

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting Minutes
Held in Council Chambers, streamed live on Facebook
March 25, 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) Adam Miller (0,1), Sue Wadley (0,0), Tom Wolfe (0,0)
Absent: None.

Staff Present: Samantha Torres, Clerk of Council; Amanda Hoppel, Clerk Treasurer; Jason Harget, Police Chief; Keisha Amspaugh, Fire Chief; Toby Miller, Public Works Superintendent; Dick Williams, Planning and Zoning Commission Chair; Rex Adkins, Code Enforcement Officer, Annetta Macedonia, Parks and Recreation Commission Chair, Sue Smith, Parks and Recreation Commission Member.

Approval of Regular Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Wolfe, to approve the March 11, 2024 regular council meeting minutes.

Roll call vote: Yes: Wadley, Wolfe, Cable, Green, Julian, Lemmon, Miller
Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 7 – 0**

Approval of Clerk Treasurer’s Report: Motion by Councilor Julian, seconded by Councilor Green, to approve the Treasurer’s report dated March 21, 2024.

Roll call vote: Yes: Wadley, Wolfe, Cable, Green, Julian, Lemmon, Miller
Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 7 – 0**

APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: None.

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

Finance Committee: Committee meeting to be held tonight at 5:30pm was cancelled due to not much on the agenda. Permanent budget is on the council agenda for a third reading. Next Finance Committee meeting to be held April 8th at 5:30pm to discuss the police levy.

Public Safety Committee: Next meeting to be held April 22nd immediately following the Finance Committee meeting to be held at 5:30pm. Chair Wolfe stated that he met with the police chief to talk about the police levy.

Public Service Committee: Nothing to report. The committee has a standing meeting on the first Monday of every month at 6:30pm, with the next one being held April 1st at 6:30pm.

Rules Committee: Chair Miller stated Solicitor Nicodemus said they could discuss how to move forward with the Charter in the Rules Committee. He needs to get a Rules Committee meeting scheduled.

Community Development Committee: Nothing new at this time. Next meeting scheduled for April 8th immediately following the Personnel committee meeting to be held at 6:00pm to have on-going discussion about short-term rentals

Personnel Committee: Nothing new at this time. Next meeting to be held April 8th at 6:00pm.

Report of Council President: President Lemmon met with Mayor Goodman and Toby Miller in regards to painting of the village building. He reached out to the solicitor about the Charter (more discussion in Unfinished Business tonight) and about the Buckeye Lake Library. President Lemmon stated that the citizens pay taxes into the library district. If we cannot work this situation out with the Licking County Library District, then we could consider forming our own district. We would have to exempt ourselves from the library district and speak more with the solicitor. He would like to have a positive executive session after next week's council meeting. Councilor Wadley stated that she had heard that the library board already voted to move the library to the Hebron shopping center.

REPORT OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS – WRITTEN OR VERBAL

Police Department – Chief Jason Harget: Thanked Councilor Wolfe for meeting about the department and police levy. Meeting tomorrow with Etna Towing to get signs for parking lot issue out front. We need space for meetings, etc. Goal is not to tow vehicles but need the legal towing signs for the officers to use at their discretion to tow people. The police department has unfortunately had some high priority felony cases within the past couple of weeks. One in particular has taken a lot of his time. Easter Egg Hunt went really well. Last year had a little more people. Un-paid volunteers helped the event. Chiefs had a meeting today about community events. We need volunteers and donations to help out with these events. Part of Chief's job is to check on vehicle maintenance and how to put these issues in front of council. Might be able to use iWorq software to keep track of maintenance and how much has been spent on each cruiser. Police Levy is coming. He needs everyone's support to pass this levy. There will be cuts for the department if this does not pass. There will be delayed response time and less coverage for the safety of the residents of the community. A lot of great things have come from this department in the three years he has been here, including getting more involved with the community with things like movie nights, Halloween, Christmas, Easter events. Crime is still here. He stated he does not do a very good job in advertising the amount of crime that there is in the community and how busy the officers are, but he will work on getting that out. The Ohio Investigative Unit was in town doing alcohol compliance checks. This has nothing to do with the BLPD and they were not notified that the unit was in the village. Chief had no idea until citations were written. He got the report from the village solicitor. Chief stated that solicitor Brad Nicodemus handles all cases whether they are BLPD cases or State Highway Patrol or the sheriff's office. Council seemed to be unaware that a vehicle was allocated to the code enforcement / zoning inspectors to be able to drive for work use throughout the village.

Fire Department – Chief Keisha Amspaugh: Easter Egg Hunt was great. A lot of volunteers. A lot of eggs. Flyer attached to fire report for the Buckeye Lake Eagles Car, Truck, Motorcycle, and Craft Show on July 27th, benefitting the BL and Licking Township fire departments. They asked if, in return, they can put up signage near the fire department. Profit is split in half and is donated to the two fire departments. Have the fire departments come down to judge the cars. Would really like to get the events committee going. Chiefs putting in a lot of their time with events. Administration is putting together a list of members. Councilor Wadley suggested picking a specific time so that anyone who would like to join from the community will know and can show up if they are interested. Councilor Julian suggested it would be great to have different people on different event committees.

Motion by Councilor Wolfe, seconded by Councilor Miller, to support the placement of signage for the Buckeye Lake Eagles Car, Truck, Motorcycle, and Craft Show (July 27th) near the Buckeye Lake Fire Department for 30 days starting July 1st.

Roll call vote: **Yes:** Wadley, Wolfe, Cable, Green, Julian, Lemmon, Miller
Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 7 – 0**

Public Works – Super Intendent Toby Miller: two pieces of legislation tonight – Cranberry Bay paving and Columbia Gas work agreements – third one for awarding a bid will come up as new business tonight – can wait but adds more time to the project.

Ord 2024-14 – bid award – bids were opened on Thursday – did not get put on the agenda in time on Friday. Work will start when this is passed – will need 30 days. Energy Coop should've started working on their piece of it today. Ordinance 2024-12 is related to Ordinance 2024-14. Councilor Wolfe said he thinks there should be an outside inspection for projects to make sure they are to specifications. Toby said inspection would change the contract and has to be through an approved sub-contractor.

Ordinance 2024-14 could have a first reading tonight, then public works committee meeting on April 1st for any further discussion, and then can look into suspending the rules at the next meeting. Councilor Julian would like to see more information. Second reading in two weeks. Read over this and show up to Public Works committee meeting.

Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Green to have a first reading of Ordinance 2024-14 on tonight's agenda.

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

Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 7 – 0**

Toby – Union Ave paving issues – no cost to incur. Cannot do anything until late April.

Wadley – where is our responsibility as council of when warranties should be implemented?

Toby – We knew about issues with Union Avenue in October and contractors were aware as well.

Wadley – What happened between then and now? Resident brought it up.

Toby – Knew we could not do anything until April so now is the time for that.

Parks and Recreation Commission: Chair Annetta Macedonia and member Sue Smith – Main project going into summer is to expand the Pickleball court from two courts to four courts. It is an addictive sport. Courts are usually filled 7 days a week and having two additional courts would be beneficial. Dedicate efforts to making it safe and practical and not makeshift. Do not need to make it a tournament-level facility. Cannot give specifics tonight on the cost. Toby has been looking into the costs on this. Looking at anywhere from \$38,000 to \$130,000. Projected date is May, but not going to happen. Hopefully June or July. Where to get the money from? Some money in the budget and hope to get some donations and help from grants. Annetta does not want anyone to forget the Parks and Recreation Commission with regards the events that are being put on throughout the village. We should put our resources together, not do different events and compete with each other. Last year, with our donations, rentals, grants, and benches that were sponsored, we brought in \$5,159 in addition to the budget. Working on another initiative – an idea for a fund raiser. I Walked the Whole Damn Dam – from North Shore State Park to Lieb's Island with refreshments along the way. Shooting for 1st or second week in June. Hoping to raise around \$10,000 for this. Really will start to push this. There is a vacancy on the commission. Melissa Tevis resigned in November. It is a council appointment. Wolfe was involved in BLR Chamber of Commerce donation to the Fairfield pickleball courts. What they were planning on spending is still in their budget. Wolfe asked what they plan to do with that to help Buckeye Lake. Has to be on State Property. Pickleball on state property possibly. Chamber has committed to helping the park, per Annetta. Cable asked where we stand on the skatepark. It is completed. Old ramps have been removed. Mini ramp is there now. Will look into different phases in the future. Councilor Julian stated that pickleball is a craze and some residents have started to go other places due to availability and quality so this would be beneficial. We have a great community interest. Sue helps with the groups and bringing people to play and they have a sign-in sheet.

Code Enforcement – Rex Adkins – No written report. Total complaints to date – 8. Low number means we are cleaning things up. 49 active cases and 6 active in court. 7 properties that have been turned over to solicitor. He gave an update on those. Short-term rentals – total applications 17, total licenses issued = 2. Waiting for 3 to schedule final inspection. Solicitor Nicodemus working on ordinance to combine all of the previous short-term rental ordinances. Councilor Wadley asked have we established a date for people to be in compliance on those? A letter is being formulated to let them know to start the application process. If they have not started it by then, the second notice would be a violation. Hoping to have everything done by the end of May.

Zoning – Kevin Strang – Absent. Report submitted.

Planning & Zoning / BZA Commission – Dick Williams – Dick Williams – Submitted and read over written 2023 annual report.

Report of Mayor – Written report submitted. In the last two weeks, continuing lots of meetings. Staff and department heads meetings. Mayor and Toby met with Hebron administration and talked about how the two communities can become better partners. Hebron asked how we were able to get so many projects done and Toby explained the grant funding we have been awarded to complete these projects. Mayor and two of her grandchildren took the donations that were gathered from the village to Indian Lake where tornadoes recently devastated the area. She walked away wondering what is our emergency response plan. The community is so similar. We do have a plan, it is outdated. Will put together a group between Toby, police, and fire to discuss updating it and it will be available to anyone who wants it. Need to be prepared. Thanked everyone who donated. They are changing their donation spots and what they need now. Gift cards, gas cards, tarps, storage totes. She has a contact number for anyone who needs it. Representative of Union Paving project was apologetic and Mayor and Toby made it clear to him that the village will not be spending any money to fix this. He will get back to us shortly on what the plan is to fix that. Attended Board meeting last week with Licking County Library Board. The board did vote but that vote was taken after they had already signed a 5-year lease for the shopping center space in Hebron and contacted contractors and then last week they voted to combine the Buckeye Lake and Hebron library branches and move them to that shopping center space. Had letters of support to keep the library within the village. The letters made no difference. They said they had a plan for some programming out here, but nothing concrete. She will not be present at the next council meeting.

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

ORDINANCES

Ordinances for 3rd Reading –

Ordinance 2024-10 – PERMANENT ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE, OHIO, FOR 2024, AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilor Miller, seconded by Councilor Wolfe to adopt Ordinance 2024-10.

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

Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 7 – 0**

Ordinances for 2nd Reading –

Ordinance 2024-11 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A TEMPORARY WORKSPACE AGREEMENT WITH COLUMBIA GAS TRANSMISSION LLC FOR GAS LINE MAINTENANCE AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

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

Roll call vote: Yes: Wadley, Wolfe, Cable, Green, Julian, Lemmon, Miller
Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 7 – 0**

Motion by Councilor Wolfe, seconded by Councilor Julian to adopt Ordinance 2024-11.

Roll call vote: Yes: Wadley, Wolfe, Cable, Green, Julian, Lemmon, Miller
Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 7 – 0**

Ordinance 2024-12 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A WORK AGREEMENT WITH CRANBERRY BAY HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC FOR STORM WATER DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

This will move on to a third reading.

Ordinances for 1st Reading –

Ordinance 2024-14 - AN ORDINANCE AWARDDING THE BID FOR THE CRANBERRY LANE AREA PAVEMENT IMPROVEMENTS TO LAW GENERAL CONTRACTING, AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE AND SAID CONTRACTOR CONSISTENT WITH SAID BID, AND THE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY.

This will move on to a second reading.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions for 3rd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 2nd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 1st Reading – None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

Charter – Councilor Lemmon spoke with the solicitor about the charter process. This past review commission is the second time a large group went over the entire charter. Their work is valuable and we should use their work. According to the charter, we can appoint a charter commission at any time not just at the 5-year period. We can pick 1-4 subjects for them to look at and get back to us. That might be a better way of looking at it. Give them the information of the last commission that looked at everything. There is nothing to put on the ballot right now, we have passed that deadline. Councilor Cable asked did we get incorrect advice? Every document is up for interpretation. What can we do to move forward to work on the correct information? Current Charter Review recommendations are dead but can be used moving forward. Councilor Julian – we spent a lot of time doing our own prioritization and we need to revive and continue on that. Get a few items to send to a new commission for them to work on. Starting to appoint a new commission. Old commission has a bad taste in their mouth. Not intentionally anyone's fault and need to be thoughtful of the time they put in. Lemmon said there should be a finite process with a beginning and end. Wolfe – we asked them to make changes and then they brought those to us. We should have those changes in mind first before choosing the members.

Codification of Ordinances - Finance Committee Chair, Mayor, Councilor Lemmon, and Clerk will need to get together on this.

NEW BUSINESS –

Future Council Compensation - Unique time in council with no one running for council seats – now would be a good time to talk about compensation for council that would go into effect in 2026. No one is impacted at this time. Personnel chair is happy to gather information on other municipalities and what they pay. Last time we did council, we did the mayor's compensation as well. Wolfe recommended a different rate of pay for council president as it is a lot of work.

Future, vision, and mission statement of Buckeye Lake – Proposed by Councilor Wadley. Mayor would like to do a retreat day where admin and council work together and go over everything. Keep it separate from a council meeting night. Would still be an open meeting.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS – None.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS –

Councilor Wadley – Thanked everyone who donated for Indian Lake that the mayor took. A terrible situation. She asked the mayor to please share these things via email. She stated she should not have to go to Facebook to find out about things that are happening in the village. Excellent report from mayor, loves the communication. Great group. Communication is key. If we cannot communicate with ourselves, then how can we communicate with them.

Councilor Wolfe – Have to address that this is a levy community. We do not have an income tax. Whether it is fire, police, operating – we are looking at a levy every year. If you want police protection, we are probably going to have to pass a five-mill levy. We need 24-hour protection. Will need some support from the community to pass that. Time to come forward to help with that. Licking County library leaving the village is a horrendous decision. All for creating our own library. Would like to invite Licking County to see what we are doing. We have parks and things going on. Would like to see some of this money that comes to Licking County come into the village. Thanked Code officer on work for short-term rentals. Likes the passion he sees from new mayor that has already been a positive note for the community. Not everything is about people getting arrested. Talked to chief about preventing fraud when selling things online such as a vehicle. He noted that you can have the police station as a safe meet-up location. Thanked Chief for his input on that topic. Great group here, appreciate being back on council and looks forward to the enthusiasm.

Councilor Cable – Late 70s had several tornadoes that skipped across the lake and jumped around, taking out houses. These things can happen at any time. Appreciates Mayor collecting and taking the donations to Indian Lake. Emergency response should be reviewed. Hopefully weather gets nice. Be safe. Buy local, enjoy this community.

Councilor Julian – She responded on Facebook with her disappointment for the library. Shame on that board and shame on the commissioners who appointed them. The village was not respected at all. Need to take this into our hands. Will never support the Licking County Library with funding again. Short-term rentals – we are just coming out of winter. Businesses struggle during the winter in this village with tons of snowbirds now. The more short-term rentals we get, it reduces our winter population. Challenges any short-term rental person that they are helping the businesses. Keep that in mind. Church posts where and when food is available.

Councilor Green – A lot of great comments from council. Thanked our commissioners for the work they do for the village. She spent some time on the parks and recreation commission. They help make a difference.


Councilor Lemmon – Thank you to the Mayor. He knows she is just getting started and she has had a lot of fires to put out. The communication is already better. He looked at the short-term rental lawsuit document against Walnut Township. They did not have it as a permissive use. Courts agreed that if it was not listed, they have the right to create zoning and regulations on short-term rentals.

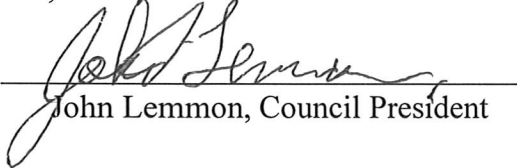
Councilor Miller – Thanked Ms. Green and Mr. Wolfe for notes for Rules Committee and moving forward. Thanks to Chiefs for the Easter Egg Hunt. Looks forward to working with everyone on the Rules Committee.

Mayor Goodman – One of our fire fighters, Mike Powell, was a part of an emergency response team that went to Indian Lake the very next morning after the tornadoes there. We have a wonderful resource right here in the village.

Adjournment: Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Miller, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:01pm.

NEXT MEETING: Regular Council Meeting – April 8, 2024


Samantha Torres, Council Clerk


John Lemmon, Council President