

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

**March 27, 2023**

**Call to Order:** By Council President Linda Goodman at 7:02p.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 (0,0), Tom Wolfe (arrived later)(0,0)  
Absent: Paula Brunton (0,0 excused)

**Staff Present:** Mayor Jeryne Peterson via Zoom; 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; Toby Miller, Water Superintendent; Kellie Green, Parks and Recreation Commission Secretary;

**Approval of Council Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Julian, to approve the March 13, 2023 regular council meeting minutes.

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

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

**Approval of Clerk Treasurer's Report:** Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Cable, to approve the Treasurer's report dated March 23, 2023.

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

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

Fiscal Officer Jennifer Dennis stated that she has received the first half property tax settlement from Licking County. For the General Fund after paying the fees, \$378,267.15 was received. She stated there was an ordinance to appropriate \$235,000 from that to various areas by council. Police received \$229,994.36 and Fire received \$136,691.79. She stated that the mayor, Toby Miller, and Jennifer met with the village's liability insurance company. Liability has been renewed and there will be an appropriation at the next meeting for it.

**APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:** None.

**COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance Committee:** Standing Finance Committee meeting will be cancelled for April 10<sup>th</sup> to allow for the Charter work group to meet. Finance will be working on the village fee schedule.

**Public Safety Committee:** Meeting held tonight. Talked about possible new cruiser in 2024 for the police department; received quote from Chief Harget for that and will need to see if there is funding available. They talked about drafting a camera use policy. New cameras have been put in at the Police and Fire Departments and they want to make sure everything is in order with who has access to that. Talked about looking at replacing some tasers that are antiquated. Fire Department had an update on the fire truck repair that is still in the works. The repair company is working with the insurance company. There is a need for some sets of gear for the new hires that could either come from the budget or from ARPA money. They talked about some joint training with the coroner's office for police and fire departments. They are working on more community engagement for the Summer. Easter Egg Hunt will be April 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm sharp at Ryan-Braden Park. They talked about the emergency access road back in Cranberry Bay, making sure it is clear and accessible when needed. Coffee and Conversation event date is to be determined. April 24<sup>th</sup> will be the next committee meeting at 6:00pm.

**Public Service Committee:** No report at this time. Next standing committee meeting will be April 3rd at 6:30pm.

**Rules Committee:** Absent, no report.

**Community Development Committee:** Next meeting will be April 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm with general discussion on short-term rentals and short-term rental ordinances that have passed and any changes or fees that need discussed.

**Personnel Committee:** Next Personnel meeting will be held April 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm to discuss security and social media policies.

**Report of Council President:** President Goodman gave formal acknowledgement of former Council President John Geiger, who passed away on March 18<sup>th</sup>. John was a former councilman, former council President, a past commodore of the Buckeye Lake Yacht Club in 2004. He was a veteran who served in the Army National Guard for 20 years. He graduated from Lakewood High School in 1967 and graduated with a Master's degree from the Ohio State University. His heart was near and dear to the lake and the Hebron community. He was never shy about talking about all of his connections; his father had a gas station out here as well and a lot of people knew John and listened to many of his stories over the years. In memorium, we appreciate all that he did for the village and send our condolences to Mimi.

Easter Egg Hunt is April 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm sharp at Ryan-Braden Park. Spring clean-up will be April 4<sup>th</sup> through April 8<sup>th</sup> with dumpsters behind the village hall with a fee charged for any tires brought in. She reminded committee chairs that when they schedule their meetings, a subject for the meetings needs stated to the clerk and the meeting should follow that subject.

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

**Police Department – Chief Jason Harget** – Call report submitted. Chief Harget presented council with all of the Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Certifications that his Officers have spent a lot of time and work completing and they are now certified. A lot of policy changes to make sure they are in compliance with the State of Ohio when it comes to grant funding. Certifications included body-worn cameras, safe policing for safe communities, use of force recruiting and hiring policy, community engagement and body-worn cameras, bias-free police and investigation of employee misconduct, vehicle pursuit, and a final all-in-one certification. These certifications ensure that the Police Department is now in 100% compliance with the Ohio Collaborative. The collaborative came out and did an on-site inspection to make sure they are in compliance with all of their policies. Honored to work on a second Easter Egg hunt with the Fire Department and he thinks it will be big this year. \$2,500 was spent on a water pump for one of the cruisers, but a lot of money was saved on warranty work as well.

**Fire Department – Interim Fire Chief Keisha Amspaugh** – Written reports submitted. Fire Chief Amspaugh provided Councilor Wolfe with some ballpark numbers he had requested for new fire engine, new medic, and new pumper and these numbers are if the village were to order them right now. Chief stated that the struggle with ordering a new fire truck is that there are some specialty needs in the village with small streets and short turning radius and short trucks. Very excited for the Easter Egg Hunt. There is a lot of interest and people are wanting to help which has led to more conversation about other things that can be done in the community. Some gear was discussed for some of the new hires. Emergency access road was discussed in the Public Safety Committee meeting and Chief said that they will probably take the fire truck over it again just to be sure that it settles. Chief reached out to the repair and insurance companies for a progress report on the fire engine repair. She stated that it is a slow-moving process and a lot of hands have to talk to each other. They were having some pump repairs done, which the insurance company has to approve and then the repairs will be done to see if there is anything else wrong. Truck went to the frame shop and the frame is okay and then the truck went to the repair shop where they are assessing a pump where they found a few problems. Fire Levy is coming along nicely and they will be getting ready to send out their advertisements, signs, and setting up some education.

**Public Works – Toby Miller** – Mayor has secured an intern with environmental background to maybe do administrative work for storm water. Toby explained an Ordinance on the agenda tonight by stating that he received confirmation on the OPWC application that the village put in for last year. It is a \$1 million Cranberry Lane area paving project. Whole width, whole depth repair of the roadway and maintaining the width throughout the whole area. He passed out breakdowns for the cost and the legislation tonight is to get the engineering firm started on it, with the money being available July 1, 2023. A contract cannot be awarded to a contractor until July 1<sup>st</sup>. The grant has been approved and it is in the hands of OPWC right now. ADR has had knowledge of this project and can get started on it the fastest and it can start in September. Street signals for Mill Dam and SR79 should be in by the end of the week. Councilor Julian received two complaints about the “pond” at Parks and Anchors Way. Toby said he is waiting on a call back from that property owner.

**Parks and Recreation – Kellie Green** – Meeting minutes submitted. Secretary Kellie Green stated that there is a Mayoral vacancy on the Commission as member Barb Sills has resigned to spend more time with her family. She was a wonderful addition and will be missed. The Parks and Rec Commission will be celebrating Kids to Park Day on May 20<sup>th</sup> which is designed to bring kids and families to the parks to enjoy what they have. They are starting a fundraising park beautification incentive that will offer the chance to make a donation to adopt a tree or sponsor a park bench with a name plaque as well. There is a line in the budget where the donation money can be appropriated. Member Sue Smith has put together a pickleball workshop on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Rec Center. A concrete company will come to do garage ramp and walkway from the parking lot to the garage door of the Rec Center. Good Time Construction, who gave the quote on the mini ramp at the skatepark, said that the structure of the skateboard mini ramp has now deteriorated enough that it is no longer salvageable. The commission is trying to come up with some type of structure to house the pickleball equipment closer to the pickleball courts and where it will not be vandalized again. The large storage building is still being used for parks and recreation and the ball team that uses the field. Next meeting will be April 4, 2023 6:30pm at the Rec Center.

**Code Enforcement – Rex Adkins** – Written report received. Six properties posted as uninhabitable. Had a meeting with the property owners of the trailer park on First street and they are working to remove some junk trailers from the area. Councilor Lemmon asked about the nuisance dump spot at the end of Leroy. Rex stated that notice was sent to the owner of the trailer park and that Street Department Supervisor Randy Bucy had cleaned up that spot at one point. There may be signs going there to try to prevent it from continuing.

**Zoning – Kevin Strang** – Report submitted. Kevin stated recent activity included 31 on-site visits to see what is happening at the job site versus what is on the application, 18 electronic / telephone communications, and 4 stop-work orders. These numbers seem to be on par with the statistics around this time last year.

**Planning and Zoning** – No representative / no report.

**Report of Mayor** – Mayor Peterson attended the meeting via Zoom due to recovery from spinal fusion surgery. She will be back soon and has been making phone calls to keep things rolling. She stated that the head of the post office (not ours) has come down on Hebron and Millersport for delivering mail to the Village of Buckeye Lake to those people using incorrect addresses. The Landings at Maple Bay has been advised that any new buildings are to have an address in Buckeye Lake, Ohio using our zip code and there will no longer be mail delivery to those people and they will have to go to our post office to apply for a PO Box. There is a property on 16 Union Avenue that the village tried to get before it went to sheriff’s auction on the 31<sup>st</sup>. There is an individual who has put themselves on the auction site and we are hoping that he is successful in obtaining 16 Union Avenue so that the village could make a larger parking lot for our community. Don’t forget about the Easter Egg Hunt. She is proud of the Police Department for getting their certifications. We should all be proud that our Police and Fire Departments work so closely together.

## **ORDINANCES**

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

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

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

**Ordinance 2023-09** - AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN ADR & ASSOCIATES, LTD. AND THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE FOR LAND SURVEYING, CIVIL ENGINEERING, AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR THE OPWC CRANBERRY LANE AREA STREET IMPROVEMENTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

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

Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Lemmon to adopt Ordinance 2023-09.

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

**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** – Council President Goodman stated that council has not forgotten about short-term rentals and they are not ignoring them, they are really trying to get it right. No one is in trouble for not doing anything when it comes to short-term rentals. She stated that in the next couple of weeks, they hope to have a really good and fair and safe agreement for short-term rentals in the village. Please bear with us for a couple more weeks; we want to get this as close to right as we can. She stated that this is not an easy subject for any municipality, township, county; everyone is struggling with it. We know that travel and tourism heavily affect our area and we are not saying there will be no short-term rentals in the village. We appreciate your patience and have heard your frustrations and we think we will have something good to present.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Councilor Julian asked about the piece of property that the mayor had mentioned in her report. Mayor Peterson said the village is not buying it; there is a buyer on our behalf and we will pay nothing. Councilor Wadley asked how does that work? Councilor Julian asked when was this discussion had about us doing this? Mayor Peterson said we are not doing it. She made a phone call to someone who already owns property near there and she explained to that person that there was property going up for auction. The person took the time to get registered on the auction website and has placed their bid. We wait now to see if it is accepted. Councilor Julian asked if it is a private buyer, what does that have to do with the village? Mayor Peterson said that the private buyer is willing to let the village use that property, we will clear it and use it as a parking lot. The fence will come down that is up there right now next to Mike's Auto. Councilor Goodman asked will they be donating it to the village or will it be contracted with the village? Mayor Peterson said they would be donating it to the village. Councilor Goodman said so it will be transferred over to the village then? Mayor Peterson said it is a step-by-step process and it is too soon to talk about that. If they have the winning bid, they will let us know then we will go to the next step.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS** – None.

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**Councilor Wadley:** Sue and her husband personally know John Geiger and they would like to send their condolences to Mimi and her family and friends. John has done a lot for the community and he was a good man and she is sorry to hear about his passing. Congratulations to the Police Department on their certifications; a lot of work went into that. Police and Fire Departments are doing great things with community engagement and she is excited to see what they do this Summer. Parks and Recreation Commission are also doing some awesome things; happy to see that.

**Councilor Wolfe:** Extends his condolences to Mimi and former Council President John Geiger and commends his public service around here. He was a good guy and he will be missed. He appreciates getting the ballpark numbers on new vehicles from the Fire Department. Fire engine is about \$750,000, new squad \$364,000, and mini pumper is about \$350,000. Congrats to Police on their certifications. Parks are making some improvements as well. Village is making a lot of headway. Short-term rental is an on-going document and many councils around the country spend hours and hours on it

**Councilor Julian:** She did not know John Geiger that well, just the things that he did and it is sad for a small community like ours to lose somebody that has done so much. Thanked the Police and Fire Chiefs and also the office staff. There are a lot of things they do every day and they don't get a lot of recognition but they all work together extremely well and we are lucky to have the group of people that we have. She appreciates all that they do and what they bring to the table.


**Councilor Cable:** Don and John would talk a lot of baseball and in baseball, you need to be strong up the middle and he thinks that Police and Fire Chiefs are doing that. We have come a long way in the way that the Police are doing things and Chief should be commended as it is making the village a lot stronger. We have a good staff and leaders and managers in place who are leading new people. Buy local.

**Councilor Lemmon:** Sends condolences out to Mimi. The Geigers are good friends of his parents and they have known them a long time. John was a great leader in this community in so many ways. Can blame John for talking Councilor Lemmon into being on council. It was John's goal to have a council similar to what we have now where they talk to each other and are respectful to one another and work out their issues and John was very instrumental in making that turn. Thank you to him.

**Councilor Goodman:** Thinks John is here tonight; she is sitting in his chair. Thanks, John, for all you did, it is much appreciated. You will be missed in the village.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Councilor Lemmon to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Councilor Cable. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm

**NEXT MEETING:** Regular Council Meeting: April 10, 2023

  
Samantha Torres, Council Clerk

  
Linda Goodman, Council President