

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting Minutes  
Held in Council Chambers, streamed live on Facebook  
**August 22, 2022**

**Call to Order:** By Council President Linda Goodman at 7:00p.m.

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

**Roll Call:** Present: Don Cable (0,0), Linda Goodman (0,0), Deb Julian (0,0),  
(Consecutive, Total Absences) John Lemmon (0,0), Max Thompson (0,1), Sue Wadley (0,1), Tom Wolfe (0,0)

**Staff Present:** Mayor Jeryne Peterson; Jennifer Dennis, Clerk/Treasurer; Samantha Torres, Clerk of Council; Jason Harget, Police Chief; David Ruton, Fire Chief; Toby Miller, Public Works Supervisor; Rex Adkins, Code Enforcement;

**Approval of Council Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Julian, to approve the August 9, 2022 regular council meeting minutes.

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

**Approval of Clerk Treasurer's Report:** Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Cable, to approve the Treasurer's report dated August 16, 2022.

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

Fiscal Officer Jennifer Dennis stated that the state auditors will be in on Wednesday for 2020-2021 reporting. Ordinance on the agenda for allocation of operating levy proceeds. Received \$491,727.70 second half of the settlement for property taxes which includes police, fire, and operating. Municipal building roof leak is not covered by insurance because it was caused by the air conditioner that needed maintenance. Jennifer gave 3 estimates to Toby Miller and she wants to get it fixed as soon as possible, which may require future appropriations.

**APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:** None.

**COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance Committee:** Finance Committee meeting minutes submitted. Ordinance on agenda tonight for 5-year plan for the allocation of operating levy funds, which includes creating a capital fund for Safety Department, for example. General information received on short-term rental fees from Community Development Committee.

**Public Safety Committee:** Next committee meeting will be September 7th at 6:00pm.

**Public Service Committee:** Next committee meeting will be September 7th at 6:30pm.

**Rules Committee:** Next committee meeting will be September 26th at 6:00pm. Meeting held tonight where they discussed rules #12-18.

**Community Development Committee:** Last week was the open house for the Comprehensive Plan, but Chair Wolfe was unable to attend.

**Personnel Committee:** Meeting held tonight. Planning to form a working committee to continue to go through the employee handbook. Many changes needed for updating and consistency. Standardized evaluation forms for employees will be worked on. Next meeting October 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

**Report of Council President:** There are two Planning and Zoning Commission vacancies, one mayoral, one council appointee. Applications are being taken at the village office. Thanked the Police Department for the Exotic Animal Expo at Ryan-Braden Park this past weekend. Mopar report from Fire Department of no emergencies that night. Comprehensive Plan open house was last week with representatives from OHM. They did an update for the survey results, which can be viewed by a link on the village website.

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

**Police Department – Chief Jason Harget** – Report submitted. Mopar brought a lot of people and great revenue. He has noticed over the years that resources are an issue – having enough people and cruisers for the event. 18 citations for reckless driving were issued. Safety plan needs to be talked about and put in place. Exotic Animal Expo was cute and great and they were able to do it for under \$700. Summer Movie Night coming to a close because kids are going back to school. Thinking about Halloween and Christmas movies at the Recreation Center in the Winter. Shop With a Cop happening around Christmas time again this year, teaming up with Target to get gifts for kids in the community. Officers are now doing handwritten log sheets to show what they are doing. Sergeant Lorenz has resigned, effective immediately. Full-time position posting will go up soon. Opportunity to purchase two gently-used, fully-equipped cruisers from Whitehall, \$10,000 for both. One has 73,000 miles, one has 81,000 miles, plus maintenance logs, cages, lightbars, wiring.

**Fire Department – Chief David Ruton** – Report submitted. Amount on billing is finally fixed. Heard from insurance on the fire engine at 4:30pm today. Chief Ruton and Jennifer will speak to them because the email is confusing. Extensive damage; posts that were hit along the highway did damage underneath the cab. Councilor Julian asked what exactly happened. Chief said that the fire engine was heading to Grove City to receive a new tire, as it was the only place to find a tire and the tire on the engine blew and the engine wrecked. Councilor Julian said there is a huge concern there to make sure that the police, fire, and public works vehicles are safe for driving for the employees and for the sake of the citizens on the highway. Chief stated that maintenance logs are now kept at the fire house. Appointment for tires to be replaced on fire engine tomorrow. Councilor Lemmon stated that getting funded for a maintenance plan on the vehicles is important. Councilor Thompson asked what do they do in the meantime until the funds are available? Need to think safety first in a life perspective. Part-time medic has been hired. Have not seen any impact from Refugee Canyon Fire Department closing. Chief asked about assistant Fire Chief pay raise ordinance. Councilor Julian said that there was an email from the solicitor saying that the assistant Fire Chief cannot be paid both a stipend and hourly wage and that the mayor had pulled the ordinance from the agenda to make changes.

**Public Works – Toby Miller** – Grass in median is growing very fast. Remaining trees are not in the way of the current project. Bridge has been removed at this point. Ordering traffic poles is a little behind, otherwise everything for the project is moving pretty well.

**Parks and Recreation – Kellie Green** – No report.

**Code Enforcement – Rex Adkins** – Report submitted. One house has been posted as uninhabitable, as the resident passed away last year. Rex is hoping the daughter will work on it and get it corrected.

**Zoning – Kevin Strang** – Report submitted. Absent.

**Planning and Zoning** – No representative / no report.

**Report of Mayor** – Report submitted.

## **ORDINANCES**

### **Ordinances for 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading –**

**Ordinance 2022-31** - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK ALLOWING FOR THE ADDITION OF THE JUNETEENTH FEDERAL HOLIDAY TO THE LIST OF HOLIDAYS THE VILLAGE WILL OBSERVE.

Motion by Councilor Wolfe, seconded by Councilor Cable, to adopt Ordinance 2022-31.

**Discussion:** Councilor Cable would like the posted list of holidays to say that Veteran's and Columbus Days are being observed.

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

**Ordinance 2022-32** - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK UPDATING THE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS SECTION BY ADDING PARENTAL LEAVE.

Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Wolfe, to adopt Ordinance 2022-32.

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

### **Ordinances for 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading –**

**Ordinance 2022-33** - AN ORDINANCE SETTING POLICY ON SUMP PUMP AND DOWNSPOUT DISCHARGES FOR THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO.

This will move on to a third reading.

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

**Ordinance 2022-35** - AN ORDINANCE ALLOCATING THE PROCEEDS FROM THE 2022-2026 REPLACEMENT LEVY.

Motion by Councilor Julian, seconded by Councilor Thompson, to suspend the rules.

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

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Julian, to adopt Ordinance 2022-35.

**Discussion:** Councilor Lemmon stated that this is establishing a plan for operational levy funds to try to stick to those allocations for 5 years. Takes some pressure off of police and fire department budgets. Helps our parks and prepares for maintenance. All dependent on the levy passing in November.

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

Motion by Councilor Wolfe, seconded by Councilor Lemmon, to have a first reading of Ordinance 2022-36.

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

This will move on to a second reading.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

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

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

**Resolutions for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading** – None.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** –

Councilor Goodman stated that the administrative / zoning fee schedule needs to be worked on hand-in-hand with Ordinance 2022-36, as the fee does not go on the ordinance itself. Will be talked about more within the Finance Committee. Councilor Cable suggested that comparable places with short-term rental fees are looked at when deciding what the fee will be for the village. Councilor Lemmon stated it is hard to compare to places that have a bed tax percentage that is collected. House Bill 563 is still in the works as well. Councilor Goodman stated that the village has a bed tax but the place has to have 5 units or more for that to be collected. She stated that the village is restricted by the State of Ohio to only be allowed to charge a 3% bed tax. Larger areas can charge more because they have convention centers and arenas.

## **NEW BUSINESS** –

Motion by Councilor Wolfe, seconded by Councilor Julian, to acquire 2 police cruisers from Whitehall pending available funds of \$10,000.

**Discussion:** Councilor Lemmon stated that the equipment alone in those vehicles is worth \$10,000. Councilor Julian stated that more cruisers give more opportunity and flexibility. Rex Adkins (who also works in Whitehall and brought this opportunity to the village's attention) stated that Whitehall has a 3-year rotation schedule. The cruisers are from 2018 and there is no warranty on the deal being offered. Radios and computers were taken out, but the wiring is still installed. Chief Harget stated the importance of having a spare / relief car if one breaks down or if the K9 cruiser breaks down. He said a cage for the K9 can be put in. Best thing is to have more equipment and more cruisers on the road. Councilor Lemmon stated that a vehicle rotation and maintenance schedule should be something the village does for their own fleets (public works, streets, fire, police). Fiscal Officer Jennifer Dennis will prepare an ordinance for the appropriations for this purchase for the next council meeting.

**Roll call vote: Yes:** Goodman, Julian, Lemmon, Thompson, Wadley, Wolfe, Cable

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

Jennifer stated that the police have applied for a grant for new body cameras.

## **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS** –

Kelly Haynes – PO Box 2011 - Great problem of drugs in the area. Skatepark has graffiti that needs to be looked at. Need more fun things in the village for the community. She said there is swampy water near the post office. Need a speed sign near the post office to catch speeders and drunk drivers.

Linda Sims – 64 Lighthouse Lane – The problem at 169 Anchors Way is improving. Weeds were mowed down, trash is being picked up, looking a lot better. Thanked everyone for their work on that.

Deb Julian – 300 Cranberry Lane – Business owner speaking about Mopar – Beer Pier Drive Thru had to close down 3 hours early and her business suffered about \$2,000 in losses that day. People parked in front of the drive thru lanes so no one could go through. Need to come up with a solution and she agrees that police and fire need more help for Mopar and the fireworks on the lake, as the traffic was uncontrollable.

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**Councilor Wolfe:** Thanked Code Enforcement Officer and Police Chief for work on the deal for the 2 police cruisers from Whitehall. What a great deal. Glad to see good safety services.

**Councilor Thompson:** Would like Chief Ruton to bring forth a solid fire budget on what is needed to properly run the fire department. Council has some decisions to make in order to fund them properly. Owe them a good budget and decisions.

**Councilor Julian:** Thanked loyal citizens that come and share their feedback. Need more people to be involved and can do that by embracing those who already show up to comment. She is seeing improvements through code enforcement.

**Councilor Cable:** Thanked Rick Baker and John Hanson for their service on the Planning and Zoning Commission. They are volunteers. May not always agree but they did do service and we thank them for that. Buy local from the businesses here in the area.

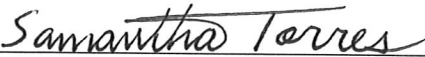
**Councilor Lemmon:** Thanked Sergeant Lorenz for his service. Councilor Lemmon saw someone who used to utilize the skatepark when he was younger who is now still here and with his own kids. There are new generations and new families here, and that is why Councilor Lemmon is here and why he is on council.

**Councilor Wadley:** Appreciates feedback from departments and citizens. The cruisers are a great deal – almost buy one get one free! Thanked Toby Miller for his work on the construction projects, as it probably comes with a lot of headaches and challenges.

**Councilor Goodman:** We are a village going through transition. All are working on it. Starting to see positive movement in the village. Police has 5 vehicles and 2 bicycles; code enforcement is getting places cleaned up; bridge replacement project is going on. There are growing pains and legislation that we are trying to get done and we want to move on but things do not always happen as fast as people would like. Appreciate your patience.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Councilor Cable to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Councilor Julian. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:31pm

**NEXT MEETING:** Regular Council Meeting: September 12, 2022

  
Samantha Torres, Council Clerk

  
Linda Goodman, Council President