

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting
Held in Village Hall
November 25, 2019
Meeting Minutes

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

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

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

Mayor Wells

Absent: Robert Masone MD (5,11)

Staff Present: Valerie Hans, Clerk of Council; Vicki Wardlow, Police Chief; Rex Adkins, Code Enforcement Officer; Toby Miller, Water Superintendent.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Councilor French to approve the regular council meeting minutes dated November 11, 2019 Seconded by Councilor Poorman.

Roll call vote: Yays: French, Geiger, Poorman, Ruton, Wolfe, Zwissler
Motion Passed 6-0.

Approval of Clerk Treasurer's Report: Motion by Councilor Wolfe to approve the Treasurer's report dated November 20, 2019, seconded by Councilor French.

Roll call vote: Yays: French, Geiger, Poorman, Ruton, Wolfe, Zwissler
Motion Passed 6-0.

Parks and Recreation: No report.

Planning Commission/BZA: Chairperson Cookston stated that Valerie and Casey have been working on finishing up a coordinating the zoning code book changes. She stated that the changes are being circulated between the Planning Commission and subcommittee members and should be ready for legal review in January. Chairperson Cookston stated that the Planning Commission/BZA annual report should be completed by the end of December. She also stated that the by-laws have been updated and will be ready for approval at the December meeting.

Councilor Geiger asked if the by-laws will need legal review.

Chairperson Cookston stated that they will need a quick review.

Zoning: A report for the month of October was submitted.

Code Enforcement: A report for the months of November 2019 was submitted. A copy of the 2020 Code Enforcement budget request was also submitted.

Mayor Wells apologized and stated the Code Enforcement Officer Adkins gave her information on properties to be certified for clean up and a list of budget requests for the last meeting. However, these items got lost on her desk and were put on the agenda this evening.

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee: Councilor Wolfe stated that the Finance Committee met prior to the council meeting to discuss the 2020 budget. The committee will meet again to continue discussing the budget on 12/2/19 at 6:30pm. Councilor Wolfe stated that they received lots of valuable input on the budget.

Public Safety Committee: No report.

Public Service Committee: Councilor Ruton stated that her committee met at 6:50pm to discuss the ADR contract. She stated that the committee unanimously recommended that this contract be adopted by council for a 12-month term.

Rules Committee: No report.

Community Development: No report.

Personnel: No report.

REPORT OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS WRITTEN, AND VERBALLY BY REQUEST OF COUNCIL

Police Chief: A written report for October 2019 was submitted.

Council President Zwissler stated that she is disappointed that have lost a few officers.

Councilor Wolfe asked if we have any new officers coming on soon.

Chief Wardlow stated that we have one candidate going through the pre-employment screening and testing process. He should be finished and ready to work in a few weeks.

Fire Chief: A written report for October 2019 was submitted.

Street Supervisor: No report.

Water Supervisor: A written report for October 2019 was submitted.

Others: None.

Report of Council President: Council President Zwissler reminded everyone that the Harbor serves free lunches for people 60 and older Monday-Friday of each week for residents of Licking, Fairfield and Perry Counties. She encouraged everyone to think about their friends and neighbors and get the word out. She also stated that they have a nurse at the Harbor on Tuesday and Thursday each week. Lastly, Council President Zwissler stated that the Harbor is still looking for volunteers.

Report of Mayor in writing, and verbally by request of Council: A report dated November 25, 2019 was submitted. Mayor Wells corrected her report stating that under number 8, Assistant Fire Chief Sanderson also inspected the Pharmacann facility on 11/6/19.

Mayor Wells recognized the fire department for saving the lives of two residents who recently had heart attacks. Assistant Chief Sanderson was asked to come up and share non-identifying details of the EMS runs.

Mayor Wells also highlighted her report stating that under number 3 there were 5 houses taken down, under number 4 there were 20 new construction homes being built. Lastly, she thanked Casey Clark and PC Secretary Hans for their hard work on finalizing the zoning code draft.

ORDINANCES

3rd READING

2019-42 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH OHIO ROW CONSULTING FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE RIGHT-OF-WAY PROGRAM.

Motion by Councilor Ruton to adopt Ordinance 2019-42 as presented, seconded by Councilor French.

Roll call vote: **Yays:** French, Geiger, Poorman, Ruton, Wolfe, Zwissler
Motion Passed 6-0.

2nd 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.

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

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, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO.

Councilor Wolfe asked Eileen Dudgeon, Med Bill Resources to speak on this legislation.

Ms. Dudgeon stated that she sent two letters to the current and former mayor of the village asking for an increase. She stated that she spent lots of times on these issues and would need an increase. Ms. Dudgeon stated that the second letter was more biting. She stated that CMS is being selected to provide additional information. On 11/7/19, they took a 25% sampling of fire and EMS across the state. Buckeye Lake did not get picked in the first round but they will get picked. Ms. Dudgeon provided papers for council which were included in the council record including frequently asked questions, guidelines for reporting, clarification on soft and hard "balance billing", 2019 Medicare/Medicaid Rates, deposit history from 1/1/2010-10/31/2019 and an activity summary from 6/1/2013-10/31/2019. She stated that there will be lots of time needed to get ready for the new reporting requirements. Communities will have to separate out fire and EMS costs from other safety costs. Ms. Dudgeon also stated that the village does soft billing with the exception of a period of time before the Anthem & MMO contracts were signed. She stated that after the insurance company is billed, the patient is not pressured to pay.

Council President Zwissler asked if she has an idea of what you need for a cost increase.

Ms. Dudgeon stated that the village is a smaller department and she is trying to keep the cost down.

Councilor Wolfe stated that Med Bill does a great job and has brought in \$97K from soft billing. The amount has dropped because the number of runs is lower; however, the village needs to keep staffing up and equipment ready. He stated that he would like to work with Med Bill to keep the relationship.

Councilor French stated that there are new rules on meds. He also asked if we are close to the Medicare rate.

Ms. Dudgeon strongly suggested that we should raise our fee to 3%. She stated that you had 1058 transports under the Medicare fee schedule. She also stated that the agency that transports is who bills for it. She also stated that auto insurance is where communities make the most money on soft billing.

Councilor Geiger asked how does the structure compare to other communities.

Ms. Dudgeon stated that we are very comparable to other communities. She stated that there is a lot of write off due to the contractual amounts being lower.

Ms. Dudgeon asked Council Clerk Hans to have Fire Chief Mason contact her directly if he has any questions.

Ms. Dudgeon also stated to Mayor Wells that she should have picked up the telephone and called her directly after the two letters.

Councilor French reminded everyone that we can't switch out meds at the hospital any longer because we soft bill.

Ms. Dudgeon confirmed that statement.

Assistant Fire Chief Ruton stated that he believes the village should be hard billing non-residents. He feels that council should consider this. He also stated that the charge master has been adjusted and it still doesn't make the village additional money because of the contractual write offs.

Ms. Dudgeon stated that in order to keep up in building compliance you need consistency. She stated that the charge master should be around \$3000.

Assistant Fire Chief Ruton stated that figures are easy to get out of the system. He asked if we prove that need can we get more money.

Ms. Dudgeon stated that she hopes so. She just came back from training in Nashville and that is the thinking.

Assistant Fire Chief Ruton stated that we bill all of this money and we may see a small amount coming back.

1st READING

2019-49 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NUMBER 2 FOR THE HIGHLAND AVENUE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilor Ruton to suspend the rules on Ordinance 2019-49, seconded by Councilor French.

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

Motion by Councilor Ruton to adopt Ordinance 2019-49 as presented, seconded by Councilor French.

Roll call vote: **Yays:** French, Geiger, Poorman, Ruton, Wolfe, Zwissler
Motion Passed 6-0.

Councilor Ruton introduced Ordinance 2019-48 to the floor following the vote on Ordinance 2019-49.

2019-48 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ADR FOR ENGINEERING AND CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO.

Motion by Councilor Poorman to suspend the rules on Ordinance 2019-48, seconded by Councilor French.

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

Rules Suspended 6-0.

Motion by Councilor Ruton to adopt Ordinance 2019-48 as presented, seconded by Councilor French.

Roll call vote: Yays: French, Geiger, Poorman, Ruton, Wolfe, Zwissler
Motion Passed 6-0.

2019-50 AMENDING ORDINANCE 2019-14 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilor French to suspend the rules on Ordinance 2019-50, seconded by Councilor Ruton.

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

Motion by Councilor Ruton to adopt Ordinance 2019-50 as presented, seconded by Councilor French.

Roll call vote: Yays: French, Geiger, Poorman, Ruton, Wolfe, Zwissler
Motion Passed 6-0.

RESOLUTIONS

3rd READING

2nd READING

1st READING

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Councilor Wolfe stated that the fire department asked him to draft legislation to enter into the Knox box program for commercial buildings. He asked Council Clerk Hans to prepare a resolution for this program.

There was a question if it is for fire and police access in the case of an emergency. Councilor Wolfe clarified that this is for fire department access only.

NEW BUSINESS: Council Clerk Hans provided a copy of the 2020 council meeting dates and voting order. She stated that the meetings are all on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month with the exception of the 2nd meeting in May which is held on Tuesday due to Memorial Day and there is no 4th Monday meeting in December. She also stated the voting order in alphabetical.

Council Clerk Hans asked if the council members could pass a floor motion to adopt the meeting dates and voting order.

Motion by Councilor French to set the council meeting dates and voting order for 2020, seconded by Councilor Poorman.

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

Motion Passed 6-0.

Council Clerk Hans stated that there is a letter in the council packet to certify the cost of property maintenance clean up to the county for the property taxes. She asked for a floor motion to certify these costs to the county.

Motion by Councilor Ruton to certify property maintenance clean-up costs on the letter dated November 8, 2019 to the property taxes, seconded by Councilor Wolfe.

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

Motion Passed 6-0.

Council Clerk Hans read a public notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control regarding the expiration of all liquor licenses in the village on 2/1/2020. She reminded everyone that this is a formality and is just the notification to remind businesses that they have to renew their licenses.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: Karen Cookston, 113 Anchor's Way, Buckeye Lake. Ms. Cookston reminded everyone about the Fairfield County Foundation Big Give coming up on 12/3/19-12/4/19. The Fairfield County Foundation is setting aside up to \$30K in match funds for donations to non-profits. She stated that some of the Buckeye Lake 2030 donors are planning to give now to get more money from the match.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:

Councilor Ruton: Reminded everyone that this Saturday is the last day for the coats, hats, scarves, gloves & toys campaigns. They will be collecting these items until 5pm at the Fire Department and Police Department.

Councilor Wolfe: Reminded the new council members that the current council needs their input and feelings on philanthropy in the community. He stated that the current council chose to fund keeping the lights on at the Harbor in 2019. He feels that we need more philanthropy in the community but that is a difficult balance.

Councilor Geiger: Stated that he would like to see a business plan for the Harbor and where they are now. He stated that it would be good information.

Councilor French: Thanked Clerk/Treasurer Menningen for her hard work on the budget.

Councilor Poorman: Shared some facts about the Harbor. He stated that 2500 meals were served there in 2019, \$20K was raised to improve the building façade, and Genie coordinated a farmer's market each Thursday. They tore down the old house next to the Harbor and plan to enhance the greenspace are in the future. They offer a fitness center, nurse 2 days a week, meeting space and activities. They also receive lots of support from the community.

Council President Zwissler: Thanked everyone for their support of the Harbor. She reminded everyone that the fitness center is \$17/month and when you pay for 2 months you get the third month free. She also stated that they raised lots of money and Mr. McAnally has been generous

with his time on the façade design. They are looking at fixing the cement in front of the building. Lastly, she stated that since Buckeye Lake was named an opportunity zone, developers can invest in the community and receive tax breaks.

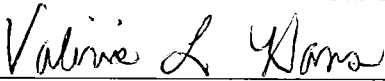
Lastly, Council President Zwissler reminded everyone that they still need volunteers and if you volunteer at the Harbor, you can exercise for free.

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

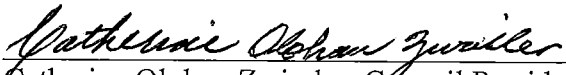
VOTE: IN-FAVOR ALL YEAS; MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

NEXT MEETING: November 13, 2019



Valerie L. Hans, Clerk of Council



Catherine Olohan Zwissler, Council President