

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting Minutes
Held in Council Chambers, streamed live on Facebook
March 24, 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

Absent: Deb Julian, Sue Wadley

Staff Present: Samantha Torres, Clerk of Council; Amanda Hoppel, Fiscal Officer; Jason Harget, Police Chief; Jerry Brooks, Interim Fire Chief; Rex Adkins, Code Enforcement Officer; Kevin Strang, Zoning Officer; Toby Miller, Public Works Superintendent

Approval of Regular Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Wolfe, to approve the March 10, 2025 regular council meeting minutes.

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

Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 5 - 0**

Approval of Clerk Treasurer's Report: Motion by Councilor Wolfe, seconded by Councilor Keener, to approve the February 2025 reconciliations and Treasurer's report dated March 20, 2025.

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

Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 5 - 0**

APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: None.

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

Finance Committee: Absent; no report.

Public Safety Committee: Chair Wolfe asked President Lemmon if there is anyone in the audience who would like to speak about the police levy if they may come up during citizen's comments.

Public Service Committee: Report was given at last meeting. Next meeting to be held the first Monday of the month, April 7th at 6:30pm. Will have some discussion under New Business tonight.

Rules Committee: Nothing to report.

Community Development Committee: Next meeting April 14th after Personnel Committee meeting.

Personnel Committee: Next meeting will be April 14th at 6:00pm.

Report of Council President: President Lemmon read his President's Report which can be found in the meeting minutes binder.

REPORT OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS – WRITTEN OR VERBAL

Police Department – Chief Jason Harget: Calls for service report submitted. 80 calls for service, 44 self-initiated. 13 911 calls. Completed LEADS audit. Checks officers to make sure they are certified to operate the system. This was completed 2 days ago and we are good for 3 years. Thanks to Toby and Rex for helping them learn and set up the iWorq system for vehicle maintenance and inventory and equipment tracking. Chief has been working a lot of late-night coverage second into third shifts. First shift is Officer Fox and Detective McCoy. Started doing some planning for special events. Pirate Fest is coming again in May and will be bigger than last year. There will be several officers at the event because it is expanded and they are looking forward to the success of that. Looking into evidence destruction. Any time

there is police evidence, they have to get an order from the county prosecutor's office or the village solicitor. Checks and balances. They can then take the evidence to an undisclosed location and have it destroyed and signed off on. They ask for any evidence that can be used for training. Update on body cams grant: these cameras are wonderful. Gives full transparency for calls for service. They only come on when the officers turn them on. Helps with reports and investigations and also transparency for the community. Councilor Cable stated that the parking lot out front is full of cars and that most of those people are not here in this meeting. There should be more enforcement on that. Councilor Wolfe stated he's doing a great job and has been doing hard work on the police levy. Response time and professionalism is appreciated, per President Lemmon.

Fire Department – Interim Chief Jerry Brooks: Run totals submitted. 70 total runs. 63 EMS 7 fires. 37 transports. Importance of passing the police levy is not just for citizens but for helping aid the fire department as well. Stryker payment plan breakdown is submitted. Did secure drug license. Have to have State of Ohio license to handle narcotics. Got new gutters, downspouts, and soffits on fire house. Easter Egg Hunt – April 12th at 1pm. Taking donations for candy and help stuffing eggs. Applied for two grants from the State – one was for fire gear and one was for radios. Did not get either one of them. They were given to volunteer fire departments first.

Public Works – Superintendent Toby Miller: Public Works committee meeting to be held on April 7th. They are doing an off-premise tour for the first part of the meeting. This will help council members see some of the village buildings. After that, the SS4A draft is finished. It is 108 pages. He will try to print it and get it to them.

Parks and Recreation – Annetta Macedonia: Representative absent. No report.

Code Enforcement – Rex Adkins: Report submitted. Case numbers dropped dramatically because he spent most of the winter time closing out some cases from the past few years. Cleared up 3 court cases. Have received 33 short-term rental applications to date. 11 licenses issued. Able to get fire inspectors in on the process and they have started. 2 have passed and 2 have failed that will need to be reinspected. Most of the issues were fixed with iWorq payment system. People starting to use online payment portal for bed taxes. Annual licenses were sent out in January and owners have begun paying them. 22 unlicensed short-term rentals have been found and notices sent to them. 55 short-term rentals in the village. Rex stated it is also important to the code enforcement position for the police levy to pass due to the assistance they provide in dangerous incidents he has come across when dealing with abandoned houses. Rex was just advised today that there is an ordinance on the agenda tonight involving the code enforcement position and how the pay is being made. He provided information to council about what the average code enforcement officer is making in the State of Ohio. He also stated that short-term rentals have added significantly more work without added compensation so he hopes they will consider those points.

Zoning – Kevin Strang: Report submitted. 7 on-site visits, 30 electronic communications, and 1 stop work order.

Planning / Zoning / BZA Commissions: No representatives. No reports.

Report of Mayor Goodman: Report submitted.

Citizen's Comments Regarding Legislation on Tonight's Agenda: None.

ORDINANCES

Ordinances for 3rd Reading – None.

Ordinances for 2nd Reading –

Ordinance 2025-10 – AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-66 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Green, to adopt Ordinance 2025-10.

Roll call vote: Yes: Wolfe, Cable, Green, Keener, Lemmon
Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 5 - 0**

Ordinances for 1st Reading –

Ordinance 2025-12 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2024 – 2025 PAY PLAN AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Wolfe, to adopt Ordinance 2025-12.

Roll call vote: Yes: Wolfe, Cable, Green, Keener, Lemmon
Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 5 - 0**

Ordinance 2025-13 – AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-66 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE.

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

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

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Green, to adopt Ordinance 2025-13.

Roll call vote: Yes: Wolfe, Cable, Green, Keener, Lemmon
Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 5 - 0**

Ordinance 2025-14 – AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-66 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Green, to adopt Ordinance 2025-14.

Roll call vote: Yes: Wolfe, Cable, Green, Keener, Lemmon
Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 5 - 0**

Ordinance 2025-15 – AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-66 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Wolfe, to adopt Ordinance 2025-15.

Roll call vote: Yes: Wolfe, Cable, Green, Keener, Lemmon
Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 5 - 0**

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions for 3rd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 2nd Reading –

Resolution 2025-05 – A RESOLUTION DEDICATING EXISTING VILLAGE PROPERTY AS PARK LANDS AND AUTHORIZING THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION TO OVERSEE SAID LANDS.

This will move to a third reading.

Resolution 2025-06 – A RESOLUTION DEDICATING EXISTING VILLAGE PROPERTY TO BE USED AS PUBLIC PARKING – MYERS AVENUE.

This will move to a third reading

Resolution 2025-07 – A RESOLUTION DEDICATING EXISTING VILLAGE PROPERTY TO BE USED AS PUBLIC PARKING – SECOND STREET.

This will move to a third reading.

Resolution 2025-08 – A RESOLUTION APPROVING A JOINT VENTURE WATERLINE CONNECTION WITH THE VILLAGE OF MILLERSPORT.

Discussion: President Lemmon stated the Eagles is in Licking County. They are very close to a water line in Millersport. Millersport has proposed that they will pay for the hookup and maintenance of the account and they will pay the Village of Buckeye Lake 50% of all water usage bills and 25% of the tap fee and the village invests nothing.

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

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

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Green, to adopt Ordinance 2025-15.

Roll call vote: **Yes:** Wolfe, Cable, Green, Keener, Lemmon
Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 5 - 0**

Resolutions for 1st Reading – None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

Bill French gave Councilor Green a walking list. If anyone would like to help with this or would like to walk in their neighborhood, you can get the list at the Board of Elections. She encourages anyone who would like to get the word out to do so about the Police Levy.

NEW BUSINESS –

Council Visiting Tour – Prior to Public Works committee meeting in April, they would like to meet at the various village properties to see what is there. He stated it is not a meeting. Water tower, lot out back, drive-thru, etc. Councilor Cable suggests 5:45pm to meet. Start at the water tower and end up at council chambers to have the meeting. This is not a meeting. No debate or discussion or agenda. Informational only then can have an open public meeting about it.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS –

Bill French – 4645 North Bank Road – Stated during the Public Safety Committee report - We have an important police levy coming up. We have a police chief who has spent many hours defining what is needed to properly fund the police department. If you have attended or watched a council meeting, you would have seen a group of professionals carefully

and diligently make sound financial decisions including determining millage and timing of the levy. These folks are good stewards of the village funds. This levy is required to move the department forward in order to properly protect life and property in an efficient manner. Our police department does so much more. We are fortunate to have Chief Harget leading the way. He has a good skill set, including being a good communicator, good decision maker, accountable, caring, supportive, and inspiring, as well as being supportive in non-traditional police roles such as planning and participating in many village activities. When the levy passes, we will continue having village police officers responding to village issues. Our officers are best equipped to respond to familiar streets, buildings, people, and problem areas. Bill stated that the fire department also counts on the police department to be available to assist on their incidents in a timely manner. Bill stated an example from a few years ago up north of a police officer on patrol nearby when a car went into a pond and because that officer was close to the scene, the quick response time saved a life. The next life saved might be yours. Vote YES for the police levy.

Brian Thom – 4863 North Bank Road – Wanted to touch on the upcoming police levy for the village and how important this is for the community. Without our police department, things would revert to sheriff's department and longer response times which can affect people's lives. Chief Harget has been able to make it to scenes and change people's lives instead of waiting for county response. Make sure we spread the word to get out and vote YES on May 6th for the police levy. Appreciate everyone's support.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS –

Councilor Wolfe – Reemphasized that there is a police levy coming up. A lot of visitors coming and traffic and businesses and restaurants that need protection. This village does support keeping our local museum open. Thanked Eagles for the AED donation. We have paperwork from Stryker that would finance some equipment on the squads such as LifePaks and power cot. Financing terms available. Thanked both police and fire and code enforcement for overall safety of the village.

Councilor Cable – Would like to express his support for the police levy and emphasize the leadership of Chief Harget. Accountability, training, experience, credentials. We have had many meetings together and chit-chatted and his leadership is appreciated. We could not ask for a better leader for our police department. Supports the levy and the leadership of Chief Harget. Buy local.

Councilor Green – The second meeting of the month is her favorite because it reminds us of the people who help keep the village running and who work together to keep this the village that we want for our community. It takes all of us working together to keep this a great place to be. Having all of you is a critical piece of that.

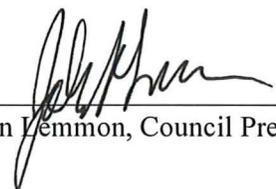
Councilor Keener – Appreciates all who came out tonight. Support the police levy. Be safe.

Councilor Lemmon – Supports the police levy. Sees what the officers deal with. Some tough cases. Dealing with people when they're sometimes at their worst and these are good people who know how to address these things properly. Thank you to the police and fire departments.

Adjournment: Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Wolfe, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:53pm.

NEXT MEETING: Regular Council Meeting – April 14, 2025


Samantha Torres, Council Clerk


John Lemmon, Council President