

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting Minutes
Held in Council Chambers, streamed live on Facebook
April 22, 2024

Call to Order: By Council President John Lemmon at 7:00p.m.

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

Roll Call: Present: Don Cable (0,0), Kellie Green (0,0), Deb Julian (0,0), John Lemmon (0,0),
(Consecutive, Total Absences) Sue Wadley (0,0), Tom Wolfe (0,0)
Absent: Adam Miller (resigned April 15th from council)

Staff Present: Samantha Torres, Clerk of Council; Amanda Hoppel, Clerk Treasurer; Jason Harget, Police Chief; Toby Miller, Public Works Superintendent; Rex Adkins, Code Enforcement Officer.

Approval of Regular Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Councilor Wolfe, seconded by Councilor Cable, to approve the April 8, 2024 regular council meeting minutes.

Roll call vote: Yes: Cable, Green, Julian, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe
Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 6 – 0**

Approval of Clerk Treasurer’s Report: Motion by Councilor Julian, seconded by Councilor Cable, to approve the March 2024 reconciliations and Treasurer’s report dated April 18, 2024.

Roll call vote: Yes: Cable, Green, Julian, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe
Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 6 – 0**

APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: Licking County Auditor Michael Smith and Chief Deputy Auditor Brad Cottrell – Here to speak and answer questions about levies for the village – Brad passed out paperwork with different scenarios for levies. The village has a 5mil police levy that is non-qualified that does not receive reimbursement from the state in rollbacks so it does cost the taxpayers a little bit more. The village has a current expense levy that is qualified. 1mil current expense levy is used for street lighting levy that goes into the General fund. If the 1mil were renewed – qualified; gets the homestead 10% rollback from class 1 to class 2. Gets the owner-occupied rollback. The village gets all of the money regardless. When it is qualified, the state “subsidizes” that money – they pay the rollback for the taxpayer. Non-qualified, they do not. Any new or replaced levy since November 2013 is not qualified. That levy is qualified, so if the village renews it, it will keep that qualified status. \$12.24 is the cost to the tax payer on a \$100,000 home. Brings in \$55,664. If renewed, will all stay the same. Tax payer of a qualified levy, it would save them 12.5%. Village collects the same amount. President Lemmon stated there were talks about letting that one go away and doing it at another time. If the village did it at another time, it would not qualify, the 12.5% savings would go away, and it would be at the new tax valuation if replaced. Brad added some scenarios to the bottom of one of the sheets. The 1 mil portion that is qualified, if renewed and add millage, the 1 mil stays qualified and the new millage would be unqualified. Taxable value is 35% of the market value. If a house is \$400,000, it is that times 4. Councilor Cable asked which is more beneficial – levy or income tax? Proposal in Buckeye Lake for looking at a 1.5% income tax. Cable stated the percentage of that could go up and the village could put in an income tax to replace the levies all together. He said do we want to have a five-year levy knowing it could go into an income tax or do we have a two-year levy where, as that starts to fade out, the income tax takes over, since an income tax takes about a year to get rolling. Michael stated that they don’t have anything to do with income tax but they could run some numbers on property tax and someone else would have to run numbers on income tax and see how those can be phased in. Levy has to be a year. Check with solicitor where, if the village has a five-year levy and it is three years into it and the income tax starts to ramp up, Council could direct auditor’s office / budget commission to not collect it in year four or five

as long as it is before September 1 of that year. Can tell them to not collect it for the following years. Could apply this method to all levies – operating, police, fire. Can also direct the budget commission to reduce the millage. Income tax – Spring of 2025, would begin collecting it in 2026. Once renewal is changed to a replacement, the qualified status is gone. Most villages have Fire and EMS combined. Only 3 villages in the county have Police levies. They are receiving that income from other means.

Budget commission has to have a resolution by September 1st. 3 years from now will be a tri-annual update on tax assessments. Councilor Julian stated the village has lost our LEADS program, lost our library – those are tangible things to our residents that Licking County needs to look at. Have to make sure you're getting value for your dollar. Hard to say that your taxes went up but your services for residents went down. Just because taxes are going up significantly, not much of that stays in the village. Goes to county, schools, various places. Would rather do income tax once than have ten levies in theory.

Votes for nomination and appointment of new Parks & Recreation Commission member –

Douglas Keener and Jeffrey Hamilton showed interest in this position. Douglas has also applied to fill the current council vacancy. Parks and Recreation Commission Chair Annetta Macedonia sent President Lemmon a recommendation for Jeffrey to join the commission.

Jeffrey was nominated to the position by Councilor Lemmon and seconded by Councilor Wolfe, with no other nominations.

Roll call vote: **Yes:** Cable, Green, Julian, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe
Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 6 – 0**

Jeffrey Hamilton was then sworn in by Mayor Goodman as new Parks and Recreation Commission member.

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

Finance Committee: Committee meeting held tonight at 5:30pm. Two resolutions tonight for the police levy – declaring the necessity of a police levy and resolution declaring the intent to allow the 3mil levy to expire. Have appropriations for iWorq software for tracking more assets for the village. Have an ordinance for tax collections fees. Talked about Development Director position. Street light levy was discussed which will need to be brought back. Next Finance Committee meeting to be held May 28th at 5:30pm.

Public Safety Committee: Meeting held tonight. Glad to have Michael and Brad here from Licking County. We learned that we have some flexibility in reducing the levies. The current expense on a Buckeye Lake replacement 1mil on a \$100,000 home brings in \$129,000. Have some work to do. Learned some information from them tonight. There is a shortage of police officers in the county in general. Competitive to get these officers. Heard from a resident. Perhaps look at adding a retention bonus annually or every couple of years for officers.

Public Service Committee: Chair Cable's report was given at the last meeting. The committee has a standing meeting on the first Monday of every month at 6:30pm, with the next one being held Monday May 6th at 6:30pm which is an Open House for Walnut Road street improvements and sidewalks project. Residents - feel free to ask questions through email.

Rules Committee: Adam Miller resigned from council on April 15th; no report.

Community Development Committee: Report given at last meeting. She discovered that several people are watching meetings on Zoom. Struck a nerve on a topic and she has been approached several times by community members. Next meeting May 13th following Personnel committee meeting.

Personnel Committee: Next meeting to be held May 13th at 6:00pm. Working on reviewing some policies.

Report of Council President: President Lemmon attended the Cranberry Lane area pavement improvements project pre-construction meeting with Toby Miller, Mayor Goodman, individuals from ADR. Gas company is doing work in that area at this time. As they reach completion in the coming weeks, the stormwater project crew will be putting their calendar together, followed by the road crews. Dockside area will have about 3 weeks of construction. May see some obstruction of traffic, however they will work with residents to get them in and out at that time. 24-hour shutdown to traffic will be necessary sometime in June. Date to be determined. Residents will receive notification as that time table becomes clearer. Weather and different delays may happen but the calendar will come together. Solicitor prepared Resolution for necessity for a police levy and also a resolution to allow the 3mil police levy to expire if and when the residents pass the 5mil replacement. Had a phone meeting with the Cleveland Division of Taxation for information on income tax. They will prepare an informational packet for council. Had correspondence with Mayor Judy Berry of Put-In-Bay about short-term rentals. She would like to get members of similar communities together to share information. Adam Miller has resigned from council as of April 15th. The vacancy is posted and two applicants so far. Applications are due a week from today then it will go to Personnel committee for interviews and recommendation. Parks and Recreation Commission is hosting a I Walked the Whole Damn Dam event on June 29th.

REPORT OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS – WRITTEN OR VERBAL

Police Department – Chief Jason Harget: The entire county is struggling to find officers right now. Appreciates the conversation about what we can do to attract some new candidates. The officers still have to pass background and other tests. Copy of flyer that the department is hiring will be posted. Thanks to the Mayor, we are looking at a Special Events committee. Have great things going on in the village and maybe need to approve, acknowledge, and support various events. A lot of things happening in May. Special duty – Cranberry Bay paving project is a heavy lift on police department when it comes to shutting roads down. He was a part of the Cranberry Lane area paving improvements meeting. Bike Buckeye Lake is hosting Bike Safety Rodeo, 1st year, to be held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel church. Kids get helmets and ride bikes. 1st Pirate Fest happening in May. Can residents help with assisting with road closures? No, must be a sworn officer to regulate and direct traffic as it is a liability issue unless it is private property. Special duty rate if additional officers are brought in from other agencies in mutual aid agreement. The other agency sets those special duty rates, not our village. Councilor Julian asked what is the number of hours on an average day that we have covered? 16 hours. Councilor Wolfe asked does Chief have permission to use \$1,000 as a sign-on bonus for recruitment of officers? Solicitor should weigh in on that and where those funds come from.

Fire Department – Chief Keisha Amspaugh: Fire Chief away for Fire Department Conference in Indiana.

Public Works – Super Intendent Toby Miller: Had a Cranberry Bay resident ask about posting a sign restricting truck weights. It is out of Public Works league and is more about what is legal to do. A sign can be put up but it is about the policing and legality of it. The Police would have to actually witness the violation of it being out there. There is legality about trying to restrict peoples' freedom to deliveries.

Councilor Julian stated that the super long trucks that cannot make the corner turns are the issue. Thinks having a staging area for forklift loads would be better. Cable believes it comes through the permitting process of zoning. Road restriction regulations need to be communicated to the contractors and residents. Toby wants to know where this issue can be sent to. Council suggested Community Development committee. Councilor Wolfe stated that trucking issues are extremely complex and enforcement is difficult.

Cranberry paving – single phase concept of this. Talked about splitting it in half. Once we start, not going to stop. Trying to figure out how to bring material back and forth. 14-day notice can go out with help of Homeowner’s Association. Weather and other delays can happen. Want substantial completion by June 30th. Contractor has to allow emergency traffic through at all times. Responsible for keeping the general public off of it. If they allow the public on it, they are responsible for the repairs. If emergency vehicles have to go through it, it is on the village to cover repairs. Emergency access will be open but unsure how stable it is. Gas company has been using it and it has not been holding up very well. There will be someone on site for questions and answers and if someone needs to get out. Waiting on structure delivery times and that will give us a timeline. Now have a signed permanent easement and right-of-way from Bayview to the end of Slocum. Needs a floor vote from council to accept it. There will be a full dedication to us in the future. Union Avenue – did hear from the company on the paving repairs today. They are working on a map on what they will do. Invited to come to council. North Bank West Stormwater project is still moving along. Submitted to EPA for permits to install. Still expect to bid that out in May or June. 3 reps from engineering firm on the open house night on May 6th. Painting of the building awning to make it look better since there will not be a new building in the next few years. RFP is out until May 6th.

Parks and Recreation Commission – Showed the t-shirt for the I Walked the Whole Damn Dam event. Mayor Goodman was at the last Parks meeting and walked around the park and saw the old wooden bleachers that were in pretty bad shape near the ball park. She talked to the ball coach and to Annetta who was on board with removing them. They were dismantled and recycled. Bleachers from the skate park area were moved over there to replace them.

Code Enforcement – Rex Adkins - Report submitted. May 31st final deadline for short-term rental registration. Hoping solicitor can get the ordinance for short-term rentals condensed. Mobile homes – people are not required to remove them unless there is an issue with them, but another cannot be brought in if one is removed and cannot be added on to. Short-term rental that has an elevator in it and there is no one qualified to inspect an elevator. Solicitor is looking into what to address for that.

Zoning – Kevin Strang - Absent, report submitted.

Planning & Zoning / BZA Commission – Dick Williams - Absent, no report.

Report of Mayor Goodman - Written report submitted. Proceeding with DORA plan and will come to council. Could be in place by sometime in July.

Citizen’s Comments Regarding Legislation on Tonight’s Agenda – None.

ORDINANCES

Ordinances for 3rd Reading – None.

Ordinances for 2nd Reading – None.

Ordinances for 1st Reading –

Ordinance 2024-15 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LICKING COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS.

This will move on to a second reading. Mayor Goodman stated that this actually expired at the end of 2023 but that was not due to any fault of the village. The Licking County Planning Commission was rewriting some things so this will be retroactive to January 1, 2024 once passed.

Ordinance 2024-16 – 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 AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilor Julian, seconded by Councilor Green to suspend the rules.

Roll call vote: Yes: Cable, Green, Julian, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe

Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 6 – 0**

Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Wolfe to adopt Ordinance 2024-16.

Discussion: Councilor Cable stated that several council members had a list of five different firms and they were to evaluate them on a scoring system from various categories. This is the recommendation coming out of those evaluations. This will be for two years. Need to determine how often we want to require RFQs for this.

Roll call vote: Yes: Cable, Green, Julian, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe

Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 6 – 0**

Ordinance 2024-17 - AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-10 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilor Green, seconded by Councilor Wadley to suspend the rules.

Roll call vote: Yes: Cable, Green, Julian, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe

Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 6 – 0**

Motion by Councilor Green, seconded by Councilor Julian to adopt Ordinance 2024-17.

Discussion: None.

Roll call vote: Yes: Cable, Green, Julian, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe

Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 6 – 0**

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions for 3rd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 2nd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 1st Reading –

Resolution 2024-01 – A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF LEVYING A REPLACEMENT TAX ON PROPERTY IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION FOR POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES AND REQUESTING CERTIFICATION FROM THE LICKING COUNTY AND FAIRFIELD COUNTY AUDITORS AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilor Julian, seconded by Councilor Cable to suspend the rules.

Roll call vote: Yes: Cable, Green, Julian, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe
Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 6 – 0**

Motion by Councilor Green, seconded by Councilor Wolfe to adopt Resolution 2024-01.

Discussion: Michael and Brad from Licking County shed some light and provided great information on this for us tonight.

Roll call vote: Yes: Cable, Green, Julian, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe
Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 6 – 0**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS – Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Green to accept permanent easement of Slocum Avenue from EM Land Partners LLC for \$1.

Discussion: At a later time, there will be a letter of intent to transfer to the village but for now this is an easement to continue work for the Cranberry Bay paving project. Councilor Julian asked, if anyone has a private road and offers a permanent easement to the village, does that mean the village then takes care of their roads? Councilor Lemmon said not necessarily. Councilor Julian thinks this is opening a can of worms if the easement is not turned over to the village.

Roll call vote: Yes: Cable, Green, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe
Abstain: 0; **Nays:** Julian; **Motion Passed 5 – 1**

Transfer of liquor permit from Z’s Village Market to J&J Village Market –

Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Julian to accept the transfer of the liquor permit from Z’s Village Market to J&J Village Market without a hearing.

Roll call vote: Yes: Cable, Green, Julian, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe
Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 6 – 0**

There were also no objections to this from Police or Fire Departments.

Memorial Day – Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Wolfe to move Monday May 27th (offices will be closed for Memorial Day) council meeting to Tuesday May 28th.

Roll call vote: Yes: Cable, Green, Julian, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe
Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 6 – 0**

Council Vacancy – Councilor Adam Miller resigned from his council seat on April 15th. Vacancy postings have been made and applications will be accepted for two weeks. This will then be passed to Personnel to make recommendations to full council to fill the vacant seat.

CITIZEN’S COMMENTS – None.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS –

Councilor Cable – Thanked Michael and Brad. Extremely informative. Good meetings, good conversations. Nothing is personal. Refreshing having conversation up front with president and mayor. A lot going on in the village. Try to be respectful to conversations, opinions, citizens. Hopefully weather will be in good shape. Enjoy the weather, enjoy the lake.

Councilor Green – Hope that we continue to pursue the income tax option for our residents. Congratulations to Jeff for joining Parks and Recreation Commission. That will be great for them. Happy

that someone was watching the meetings and felt comfortable coming up to her and talking to her about a concern or positive comment that she can bring back to council.

Councilor Julian – Thanked Mayor Goodman and President Lemmon because we have gone through a whole month of no drama. Keeping us up to date and working together on a lot of things. Nice that we can have a council where we don't have to agree on everything but we walk away being nice to each other. Prosperous and safe summer season as we approach Memorial Day.

Councilor Lemmon – Thanked Jeff. Welcomed new businesses. Summer is almost here. Be safe, enjoy yourselves.

Councilor Wadley – Welcome Jeff, looking forward to working with you. Love the transparency. Having discussions so people are aware. Appreciate Michael and Brad's information. Council will have to make some decisions with that information. Critical that we support the police levy. If not, we will need to find alternative police protection for the village. She was out at a personal appointment and a village resident was there and had nothing but good things to say about how nice mayor and council are doing to work together and move forward.

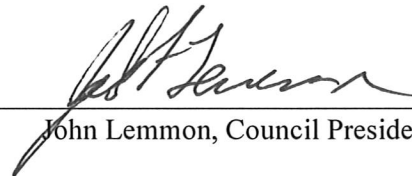
Councilor Wolfe – Welcomed Jeff, knows he will do a great job. Thanked Michael and Brad. We learned a lot from them and hoped the citizens did too. Open House coming up on May 6th. Encourages people to come. Pick up a flyer. Have a safe weekend.

Adjournment: Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Green, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:51pm.

NEXT MEETING: Regular Council Meeting – May 13, 2024



Samantha Torres, Council Clerk



John Lemmon, Council President