

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting Minutes
Held in Council Chambers, streamed live on Facebook
May 22, 2023

Call to Order: By Council President Linda Goodman at 7:03p.m.

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

Roll Call: Present: Paula Brunton (0,2), Don Cable (0,0), Linda Goodman (0,0), Deb Julian (0,0),
(Consecutive, Total Absences) John Lemmon (0,0), Sue Wadley (0,1)
Absent: Tom Wolfe (0,0)

Staff Present: Mayor Jerryne 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; Toby Miller, Water Superintendent;

Approval of Special Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Lemmon, to approve the May 2, 2023 special council meeting minutes.

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

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Brunton, to approve the May 8, 2023 regular council meeting minutes.

Roll call vote: Yes: Goodman, Julian, Lemmon, Wadley, Brunton, Cable
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 April reconciliations and Treasurer's report dated May 18, 2023.

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

Fiscal Officer Jennifer Dennis stated the masonry work on the municipal office has been completed and painting will start tomorrow. Chief Harget received several quotes for the painting work and the one that was picked was for around \$5,800 to paint the whole back of the building and the stucco in the front and includes power washing everything. Everything (\$15,000) in the buildings repairs and maintenance account has been exhausted. If anything else happens, she will need to come to council for more appropriations. Councilor Lemmon asked for her to come up with an emergency amount to put in the line just in case something was to happen that cannot wait for council.

APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: None.

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee: Expected to have a village fee schedule ordinance for tonight but the solicitor is still working on that. Want to get it right and have it be more manageable. Will be reviewing that in the next Finance Committee meeting on June 12th. President Goodman stated that the zoning fees are part of the zoning code book and there is a process for that.

Public Safety Committee: Meeting held tonight. Police Department shared about their hiring retention – they have two openings, with one they hope to fill soon. There was discussion on if hourly rates need to be revised to be more competitive with surrounding entities. Some repair issues going on the with the K9 cruiser; may have to move some of that equipment to another vehicle. Another certification in the series that the department will be pursuing. Fire Department is also doing some recruiting and receiving of applications. Possibly having some

kind of open interviews day, connecting with CTEC, and attending some job fairs. Second fire engine that broke down is now repaired and in action. Trainings are in session and there are partnerships and collaborations that they are doing in order to have some free training to keep the fire department current. Thanked people for the passage of the fire levy. June 26th will be the next committee meeting at 6:30pm.

Public Service Committee: Nothing new to report at this time. Next standing committee meeting will be June 5th at 6:30pm.

Rules Committee: Committee will meet again in June. In the meantime, she is still trying to send the draft version of the work they have completed so far. Some people are not able to receive it in their email.

Community Development Committee: Absent, no report.

Personnel Committee: Next meeting scheduled on June 12th. Time will be worked out with Charter Work Group and Finance Committee.

Report of Council President: President Goodman stated that the municipal offices will be closed on May 29th for Memorial Day. Be safe on the water and in the streets and support local. Free yard sale days will be June 16, 17, 18th which means no fees or permit required to have a yard sale in the village on those days. Summer Food Program will happen again this year starting June 12th Monday through Friday from 12-1pm at the Recreation Center on Third Street. Street Sweeping is happening, next one will be on June 13th. New businesses in the village – Smoke on the Water – 4944 Walnut Road is a cigar shop. Teresa's Boutique at the Lake 5246 Walnut Road. New gas station has opened up and they are selling marine fuel. Support new and local businesses. Kids to Parks Day was this weekend. Huge success from Parks and Recreation Commission. May 29th there will be a rededication of the historic fountain and an open house at the Buckeye Lake Historical Museum. Councilor Cable mentioned there are new guardrails at the Taco Bell bridge and there is new paving all the way back to the McDonalds, too.

REPORT OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS WRITTEN OR VERBAL

Police Department – Chief Jason Harget – Police Department is down two positions but Chief is happy to say that the hours are being covered for the community. They have been very busy with traffic and drug enforcement and security around town. Masonry work has been completed on the building and the issue of flooding in the police department has been fixed with that. Going to keep a close eye on maintenance to the K9 unit vehicle. They have a vehicle maintenance program at the moment where they will get the vehicles in for maintenance more often. Happy to be with the Fire Department at the Kids to Parks Day event. Happy to see the kids out and being active. Unfortunately, last night there was an overdose at the Lake Inn and after that they discovered drugs in a car that was leaving the Lake Inn. They will actively keep patrolling there to help keep the community safe. Movie nights will be kicking off again in June. Movie license needs to be renewed for the permit to play the movies outside. They started an events committee. People can sponsor a movie night and the money can be used to buy popcorn, ice cream, slushies, hot dogs. A lot of bikes out; share the road. Will give out tickets for ice cream for kids they see who are wearing a helmet.

Fire Department – Interim Fire Chief Keisha Amspaugh – Written reports submitted that includes run numbers and billing information. There was a BLASST meeting today to get ready for fireworks in July. Fire Chief Amspaugh thanked everyone who helped pass the fire levy. The Fire Department has been going over frequently to make sure that the emergency road stays cleared at the Landings at Maple Bay. Right now, there is a plastic chain with a lock blocking it. Fire and Police departments do not currently have a key to this lock. Chief spoke about recruitment and retention of fire employees. They will bring several people soon to be sworn in. Rescue vehicle has been repaired and is in service. Keeping the Byesville truck for now to still help.

Statement of fact in the written report for the other broken-down truck. She stated the village needs to sit down together and come up with a long-term solution and that a truck could take two years to get. Solicitor was involved today. Jennifer thinks there is miscommunication between the insurance and the repair shop. President Goodman stated that all communication should come through the solicitor. Fire Department has coverage and they are alright. Collaborations and training are happening at no cost. At the moment, BLFD does not provide uniforms. As far as gear, they are currently locked in at a lower price for turnout gear. Councilor Julian asked about when there are some shifts with zero or only one person at the fire house. Chief stated that they have not gone a weekend and had no one. There have been some shifts with one person but it is usually just for a few hours and these instances usually happen around shift change. There have been several call offs recently as well. She offers incentive out of her own pocket. These instances do not happen often and sometimes they are out on a run or at training but it happens everywhere at various fire houses. It is not just a Buckeye Lake problem; it is a Public Safety problem. Asking people to put their lives on the line and cannot afford to buy them a shirt. Just because there is not a car there, does not mean there is no one there – some people are dropped off or ride a motorcycle to work and park inside the garage. Councilor Lemmon stated that the year-to-date revenue from billing is up a little bit which is good. Chief said that has to do with having more staffing, and they are taking more mutual aid and billable runs. When they are there and staffed, revenue is up.

Public Works – Toby Miller – Most projects are talked about in the committee meetings. New rooms and windows in the office. Water clerk will switch to the other side of the entrance. Office people will move around within the office in the coming weeks. Final walkthrough of the bridge project happened last week. Short list of items that need fixed. Mosquito spraying began last week and will happen on Wednesday evenings from 8:30pm-12am. Community gardens by the water tower are now tilled. Working on a water solution for it. A few people have been using the spaces. Working on right-of-way conversation; will be a slow process. Will take a while to figure out. Village employee emails may have some problems for a bit while they work on moving servers to fix storage issues.

Parks and Recreation – Kellie Green – Absent, no report.

Code Enforcement – Rex Adkins – Written report received. Work continues on the Lake Inn hotel. The stairs and second floor walkway are still shut down due to unsafe conditions. The hotel is partially but not completely open. Currently we have had 28 weeds and high grass complaints for the year for lots not being maintained. Thought we had a seasonal worker but that gentleman took a job in Columbus instead. Maybe looking to contract with a lawn care company to cut grass at complaint properties. Toby also has not been able to get a part-time employee for the street department so it all falls on Randy to maintain the village-owned properties as well as any properties where complaints come in through code enforcement. As the weather warms up, if you have a pool that is 24 inches or deeper, you have to have a permit through the village and it has to have a fence around it with a locked gate. Code enforcement complaint procedure is available online at the village website.

Zoning – Kevin Strang – Report submitted. Kevin stated it has been an uneventful month. Recent activity included 19 on-site visits to see what is happening at the job site versus what is on the application, 13 electronic / telephone communications, and 4 stop-work orders. These numbers are down slightly from with the statistics around this time last year.

Planning and Zoning – No representative / no report.

Report of Mayor – Written report submitted.

ORDINANCES

Ordinances for 3rd Reading –

Ordinance 2023-14 - AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2021 INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Julian, to adopt Ordinance 2023-14.

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

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

Ordinances for 2nd Reading – None.

Ordinances for 1st Reading –

Ordinance 2023-18 - 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: Goodman, Julian, Lemmon, Wadley, Brunton, Cable

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

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Cable to adopt Ordinance 2023-18.

Discussion: Toby Miller explained that there was an instance of some water billing errors when there was delay in communication about a property selling and an instance of a customer waiting 4-5 years to question their high rate. The water plan allows them to refund up to a year of that. Normally this is not in the budget because they have not had a refund situation, so this will create a line for that and there will be money put into the budget for this each year going forward in case others were to arise.

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

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

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions for 3rd Reading –

Resolution 2023-12 – A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED CREATION AND MARKING OF A LOCAL BIKE ROUTE AROUND BUCKEYE LAKE.

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Brunton to adopt Resolution 2023-12.

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

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

Resolutions for 2nd Reading –

Resolution 2023-13 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECT A GOVERNMENTAL ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION PROGRAM WITH OPT-OUT PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 4928.20 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, DIRECTING THE LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS.

Councilor Lemmon stated that we are asking to put this on the ballot; there is an opt out provision and an opt in provision. He said the opt out provision has to go to the vote for the people. They will get a notification ahead of time to be on a list to automatically opt out. They will, at the time, receive their bill. When it comes into effect, they will get a final bill from AEP. They will be automatically enrolled if they were not on the opt out list, then they will get a 7-day period to opt out again. That is as opposed to an opt in.

Council President Goodman stated that what this Resolution is addressing is whether we want to vote to put it on the ballot or not. Councilor Lemmon said an opt in option does not have to go on the ballot. He said it allows

people to choose whether they want in or not. So, if you do an opt in instead of an opt out, you have to have two public hearings and then when it comes time, you send them the amount that they will be in contract with, any fees as far as getting out and timelines, and how long they will be on it. They have the option to opt into that. He said they have the option to choose instead of automatically being enrolled, which is what the opt out does, it automatically enrolls you and then you can opt out in a limited period of time.

This will move on to a third reading.

Resolution 2023-14 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECT A GOVERNMENTAL NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM WITH OPT-OUT PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 4929.26 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, DIRECTING THE LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS.

Councilor Cable stated that he thought council had discussed not needing this legislation. Council President Goodman said yes it was discussed but at the tail end of the discussion it was said that because of the future development that is coming, do we want to have this just in case. Councilor Cable said he does not know if there is another natural gas option out here. Councilor Julian said that asking our citizens to vote on this, it would impact no current voters. She said if we want to opt in on this at a later point, maybe, but right now it makes no sense.

This will move on to a third reading.

Resolutions for 1st Reading – None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS –

Licking County Planning – CDBG Grant for Buckeye Lake Zoning Revision Plan Project -

President Goodman received an email from Adrienne Eskins of Licking County Planning stating that she had met with the Licking County Commissioners and they have agreed to move forward with the Buckeye Lake Zoning Revision Plan Project. Due to the amount of the project request they received and limited funding, the decision was made to ask each community to contribute 6% of their project's total cost. This would leave Buckeye Lake responsible for \$4,011.44 and CDBG funding to pay \$63,988.56. Adrienne asked in the email if Buckeye Lake would like to proceed.

Floor vote to support accepting the CDBG grant & allowing an appropriation ordinance to be made at the next council meeting for the \$4,011.44.

Motion by Lemmon, seconded by Julian.

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

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

Right-of-way Parking on North Bank Near the Spillway - Rex Adkins – Rex stated that there have been a lot of complaints about parking in the street in the area of North Bank where it dead ends into the spillway. This is considered a right-of-way turnaround. Rex had a short meeting with Toby to look on the map. He stated there is a section that is off of North Bank there that belongs to the village that is a right-of-way turnaround that is currently being used as a private drive for two houses that are on that side of the street. They discussed that the best way to approach this right now is to send out letters to the residents on North Bank and to those two houses that are using the right-of-way that there is no parking on that section of North Bank and there is no parking in

that right-of-way. Toby's crew went down that section to spray for mosquitoes with their truck and could not use that turnaround to come back down North Bank because there were six vehicles parked there. Councilor Julian suggested that there be No Parking signs posted, because correcting it with the homeowners does not prevent someone else from parking there. Councilor Cable stated that if a mosquito spraying truck cannot turn around there, then a medic or fire truck certainly cannot turn around there. Rex stated that there is plenty of room to turn around, as long as no one is parked there. He said that various departments are getting the complaints and they are trying to get together to address them and that is why he brought it to council. Councilors Wadley and Lemmon agreed that no parking signs would alleviate the issue.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS – None.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:

Councilor Wadley: Thanked everyone. Last week was First Responders Week – thank you to them for what they do. Should have a celebration for them next year. Need to have transparency with what is being done with tax payers' money. Be careful, watch out for little ones and enjoy your Summer.

Councilor Julian: Heading into Summer and it is super busy on the lake. Tim Ryan came to Cranberry Bay Homeowner's Association meeting and talked about how many new businesses there are in the region in just the last year. Need to support local and attract more businesses. Have a safe and happy Summer. Buckeye Lake was number 2 in Travel and Leisure magazine for small lake towns to visit.

Councilor Brunton: She talked about visibility and image. She moved to Buckeye Lake a few years ago and stated that the main drag entrance has changed so much since she first moved here. Buckeye Lake is coming along and looks really nice. She also challenges anyone to try to go through the village and not see a police officer. She sees them everywhere and appreciates that.


Councilor Lemmon: Scary words he quoted: We are the government; we are here to help you. He thinks there is some wisdom in that. When it comes to our responsibility, we need to say: are we allowing people to make their own choices? Are we helping them make better choices? Or should we be giving them more options. He would like to let people make their own choices whenever possible and we should always look at all of our options and really think about what we are doing when we make decisions.

Councilor Cable: Buy local at new businesses. Talked a lot tonight about being safe around kids in the streets. He stated there is also a responsibility of the kids and parents to keep themselves safe and to be respectful and aware of what is going on and what cars are coming down the street.

Councilor Goodman: No comments tonight.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Councilor Cable to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Councilor Brunton. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm

NEXT MEETING: Regular Council Meeting: June 12, 2023


Samantha Torres, Clerk of Council


Linda Goodman, Council President