

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting Minutes
Held in Council Chambers, streamed live on Facebook
February 24, 2025

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, Sue Wadley
Absent: Deb Julian

Staff Present: Linda Goodman, Mayor; Samantha Torres, Clerk of Council; Jason Harget, Police Chief; Jerry Brooks, Interim Fire Chief; Rex Adkins, Code Enforcement Officer;

Approval of Regular Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Councilor Wadley, seconded by Councilor Keener, to approve the February 10, 2025 regular council meeting minutes.

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

Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 6 - 0**

Approval of Clerk Treasurer's Report: Motion by Councilor Wadley, seconded by Councilor Keener, to approve the December 2024 & January 2025 reconciliations and Treasurer's report dated February 21, 2025.

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

Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 6 - 0**

APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: Local Stryker Representative – Allyson Wright – LifePak Monitors for the Fire Department – blood pressure, oxygen levels, assist in monitoring for cardiac arrest and other heart episodes. Currently using LifePak 15 Version 2 device 2014 – 11 years old. She brought the latest and greatest device – LifePak 35. Still does those items but designed it better for ease of use, clinical efficacy, and durability. Will see this in about 80% of the nation. Current equipment expected life / age of equipment is 8 years. Full coverage contract – parts, labor, travel, and battery replacement on them. Manufacturers cannot source some of the components within our current equipment. They do not want them paying for something that they cannot fully cover or repair any longer. They can come on a billable basis. Larger screen on new device. First monitor on market that can analyze through compressions. 12 leads for better reads in various positions on the body. It can livestream readings to the hospital. Rebate on trading in old devices - \$2000 each or you can do what you want with them (list on GovDeals, for example). Quotes given in fire report. If service is lumped in with payment equipment, there is no interest on the service. \$109,983 for 2 monitors. Councilor Wolfe asked about PowerCart – about \$68,000, 700lb weight capacity. Can be lumped together with LifePaks. Older squad is not compatible with LifeCart. Around \$180,000 altogether and Stryker can service it all in house. 4-6 week delivery timeframe. Quote is good for 60 days. Price increase possible this Fall. Supplemental installation pricing will be in comments section of the quote. CR2 AED is compatible with LifePak.

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

Finance Committee: Absent; no report.

Public Safety Committee: Public Safety had a demonstration tonight on LifePak devices as a possible purchase for the Fire Department. Police – we have a levy coming up in May and we have a levy committee. Need citizen support on that.

Public Service Committee: Next meeting first Monday of the month, March 3rd at 6:30pm.

Rules Committee: Nothing to report.

Community Development Committee: Meeting held tonight with focus on village-owned properties. Some have voiced concern about sitting on them and have to mow and pay taxes on them. They are assets, not liabilities. Need to look at how they can be utilized to provide for the community. They can be reviewed again in 6 months to see if there is

something they wish to sell. They would also like to move forward with making Myers properties a pocket park or at least have signage that people can use it. Making a motion for building next door in new business.

Personnel Committee: Meeting held tonight. Discussion about new pay plan. Revisiting that and making sure we are complete and competitive in the market. Talked about how we will determine who the comparables are. Parks has requested a part-time parks position. Pay range of \$15-17 up to 24 hours a week for about 4-5 months. Next meeting will be March 10th at 6:00pm.

Report of Council President: Will take a previously tabled Resolution from 2022 to the solicitor to be ready for next council meeting about the pocket park.

REPORT OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS – WRITTEN OR VERBAL

Police Department – Chief Jason Harget: 42 self-initiated calls this month of officers patrolling and looking for crime. 20 9-1-1 calls that they have responded to this month for various things. A call was received about a drowning. Our department was first on the scene with Fire Department and Walnut Township and Chief Harget remained there the entire time. Today he received transfer of inventory from Licking County Sheriff's office. They transferred 7 portable radios that are already settled with MARCS and ready to go. Mayor Goodman stated that all of our radios would be null and void as of July of this year if not for this generous transfer of equipment. Chief Harget has been working second shift and late third shift. Looking for things at night. LEADS contacted him about an audit which happens every 3 years. Officers have to certify every two years through testing. Thanked Public Safety committee and council for hitting the ground running on the police levy. Wilbur Robey is a citizen in the audience tonight who is helping with that. Getting out into the community and explaining a bit more about what the police department does in preventing crime and providing a faster response time. 3 felony investigations that he is looking into. Police department would be unfunded after January 1st if this levy does not pass. Councilor Wolfe hopes we can keep our Police Department. It is very important for protection. Councilor Green supports the levy as well. We need our police department and people need to realize what is important. The department currently is not fully staffed – they are two officers down. Councilor Wadley asked what they can do to help, to which Chief asks for everyone to get out and explain how important the levy is and he asks for good equipment to respond to emergencies and personnel.

Fire Department – Interim Chief Jerry Brooks: Congratulated Police Chief on receiving radios. Fire Department is in the same situation where they are unsure what will happen with their radios soon. They are hurting for batteries as well. 64 runs last month, higher than January last year. 10 mutual aid runs. 10 came to assist us. Gave up one run due to bariatrics. Brake pads replaced. Repairs being done for Engine 921. Received some estimates on gutters for the building including one from Miller Roofing. 20% discount for first responders. Will also make them self-cleaning. Still waiting for radios to be flashed. Fire engine sold for \$2,500 which was the minimum bid to a fire department in North Carolina. Wadley asked how is staffing. They would like to have about 4 more people on staff to spread hours out.

Public Works – Superintendent Toby Miller: Absent; no report.

Parks and Recreation – Annetta Macedonia: Representative absent. Report for council submitted.

Code Enforcement – Rex Adkins: Report and End of Year Report for 2024 submitted. Able to get training completed at fire house for short-term rental inspections. Rex was able to attend some training last year on code enforcement and zoning. Kevin and Rex covered a lot of the Zoning Clerk duties during the transition period of not having a clerk. Able to close out some court cases. Working with attorneys on two lawsuits. Short-term rentals are blooming in the village.

Zoning – Kevin Strang: Absent, no report.

Planning Commission: No representative.

Report of Mayor Goodman: Believes we will have a Zoning meeting on March 13th. She and Toby had a scheduled department head meeting with iWorq software. Had first meeting of police levy committee. Only levy for the police department for funding moving forward. It is vital that this passes this year because there will be no funding for the police department because all levies have expired. 5mill levy fell off in December 2024. 3mill will fall off at end of 2025. New zoning code is almost ready for hearings. It will go to Planning and Zoning for public hearings and then to council for public hearings and a vote. This is not a zoning code that is being amended. This is a brand-new zoning code that is written to match the comprehensive plan and it is important that people understand that.

We need to save our museum – the Buckeye Lake Historical Society. It will cease to exist after February 28th. On February 14th, the director of the museum signed a contract with a realtor to put the building up for sale. Land that the building sits on was donated. The collection within the museum is donated. The oldest structure in Buckeye Lake is the log cabin that sits there. It was all kept very quiet. We think it is important that people know that this is happening. There are civic minded people in the community who want to save the museum and we are hoping that happens and that people get the word out. Many members of the historical society did not know this was happening until yesterday. Please think about saving the history of this village and how important it is. Any questions, please reach out. Chamber President Tim Ryan and other groups are very active in this. She will support it very verbally. It is important that our history stays home, not elsewhere. There could be a sit-down productive meeting about how this could go in a different direction so they are asking the board of the Historical Society to sit down with the groups that are willing to help and get us back on the right road.

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

ORDINANCES

Ordinances for 3rd Reading – None.

Ordinances for 2nd Reading –

Ordinance 2025-05 – AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-66 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE.
This will move on to a third reading.

Ordinance 2025-06 – AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-66 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE.
This will move on to a third reading.

Ordinance 2025-08 – AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-66 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE.
This will move on to a third reading.

Ordinances for 1st Reading – None.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions for 3rd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 2nd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 1st Reading – None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS –

Water Bills – Rough Draft – Councilor Keener stated that the idea of this is that properties that have been paying for water but not using it for 60 months or since 2010 should no longer be paying a water bill. They should not have to pay a reconnect fee of anywhere from \$2,100 to \$2,500. The agreement when this first started was, if they started paying the water bill, there would be no connection fees. These people have more than paid those connection fees over 15 years. He also requested that the 2000 gallons of water that is for the monthly minimum charge be moved to 3000 gallons of water. This will be sent to Toby Miller to get his insight and will be on the agenda for the Public Service Committee meeting for discussion.

Drive-Thru Building - Motion by Councilor Green, seconded by Councilor Keener that the village move forward to begin utilizing the building formally known as the drive-thru for village business such as storage, parking equipment, whatever the village sees necessary to utilize that building.

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

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS –

Wilbur Robey - 210 Grandstaff – Pretty sure the general public has no idea that the mill levy for the police is going to expire. When that happens, there will be no money for the police department. The new levy that will be on the May ballot is going to fix that problem. He encourages everyone to get out there and vote in May. We cannot be without a Police Department.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS –

Councilor Keener – Get out and vote.

Councilor Lemmon – Thank you to Police and Fire. He sees how many runs they make just in his new neighborhood alone. Appreciates them.

Councilor Wadley – Thank you to Police and Fire. Important for people to understand the equipment needed to fully run these departments. Appreciates the Stryker rep for doing a presentation on some of that equipment. She thinks that the average person has no idea what is involved in running those departments and the finances involved. We do not want to be in a situation where we find out because it does not exist. We want to be able to have control over that ourselves rather than relying on the county or someone else to provide those services to us.

Councilor Wolfe – Save our museum that has a lot of donations. People have put their heart into that. A lot of tourists come and look at that. He fully supports whatever he or council or the community can do to save our museum. Encourages those listening to reach out to Tim Ryan or the Mayor. Have to save our police department as well. We have heard about the rounds of felonies that our police department is handling. Councilor Wolfe asks for your vote in May to save the Police Department. Same thing applies for supporting new equipment for proper service to citizens. Interested in having a squad that can save your life.

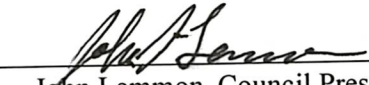
Councilor Cable – Thanks to Stryker for coming in to show the monitors. Buy local and be safe.

Councilor Green – 100% want a police department that will be there to save your life and a fire department that can do the same. Need the community's support. Can't imagine our village without our own first responders and what they do for us every day and how they support those around us. Have to go out to vote. Also, save the museum. Breaking her heart to see the possible loss of history in our community. Loves the discussions we have. Solve a lot of issues in committee meetings. Thank you for sharing your thoughts.

Adjournment: Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Lemmon, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

NEXT MEETING: Regular Council Meeting – March 10, 2025


Samantha Torres, Council Clerk


John Lemmon, Council President