

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting Minutes
Held in Council Chambers, streamed live on Facebook
August 26, 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, Kellie Green, Deb Julian, Douglas Keener,
John Lemmon, Sue Wadley, Tom Wolfe

Absent: None

Staff Present: Linda Goodman, Mayor; Samantha Torres, Clerk of Council; Amanda Hoppel, Clerk Treasurer;
Jason Harget, Police Chief; Toby Miller, Public Works Superintendent; Kevin Strang, Zoning Inspector;

Approval of Regular Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Wolfe, to approve the August 12, 2024 regular council meeting minutes.

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

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

Approval of Special Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Councilor Green, seconded by Councilor Keener, to approve the August 15, 2024 special council meeting minutes.

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

Abstain: Wadley; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 6 – 1- 0**

Approval of Clerk Treasurer’s Report: Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Julian, to approve the Treasurer’s report dated August 23, 2024.

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

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

APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: None.

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

Finance Committee: Have an initial review of the audit report. Setting up an in-person meeting. When we get to Ordinance 2024-43, Julian sent an email with documentation and information on that to council. Next meeting to be held September 9th at 5:30pm.

Public Safety Committee: Met last week with Fableman’s to look at the fire truck. Received verbal commitment for \$2,500 for truck and engine. Will have written commitment as early as tomorrow.

Public Service Committee: Gave report last meeting. Next meeting will be Wednesday September 4th at 6:30pm due to Labor Day on Monday and Mayor’s Court on Tuesday.

Rules Committee: Nothing at this time for this committee, however he met as part of the Events Committee. This is still being worked out - Christmas Parade to be held on December 7th with tree lighting at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church. Harbor Community Center will have a Christmas market with vendors, food, Christmas carols. Halloween – lighted pumpkin walk from the Harbor Community Center to the Recreation Center. Councilor Julian stated she has a commitment from people in her neighborhood to assist with Halloween.

Community Development Committee: Chair Green created a mockup of what would be sent to the residents in the mail about the changes in Article 7 & 8 of the Charter presented on the ballot in November, including a greeting to the residents highlighting the major changes. She stopped at the post office, who stated it would come out to 73cents per copy to mail. Cannot bulk mail out of the post office because the village does not have a bulk mailing permit. Pal Printing in Hebron has a bulk mailing permit and maybe they could do a package deal. Chair Green will get some pricing for them to print, label, and mail them for us. She will get that information out once she receives some more mailing information. Next meeting to be held September 9th following Personnel Committee meeting.

Personnel Committee: Next meeting to be held September 9th at 6pm following the Finance Committee meeting.

Report of Council President: Council has been informed that Fire Chief Amspaugh has resigned. We wish her well. Thank you for your service to the Village of Buckeye Lake.

REPORT OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS – WRITTEN OR VERBAL

Police Department – Chief Jason Harget: KOA event that they do every year with the fire department was held this past Saturday. LEADS audit just completed to make sure officers are certified to use the programming that is privileged information in their cruisers. Several felony investigations over this past month that have kept him busy. Looking at police equipment inventory. Looking to see what would need to be replaced before year end. He is also making a complete inventory list. Events committee has had some meetings. Christmas parade will be bigger this year than ever and police coverage will be bigger. It is not just police and fire but the community making these great events. Looking forward to making it bigger and better. Thanks to everyone who is helping make that possible. Wear and tear maintenance happening on vehicles. Have a plan B on vehicles. There have been some complaints about kids riding around and driving golf carts. Have to have a driver's license to drive a golf cart and it must be tagged. Police can inspect those golf carts for a small fee and you would pay a fee to the BMV. Councilor Julian asked is there a certain section of the community where it is more of an issue than others? Chief said Cranberry Bay has had several complaints. Councilor Julian suggested to maybe get with the HOA to send out a strong message, especially to parents. More avenues getting the message across. Unsafe and against the law. It is a misdemeanor in the first degree. Councilor Lemmon – these vehicles are supposed to be going 25 mph or less. Chief stated that kids on golf carts who are driving, someone is going to get hurt. Would have to give them a citation and they would go to juvenile detention. Once it is driven on the street, it is a vehicle and enforcement action has to be taken if they see that. He has hosted two free golf cart inspection classes with zero attendance. Councilor Cable stated people are blatantly disregarding street signs and no parking signs. Everything is marked and communicated. People are choosing to not follow the rules and the village is choosing to be nice. Chief Harget has decided zero tolerance for golf carts. Only 26 days of summer left.

Fire Department – Chief Keisha Amspaugh: Absent; written report submitted.

Public Works – Superintendent Toby Miller: Public Service Committee meeting to be held on September 4th that will be back to the schedule with full list of updates.

Parks and Recreation Commission – Absent; meeting minutes submitted.

Code Enforcement – Rex Adkins: Absent; report submitted.

Zoning – Kevin Strang: Reports submitted. A lot of weekend warriors wanting to finish their summer projects.

Planning & Zoning / BZA Commission: No representative, no report.

Report of Mayor Goodman – Received an application through planning and zoning for request to rezone the 29 acres north of Worth Drive from agricultural to planned mixed-use development. That will be presented at the Planning and Zoning meeting on September 5th. New fundraising arm with Licking County Foundation. Raising money for pickleball court and parks development. Envelopes for donations at the front counter in Village offices. New president at the Licking County Foundation – Mike Schmidt. They came to meet with her. They want to expand their reach farther out in Licking County. They have come up with some great ideas. Programming and education programs for the kids in the village. This one specifically is for pickleball courts. Received Fire Chief Amspaugh’s resignation today, effective September 1st. We thank her for her service to the village and wish her well.

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

ORDINANCES

Ordinances for 3rd Reading –

Ordinance 2024-35 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VILLAGE PAY PLAN RELATED TO THE ELECTED POSITIONS OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR THE TERMS COMMENCING 2026 AND 2028.

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Wadley to adopt Ordinance 2024-35.

Discussion: This was recommended from the Personnel Committee. They pulled some data from other municipalities and that is how they determined the adjustments to the pay. Councilor Cable thinks the adjustments are too high, especially when they are asking every year for another levy on the ballot. This will affect newly or re-elected people in 2026 and 2028.

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

Abstain: 0; **Nays:** Cable; **Motion Passed 6 – 1**

Ordinances for 2nd Reading –

Ordinance 2024-38 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK ETHICS POLICY.

Discussion: Wadley – this is a recommendation from the Personnel Committee to update and revise the policy in the employee handbook. It heavily relies on the Ohio Ethics Law and the whole goal and purpose is to make employees aware of what they can and cannot do and that there is potential not only for policy violations but even criminal charges through the Ohio Ethics Department.

This will move on to a third reading.

Ordinance 2024-43 - AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-10 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

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

Motion by Councilor Julian, seconded by Councilor Green to adopt Ordinance 2024-43.

Discussion: Councilor Julian stated, to refresh, this \$17,200 was a payment on a zero-interest loan that was signed in April 2023 by Mayor Peterson. Based on the loan agreement, the July 1st payment would have been the first payment of this. It was clearly missed to be on the schedule. Did not find out until August that this would be an emergency. Plain and simple, it was an oversight. Recommends in the future that anything set up as

a direct withdrawal gets put on a spreadsheet and that it is something that is communicated farther in advance. Needs to be appropriated on our financials. Money should have been appropriated so that administration could have it encumbered. There was a lot going on back then but that is not the point. With procedures in place, that is the goal.

Roll call vote: Yes: Green, Julian, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley, Cable
Abstain: Wolfe; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 6 – 1 - 0**

Ordinances for 1st Reading –

Ordinance 2024-47 - AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ESTIMATED REVENUE FOR THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion: Councilor Lemmon stated we have had more revenue come in than expected on some items. We budget for so much revenue and if it goes over that amount, we need to adjust the budget. More of a housekeeping item than anything. Fiscal Officer Amanda stated this is a start of going through the revenue side and appropriating some things. There are a lot of lines where we have been able to generate more revenue than initially predicted. Correcting some things that were an oversight. Police – she takes responsibility. Thought they had done the revenue side of it in the past but it was overlooked. Zoning – need to appropriate this in order to allow for the appropriations that were approved at the last meeting for the street paving project. Putting revenue into the correct funds so it can be appropriated.

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

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

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Cable to adopt Ordinance 2024-47.

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

Ordinance 2024-48 - AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-10 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN 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 –

Village-owned Properties – President Lemmon stated Councilor Julian had provided a list of village-owned properties and asked that they be brought up for discussion. He went through the list and mentioned which lots had been earmarked for various projects and ideas being floated by the village, many included as part of the comprehensive plan for the village. Councilor Julian stated that the average number of years the village has owned these properties is 12 years, with the longest one being 17 years, shortest at 5 years. She thinks it is silly and not in the best interest of the residents to hold these many properties. She said the village is paying someone to maintain these properties and if the village sells these and someone builds a residence worth a couple hundred thousand dollars, the income to the village is greater. Need to make some decisions and stop wanting to own more properties that do not do any good for the village. Councilor Green stated that the funds from the

sales of these properties could be used for future projects that are important for the village right now. Mayor gave insight on some of the properties and their proposed uses.

NEW BUSINESS –

Planning and Zoning Commission Vacancy – Councilor Wadley stated that a letter of interest was received from Tim Ryan to be on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Motion by Councilor Wadley, seconded by Councilor Cable to recommend Tim Ryan as a new member of the Planning and Zoning / Board of Zoning Appeals Commission.

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

CITIZEN’S COMMENTS – None.

Motion by Councilor Wolfe, seconded by Councilor Wadley to enter into executive session to consider the discussion of personnel matters pertaining to the Fire Department.

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

Council entered into executive session at 7:56pm.
Council entered back into open session at 8:28pm.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS – None this evening.

Adjournment: Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Cable, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.

NEXT MEETING: Regular Council Meeting – September 9, 2024



Samantha Torres, Council Clerk



John Lemmon, Council President