

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting Minutes
Held in Council Chambers, streamed live on Facebook
December 13, 2021

Call to Order: By Council President Geiger at 7:00 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Present: Bill French (0,0), John Geiger (0,0), John Lemmon (0,1),
(Consecutive, Total Absences) Tom Wolfe (0,1), Kitty Zwissler (0,0)
Absent: Linda Goodman (0,1)

Staff Present: Mayor Peggy Wells; Jennifer Dennis, Clerk/Treasurer; Samantha Torres, Clerk of Council; Jason Harget, Police Chief; Toby Miller, Water Superintendent / Public Works; Kevin Strang, Zoning Inspector

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: None.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Councilor French, seconded by Councilor Zwissler, to approve the November 23, 2021 regular council meeting minutes.

Roll call vote: Yes: French, Geiger, Lemmon, Wolfe, Zwissler, Cable
Abstain: 0; Nays: 0; Motion Passed 6 – 0

Approval of Clerk Treasurer's Report: Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor French, to approve the November Reconciliations and Treasurer's report dated December 8, 2021.

Roll call vote: Yes: French, Geiger, Lemmon, Wolfe, Zwissler, Cable
Abstain: 0; Nays: 0; Motion Passed 6 – 0

APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: Jim Lenner of Neighborhood Strategies LLC spoke to council about any potential projects coming up that he could help with, such as the comprehensive plan. He served as city manager in Johnstown for 12 years. He helped them get \$20 million in non-city funds. He mentioned various programs and grants available, such as the Build Back Better program and an Economic Tourism grant for construction and non-construction and engineering programs. The first round of applications is due at the end of January. He offers on-call planning & zoning services to get communities up to a standard where they are the ones who dictate to the developers, not the other way around. He enjoys working with smaller, hands-on communities because they usually know what they want and need. Jim talked about a busing / transit program for getting people to and from work, mainly second shift because of Licking County transit's operating hours. \$250 million transit hub between communities focused on child care, jobs, transportation, and health care such as those within Licking Memorial Health Systems. Others can get into the system / web of different modes of transport. Senator Brown has earmarked \$900,000 to complete it and Buckeye Lake could become a part of it. He talked about a tourism grant that needs to be submitted by January 31st for first consideration. The money could be spent on design and planning such as eco-based tourism like a boat launch, kayak center, expanding the bike trail, business center, water, stormwater, and wastewater improvements, cultural arts and tourism facilities, accessibility enhancements, etc.

Kevin Strang was sworn in as Zoning Officer for the village by Mayor Wells.

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee: Had a few meetings since the last council meeting. December 6th meeting – work groups came together with their recommendations and input for the 2022 budget that were presented to Fiscal Officer Jennifer Dennis and the changes made for Ordinance 2021-67 on tonight’s agenda and they have been recommended by the Finance Committee.

Public Safety Committee: No report.

Public Service Committee: December 6th meeting took place where Toby Miller did a year-end review and question and answer session which has been submitted as part of the minutes binder.

Rules Committee: No report, however an amendment to the Council Rules will be proposed to council tonight in Unfinished Business.

Community Development Committee: An application was put in for a \$1.1 million grant to bury power lines near the entrance to the State Park and to do some brick work. Councilor Zwissler is trying to get COVID-19 test kits for anyone showing symptoms. 20 third vaccines were given out at the Harbor Community Center last week and she will try to get more available. She urges everyone to stay safe, as the number of cases are ramping up every day. She knows of 3 people who died from COVID-19 just last week.

Personnel Committee: Councilor Goodman could not be at the meeting tonight and the Personnel Committee meeting before the council meeting was canceled; Councilor Zwissler was acting Chair of the Personnel Committee when a Personnel meeting was called to order at 7:38pm. Before the meeting was called to order, Councilor Wolfe spoke about a shift differential pay increase for police officers and that the police and fire pay increases for 2022 (attachment to be found with Ordinance 2021-70 on tonight’s agenda) need to be looked at in further detail. Toby Miller mentioned that the pay raises are set for the budget, so if the pay amounts change, the budget would also have to change. Fiscal Officer Jennifer Dennis also stated that the budget is temporary so things could be changed later, as well as the pay ordinance. During the Personnel Committee meeting, Police Chief Harget stated there were 5,000 calls for service for the police this year, and the department is down one officer, so he had asked for a \$2 an hour raise for his officers that was recommended into the budget and pay ordinance as a \$1 raise. He was advised that this would be looked at again in the coming year. He says if there were a shift differential, they would run into officers wanting to work second and third shift because it is a chance to make more money, which could be an issue. He said a shift differential could help, but making it a raise across the board could make more sense. Fire raises were brought up as well but Jennifer Dennis stated that the Fire budget is very tight. Councilor John Lemmon stated that the Fire budget needs to be looked at again in 2022. Personnel Committee members voted 3-0 (Cable, Wolfe, Zwissler) to recommend the pay ordinance 2021-70, as presented, to full council.

Personnel Committee meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

Councilor Lemmon motioned for full council to accept the pay recommendations from the Personnel Committee, seconded by Councilor French.

Roll call vote: Yes: French, Geiger, Lemmon, Wolfe, Zwissler, Cable
Abstain: 0; Nays: 0; Motion Passed 6 – 0

Report of Council President – President Geiger said it’s been fun being on council!

Report of Mayor – Mayor Wells stated that the village had a successful auction, bringing in \$224,000 for the sale of village-owned lots. Councilor Zwissler suggested choosing more lots to auction. Mayor Wells thanked council for working with her and she thanked Chief Harget. She mentioned the Police Department’s successful Shop with A Cop where they purchased Christmas gifts for kids. She thanked the staff for a nice send-off lunch held for her. She suggests that the village hire a development director. Mayor Wells welcomed mayor-elect Jeryne Peterson.

ORDINANCES

Ordinances for 3rd Reading – None.

Ordinances for 2nd Reading – None.

Ordinances for 1st Reading –

Ordinance 2021-66 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF LEGAL COUNSEL FOR INDIGENT DEFENDANTS FOR THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilor Zwissler, seconded by Councilor French, to suspend the rules.

Roll call vote: Yes: French, Geiger, Lemmon, Wolfe, Zwissler, Cable

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

Motion by Councilor Zwissler, seconded by Councilor French, to adopt Ordinance 2021-66.

Roll call vote: Yes: French, Geiger, Lemmon, Wolfe, Zwissler, Cable

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

Ordinance 2021-67 - AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FIRST FISCAL QUARTER ENDING MARCH 31, 2022 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Lemmon, to suspend the rules.

Roll call vote: Yes: French, Geiger, Lemmon, Wolfe, Zwissler, Cable

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

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor French, to adopt Ordinance 2021-67.

Roll call vote: Yes: French, Geiger, Lemmon, Wolfe, Zwissler, Cable

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

Ordinance 2021-68 - AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL ESTIMATED REVENUE FOR THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2021 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Lemmon, to suspend the rules.

Roll call vote: Yes: French, Geiger, Lemmon, Wolfe, Zwissler, Cable

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

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Cable, to adopt Ordinance 2021-68.

Roll call vote: Yes: French, Geiger, Lemmon, Wolfe, Zwissler, Cable

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

Ordinance 2021-69 – AMENDING ORDINANCE 2021-10 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilor French, seconded by Councilor Cable, to suspend the rules.

Roll call vote: Yes: French, Geiger, Lemmon, Wolfe, Zwissler, Cable

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

Motion by Councilor French, seconded by Councilor Lemmon, to adopt Ordinance 2021-69.

Roll call vote: Yes: French, Geiger, Lemmon, Wolfe, Zwissler, Cable

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

Ordinance 2021-70 – AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE PAY PLAN FOR 2022 – 2023 AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilor Zwissler, seconded by Councilor French, to suspend the rules.

Roll call vote: Yes: French, Geiger, Lemmon, Wolfe, Zwissler, Cable

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

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor French, to adopt Ordinance 2021-70.

Discussion: Toby Miller explained this pay ordinance to council, about how it is a different format than how the pay levels / ordinance has been done in the past. This is a simpler, cleaner way to do it. He also mentioned that this is approving the pay plan for 2 years. It also includes all village employees on one paper.

Roll call vote: Yes: French, Geiger, Lemmon, Zwissler, Cable

Abstain: 0; Nays: Wolfe; Motion Passed 5 – 1

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions for 3rd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 2nd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 1st Reading –

Resolution 2021-21 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE NECESSARY PAPERWORK TO HAVE THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE JOIN THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION.

Mayor-elect Jeryne Peterson stated that the Village of Buckeye Lake is one of the few small communities that are not yet members of MORPC. The cost is about \$1,000-\$1,100 a year, based off of the number of residents in the community. MORPC opens the door for the village to be educated on where money can be found. Jeryne asked if the rules could be suspended and council vote to pass this because MORPC has already had their meeting. Councilor Zwissler said it is important to belong to this entity and that they have already helped the village receive grants. Mayor-elect Jeryne Peterson will invite someone from MORPC to the next council meeting to speak on this.

This resolution will move on to a second reading.

Resolution 2021-22 - A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE OFFICIAL INTENT AND REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE BORROWER) TO REIMBURSE ITS 2011 FUND FOR THE CU09Y, PARK STREET RETAINING WALL RECONSTRUCTION WITH THE PROCEEDS OF TAX-EXEMPT DEBT OF THE STATE OF OHIO, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Cable, to suspend the rules.

Roll call vote: Yes: French, Geiger, Lemmon, Wolfe, Zwissler, Cable

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

Motion by Councilor French, seconded by Councilor Cable, to adopt Resolution 2021-22.

Discussion: Toby Miller explained that money was overpaid on a project and this resolution is needed because the village now becomes a payee and this will authorize the State of Ohio to cut a check for the village to receive money back that was overpaid.

Roll call vote: Yes: French, Geiger, Lemmon, Wolfe, Zwissler, Cable

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

I. Council Rules Change – At the previous Rules Committee meeting, Chairman Cable came up with some verbiage for changing a few council rules. The verbiage will amend Rule 32 in the Council Rules and will add Rule 46 regarding public hearings.

Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Lemmon, to accept council rules change as recommended from the Rules Committee.

Roll call vote: Yes: French, Geiger, Lemmon, Wolfe, Zwissler, Cable

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

Police Chief – Jason Harget – The Police Department had their first Shop with A Cop in Heath at Target from 8am-10am on Saturday, December 11th. They had police cruisers there and a neighbor agency filled in for the officers here in the village. They were able to help 10 children through donations, so the Chief wanted to thank anyone listening to the meeting who helped or donated. They look forward to doing it again next year. He thanked Kaye Hartman for her help with conducting a fair process. There was some money left over for next year. Fiscal Officer Jennifer Dennis set up the fund to account for the money received. Events like this help to bridge the gap to bring positivity to kids regarding their opinions and / or experiences with the police.

Kaye Hartman asked for council to accept her resignation from the Planning and Zoning Commission, as she has been elected to fill a council seat in 2022.

Motion by Councilor Zwissler, seconded by Councilor Lemmon, to accept Kaye Hartman's resignation from the Planning and Zoning Commission, effective December 31, 2021.

Roll call vote: Yes: French, Geiger, Lemmon, Wolfe, Zwissler, Cable

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

NEW BUSINESS: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:

Councilor Cable: Thanked councilors French, Geiger, and Zwissler and Mayor Wells for their service. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone in the village.

Councilor Lemmon – Thanked councilors French, Geiger, and Zwissler and Mayor Wells for their service. Has been a great couple of years with everyone on council. Good group going out and good group coming in that he looks forward to working with. Merry Christmas.

Councilor French: Say little and say it well. Councilor French read a letter to the members of council saying that he has thoroughly enjoyed the interaction he has had with council members

over the past 4 years. He has learned a lot about the village. Past and current council have devoted a lot of time to put Buckeye Lake in a good place. He especially thanked the council members ending their term – Geiger and Zwissler. Merry Christmas!

Councilor Wolfe – Thanked councilors French, Geiger, and Zwissler, they will be missed. Coming up, Councilor Wolfe would like to get the emergency exit put in for Cranberry Bay, he wants to fight for the EMTs and paramedics, shift differentials, a side-by-side and parking garage for the police department, and short-term rentals. Thanked Mayor Wells for the successful auction of the village lots. Thanked Kaye Hartman for her attendance at the meetings. Welcomed mayor-elect Jeryne Peterson.

Councilor Zwissler: Happy Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year to all. She will be available if they need some support. Has been a pleasure working with everyone here. Thanked the staff for their hard work.

Councilor Geiger – Sees great structure in the staff of the village as a well-tuned piece of machinery better than it was 4 years ago. Thanked the members of council for their help and support.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Councilor Cable to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Zwissler.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm

NEXT MEETING: Regular Council meeting on January 10, 2022



Samantha Torres, Council Clerk



, Council President