

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting Minutes  
Held in Council Chambers, streamed live on Facebook  
**January 27, 2025**

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

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

**Roll Call:** Present: Don Cable, Kellie Green, Douglas Keener, John Lemmon, Tom Wolfe, Sue Wadley  
Absent: Deb Julian

**Staff Present:** Linda Goodman, Mayor; Samantha Torres, Clerk of Council; Amanda Hoppel, Clerk Treasurer; Jason Harget, Police Chief; Jerry Brooks, Interim Fire Chief; Toby Miller, Public Works Superintendent; Kevin Strang, Zoning Inspector

**Approval of Regular Council Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Keener, to approve the January 13, 2025 regular council meeting minutes.

**Roll call vote:** Yes: Green, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe, Cable

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

**Approval of Clerk Treasurer's Report:** Motion by Councilor Green, seconded by Councilor Wadley, to approve the Treasurer's report dated January 23, 2025.

**Roll call vote:** Yes: Green, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe, Cable

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

**APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:** None.

**COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:**

**Finance Committee:** Absent; no report. Next meeting February 10th at 5:30pm.

**Public Safety Committee:** Nothing to report. Had a very safe Winterfest weekend. Job well done by our safety forces.

**Public Service Committee:** No report. Next meeting first Monday of the month, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm.

**Rules Committee:** Nothing to report.

**Community Development Committee:** President Lemmon and Chair Green met last Tuesday to discuss some of the properties within village limits. Committee will discuss which ones should be kept or let go. Next meeting February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

**Personnel Committee:** Nothing to report. Next committee meeting February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm following Finance Committee meeting.

**Report of Council President:** Nothing to report.

**REPORT OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS – WRITTEN OR VERBAL**

**Police Department – Chief Jason Harget:** Call report submitted. Definitely was a successful Winterfest. His fourth year. Sheriff's office assigned two patrol units to the Buckeye Lake region who were visible as well. Winterfest – Chief would rather his officers be within the community showing they are having a good time as well. They made 5 traffic stops in 18 hours and wrote one ticket. They had great presence, were on patrol and were not sitting still. There were a lot of people in the community all day long. He personally worked 18 hours – starting at 6am. Chief measures success by no casualties or injuries. There was a late-night crash / accident in two different parking lots by the same person. Sheriff's office made an arrest. That was their only big issue for the whole day and allowing people to have a great time. Chief stated there were

some complaints about police presence maybe hurting some businesses but that is not what they are about. They are about supporting the businesses, being seen and visible to prevent any major issues. Councilor Wadley was out and about, there were some establishments who had dedicated law enforcement and that did not hinder peoples' ability to have a good time. Those places were packed and people were there. Chief stated they were very busy but there were very little calls for service. Shuttle services were running and he gave his contact to them in case of any issues and to minimize problems. Police do not want to arrest people for having a good time but they still have a job to do if it gets to a point but it did not get to that point.

Chief Harget now has access to online fleet program for cruiser maintenance data tracking. Helps out to show data when it comes time to replace cars. Cruiser 803 and 804 had some repairs for something that is eating their speed sensor harness. Cruiser 805 has been transferred over to the Fire Department and it has all red lights now. Radios are being reprogrammed again. For some reason the MARCS flash did not take. This is paid for but he will need to have a technician come take a look at it. First success story with the Flock Camera – NCIC system – two out-of-state runaway missing juveniles who left home. The camera was able to send an email to Officer Fox and the Sheriff's Office that their missing vehicle had been found at McDonalds. These cameras are expensive (Sheriff's office paid for them) but they are important. Councilor Green – on the call report – there were 27 (2/3 of the list) officer-initiated stops last month that the community needs to know of to show that they are out patrolling, doing their jobs, and that we need our own police presence here in the village. These are instances where, because we have our own patrol, they are able to respond to instances that most of us are not even aware of, where someone did not make a phone call and the officers were able to recognize and take care of things.

**Fire Department – Interim Chief Jerry Brooks:** 2024 Year Review and January report submitted. Down 39 runs compared to last year but that was due to short staffing prior to September. Totals from last four months compared to last year's last four months – upon mutual aid now. Have been upgraded to taking freeway runs. Still waiting to get engine 921 back up and running. Mechanics should be in sometime this week to work on that. That will be last of repairs on trucks. Have to enter into contract for air bottles that have not been inspected or tested in 3 years and they are supposed to be done every year. Way behind on that, on hose testing, and ladder testing that have not been done in a few years so will have that expense coming up. They had the same issue with chewed up harness that police had – got that fixed. Received March grants for 2025 as far as for user fees. Finished taking lights off of white Trailblazer so it is good to go. Received \$400 donation from the Fire Belles. Also received a \$5,000 check from the Eagles that has been earmarked for purchasing 2 sets of battery-operated Stihl saws, light towers for both engines, and other equipment. Stryker would like to come give a demonstration on the power cots at a council meeting in March. LifePaks are also unserviceable if they were to break. Stretchers are rated up to 700lbs. We are one of the only ones left in Licking County that do not have the power cots yet. Gave up 8 runs last month due to needing West Licking's mutual aid for power cot usage.

**Public Works – Superintendent Toby Miller:** February 3<sup>rd</sup> Public Service meeting. Combining town hall open house and stakeholders meeting. Will be reiteration of some data. Recommendations to do certain areas and some options. About a 45-minute meeting. Need action plan adopted as legislation in order to access the large amount of grant money available for these things to improve the safety. After last large snow, they did a test on the sidewalks with plow and salting through a company. Not the cheapest route but an effective route. Local company has a skid steer that is about 3 feet wide. 2 people were able to clear the sidewalks from McDonalds to the mobile home park on the west end of town in 3.5 hours. Wants to bring that up at Public Service committee meeting for that piece of equipment. Have the option to use that company again. It is about \$900 a time. 2 change orders on agenda tonight. Final change order reduction for Cranberry Area project. Second change order is for West North Bank Storm Water project. Making a sump system to go straight down underneath a conflicting gas line near Pizza Cottage.

**Parks and Recreation – Annetta Macedonia:** Representative absent. Toby Miller stated that there is new playground equipment at the park that does not have safety flooring yet. \$11,000 with ADA compliant border for the rubber mulch. Energy Coop Operation Round-Up has pledged \$5,000 to this.

**Code Enforcement – Rex Adkins:** Absent; no report.

**Zoning – Kevin Strang:** Report submitted. 8 on-site, 25 electronic, 0 stop-work orders.

**Planning Commission:** Mayor Goodman stated we are having a difficult time finding volunteers to step up and want to be a part of these commissions. She spoke with solicitor this afternoon. Need to have a Zoning meeting in February. Have a full Planning Commission – only have 2 who want to be on Zoning Commission and 2 who want to be on BZA. That is not a quorum for a meeting so we need more people. She thought about asking some of those who were sworn in to the Planning Commission if they would like to switch over to Zoning Commission. Zoning will have the most meetings. If you are interested, please reach out. Change is good; we needed to have a separate Board of Zoning Appeals but realize how difficult it is to find people interested and qualified. Have 5 on Planning, need 5 on Zoning and 5 on BZA. One person cannot work on two commissions. Councilor Wadley suggested a stipend to pay for gathering interest.

**Report of Mayor Goodman:** Contacted by Bob Young who has done a lot of good things for the museum and the fountain. The fountain was damaged. He reached out to share that there will be a reward offered for information leading to the arrest and prosecution for damages done to the fountain at North Shore Park. Several people are stepping up to offer more to that reward. First department head meeting to get a plan going forward for each department. Her and Toby Miller took part in a storm water meeting with ADR. Winterfest fireworks were awesome. Wonderful event. Benny took the bait – Spring is around the corner. She was approached by Ohio Director of ODNR – Mary Mertz. Mayor Goodman thanked her for all that ODNR is doing for Buckeye Lake and for the region. Mary told her that they are watching and listening and seeing that our village is doing good things and headed in the right direction. There was a larger presence of law enforcement in the whole Buckeye Lake region on Saturday. We did not know we would have that extra assistance for the Sheriff’s office. Businesses around the lake noticed it too. Very little use of the DORA which was expected and understandable as it is brand new. Everyone had their Winterfest cups. Chief Harget did see a couple of folks with the DORA cups.

**Citizen’s Comments Regarding Legislation on Tonight’s Agenda:** None.

**ORDINANCES**

**Ordinances for 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading** – None.

**Ordinances for 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** – None.

**Ordinances for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading** –

**Ordinance 2025-02** – AN ORDINANCE APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NUMBER 2 FOR THE WEST NORTH BANK STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Cable to change \$1,159,931.05 on Ordinance 2025-02 to match \$1,581,687.25 from Exhibit.

**Roll call vote:** Yes: Green, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe, Cable

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

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

**Roll call vote:** Yes: Green, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe, Cable

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

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Wolfe to adopt Ordinance 2025-02.

**Roll call vote:** Yes: Green, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe, Cable

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

**Ordinance 2025-03** – AN ORDINANCE APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NUMBER 1 FOR THE CRANBERRY LANE AREA PAVEMENT IMPROVEMENTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

**Roll call vote:** Yes: Green, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe, Cable

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

Motion by Councilor Green, seconded by Councilor Keener to adopt Ordinance 2025-03.

**Roll call vote:** Yes: Green, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe, Cable

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

**Ordinance 2025-04** – 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 Cable, seconded by Councilor Keener to suspend the rules.

**Roll call vote:** Yes: Green, Keener, Lemmon, Wolfe, Cable

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

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Green to adopt Ordinance 2025-04.

**Roll call vote:** Yes: Green, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe, Cable

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

### **RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolutions for 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading** – None.

**Resolutions for 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** – None.

**Resolutions for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading** –

**Resolution 2025-04** – A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE OF THE STATE OF OHIO, SUPPORTING THE OHIO COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL (AMERICA250-OH).

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

**Roll call vote:** Yes: Green, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe, Cable

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

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Green to adopt Resolution 2025-04.

**Roll call vote:** Yes: Green, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe, Cable

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS** –

Buckeye Lake Eagles Trustee – They have wells and they would like to get hooked up to water. There is a water line across the street that belongs to Millersport. The man stated that the Eagles gave \$47,500 to the Buckeye Lake area last year. Gave \$251,800 to community. They never ask for anything and would like some water. Toby – there is a joint-venture clause with Millersport. Clause does not score out the responsibilities. Conversation – there are legalities, future legalities, and OHIO EPA that have to be dealt with.

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS** –

**Councilor Green** – Thanked both chiefs for everything. Chief Brooks for what he is doing to get the fire station back in working order. Chief Harget thanks for your presence in village. We want to open our arms and welcome people to the village. We want to be the tourist destination and we want people to come here. We need to have our own police presence, not just for our community but for those who visit as well. Need to maintain our own first responders. Thanks to Toby - she sees his guys out working. Thank you to all who help make the village run.

**Councilor Keener** – Be safe and thanks to everyone.

**Councilor Lemmon** – He has watched Toby’s guys work and the first responder presence. Had a wonderful Winterfest. So many people around the lake work to make it a great event.

**Councilor Wadley** - Happy New Year. Thanks to everyone. Hope to have a good year. Hope to not have so many instances of suspending the rules on legislation this year. She will be counting.

**Councilor Wolfe** - Be safe on the lake. A lot of ice fishermen out.

**Councilor Cable** - Warming up this week. Be careful on the ice. Buy local. Cable asked Mayor or Chief Brooks – is the Fire Department status good now? Chief Brooks would like a few more firefighters but yes, looking good and running smoothly. Cable asked: Where are the news channels now that things are good? Makes you think...

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Keener to enter into executive session to discuss the compensation of an employee with Fiscal Officer Amanda Hoppel and Mayor Goodman invited into the session.

**Roll call vote:**           **Yes:** Green, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe, Cable

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

**Entered into executive session at 8:09pm.**

**Entered back into open session at 8:31pm.**

**Adjournment:** Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Wolfe, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:31pm.

**NEXT MEETING:** Regular Council Meeting – February 10, 2025



Samantha Torres, Council Clerk



John Lemmon, Council President