

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

**July 24, 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: Don Cable (0,0), Linda Goodman (0,0), Deb Julian (0,0),

(Consecutive, Total Absences) John Lemmon (0,0), Sue Wadley (0,1), Tom Wolfe (0,0)

Absent: None

**Staff Present:** Mayor Jeryne Peterson; Samantha Torres, Clerk of Council; Jason Harget, Police Chief; Keisha Amspaugh, Fire Chief; Jennifer Dennis, Fiscal Officer; Rex Adkins, Code Enforcement Officer; Kevin Strang, Zoning Inspector; Kellie Green, Parks and Recreation Commission; Dick Williams, Planning and Zoning / BZA Commission;

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

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

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

Councilor Lemmon wished for the Council Clerk to look over a few things to be changed in the minutes.

**Approval of Clerk Treasurer's Report:** Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Cable, to approve the June Reconciliations and Treasurer's report dated July 20, 2023.

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

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

**APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:** Natalie Zinni – Government Liaison – Regional Income Tax Agency – Natalie gave an overview of income tax. RITA is a third-party administrator of income tax. If the income tax goes on the ballot in November for residents to vote on whether they want it or not, the rate would be 1.5% and give a quarter percent credit for those who work outside of the village. RITA estimated that at that tax structure, the income tax would bring in anywhere from \$950,000-1,500,000. Natalie stated that the income tax would come in 3 buckets – tax collected from individual residents, employer withholding tax that is withheld from the employees that are working within the village, and net profit that is the business tax that businesses pay on their net profit. The first money to come into the village (if approved and the tax started January 1, 2024) would be withholding tax, which employers and businesses in the village would need to begin collecting, which they could file quarterly, monthly, or semi-monthly. If it began in January 2024, tax filings would not begin until April 2025. She stated it usually takes 2-3 years for the individual dollars to come in due to the learning curve and telling employers to begin withholding, though employers are not required to do so, so individuals would then need to pay their own. Municipal income tax is governed by ORC Section 718. Natalie said that by the third year, the village should hopefully begin to see the estimated dollars coming in. There have been some municipal tax changes and RITA can help with that. A taxable vs. non-taxable list is included with the meeting minutes. If a property is owned and rented within the village, they would be required to pay the village on the net rental income. Of RITA's estimate, about 1/3 would come from the withholding bucket and 2/3 would come from the individual resident bucket. Council President Goodman asked what RITA's income would come from this. Natalie stated that if the ordinance is passed, the village would enter into an agreement with RITA and RITA would retain 3% from each distribution. No charge on the work / estimate that was done beforehand or until collections start. Once collecting begins, the village will receive detailed reporting and the retainer will be 3%. At the end of each year, the agency goes through an audit and after the audit is complete, they will calculate the actual cost of collections for each of their members. If it is under 3%, the village would receive a refund. If it is over 3%, they would retain the overage from future collections. If it is always over 3%,

the retainer can be changed to not have to owe anything at the end of the year. President Goodman stated that RITA would begin collecting in April 2025 and would be minimal and it would be 2-3 years to see the full benefit of the estimate. Natalie stated they would begin collecting in January 2024. The residents are given a couple of years to adjust to the learning curve. President Goodman stated that the village still has levies that will still be collected – Fire levy through 2028, Operating levy through 2027, Police levy will be up for renewal next year and through 2025. Some council members are concerned for the residents paying on levies and then starting to collect income tax as well. Natalie said that the first year you may see 40%, second year 60-70%, and could take three years to see the income fully and RITA will run compliance programs. Councilor Wolfe stated there are around 2,600 people who live in the village. There are exemptions and by the time you take out the exemption people, how many people are paying that tax? Natalie said 40-45% of population would pay the municipal income tax. 1/3 (\$300,000) of the \$1,000,000 would come from withholding dollars, with \$700,000 coming in from the individuals. Census data showed high salary earners in the village. Natalie's power went out due to storms and the discussion was complete and she was thanked for her time and information.

### **COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance Committee:** No meeting, no report.

**Public Safety Committee:** Meeting held tonight. Police Department talked about use of body cams and they are all working well, as Toby Miller was able to fix the bandwidth and uploading issue. There were vehicle repair updates. July 29<sup>th</sup> will be a Movie Night at Ryan-Braden Park along with Cops and Cones with free ice cream for children. Police Department is fully staffed. Starting to consider things for next year's budget. Fire Chief gave a Fire truck repair update. There are some concerns for the timeline and getting the insurance company to move forward in determining if the repairs are doable or if we are to go with other options. There will be follow-up discussion with the village solicitor on the next steps. Mopar safety protocols will be in place and there will be a back-to-school supply drive the day of Mopar, August 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Service Committee:** A citizen asked how to know the agenda topics for the committee meetings. The posting is general as far as topics. Agenda is sent to Councilor Cable and can be sent to Council Clerk to have it made available. Next meeting first Monday of August at 6:30pm.

**Rules Committee:** No report as Councilor Brunton has resigned as of July 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Community Development Committee:** Buckeye Lake Civic Association held a vendor fair at the Harbor Community Center. Vendors made money and enjoyed it and would like to come back. Nice event. Hoping for Winterfest to bring more arts and crafts. Community Development Committee was asked about the Parks and Recreation policy on the consumption of liquor. Councilor Wolfe called Licking County Parks and he was told that they do not allow it. However, the Licking County prosecutor's office has a form / permit to do so. Jennifer Dennis stated that insurance would need to be checked on that as well. Councilor Julian stated that the temporary permit is through the Department of Liquor Control and a non-profit can only receive it twice a year.

**Personnel Committee:** Working meeting was held on the social media policy. Police department has a very comprehensive policy for social media so Councilor Julian will get that and try to change some wording to apply it to the office as a whole in the next few weeks. 5 personnel policy changes are coming.

**Report of Council President:** Vendor fair held at the Harbor Community Center. Great event and fundraiser though the weather was bad, but it did not stop people from attending. Might need to look at traffic control for next year. Kudos to the Harbor, it brought people to the village. High temperatures next week; look out for your neighbors.

## **REPORT OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS WRITTEN OR VERBAL**

**Police Department – Chief Jason Harget** – 20-hour position was filled, so there are no vacancies in the Police Department. Things are great with the body cameras; they are made for public safety and are durable and magnetic. Old cameras can still be utilized for training, could even put one on the K-9 officer. Movie Night, hoping the rain holds out. People should come around 8:30-9:00pm around when it gets dark. Will also have an ice cream truck for Cops and Cones, free ice cream. Popcorn and water will be provided for free. Not allowed to advertise the movie according to the license, but it will be a newer movie. Maybe could have an adult night soon. Working with the Fire Department on the back-to-school supplies collection on Mopar day. Fire and Police will have all hands on deck and will be as prepared as they can with their goal to keep everyone safe. New body cams were paid for by grants.

**Fire Department – Interim Fire Chief Keisha Amspaugh** – Written report submitted. Chief Amspaugh stated that safety is at the forefront of their operation on Mopar night. There will be an influx of crowd and traffic which will mean an influx of crew who will do everything they can to keep it safe and under control. In communication with Mopar as well as National Trail Raceway to do a back-to-school supply drive on August 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be several drop-off points to donate school supplies. Before the council meeting on August 14<sup>th</sup>, they will offer free haircuts and bookbags and the donations that are received. Fire Department will be receiving MDTs for their trucks where they can receive a lot more information, directions, and instructions on their iPads for runs and should be up and running in the next few days. It is a huge advancement in the EMT world. Staffing numbers and scheduling has been great. Proud of the team that has been built and the caliber of Fire Department employees. School supplies for the drive can be dropped off at the Fire Department or at the Village office on August 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Works – Toby Miller** – Part-time position for the Street Department has been filled. Will hold off and reevaluate hiring for the seasonal position since there are only a few months left of this season. Union Avenue paving is out to bid right now. Bids will be received and opened on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Will be available for next council meeting. A majority of the Cranberry paving questions will be answered at the next Public Service Committee meeting. Councilor Lemmon said there is a new catch basin on Bayview and Slocum that is on private property but they do not know where it runs. Toby Miller said that it runs southeast and it runs through the other person's property. Toby said it was an orphaned catch basin when the village took over the roadways. He said there is no recorded easement on it and that repair and maintenance on it will be between the two residents to figure out because once it leaves the right of way, the village has no access to it. Councilor Goodman asked what the village has to do in order to put in a stop sign in a neighborhood. Toby said it will need to have a study done, post it, and if the study shows the need for it, the village will have to put up a traffic control device change for a certain period of time then it can go into effect. Then there is a waiting period for law enforcement after that. LCATS usually does the study and the village would have to call and make a request to get on their agenda.

**Parks and Recreation – Kellie Green** – Written minutes submitted. Kellie Green wanted to make it public knowledge that until more information is acquired, it is a firm "NO" on alcohol being served at rental facilities in the village. Someone reached out to ask about Alcoholics Anonymous possibly using the Recreation Center for their meetings. Would bring people to see the facilities. Working on budget to be presented. Working on a fundraiser called I Walked the Damn Dam, a 4.2-mile walk set for possibly early Spring and an annual event. 3 park benches have been sponsored. Working on getting plaques for them. Intern Janelle Emmett has put together a Family Fishing Day with some rods and bait provided which will be on August 19<sup>th</sup> (August 12<sup>th</sup> was discussed in the meeting, but the true date is August 19<sup>th</sup>). ODNR will waive fishing permits for those participating in the event and there will be prizes for the kids. Parks and Recreation survey is also out on the village website to see what people want in the village. Councilor Lemmon spoke about the skatepark and if the

appropriations pass, it would be roughly 4 weeks to get the materials to rebuild it, which would be within the company's timeline and three readings on the ordinance would still be within that timeline. Councilor Julian stated that the survey may be a little skewed by the people who fill it out and it may not reflect the children of the village. Councilor Wadley asked if the intern could go to the Summer Lunch Program with a laptop and have some of the kids who show up there take the survey. Kids to Parks Day had a very basic sticker survey done about what the kids want and are interested in and the skatepark came in very high on that.

**Code Enforcement – Rex Adkins** – Quarterly report submitted. Rex wanted to give praise to Officer Matt May whom he saw on Route 70 changing a tire for a woman in the pouring rain outside of the village. Councilor Cable brought a property to Rex's attention as being vacant. Councilor Wadley asked how tall is grass for it to be a violation? Ordinance says 6 inches. Rex does not look at grass violations until it is a foot tall. Sometimes it is 3-4 feet tall near buildings and decks.

**Zoning – Kevin Strang** – Report submitted. Recent activity included 13 on-site visits to look at a problem or complaint or to see what is happening at the job site versus what is on the application, 13 electronic / telephone communications, and 2 stop-work orders. Discussion about cargo containers in the village and Mayor Peterson asked Kevin to check on the cargo containers at PharmaCann.

**Planning and Zoning** – Chairman Dick Williams spoke to council. He stated at their meeting on July 6<sup>th</sup> there was no new business for Board of Zoning Appeals. Planning and Zoning had a request for a lot combination, taking 3 lots down to 2 in application 2023-04 that passed without a problem. Looks forward to working with OHM advisors about the items on Ordinance 2023-24 and he asked if council could please direct Planning and Zoning Commission on how it will be managed. President Goodman said he will learn more about that at the Special Planning and Zoning meeting happening tomorrow night. Kim Littleton and Toby Miller will be the point people during this. Dick Williams would like to receive a formatted and rewritten Article 12. President Goodman said this gives the village an opportunity to be proactive and get ahead of all of the development that is to come. President Goodman gave kudos to Planning and Zoning clerk Lissann Torrens who is doing a really good job and trying to keep things moving forward and answering questions of the public. Councilor Julian asked if Planning and Zoning are close to a recommendation on food trucks within the village, to which Mr. Williams said no.

**Report of Mayor** – Written report submitted. Mayor Peterson mentioned a young man named Carter who is going into the sixth grade, who, during Covid went to his mother and said he wanted to put a smile on peoples' faces. He told the Police and Fire Chiefs that he makes Smile Packs for children whose parent is arrested or something bad at home. He has furnished lunch for the Summer Lunch Program for this entire week. The Police and Fire Chiefs presented Carter with a fire patch, two police patches, and certificate in honor of what he does. Kindness matters and everyone needs a smile. He has brought in school supplies and other items as well. Thank you to Carter and his family.

## **ORDINANCES**

**Ordinances for 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading** – None.

**Ordinances for 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** –

**Ordinance 2023-33** - AMENDING ORDINANCE 2023-08 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS  
ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**Discussion:** Councilor Lemmon stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission has done a lot of work on this and if anyone has other questions, they will have another meeting before the next reading.

This will move on to a third reading.

**Ordinances for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading –**

**Ordinance 2023-35** - AMENDING ORDINANCE 2023-08 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

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

Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Wolfe to adopt Ordinance 2023-35.

**Discussion:** Councilor Lemmon asked Mayor Peterson if there is anyone who should be recognized for donating this money. Mayor Peterson stated that \$500 came from Jim Lenner of Neighborhood Strategies, \$50 from a lady who came in with children, \$2 from some people who paid for a meal.

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

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

**Ordinance 2023-36** - AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING VILLAGE FEE SCHEDULE ORDINANCES 2022-50 AND 2023-26 AND ADOPTING A REVISED VILLAGE FEE SCHEDULE AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

**Abstain: 0; Nays: Goodman; Motion Passed 5 – 1**

Motion by Councilor Wolfe, seconded by Councilor Lemmon to adopt Ordinance 2023-36.

**Discussion:** Councilor Goodman asked why it was an emergency. Councilor Julian stated that they have been working on these fees forever and getting this done will clarify things and make them comprehensive for the village and is a legal document and could change next month. Councilor Lemmon stated this is for 2023-2024 and will change every two years so he suggested to the departments to get any updates to fees to council for 2025 around June 2024. Fiscal Officer Jennifer Dennis asked about figuring out how to put certain percentages to Streets, for example and she will work with the Finance Committee on that.

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

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

**RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolutions for 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading – None.**

**Resolutions for 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – None.**

**Resolutions for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – None.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS –**

**General Safety Awareness for Cart Areas** - Councilor Cable requested discussion of general safety awareness and potential signage for heavily trafficked cart areas that several people have asked about. More people are being made aware that this is a cart community. Suggested signage like ones for deer crossing. Councilor Lemmon said there have been two golf cart accidents. Problem we have is the speed of other vehicles. 35mph within municipality. See if it can be approved by the State of Ohio that this is our business district to get the speed down to 25mph. Buckeye Lake Brewery motorcycle and golf cart parking sign – Councilor Cable asked is it legal or sanctioned by the village / State / law? Police Chief Harget said the parking signs are not enforceable at the businesses. One accident was too many people on the golf cart. Other accident, the other

vehicle did not see the cart. Golf cart crossing sign or Share the Road signs could be acquired with images that the village is a cart community. Councilor Wadley stated that a golf cart is a licensed vehicle and should be registered and the signage should be carefully considered. Amish Country has horse and buggy signs. Councilor Julian suggested something on Facebook to remind parents to not allow kids on golf carts. Police Department will do a training day. It is just like being in an automobile. Councilor Wadley stated even the KOA Campground will stop kids on golf carts. Councilor Lemmon said there will be more businesses in town and more parking close to the road, and there is a 10-foot range on a state highway. Need to come up with a policy for that. Police Chief supports business district to help slow them down. It is a bike and pedestrian community as well. Citations can also be issued. Inspection fee could be waived if you come listen to the training. Chief said there would need to be a speed study to declare a business district.

#### **NEW BUSINESS –**

**Street Width and Emergency Vehicles** – Discussion on this started in Public Service Committee. Currently 15ft turning radius in various spots in Cranberry Bay. Can the fire trucks get around that? Talking about paving and setbacks back there. Fire Chief Amspaugh asked how they would acquire more area there. 15 feet can work. Would like to see how to get more, would cost more and possibly cut into existing homes. Look at what can be acquired reasonably. Looking into smaller vehicles as well. That is a training thing as well. Toby Miller looked at doing all one radius. Looked at maximum radius on existing foot print and how congested or complicated different intersections and radiuses can be. Acquisition may not be in the budget and may not be viable. Straight trucks and trailers will not work.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS** – None.

#### **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**Councilor Wadley:** Thanks to code enforcement and planning and zoning; you do a lot and people tend to forget and it is not always popular what you are doing. It is appreciated. Parks and Recreation are doing wonderful things. She wonders if there is a way to do a Shred It Day for the village residents? Maybe during Spring cleanup or North Valley Bank could maybe do it / host it. Looking for a new member of council. Please consider joining us. It is a lot of work and it is for two years and five months.

**Councilor Wolfe:** Delightful meeting.

**Councilor Julian:** Thanks to the citizens for coming to the meeting; good crowd here. Thank you to the staff who work on different projects. Working group for personnel was very efficient. Staff works really hard.

**Councilor Lemmon:** A lot of the faces we see here in the crowd are people who have spent a lot of time in the village. Thanks for your work and time and years in the village.

**Councilor Cable:** Fantastic meeting with good discussion. Good banter, refreshing, and we know when to be serious. Good crowd tonight; please come to committee meetings.

**Councilor Goodman:** Thank you to the residents who came to the meeting. It means a lot that you are concerned and we appreciate it. Wonderful meeting. Council does have the opportunity to review applications that were submitted before for council vacancies.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Councilor Wolfe to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Councilor Cable. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:06pm

**NEXT MEETING:** Regular Council Meeting: August 14, 2023

*Samantha Torres*  
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Samantha Torres, Clerk of Council

*Linda Goodman*  
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Linda Goodman, Council President