

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting Minutes
Held in Council Chambers, streamed live on Facebook
August 28, 2023

Call to Order: By Council President Linda Goodman at 7:06p.m.

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

Roll Call: Present: Don Cable (0,0), Linda Goodman (0,0), Kellie Green (0,0), Deb Julian (0,0),
(Consecutive, Total Absences) John Lemmon (0,0), Sue Wadley (0,1)
Absent: Tom Wolfe (0,1)

Staff Present: Mayor Jeryne Peterson; Samantha Torres, Clerk of Council; Jason Harget, Police Chief; Keisha Amspaugh, Fire Chief; Jennifer Dennis, Fiscal Officer; Rex Adkins, Code Enforcement Officer; Kevin Strang, Zoning Inspector; Kellie Green, Representing Parks and Recreation Commission tonight;

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Lemmon, to approve the August 14, 2023 regular council meeting minutes.

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

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

Approval of Clerk Treasurer's Report: Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Cable, to approve the Treasurer's report dated August 24, 2023.

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

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

Jennifer Dennis stated that the village has received the second half settlement for taxes in the amount of \$604,410.36 that will be broken up between Police, Fire, and General funds. The tax collection fee is higher than what was predicted and that appropriation is on the agenda for tonight. Councilor Julian asked if it is a percentage of total collected. Jennifer thinks it is, but will hear from the county to confirm.

APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: None.

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee: Next Finance Committee meeting will be September 11, 2023 at 5:45pm. There is a tax collection fee adjustment ordinance on the agenda tonight that has not gone through the Finance Committee but the Fiscal Officer will explain.

Public Safety Committee: Meeting held tonight. Police Department shared an update on the police cruiser repair and updates that will happen to the MARCS radios. Fire Department shared an update on fire truck repairs and inspections and MDTs which is new device software that helps communicate with dispatchers. The departments also talked about community events, including a successful movie night and back-to-school supplies giveaway. If you are in need of school supplies, please reach out to the Fire Department. A KOA First Responders Day also took place. Next meeting will be September 25, 2023 at 6:30pm.

Public Service Committee: Next meeting will be Wednesday September 6, 2023 at 6:30pm instead of the normal first Monday of September, as that is Labor Day and village offices will be closed. Bidding on Union Avenue paving project was approved at the last council meeting, so that project should be started relatively soon.

Rules Committee: No report. Councilor Wolfe agreed to meet with Councilor Green to get her up to speed on the Rules Committee and she will schedule a Rules Committee meeting soon.

Community Development Committee: Meeting held today that was run by Councilor Julian in Chair Wolfe's absence about short-term rentals. Councilor Julian felt it was great communication with Code Enforcement Officer Rex Adkins and Office Clerk Lissann Torrens in regards to the implementation of the short-term rental process. They have worked through getting closer to having the process ready. Applications are available. They also talked through some road blocks for the process that will lead to some amendments to the short-term rental legislation. Council President Goodman stated that the citizen's comment from former Mayor Peggy Wells during the committee meeting is correct, that two years ago while she was still Mayor and had spoken to auditor Michael Smith, at that time it was that a person had to own five short-term rentals in the county before they would charge bed tax. Council President Goodman stated that direction was received from the village solicitor that it is different with municipal and the village can charge bed tax whether they have one, two, three, or more short-term rentals.

Personnel Committee: Committee has not had a meeting. Chair Julian's intent would be to have a committee meeting after the Finance Committee meeting on September 11, 2023.

Report of Council President: Meetings continue with the Montrose Group about the TIF district for the village. Meetings are also continuing with OHM about the new PDD / PUD zoning changes. There will be a meeting tomorrow to get an update from them. Thanked Police Department for a successful movie night this past Saturday evening. Thank you to Water's Edge Community Center who held a big back-to-school bash. They have also erected a new "Blessings Box" where those who need it can take canned goods and other items or items can be left in there for others to take. Labor Day Weekend is coming up; buy local, stay safe. Councilor Cable stated that he is good friends with the Water's Edge director who had expressed to him interest in working more with the village in the future.

REPORT OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS WRITTEN OR VERBAL

Police Department – Chief Jason Harget – Movie night was great; looking forward to Halloween movie night. Would like to eventually make it bigger like a haunted house for the older kids. Hope to have police cruiser back on the road by Friday or first thing next week. There was a small accident with the Chief's truck. He was in the driver's seat but he was parked in front of the Police Department. A gentleman barely hit the truck and did some damage to the police truck and he paid directly to the decal company for the decals that have been freshly installed on the truck. No injuries, no damage to the cars. September 9th Chief will do a golf cart inspection / safety class for the residents. He will talk briefly about the safety of golf carts. Once there is a tag on a golf cart, it becomes a vehicle just like a car. There have been complaints about young children driving carts around; they are a vehicle and he wants to stress that. Those who attend the class can have their golf cart inspection fee of \$35 waived. They can get their inspection that day, will receive their form, and can go get their tags. He wants to try to do this once a year. The village is a golf cart community but we also need to think of safety first and Chief does not want to hear of kids driving them. Chief has an applicant for auxiliary. Police and Fire Departments will do a drug drop-off for unused prescriptions or medications on September 23rd from 10am-1pm. They ask that you do not bring any syringes. Opioid settlement money could be used to pay for this. Halloween for the village has not been decided yet. Councilor Julian suggested having Trunk or Treat and the Halloween movie night on the same night, maybe a Saturday night. She stated she could get some volunteers. Council President stated that the surrounding communities usually do Trick or Treat on the same night. Councilor Wadley stated that a lot of the time they do not do it on Saturdays because of adults and busy roads. Councilor Julian said that with Trunk or Treat, they would not be walking the neighborhood, so it could be possible.

Fire Department – Interim Fire Chief Keisha Amspaugh – Written report submitted. Chief Amspaugh stated the fire trucks passed the annual pump test that is required to be in service. They have had some fantastic PR events with the Police Department and they are so happy to be working and collaborating with them. It is nice for people to understand that they like to work together and many hands make light work. A medical helicopter did a landing demonstration at the KOA during the First Responders Appreciation Day event, along with a canine bite demonstration from Officer May and K-9 Officer Dallas. After that event, they went over to watch the movie together. Chief Amspaugh received in the mail from Aladdin Shriners a 100% paid grant for a thermal imaging camera, two batteries, a truck charger, and the lanyard to hold it. It is thousands of dollars for this equipment. Recently, they used this exact piece of equipment to try to find someone in the woods. The Fire Department is very grateful to have new equipment. Councilor Cable asked, when the village receives these grants, what type of acknowledgement does the village give back? Chief stated that she will put the equipment in front of their fire trucks with the crew and send a picture with a thank you letter and a patch from the department. Council President Goodman asked if there was an update on getting an AED for the village offices. Chief Amspaugh stated that she applied for a grant for one through Park National Bank. They were not able to do it because they are gearing their funds for other things this year. The village can re-apply in the next six months. The price for one is about \$700.

Public Works – Toby Miller – There are quite a few things in the works and Toby will have updates on those at the next Public Service Committee meeting. AEP light issues can be reported on AEP's website. Councilor Wadley stated that the mosquito spraying is working well. Toby said there are four members of his crew cycling through it.

Parks and Recreation – Kellie Green – Written minutes submitted. Kellie Green represented the Parks and Recreation Commission this evening, though her position on the commission is now vacant. Kellie stated that Chair Annetta Macedonia would have been here but has been having some serious family health issues. The Buckeye Lake Family Fishing Day event, put together by intern Janelle Emmett, had a really nice turn out, including a family from the Polaris area that came down to participate. One of their kids caught a fish and won a prize in the raffle for a youth fishing pole and tackle box. There also was a grandmother with her grandson just in the park who were invited over and he caught the first fish! Many people popped in to see what was going on. Thank you to the Granville High School Fishing Club who had lots of patience and knowledge and provided poles and bait for everyone to take turns. Rittberger provided hot dogs, Kellie Green and Karen Cookston provided snacks and supplies, Sue Smith grilled and provided lemonade. A nice family allowed parking in their yard near the shelter and provided a bag of rubber duckies to pass out to the kids as well. Park bench sponsorship is now up to 4 benches. Councilor Cable stated that it is great to ride his bike on the path there and see people enjoying the amenities. Councilor Julian wondered if there were another way to do signage for community events.

Code Enforcement – Rex Adkins – No written report submitted. Received structural engineer's report on the hotel that has been added to the case file. Hoping to hear back from the hotel about what they plan to do about the second story, as it has been suggested to them to seek a structural architect to formulate a plan of repair or replacement. Rex has done a lot of work with Zoning Inspector Kevin Strang looking at a lot of condemned properties, some of which will be removed and become vacant lots hopefully before Winter. Council President Goodman stated that, while speaking about vacant lots, building, and rebuilding, there is no moratorium on building in the village.

Zoning – Kevin Strang – Report submitted. Recent activity included 27 on-site visits to look at a problem or complaint or to see what is happening at the job site versus what is on the application, 13 electronic / telephone communications, 2 stop-work orders, and 1 condemned order. Efforts have been made to pick up the unpermitted signage around the village in the right-of-way. Kevin stated that the zoning book should say that

election signs can be up for 30 days, but it still does not give permission to put the signs in the right-of-way. Kevin talked to PharmaCann Maintenance Supervisor who said that they had five cargo containers total and have emptied them but are waiting for them to be picked up and they understand that there are to be no more cargo containers there. President Goodman said that council members have gotten phone calls from people saying that they heard that Council passed a new rule changing the sign ordinances, but Council of course has not changed anything about sign permissions. No new laws have been passed, Council only asked for the right-of-way to be cleared of signs. That is an issue that would need to go back to Planning and Zoning to be discussed there before anything would be changed.

Planning and Zoning – No representative, no report.

Report of Mayor – Written report submitted.

ORDINANCES

Ordinances for 3rd Reading – None.

Ordinances for 2nd Reading –

Ordinance 2023-41 - AMENDING ORDINANCE 2023-08 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion: Councilor Lemmon stated that the mayor has asked Council to reconsider the changing of the amount from \$15,000 to \$10,000. At the next Finance Committee meeting, he asked the mayor to provide any information about why she is requesting \$15,000.

This will move on to a third reading.

Ordinance 2023-43 - AN ORDINANCE PETITIONING THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, TO ADJUST THE BOUNDARY LINES OF LICKING TOWNSHIP TO EXCLUDE THE ENTIRETY OF THE TERRITORY NOW WITHIN THE CORPORATE BOUNDARIES OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE EXCEPT ANY PARCELS ANNEXED PURSUANT TO ORC 709.023.

Council Clerk stated that there will be a public hearing for this topic of conforming boundaries to be held at 5:45pm on September 6, 2023 in Council Chambers for both Ordinance 2023-43 and Ordinance 2023-44. The third reading for Ordinance 2023-43 will be held during a Special Council meeting to be held at 6:00pm on September 6, 2023. Councilor Lemmon asked if all of the people that this affects have been notified. Council Clerk said letters were sent out to Licking and Walnut Township trustees who will be able to come to the public hearing or third reading. Councilor Lemmon asked if the residents had been notified. Council Clerk was told by the solicitor that only the trustees needed to be notified – not all the residents.

This will move on to a third reading.

Ordinance 2023-44 - AN ORDINANCE PETITIONING THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY, OHIO, TO ADJUST THE BOUNDARY LINES OF WALNUT TOWNSHIP TO EXCLUDE THE ENTIRETY OF THE TERRITORY NOW WITHIN THE CORPORATE BOUNDARIES OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE EXCEPT ANY PARCELS ANNEXED PURSUANT TO ORC 709.023.

Council Clerk stated that there will be a public hearing for this topic of conforming boundaries to be held at 5:45pm on September 6, 2023 in Council Chambers for both Ordinance 2023-43 and Ordinance 2023-44. The

third reading for Ordinance 2023-44 will be held during a Special Council meeting to be held at 6:15pm on September 6, 2023.

Ordinances for 1st Reading –

Ordinance 2023-47 - AMENDING ORDINANCE 2023-08 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

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

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Cable to adopt Ordinance 2023-47.

Discussion: Councilor Julian just wondered if this is a percentage that can be corrected for next year's budget.

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

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

Motion by Councilor Julian, seconded by Councilor Cable to reconsider and override the mayor's veto and adopt Ordinance 2023-45.

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

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

Ordinance 2023-45 has been passed by council, the mayor's veto having been overridden by a majority vote of council.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions for 3rd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 2nd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 1st Reading – None.

Fiscal Officer Jennifer Dennis stated that she received an email from Brad Cottrell from the Licking County Auditor's office with schedule A & B attached showing the estimated revenue for tax year 2023, payable in 2024. She will have a resolution for the next council meeting as an emergency to pass by October 1, 2023.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

Resolution 2023-15 - A RESOLUTION TO CENSURE MAYOR JERYNE PETERSON FOR CONDUCT UNBECOMING THE OFFICE OF MAYOR.

Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Julian to adopt Resolution 2023-15.

Discussion: Councilor Lemmon re-read Section 2 of the Resolution to state where council really is: the council of the Village of Buckeye Lake wishes to work together and move forward with Mayor Peterson. He thinks that is the most important part of all of this and he thinks it will take cooperation on both sides because this is a strong thing to do. He does not like that we are here. He wants Mayor Peterson to succeed and thinks that everyone in the room wants her to succeed. It is good for the village and there is so much good that she has been doing for the village, but he understands where the problems are and he hopes we can move forward after this. Councilor Julian agrees and thinks that it takes all of us and there is a reason why the Charter is written the way it is. We have seven council members. We have a mayor. We have a strong mayor form of government. That does not mean that that is the only voice in the village. We have a great staff. She has also felt that we have been told that we cannot meet with certain employees and she does not think that is right because we have a

fantastic staff. There have been some issues but it is okay. We ask questions but we all work together and that's the way it should be. Not one of us has a louder voice than another. She appreciates what the mayor does and what the staff does and she thinks this whole council appreciates it. We get along extremely well. We do not have the same points of view all the time but that is where you listen to and respect other people for what they bring to the table.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS – None.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS – None.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:

Councilor Wadley: Thanked everyone for everything they have done, especially our first responders who put their lives on the line all the time. She wanted to reiterate that our community events are open to everyone and we encourage people to come to those. We are trying to find better ways to communicate those out. Everyone be safe on your golf carts and have a great Labor Day weekend. Sad end of Summer.

Councilor Julian: Thanked Rex Adkins and Lissann Torrens for coming to the Community Development meeting tonight. She thinks they have made great progress, but obviously it is a perfect example of open communication and changes can be made and everyone can agree upon what we need to do to make everything a little better for the citizens and employees and move the process forward. Great progress in the last few weeks. Thank you to all of the staff as well, along with Police and Fire teams who have been busy on community events.

Councilor Cable: Thank you to the mayor for the hard work that she does. In reading her mayor's reports, there is a lot that she does to represent the village; thank you. Outstanding discussion tonight on short-term rentals; thank you to Rex and Lissann. He thinks they have all been wanting that openness for several months. It is nice to see the safety forces working together and getting along. Parks and Recreation and Street Department doing a great job. The village looks good.

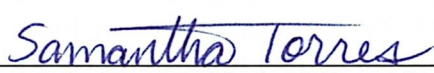
Councilor Lemmon: Heart and prayers goes out to the Small family who have lost another member. The Small family has been at this lake for so long, many of which worked for the village in various departments.

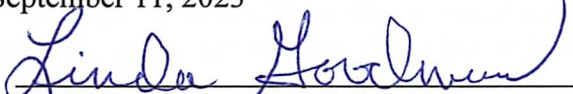
Councilor Green: Thanked everyone for what they do in the village. She loves to see the first responders working together. She thinks that the mayor is very supportive of that and has been behind that collaboration. Great to see how they interact together and the support they give the community and the kids seeing it is so positive.

Councilor Goodman: It is council's sincere wish to work alongside the mayor. We all bring different strengths to the table and we will have a much better village all working together.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Councilor Cable to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Councilor Julian. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm

NEXT MEETING: Regular Council Meeting: September 11, 2023


Samantha Torres, Clerk of Council


Linda Goodman, Council President