

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting Minutes
Held in Council Chambers, streamed live on Facebook
December 9, 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, 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; Jerry Brooks, Interim Fire Chief;

Approval of Regular Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Councilor Julian, seconded by Councilor Keener, to approve the November 11, 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 Clerk Treasurer's Report: Motion by Councilor Wolfe, seconded by Councilor Keener, to approve the Treasurer's report dated December 5, 2024.

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

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

APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Goodman presented her nominations for the Planning Commission for 2025. Those people are Kaye Hartman, Tim Ryan, and Bob Scherman, to join her along with Council Representative Douglas Keener. Her three nominations currently have been serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission so they have a history and know what has been going on in the village and what they are working on now so it would add to continuity for the commission.

Motion by Councilor Wolfe, seconded by Councilor Keener to accept Mayor Goodman's nominations for the Planning Commission for 2025 – Kaye Hartman, Tim Ryan, and Bob Scherman.

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

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

Councilor Julian asked about staggered terms and who gets what term. Mayor Goodman stated she does not have that just yet. Mayor Goodman also stated that there will also need to be 5 people on Zoning and 5 people on the Board of Zoning Appeals and she currently has 2 previous Planning Commission members who have stated they wish to stay on. Not sure what commission they want to serve on. Please send her a letter of interest if you would like to serve. She would like to have them all filled and in place for some time in January. Planning and Zoning Commission meetings had been on the first Thursday of the month. This will not happen in January. Each commission will meet when there is an item on their agenda. Zoning seems to have more meetings. May have some things in January. Will come back in January with people she has nominated to fill the other commissions and will pass the qualifications to council. President Lemmon stated that Personnel Chair Wadley will need to come up with a procedural process for approving any new people submitting. They will be sworn in in 2025.

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

Finance Committee: Held a meeting tonight to discuss 2025 budget which is ready for a third reading. Will ask for an emergency on it. Needs to go into effect prior to 30-day window. Recommendation brought forward from committee on tonight's police levy resolution. Next meeting January 13th at 5:30pm.

Public Safety Committee: Asked Police Chief for price on a new cruiser. Spent a lot of money on repairs. Price on a new cruiser is \$63,041 to give an idea on what is needed. Used vehicle \$43,000. Councilor Wolfe likes the thought of a new

vehicle because of a warranty. When putting together equipment list for next year, would like to see some updated equipment. Recommendations from committee for two resolutions on tonight: declaring surplus police vehicle and transfer of police vehicle to Fire Department.

Public Service Committee: Meeting held last week. 2 recommendations to council - service truck and dump truck to come back to Finance Committee for consideration for the budget. Discussed moving the potential service building to the next stage contractor at-risk quoting. Next meeting will be January 6th at 6:30pm.

Rules Committee: Nothing to report.

Community Development Committee: Next meeting to be held January 13th at 6:30pm after Finance and Personnel Committee meetings.

Personnel Committee: Nothing to report. Next meeting to be held January 13th at 6:00pm after Finance Committee meeting.

Report of Council President: President Lemmon read his President's Report, included in minutes binder.

Report of Mayor: Last week, Mayor and President Lemmon attended Southeast Regional MORPC meeting in Pickerington. Nice to listen to what other communities are doing. They talked about how they are funding various things in their communities. Development Director from Canal Winchester stated they are doing a zoning rewrite and they are going to use OHM for theirs like the village is using OHM for ours. Held at OhioHealth facility. Christmas in the Village – thank you from the bottom of her heart to everyone who helped plan, attend, and who worked the event. Lots of positive feedback. A lot of smiling faces and happy kids. Loved working together with the Harbor Community Center and the churches. Good feeling of community. Her goal when running on council was finding ways she could help the community. Live nativity and Christmas market were great. There are a few things that need tweaked. Will meet again to go over what could be different and will start planning for next year.

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

ORDINANCES

Ordinances for 3rd Reading –

Ordinance 2024-66 – PERMANENT ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE, OHIO, FOR 2025, AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Julian to adopt Ordinance 2024-66.

Discussion:

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

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

Mayor Goodman thanked council because it was her goal months ago to help get the permanent budget by December 31st, 2024. It was up and down and a lot of work and she thanks everyone for their work and she is very happy it was approved tonight.

Ordinances for 2nd Reading –

Ordinance 2024-68 – AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE USE OF LEG-HOLD AND SIMILAR TRAPS WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE.

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

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

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

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Julian to adopt Ordinance 2024-15.

Discussion: President Lemmon stated this will not go into effect until 30 days after it passes. Councilor Cable stated there was some discussion on the agricultural land to the northeast of the village: is that still a part of this right here? President Lemmon stated no, the hunting portion was taken out of the ordinance for this version and this is just for leg-hold traps.

Councilor Cable asked would this be banned in that area? Lemmon said yes.

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

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

Ordinances for 1st Reading – None.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions for 3rd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 2nd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 1st Reading –

Resolution 2024-10 – A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF LEVYING A NEW TAX ON PROPERTY IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION FOR POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES AND REQUESTING CERTIFICATION FROM THE LICKING COUNTY AND FAIRFIELD COUNTY AUDITORS AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilor Wolfe, 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 Keener, seconded by Councilor Wolfe to adopt Resolution 2024-10.

Discussion: Finance Chair Julian stated this would be 4-mills for 3 years that matches the recommendation from her committee. She stated there has been a 5 mill levy and a 3-mill levy within the village. Earlier in 2024, this council voted that if the 5-mill levy passed in November 2024, that the 3-mill levy would be eliminated and would not be put on the ballot. Obviously, that is null and void since the 5-mill police levy did not pass in November. We are currently in a situation where right now, we have a 3-mill levy under the old levy that will expire and we will collect the taxes for that next year in the amount of \$125,000. We do have carry over money so we will be able to fund the police department for 2025. We find it necessary, obviously, to put a levy on under the recommendation of the administration. They have recommended a 3-year 4-mill levy. The details of that were discussed in the Finance Committee meeting earlier this evening that this would bring in \$516,000. We have currently had to cut the budget for 2025 as it stands and we are currently operating at about \$450,000 and that is not funding 24-hour police coverage, so we find it at least necessary to be at that \$516,000 in revenue. That equates out to \$140 per \$100,000 in market value. The reason why the term changed to 3 years is because we are trying to allow for the line up of the levies and to move forward from operating the village on levies that would be on the value of houses and go to an income tax at some point in the next 3 to 5 years. A lot more information on this will go out. The \$516,000 will put us in an okay spot but we could not really spend extra on anything. Councilor Wadley asked how this ask is different from the levy that was just on the ballot that failed? President Lemmon stated that the levy that failed was a 5-year levy instead of a 3-year levy and it was asking for 5-mills of valuation instead of 4-mills. We have reduced the amount of money we are asking for and also the time period it is being asked of. Councilor Julian stated that levy would have been \$645,000 and \$175 per \$100,000 in valuation. President Lemmon stated that the 3-mill levy expires December 31st of this year and will be collected for this year's taxes next year. We will have to look to see what we will do as far as income and have that discussion if and when this passes.

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

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

Resolution 2024-11 – A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN FIRE VEHICLES SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND FISCAL OFFICER TO SELL SAID VEHICLES AT AUCTION AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilor Wolfe, 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 Keener, seconded by Councilor Wolfe to adopt Resolution 2024-11.

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

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

Resolution 2024-12 – A RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CERTAIN VEHICLES FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilor Wolfe, 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 Keener, seconded by Councilor Wolfe to adopt Resolution 2024-12.

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

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

Fire Engine – President Lemmon stated a recommendation needs to come from the Public Safety Committee declaring this engine as surplus before it can come to council. Councilor Julian stated this is something we need to get done by the end of the year and whatever auction needs done for it.

Motion by Councilor Julian, seconded by Councilor Wolfe to get surplus resolution from Solicitor Brad Nicodemus on the fire engine.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS – None.

CITIZEN’S COMMENTS – None.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS –

Councilor Green – Happy Holidays. Commitment to police and fire as Community Development Chair, with her first priority being to better educate the community and get the word out about the police levy.

Councilor Julian – Thanked everyone for a great Christmas event over the weekend. A very nice time of everyone coming together. Going to get bigger and better. Nice to see businesses coming together as well. Thanked the council. Had a good year and we don’t always agree but it takes 7 of us to get things done. Thanked administration for their hard work and endless hours. Mayor stepped into the seat earlier in the year and has put in a ton of hours to get a lot of things moving. Thanks to residents. We have a great village and many people, friends and neighbors, and it is a nice place to be. Happy New Year to everyone.

Councilor Keener – Citizen’s comments – we need feedback on any and every thing that we do. No response is a response, so we do need to know. Happy Holidays and God Bless.

Councilor Lemmon – A great year for getting things off of our list. We have more to do. He has enjoyed working with each and every one of you. We have spirited debates and it is never personal. All looking at different views and trying to get it worked out. Respect opinions, sometimes agree, sometimes not. Have a good Christmas. Police and fire: be safe.

Councilor Wadley – Thanks to council for everything and to all the employees, could not do what we do without you. Police and fire, you have her heart. While we are warm, you are out there in the cold. Thanked mayor for all she has done. Christmas in the Village was well received on Facebook with good feedback. Merry Christmas. Happy holidays. Be safe.

Councilor Wolfe – Congratulations to Mayor Goodman as mayor of this community, thanks for her hard work on the things we have accomplished. Parks and Recreation did a great job on Trunk or Treat. Great small-town atmosphere. Had a lot of parade entries. We are growing. Merry Christmas. It has been a pleasure. See you next year.

Councilor Cable – Thanked the Events Committee for the very nice Christmas parade. Councilor Keener, Mayor Goodman, Toby Miller, and those who volunteered their time and efforts. Thanked Randy Swiheart from Water's Edge Community Center. Water's Edge is trying to get into the village and do more work with us. Mayor Goodman, President Lemmon, and himself - this is their fifth year in public service. This council has been a good council in his opinion. A lot of good discussion, banter, and respect. Worked out very well and will continue in the coming years. Thanks to Councilor Keener for use of his golf cart and to his neighbors the Kearns for helping decorate it. Buy local and be safe.

Adjournment: Motion by President Lemmon to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:41pm.

NEXT MEETING: Regular Council Meeting – January 13th, 2025



Samantha Torres, Council Clerk



John Lemmon, Council President