

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting Minutes
Held in Council Chambers, streamed live on Facebook
October 28, 2024

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 (excused), Sue Wadley (excused)

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; Rex Adkins, Code Enforcement Officer

October 14 meeting minutes will be available at the next council meeting.

Approval of Clerk Treasurer's Report: Motion by Councilor Wolfe, seconded by Councilor Keener, to approve the Treasurer's report dated October 24, 2024.

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. Next meeting November 11 at 5:30pm.

Public Safety Committee: Street lighting and police levies coming up. Encourages everyone to get out to vote.

Public Service Committee: Report given at previous meeting. Next meeting first Monday of November at 6:30pm.

Rules Committee: No report.

Community Development Committee: Nothing new at this time. Please vote for charter changes. Community Development Chair will get with clerk about whether or not to have meeting on November 11th.

Personnel Committee: Nothing to report.

Report of Council President: President Lemmon read his written comments that are included in the meeting minutes binder about first reading of DORA legislation tonight (public hearing November 11th 6:30pm), first reading of rezoning of Worth Drive area (public hearing November 25th 6:30pm), draft legislation for foothold traps, capital improvement project work group, Halloween donations from members of council.

REPORT OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS – WRITTEN OR VERBAL

Police Department – Chief Jason Harget: Calls for service and written report submitted. Halloween is almost here. Fun time in our village. Drew Fox has started his field training. Chief completed a LEADS audit and the PD passed. Police budget was completed. Cruiser #804 repairs are complete and back in service. Illegal gambling investigation is completed and at least 3 will be charged. Officers will work Trunk or Treat event passing out candy. Chief Harget is working all kinds of hours for coverage. Councilor Green stated that with the police levy coming up, she wanted to point out that our officers have responded to 88 incidents from October 1-26th. That is a lot, even with short staffing. Makes her feel better as a member of the community that our police officers have done more than just initiate traffic stops. Our officers have seen other incidents and have stopped them or taken care of them.

Fire Department – Interim Chief Jerry Brooks: Report submitted and read by Chief Brooks. 88 people at the spaghetti dinner. FD participated in KOA Trick or Treat and a domestic violence vigil at Water’s Edge Community Center. Getting some doors at the station repaired so they work properly. They have a better way of getting reports on the computer. Applicant starting orientation next week, increasing medics to 7. Have two more applications coming in soon. Up to about 14 fire personnel.

Public Works – Super Intendent Toby Miller: Public Service Committee meeting will be a week from tonight at 6:30pm. Golf cart signs that were discussed have been ordered – went with design Councilor Keener chose. 6 signs total – 4 accesses into the village and some on Route 79. Several funding things going on to leverage money. Grants and funding arms in the works that will change some numbers on projects for matches. Will try to have more data for meeting. SS4A survey data is back today. It is not in a formal presentation yet. Shared with PD because they have some info in there. Expected OWDA would take care of expenditures. Have to pay inspection fees ourselves. It is a wash account. What we spend out, we get back. There will be emergency legislation – revenue and appropriation for next council meeting. Do not have a timeframe for West North Bank project. Waiting on special deliveries and need structures made. New cyber training is now active. Every employee should have gotten an email from AlphaLink. Need to get a better percentage of people doing it. Helps with insurance.

Parks and Recreation – Annetta Macedonia: No representative; no verbal report.

Code Enforcement – Rex Adkins: Written report submitted. Up to 75 complaints received for the year. 80 active cases with 6 currently in court. Several different homeless groups. They were camping in right-of-way areas of the village. Has been addressed and they have moved on. Monitoring to make sure there are no squatters in the vacant homes. Want to prevent that they might decide to start a fire to stay warm. Rex and Kevin have been going through emails from Devin’s account after she quit to catch up and they will have a full agenda for next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. Mayor stated they have received 6 applications for that position and will begin interviewing people for that this week.

Zoning – Kevin Strang: Report submitted. Noticeable uptick in activity in the field. 20 on-sight, 37 electronic, 0 stop-work orders. Have been spending time in the office getting caught up on paperwork.

Planning & Zoning / BZA Commission – Tom Price: Absent, no report.

Report of Mayor Goodman: Public hearing for DORA is November 11th 6:30pm; Worth Drive rezoning public hearing November 25th 6:30pm. Make sure residents know. If you have questions or want to hear about it, please come to those. Trunk or Treat Thursday 5-7pm. 3 events that night. Harbor, Recreation Center, Water’s Edge Community Center. Continuing to work on Christmas parade. Working on fixed transit route with target date of July 1st. Hours would be 6am-6pm Monday through Friday for the fixed route. Will still be able to call them on Saturdays. Financial breakdown – total route \$212,000 annual. Part paid from federal funds, others from additional foundations. Village of Hebron will pay \$40,500 and Village of Buckeye Lake will pay \$40,500 as well. This will be included in the 2025 budget. They will be out 2-3 more times to look at potential stops. That could change. They will start with certain ones but they will be flexible with them. They have a time constraint. Heath’s starts next. They cannot have a route going or coming more than an hour from where their garage is. Mayor would like to invite Mr. Allison to come to speak to council and residents if they have any questions. Public transit was something that people responded about in the SS4A survey. Today is First Responders Day. Thanked police and fire departments for all they do in the village. Reminder to vote. Thanked Interim Chief Brooks. Response at the fire department spaghetti dinner was great. Some council members were there and people came and stayed and visited the fire department. Reminder, we have police levy and street lights levy. Transit goes from here and throughout Licking County. Want people to be able to get to work. There will be transfers to other routes. Lemmon asked if there was any way to sell some advertising at the stops to curb the cost.

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

ORDINANCES

Ordinances for 3rd Reading –

Ordinance 2024-54 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK POLITICAL ACTIVITY POLICY.

Motion by Councilor Green, seconded by Councilor Wolfe to adopt Ordinance 2024-54.

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

Ordinances for 2nd Reading – None.

Ordinances for 1st Reading –

Ordinance 2024-92 – AN ORDINANCE MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS AND AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA (DORA).

Public hearing for this will be held on November 11th at 6:30pm for public comment. Councilor Cable stated it was talking about extending the liquor license out into the area. You have to stay in front of the establishments? Mayor Goodman stated you can walk, for example, from the Buckeye Lake Brewery to The Boatyard. Have to finish the Brewery drink before you enter The Boatyard. It is not going to Mill Dam Road at this time. It starts at Pizza Cottage on Walnut Road and goes to the Corner House on Hebron Road. Solicitor and Department of Liquor Control said we could not do the whole village. There are only a few liquor license holders from the Corner House to Mill Dam Road. When that area is developed more, could establish a second one. There will be specially marked cups.

This will move to a second reading.

Ordinance 2024-60 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN PARCELS FROM AGRICULTURE AND R2 TO PLANNED MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT (PMUD).

Discussion: Public hearing on November 25th at 6:30pm. This will move to a second reading.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions for 3rd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 2nd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 1st Reading – None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

Foothold Traps Draft Legislation – Draft was passed out. President Lemmon stated that some version of this will go on for first reading at the next council meeting. 3 options from the village solicitor are attached. Councilor Green's recommendation was Option number 3 which basically stops anything but humane traps. Need to see if they want to have exceptions for the larger farmlands where there may be hunting.

Capital Improvements Workgroup – President Lemmon was looking for something very informal. Solicitor recommended a more formal version. What this will do is create a start and end date of when the members would meet. Councilors Julian, Keener, and himself would most likely be the group. Meetings would be announced ahead of time and be in executive session. A little too far into the weeds with this, so he is not sure if they want to move forward with this one. Would like more people here for discussion on this. When agenda comes out, capital improvements come from administration. If it is not driven by the mayor, it will be hard for council to get things done. Talked about creating a timeline. Some of these projects are smaller and sitting on the side and when we get grants, can do it. Can discuss this more.

Website – Council Clerk stated that we are up and running with the new website. There are some pages she is still working on, otherwise council agendas, meeting minutes, ordinances and resolutions are on there. She recreated the section that says Upcoming Ordinances and Resolutions so anything, for example, that was on this agenda for tonight, the public would be able to go on there and see what would be on the agenda for discussion at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS – None.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS –

Councilor Wolfe – Encourages all to get out and vote. Charter, street light, and police levy for folks to vote on. fire chief had brought up - \$70,000 item on the fire report. Not sure the residents realize the cost of some items so it is good information to see. Thanked all for coming tonight. Have a happy and safe Halloween.

Councilor Cable – Encourages all to vote. Has seen things on our Facebook available for folks such as the Christmas parade float entry form. Have a safe Halloween. Trick or Treat hours 5-7pm. Be careful and buy local.

Councilor Green – Thanked our first responders; she loves seeing them in the village and the counts of runs and incidences they have in a month. Nice to see that our village has our own first responders. Please vote, please vote for our police levy and the charter amendments. Come to Trunk or Treat at the Harbor and Recreation Center.

Councilor Keener – Encourages everyone to vote. Special thanks to Water's Edge Community Center who donated a considerable amount of candy for the village's Trunk or Treat. Thanks to our first responders. Water's Edge is having a trick or treat event as well on that side of the village.


Councilor Lemmon – Be safe; drive extra slow to slow down other cars for the trick or treaters. Important to get out to vote. Support our police department. He supports each item on the ballot. Can't live without our police department in the village. There is a 5 mill levy that we want to replace and with that is a 3 mill levy that will expire. Replace a 5 with a 5 and expire an old 3. Slight increase but when you look over five years, it is not that much of an increase to taxes but does fit our needs. Please support our police.

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 – November 11, 2024



Samantha Torres, Council Clerk



John Lemmon, Council President