

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting Minutes
Held in Council Chambers, streamed live on Facebook
December 11, 2023

Call to Order: By Council President Linda Goodman at 7:00p.m.

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

Roll Call: Present: Don Cable (0,0), Linda Goodman (0,0), Deb Julian (0,0),

(Consecutive, Total Absences) John Lemmon (0,0), Sue Wadley (0,1), Tom Wolfe (0,3)

Absent: Kellie Green (0,1)

Staff Present: Jeryne Peterson, Mayor; Samantha Torres, Clerk of Council; Jason Harget, Police Chief; Toby Miller, Public Works Superintendent.

Approval of Regular Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Councilor Julian, seconded by Councilor Wadley, to approve the November 27, 2023 regular council meeting minutes.

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

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

Approval of Clerk Treasurer's Report: No report.

APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS – Lori Carlson, MPA – Executive Director of the Licking County Humane Society – Lori spoke to council about the village's agreement with the Humane Society for the services that they provide for the village. Humane Society is authorized under ORC 1717 to appoint humane agents to investigate animal cruelty cases. That service has been provided to the village since 2016. Lori stated that the Humane Society has not asked for an increase in the monthly fee that has been \$25 per month since 2016. She is asking the village to consider increasing payment to \$50 per month beginning in 2024. In 2023 there have been 16 referrals, 12 opened for investigation. Priority responsibility is to educate people about the minimum care for animals. Can give dog houses and flea / tick meds to prevent animals from having to be confiscated. This year, 13 animals were confiscated from the village due to abuse or neglect – 12 cats and 1 pig. Referral numbers have been consistent. Significant decrease in confiscations since 2017 due to education and spay / neuter programs in the village. Humane Society prioritizes severely injured or ill animals or puppies of kittens without a mother. Abandonment is something they have to be able to prove in court. Work in partnership with the village police department and great things can be said about that. This is billed annually at the end of the year. Can be updated in the permanent budget for next year.

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee: Meeting held tonight. Discussed budget adjustments that were recommended to full council. Chair Lemmon stated someone else should take the Finance Chair position next year but that he would want to stay on the committee.

Public Safety Committee: No report from Chair Wadley. Police Chief Harget gave an update. Large toy donor will bring toys for the kids again this year for Christmas. Date for the Shop With a First Responder has not been chosen yet but will be advertised. Police cruiser is on order from a company in Missouri. Takes a few weeks for equipment. Chief will fly there and drive it back. Broken down fire truck has been returned to the village.

Public Service Committee: Meeting held on December 4th with general topics discussed. Town hall-style meeting held to finalize and communicate about the Cranberry Bay area repaving project. Chair Cable appreciates the work of the committee and Toby Miller for the last 2 years.

Rules Committee: Absent, no report.

Community Development Committee: Chair Wolfe came from the Chamber of Commerce tonight. Their President was talking to the people there about the library. Want to keep the library here in the village for the children and adults who need it. December 13th 4pm Downtown Newark there will be a library meeting. Come to show your support for the library.

Personnel Committee: Ordinance in packet for 2024-2025 pay plan that includes pay increases and a 20-hour per week HR position added. In the process of interviewing for the fiscal officer position. They like a candidate so far.

Report of Council President: Thanked council for the opportunity to serve as council president for two years. Looks forward to the new term starting in January. Thanked the Police and Fire Departments for the parade. Thanked Councilor Wolfe for his years served on council. President Goodman and Councilor Wadley met with Mayor Peterson on Friday to discuss the village solicitor contract. She stated that Mayor Peterson has again asked for Solicitor Brad Nicodemus' resignation and he has declined. Areas of concern were discussed. President Goodman stated that council made it clear a few weeks ago that they support him, so at this time they would not be supporting asking for his resignation. If Mayor has more concerns, she is to let council know, with documentation so it can be discussed. As of today, Bradley Nicodemus is still the solicitor for the Village of Buckeye Lake.

Report of Mayor: Report submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS REGARDING ANY ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA -
None.

ORDINANCES

Ordinances for 3rd Reading –

Ordinance 2023-59 - 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 Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Julian to adopt Ordinance 2023-59.

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

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

Ordinances for 2nd Reading –

Ordinance 2023-62 - AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FIRST FISCAL QUARTER ENDING MARCH 31, 2024 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

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

Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Lemmon to adopt Ordinance 2023-62.

Discussion: Councilor Lemmon stated this received recommendation from the Finance Committee.

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

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

Ordinance 2023-63 - AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX AT A RATE OF

ONE AND ONE-HALF PERCENT (1.5%) PER YEAR, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024, AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

This will move on to a third reading.

Ordinances for 1st Reading –

Ordinance 2023-64 - AMENDING ORDINANCE 2023-08 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Lemmon to adopt Ordinance 2023-64.

Discussion: Councilor Lemmon stated this is an adjustment to payroll that was discussed in Finance Committee and received recommendation.

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

Ordinance 2023-65 - AMENDING ORDINANCE 2023-08 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Wolfe to adopt Ordinance 2023-65.

Discussion: Councilor Lemmon stated this was discussed in Finance Committee and received recommendation.

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

Ordinance 2023-66 - AMENDING ORDINANCE 2023-08 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Cable to adopt Ordinance 2023-66.

Discussion: Councilor Lemmon stated the village needs to pay their bills. This bill was obtained by the hiring of a law firm that did not have approval by council that needed approval first. Council has already given a vote of no confidence of the mayor on this issue and this bill came from that. President Goodman stated that there is a breakdown of the work that was completed but that cannot be shared in a public meeting. Councilor Lemmon stated it is his belief that this law firm should have known and understood whether they could be hired or not under those circumstances. They represent municipalities, they should have read the charter before moving forward with work. He stated how much is it worth to not pay the bill? We need to pay our bills but we also need to make and have an understanding that we should not have this bill. Councilor Wolfe stated he would be in favor of sending something with it saying that they should know better as a law firm and they should consider reimbursing for this if it is paid. President Goodman stated that we need to do the responsible thing and we ask anyone doing business with the village to do the responsible thing. She stated this was the week and weekend that this law firm went to court in Licking County representing themselves as the prosecutor for the Village of

Buckeye Lake. The firm was not in contract with us and at no time had council approved a contract or paying them. Paying this bill tonight, if that is decided, is not a sign that we will pay them going forward unless they are under contract with this village.

Roll call vote: Yes: Cable, Goodman, Lemmon, Wolfe
Abstain: 0; Nays: Julian, Wadley; Motion Passed 4 – 2

Ordinance 2023-67 – AMENDING ORDINANCE 2023-08 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Motion by Councilor Wadley, seconded by Councilor Julian to adopt Ordinance 2023-67.

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

Ordinance 2023-68 - AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE PAY PLAN FOR 2024 – 2025 AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Motion by Councilor Julian, seconded by Councilor Wolfe to adopt Ordinance 2023-68.

Discussion: Councilor Julian stated this was discussed in Finance Committee and they feel that the pay increases for this next year are very competitive. A 20-hour per week Human Resources person was added. Also, a change made is for hourly employees, an hour worked is an hour paid. Councilor Wolfe asked why the village does not have a time clock?

Roll call vote: Yes: Cable, Goodman, 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 2023-24 - A RESOLUTION TO PROCEED WITH A REPLACEMENT LEVY ON PROPERTY IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION FOR POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES FOR THE VILLAGE AND TO SUBMIT THE QUESTION OF THE REPLACEMENT TAX TO THE ELECTORS OF THE VILLAGE AT THE MARCH 19, 2024 ELECTION AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Goodman to adopt Resolution 2023-24.

Discussion held about the police levy.

Roll call vote: Yes: Goodman, Lemmon, Wolfe
Abstain: 0; Nays: Cable, Julian, Wolfe; Motion Failed 3 – 3

Motion by Councilor Wolfe, seconded by Councilor Cable to rescind Resolution 2023-22 for the light levy that could not be certified by the county with Resolution 2023-25 replacing it.

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

Resolution 2023-25 - A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF LEVYING A RENEWAL TAX ON PROPERTY IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION FOR CURRENT OPERATING EXPENSES AND REQUESTING CERTIFICATION FROM THE LICKING COUNTY AND FAIRFIELD COUNTY AUDITORS AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Wolfe to adopt Resolution 2023-25.

Discussion: Councilor Lemmon stated if we adopt this, we will receive a certification back. Council will have to make the decision to have another meeting. He is in favor of getting that certification back and discussing the meeting. If we do not have the meeting, then it never gets on the ballot and the point is moot. If we have the meeting then we can discuss whether to accept the certification and put it on the ballot. He recommended passing this and then discuss whether they would have the meeting or not.

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

Resolution 2023-26 - A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE BUCKEYE LAKE LIBRARY REMAINING WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE.

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

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

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Julian to adopt Resolution 2023-26.

Discussion: This resolution will be given to the president of the Friends of the Buckeye Lake Library board and to the Licking County Library Board of Trustees and to all three county commissioners.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Wolfe to take Resolution 2023-23 from the table.

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

Resolution 2023-23 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING VILLAGE TO ENTER INTO INSURANCE COVERAGE CONTRACT AND DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Goodman to adopt Resolution 2023-23.

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

NEW BUSINESS –

Shackleford’s Disposal – 2024 Rate Increase –

Floor vote to accept the 3% rate increase for Shackleford’s Disposal -

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

Abstain: Wolfe; **Nays: 0;** **Motion Passed 5 – 1 – 0**

Employee Certification - Lissann Torrens, Planning and Zoning Clerk received certificate of completion in recognition of the successful completion of all requirements in municipal planning and zoning.

Accept List of Properties for County Tax Assessments for Code Violations –

Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Wadley to accept the list of properties for county tax assessments for code violations.

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

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

Petitions for Recall of Mayor Jerryne Peterson - Council Clerk Samantha Torres stated that she received the petitions this afternoon for the recall of Mayor Jerryne Peterson. She gave the filer a receipt and will take the petitions to the Board of Elections for certification tomorrow.

Swearing-In of Council Members – This will take place December 28th, time to be determined.

CITIZEN’S COMMENTS - None.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Councilor Wadley: Tom Wolfe will be missed on council. Thanks for all he has done. Thanks to the Police and Fire Departments for the parade. There were a few glitches so a committee will be great to work on that. Overall, it was great. Thanks to all of the employees and Toby Miller for all they have done this year. Happy Holidays and enjoy your time with loved ones.

Councilor Julian: Resolution for the library – she feels like the controversy with the lack of communication and the decision has really pulled our community together in a really big way. Many people feel passionate about the library because many have served on the library board. Lots of business and volunteer hours for their various events and charities. Dorothy Heartline was a very passionate person about the library. People have been signing the petition going around for it. If the library board continues with their decision, she thinks we need to continue having services here. Very merry Christmas and wishes health, happiness, and safety to all. Thank you to council for their input and differences of opinion.

Councilor Lemmon: Library meetings December 13th and December 20th at 4pm at the Licking County Library in Newark. Show up and let them know we want to keep our library. Merry Christmas.

Councilor Cable: It has been an honor to represent the electors of the Village of Buckeye Lake for the last four years and it is a privilege be elected again for another four years. It has been interesting, educational, sometimes sad. Tonight was a good example of what they have done in the last four years. Very good discussions. Merry Christmas.


Councilor Wolfe: Thanked the village residents. He had been elected and appointed to council in years past and it has been a pleasure to work with the other council members. Encourages all to be active and spend some time in public service. He would like the village to stay on track and continue working on clean water, EMS services, police department, keeping streets paved, stormwater. This is a great place to live and need to keep the community momentum going. Get a time clock for the office. Focus on updating the Charter – it is a big thing.

Need to work on levies and the balancing of income tax and levies. Needs a grandiose plan. Been a pleasure. His resume is on file.

Councilor Goodman: Thank you to this council. We have gotten a lot done. It has been a trying and challenging year. We move forward. Merry Christmas.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Councilor Cable to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Councilor Wolfe. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:51pm

NEXT MEETING: Regular Council Meeting: January 8, 2024


Samantha Torres, Council Clerk


Linda Goodman, Council President