

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting Minutes
Held in Council Chambers, streamed live on Facebook
January 23, 2023

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: Paula Brunton (0,0), Don Cable (0,0), Linda Goodman (0,0), Deb Julian (0,0),
(Consecutive, Total Absences) John Lemmon (0,0), Sue Wadley (0,0), Tom Wolfe (0,0)

Staff Present: Mayor Jeryne Peterson; Samantha Torres, Clerk of Council; Jason Harget, Police Chief; Keisha Amspaugh, Interim Fire Chief; Jennifer Dennis, Fiscal Officer; Rex Adkins, Code Enforcement Officer; Kevin Strang, Zoning Inspector;

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Wadley, to approve the January 10, 2023 regular council meeting minutes.

Roll call vote: Yes: Cable, Goodman, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe, Brunton

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

Approval of Clerk Treasurer's Report: Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Julian, to approve the December 2022 Reconciliations and Treasurer's report dated January 19, 2023.

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

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

Fiscal Officer Jennifer Dennis stated that all year-end reporting has been completed.

APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: Mayor Peterson swore in Devin Skinner as Police Officer for the Buckeye Lake Police Department, Jerry Brooks as Firefighter / Paramedic for the Buckeye Lake Fire Department, Allyson Fisher as Firefighter / EMT – Basic for the Buckeye Lake Fire Department, and Blake Snezik as Firefighter / EMT – Basic for the Buckeye Lake Fire Department. Mayor Peterson thanked the Police and Fire Departments for all that they do.

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee: Finance Committee held an organizational meeting this evening for the year 2023. Standing Finance Committee meeting will be held on the second Monday of each month at 5:45pm, with the next one held on February 13th at 5:45pm.

Public Safety Committee: Committee held their first meeting this evening where they talked about new hires, roof repairs at the Fire House, received an update on the fire truck repairs, talked about upgrading camera system at the Fire House. Police gave an update on their new hire and the need to update their computer radio in one of the cruisers because the current one will not work with the sheriff's office. Standing Public Safety meeting will be before the second Council meeting of each month (fourth Monday) at 6:30pm, with the next one to be held on February 27th at 6:00pm.

Rules Committee: Have not had a meeting yet but will have an organizational meeting on February 27th at 5:45pm. Chair Brunton asked if anyone who has served or chaired the committee in the past could fill her in.

Public Service Committee: No report. Next standing committee meeting will be February 6th at 6:30pm. At their standing meetings, they talk about streets, roads, water, and equipment and Chair Cable encourages the public to come to the committee meetings.

Community Development Committee: Next meeting will be February 27th at 6:30pm with general discussion on short-term rentals and short-term rental ordinances that have passed and any changes.

Personnel Committee: Personnel Committee standing meetings would follow the Finance Committee meetings on the second Monday of each month.

Report of Council President: President Goodman is happy to see the new hires in the Police and Fire Departments and that the Police Department is now fully staffed. She had a meeting last week with the Mayor, Toby Miller, and Mike Fornataro of BLRC 2036 in an attempt to improve working relationships between the village, BLRC 2036, the Mayor, and Council as there have been some challenges in the past. They talked about maybe doing a working session with them in March as they have offered to help the village in any way they can to point the village toward any grants and financing that may be available and with any future village development. It was made clear that any grant applications for funding would be run through this council. Winterfest is this Saturday and will be very busy. Please support all of the businesses around the lake, be safe, and do not drink and drive.

Report of Mayor – Report submitted. She stated that anyone driving a golf cart around the village (especially for Winterfest) needs to have a proper license plate and be of legal driving age with a license and there is to be no drinking and driving on golf carts. They are to follow moving vehicle regulations.

REPORT OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS WRITTEN OR VERBAL

Police Department – Chief Jason Harget – Call report submitted. Police Department was awarded over \$15,000 in a fully funded grant by the State of Ohio for 5 brand new body cameras along with the software needed to be able to redact sensitive information. They are in the third stage out of five of getting certified through the Ohio Collaborative to receive more grants. New hire Devin Skinner will start FTO this Wednesday with Officer May. All officers have completed their CPT training for this year. Will be looking at a pretty large capital expense for 2025 for repair of Fire and Police radios or new radios which are required to be upgraded to certain models and patched for the MARCS system. They are ready to go for Winterfest to escort Benny the Bass. Want everyone to have a good time and be safe. Hoping to have the K-9 cruiser finished with zero cost by the end of February. Chief stated there is a capacity for the number of passengers allowed on a golf cart. He also stated that there is a standard operating policy around the body cameras that has had to have some minor changes but the department is certified by the Ohio Collaborative for those.

Fire Department – Interim Fire Chief Keisha Amspaugh – Written reports submitted. Interim Chief worked with the billing company to get some explanations for the monthly billing summary. The Fire Department has 3 new members and young people who are fresh minded and smart, and they would like to get two more. Fire truck repair payment to the frame shop has been ironed out and will be over to them soon. Chevy medic is back in service. Used to switch out with the newer one every month, but could not for a while because a part was on backorder. She reminded the community about smoke alarms that the Fire Department has that can be installed in their homes. Will be revamping engine rescue with equipment that was received through the AFG grant. Quotes for ceiling leak repair at the fire house were given out and they have decided on one of them and will move forward with that very soon. Many businesses are getting Knox boxes that can help with false alarms.

Public Works – Toby Miller – No report. Public Service Chairman Cable stated that Toby Miller had sent out an email in regards to stormwater on North Bank West and there seems to have been some miscommunication between the State that has been rectified and Toby will have an update on that at the next committee meeting. There will be some legislation that needs passed, per President Goodman.

Parks and Recreation – Annetta Macedonia – No representative / report.

Code Enforcement – Rex Adkins – 2022 End of Year written report received. Had to recently mark a mobile home as uninhabitable via information received with help from the police and fire departments, as it had caught

on fire recently. People were removed and protective service agencies were notified. Recently had to post for a business to cease operations who had applied for an occupancy permit and were not honest on their application.

Zoning – Kevin Strang – Report submitted. Kevin presented a year-end tally of approximately 127 zoning permits last year, with 297 on-site visits to see what is happening at the job site versus what is on the application, 119 electronic / telephone communications, and 12 stop-work orders. He stated that a majority of the people want to cooperate and follow the rules.

Planning and Zoning – No representative / no report.

ORDINANCES

Ordinances for 3rd Reading – None.

Ordinances for 2nd Reading –

Ordinance 2023-03 - AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX AT A RATE OF ONE AND ONE-HALF PERCENT (1.5%) PER YEAR, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023, AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilor Goodman, seconded by Councilor Wadley, to suspend the rules.

Roll call vote: Yes: Goodman, Julian, Lemmon, Wadley, Brunton

Abstain: 0; **Nays:** Cable, Wolfe; **Motion Passed 5 – 2**

Motion by Councilor Goodman, seconded by Councilor Wadley, to adopt Ordinance 2023-03.

Discussion: Councilor Lemmon stated the village just passed an operating levy for the next five years. He is not opposed to asking people if they want an income tax, but he does not want to tax the residents and then tax them again. He stated that a lot of people he has spoken to around the village are in favor of an income tax if the property taxes were to be lowered. Councilor Julian stated that a conversation was not had about this as the village was preparing for an operating levy. She has been in favor of an income tax ever since she moved into the village but she believes the timing is not good. Councilor Wadley stated that timing and the fact that the village will have a fire levy on the ballot as well are her biggest concerns. Mayor Peterson stated that in order to stop having levies upon the community for those people who own property, she asks council to let this go to the people to let them make a decision at their own discretion without influence from anyone else other than being educated on what an income tax really is. Income tax will not be seen as a reward or impact to the community for at least two years. She asked to let the residents speak for themselves. Council President Goodman agrees that at some point an income tax is the way to go and that it is incumbent upon this council to do everything possible to help the fire department pass their fire levy to keep their doors open and not jeopardize that.

Roll call vote: Yes: 0; Abstain: 0;

Nays: Cable, Goodman, Julian, Lemmon, Wadley, Wolfe, Brunton; **Motion Failed 0 – 7**

Ordinances for 1st Reading – None.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions for 3rd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 2nd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 1st Reading –

Resolution 2023-07 - A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE QUESTION OF A ONE AND ONE-HALF PERCENT (1.5%) INCOME TAX TO THE ELECTORS OF THE VILLAGE, AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

This resolution is removed from the agenda, as the preceding ordinance that goes with it did not pass.

Resolution 2023-08 – A RESOLUTION TO PROCEED WITH A RENEWAL LEVY WITH AN INCREASE IN RATE OF THREE (3) MILLS TO A TOTAL OF EIGHT (8) MILLS ON PROPERTY IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION FOR FIRE AND EMS PROTECTION SERVICES AND TO SUBMIT THE QUESTION OF THE RENEWAL TAX WITH AN INCREASE TO THE ELECTORS OF THE VILLAGE AT THE MAY 2, 2023, ELECTION AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

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

Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Wolfe, to adopt Resolution 2023-08.

Discussion: Councilor Wadley stated that the village chose to do a renewal on this rather than a replacement because it will generate the revenue that is needed for the fire department and will have the least amount of impact on the residents.

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

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

Comprehensive Plan – Council President Goodman had asked council members to review the Comprehensive Plan draft document and come up with their top five priorities for the next 5-10 years for the village. Councilor Lemmon liked the pocket parks, such as for the Myers Avenue area that could run parallel with the stormwater project in 2026. There is a resolution from 2022 on the table that could be taken off to make that a permanent park under the Parks and Recreation Commission. Councilor Cable stated that it is all fantastic and great but his concern is how would it all be paid for and how could the village get the biggest bang for their buck? He has commented for three years that what we do for one end of the village needs to be done for the other end of the village; it does not end at the corner near the State Park. He would like to see more done at the entrances at each end of the village. He also stated that there have been talks about the idea of building up the corner on Mill Dam near the Pavilion and water tower with administration buildings, outdoor space, amphitheaters, but that no one would come to those things without proper lighting and sidewalks. He stated that no doubt in the next few years this will be a bicycle and golf cart community. He stated that public parking is an issue and he would like to see a location at each end of the village and one in the middle. He would also like to see a real downtown village center zoning plan. He is impressed with how the Village of Granville was able to stick to not allowing big box companies being on their main street due to having a strong zoning plan with real teeth.

President Goodman stated that she would like to see consistent signage and wayfinding in the village, especially to help bring people from the lakefront down into the village. Trail connections will be important, as she thinks that everything we do in the village will be connected by walking paths. Development of a core village center would be good as well. She does not like the idea of 3 roundabouts in the village. Councilor Julian likes the vision of the walking and biking paths as it is already happening to some extent around the lake. She thinks the village needs to finish out the greenspace that we already have to the fullest extent and a lot of that is outlined in the comprehensive plan. She thinks it is important to focus on what is not in compliance within the village, as new developers and investors come into the village and we can say that we are ready for this to look different. There are great land owners and there are some slum landlords that need to be held accountable. President Goodman stated that, for the comprehensive plan survey that residents could take, the number one thing the residents wanted to see was more code enforcement. Councilor Julian stated that every new person who comes into the village is looking at it differently than how we as residents see it every day and cleaning up the village is the first thing we should do before attracting new developers.

Councilor Wolfe thinks that the entrance roundabout idea is awesome. He thinks the exit of the North Shore boat ramps will be an issue. He thinks a one way entrance where you go in now is good, but having an exit out at another end of the park would be better, along with additional parking. He likes the idea of a walking

community and thinks the village may see e-bikes in the future. He stated there were talks about introducing more parking in the rear to give businesses more opportunity for more traffic. He did not care for any idea of taking Route 79 down to one lane. He thinks there needs to be some thought given to vacant areas, whether to have them for single-family homes or more offices to offer more jobs here in the village. He would like to see a bigger expansion of a medical facility in the village as well. Whose money will pay for this? He stated that if we were to have a Development Director for the village, he would like to see them have a tremendous background in writing grants because that will most likely be the only way the village would receive money for these projects.

Councilor Wadley stated that she went back to the comprehensive plan resident survey where she saw that walking and bike paths were a big thing the residents wanted to see in the village. She said a lot of that happens up on the path near the lake but the village needs to create better ways to bring them down into the village from the path. Greenspace and public parking were other priorities of residents per the survey. She stated that when people travel and are with small children or people with health issues, they are less likely to stop and do something if there is no adamant parking and they will go on to somewhere else. She likes the idea of signage at the west end of the village. Councilor Lemmon mentioned that the plan has a nice path idea along the waste weir run that is the water that comes out of the spill way from the lake. He would like to see a path extend not just to Ryan-Braden Park but out to the pavilion site on Mill Dam Road as well. Could have 8-10 parking spots to access it. He stated that there is money to do that and also money to move the power lines on Route 79. AEP is very against burying them but he said if you run them along that path, there is money to move them and an to have an all-purpose path as a way to maintain them.

Council President Goodman asked council how they would like to move forward at this point and if Councilor Wolfe would like it to go to his Community Development committee or if he would like to put together a work group that meets outside of the council meeting to try to put it together a little better. Councilor Wolfe stated he would like the mayor and council's input on how everyone would like to proceed. Councilor Cable stated the elephant in the room is money and he asked if there is an opportunity for potential naming rights. Councilor Goodman said sure there is and that this is the plan for the next 5 to 10 years and it is not something that we have to say 'we need that funding today.' We would love to have that but this is something that we have to get into a workable document and we have to let Licking County Planning know that we have finalized this plan so the project can be signed off on, as it is paid for by a grant. Then Licking County will be able to pay OHM, the group that came up with the comprehensive plan and presented it to the village. There will definitely need to be work done with the Planning and Zoning Commission with some of this as well. Councilor Julian thinks it does need to go into a working meeting and she would like to see specific names of people, especially people who own lots of land that is sitting there waiting to be developed, along with people who live in the village, in order to bring these additional people in as part of that meeting. Councilor Wolfe would like to put it out there that council would be looking for a group to work on this to see who would like to volunteer and show their interest in working on this, which includes Planning and Zoning. Councilor Goodman stated that the steering committee who worked on this sat together and invited people and invited various groups and there was very little interest. Councilor Wolfe suggested inviting members from Planning and Zoning to the council meeting at the end of February with their top 5 priorities for the Comprehensive Plan and to discuss it and get it onto paper and see if we can adopt it before Summer. Any citizens could come provide their input as well and then council could put together a committee and have some meetings to get started going through the book.

Code Enforcement Officer Rex Adkins stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission is going over the Comprehensive Plan at their next meeting. He stated that a lot of work was put into this, including surveying the entire community and he has read the plan forward and backward. He said that by adopting it, council is not agreeing to everything in the plan and that council can simply write an ordinance stating that they are taking this plan and using it as a guide into the future. It is not necessarily a 5-to-10-year plan; this is a 20-to-30-year plan

for the village. He stated that the sooner it is adopted, it gives the Planning and Zoning Commission and the zoning department an opportunity to have a little more backbone when telling people NO on certain zoning permits. Right now, there is not much teeth in telling people NO and the zoning codes are very loose. There are a lot of investors out there right now, with at least 4 projects that he is aware of that will probably start sooner than the comprehensive plan is adopted, and if they do, you have less control over them. Right now by adopting this plan, it speaks of PUD which allows a little more restriction and we can take our zoning regulations and customize them for that particular project. Councilor Wolfe said that if the Planning and Zoning Commission plans to talk about it at their next meeting to maybe have them pick 2 or 3 people to come to the council meeting to discuss it. He also likes the idea of the adoption of the plan as a guideline. Rex said yes, you would put into your ordinance that this is a guide; it is not set in stone, we do not agree to everything in this and we do not agree with every project, especially the roundabouts because there is not enough land in some parts and you would have to encroach on state land or on peoples' property. He said that he and Toby Miller have had several conversations and there are some things in the plan that just cannot happen. Councilor Goodman stated that she does not think that council should pass an ordinance adopting the whole plan. She said she has sat in this process for almost a year and has tried to follow what some other municipalities are doing and she does not agree to adopt the whole plan. She stated that it is misleading already because the document that they have right now is a draft and there are a lot of people who got ahold of it and there is a lot of conversation from people thinking that this document is a done deal when it is not. She stated that the second step of this that Licking County Planning is a part of is that this grant becomes available again this year in 2023 and they know that it is the village's interest to apply for that grant again to have the zoning code done with that grant money. Rex said he agrees that the quicker the plan is adopted, the quicker the zoning code can be updated because if not, we will not have those things in place for the investors who are coming in. Councilor Goodman said that is coming quick and we need to know by March. She stated that various people from various groups have been invited and they did receive information and we certainly need to work together on this.

Village Charter – Councilor Lemmon would like to see a Charter Review Commission representative present and available when council goes to talk about it.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS –

Holly Stein – 13 Beacon Light Lane – Holly stated that it is hard to know when the committee meetings are happening and asked if they could be published somewhere. Council members let her know that the committee and council meetings are posted on the village website, on the board outside of village offices, and on the board at the post office.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:

Councilor Cable: Congratulated the new personnel of the Police and Fire Departments. He would like a heads up from the Chiefs on any grants that may arise. Emergency legislation is something that council is trying to reduce.

Councilor Lemmon: Council has a lot on their plate.

Councilor Brunton: Still taking it all in.

Councilor Wadley: Welcomes the new hires to the team. Thank you to Jennifer for her work on year end reporting and the budget. Wants to see more utilization of committees to be able to have better educated votes from council.


Councilor Wolfe: Welcomed new firefighters and police officer. Looking forward to seeing what equipment is to come such as cruisers and snowplows and more support for the infrastructure. Be careful at Winterfest; a lot of traffic.

Councilor Julian: Welcomed new hires. Shows a sign of good leadership that the village is attracting new people quickly, so thank you. Winterfest is a time for the village to shine. It has come a long way and we should be proud of it. She thinks of the comprehensive plan in the same manner: it is a work in progress for many years but is something we can be proud of. Thanked Jennifer, President Goodman, and Mayor Peterson for having ended the year very well.

Councilor Goodman: No comments tonight.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Councilor Cable to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Councilor Julian. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:57pm

NEXT MEETING: Regular Council Meeting: February 13, 2023


Samantha Torres, Council Clerk


Linda Goodman, Council President