday, December 13th to 100 kids under the age of 12 at Water's Edge plus two families from the Salvation Army. We have received donations of giftwrap too. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping to make this a successful Christmas for the kids in Buckeye Lake.

Councilor Poorman asked if they are still accepting donations?

Councilor Ruton stated that they are.

**Councilor Geiger:** Councilor Geiger stated that Dr. Masone's statement was very appropriate. He stated that exit interviews are very important and need to be done to document why people are leaving us. Councilor Geiger stated that employee turnover is a very costly problem. He also stated that the Treasurer situation is going to be impactful. He stated that we need to minimize turnover.

**Councilor Wolfe:** Councilor Wolfe thanked council members for their input and the conversations that they have shared. He also thanked them for all of the time that they spent on council issues. Councilor Wolfe welcomed Officer Wolfe (no relation) and stated that he hopes that he stays with the village. He stated that they need to get this issue rectified. Councilor Wolfe stated that council has funded the parks, police department, fire department, \$40K for an emergency squad, passed a police levy, fire levy, and a new operating levy. He stated that he hopes the people we elected to serve, do so instead of ruling.

**Councilor President Zwissler:** Council President Zwissler thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She stated that this council has been terrific to work with and we will miss them. She hopes that they will return to provide input. Council President Zwissler told the council members elect that they have a lot to live up to as this council has been together for the past 4-5 years.

Council President Zwissler reminded everyone that we have homeless people in our village. She stated we have access to services and have taken them to the food pantry and the nurse. If they need a doctor, we can get them to one in Hebron. She stated that Pastor Bob is excellent and feeds many of those people each Wednesday. Council President Zwissler also stated that the Coalition of Hope, Salvation Army and John's Helping Hands also help to feed the homeless in our community.

Lastly, Council President Zwissler read ORC section 2921.03, Intimidation, verbatim to council and the audience.

*(A) No person, knowingly and by force, by unlawful threat of harm to any person or property, or by filing, recording, or otherwise using a materially false or fraudulent writing with malicious purpose, in bad faith, or in a wanton or reckless manner, shall attempt to influence, intimidate, or hinder a public servant, party official, or witness in the discharge of the person's duty.*

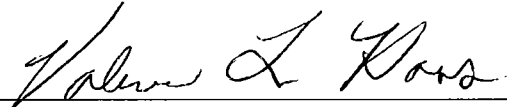
*(B) Whoever violates this section is guilty of intimidation, a felony of the third degree.*

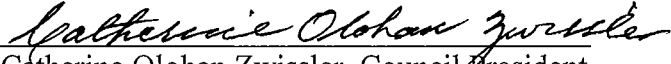
*(C) A person who violates this section is liable in a civil action to any person harmed by the violation for injury, death, or loss to person or property incurred as a result of the commission of the offense and for reasonable attorney's fees, court costs, and other expenses incurred as a result of prosecuting the civil action commenced under this division. A civil action under this division is not the exclusive remedy of a person who incurs injury, death, or loss to person or property as a result of a violation of this section.*

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Councilor Ruton to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor French.

**VOTE: IN-FAVOR: ALL YEAS; MOTION CARRIED 7-0**  
Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: January 6, 2020

  
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Valerie L. Hans, Clerk of Council

  
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Catherine Olohan Zwissler, Council President