

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting
Held in Council Chambers, streamed live on Facebook
March 8, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: By Council President Geiger at 7:08 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence: Led by Councilor Cable.

Roll Call: Present: Linda Goodman (0, 0), John Lemmon (0, 0), Kitty Zwissler (0, 0), Melissa Beard (via Zoom/phone) (2, 0), Don Cable (0, 0), Bill French (0, 0), John Geiger (0, 0)

(Consecutive, Total Absences)

Staff Present: Mayor Peggy Wells; Jennifer Dennis, Clerk/Treasurer; Samantha Torres, Clerk of Council; Ryan Wyse, Fire Chief; Jason Harget, Interim Police Chief

APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: Fire Chief Ryan Wyse introduced Fire Fighter EMT Ferren Feyh and his family, as well as Fire Fighter Paramedic James Nann and his family, to take the Oath of Office. Jason Harget, accompanied by his wife Stephanie and the police officers and staff of the Buckeye Lake Police Department, took the Oath of Office to become Interim Police Chief. The Mayor introduced each police officer and member of the Police Department staff: Jeremy Jackson, Heath Steele, Mike Miller, Hannah Looney, Aaron Wolfe, and Andy Sirisukha. Police Chief Jason Harget spoke to say he is honored to accept the position. He appreciates the Mayor for the trust instilled in him and thanked Council for the opportunity. The department's focus will be on community policing.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: Citizen's Comment received from Anna Pyle with the subject Home Recycling and read by Councilor Cable. Councilor Cable reminded everyone to include your address and keep it under 3 minutes when submitting a citizen's comment. Councilor French answered by saying there are 3 recycling options if the village stays with Local Waste Services: a small 18-gallon bin but things tend to overflow and blow all over; red bin same size that the home owners have now that would be red with pick up on the same day as regular trash pickup but a different truck for \$18.75 a month which is an additional cost of about \$45 for the whole year; bigger collection bin behind Village Hall. 3-year contract with Local Waste Services expires this year. Mayor Wells said another company called wanting to bid for the next contract. This will be added to the agenda for the April 5th Public Service Committee meeting.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Cable, to approve the February 22, 2021 regular council meeting minutes.

Roll call vote: Yes: Goodman, Lemmon, Zwissler, Beard, Cable, French, Geiger

Abstain: 0;

Nays: 0;

Motion Passed 7 – 0

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Goodman, to approve the March 1, 2021 special council meeting minutes.

Roll call vote: Yes: Goodman, Lemmon, Zwissler, Beard, Cable, French, Geiger

Abstain: 0;

Nays: 0;

Motion Passed 7 – 0

Approval of Clerk Treasurer's Report: Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor French, to approve the Treasurer's report dated March 4, 2021.

Roll call vote: Yes: Goodman, Lemmon, Zwissler, Beard, Cable, French, Geiger

Abstain: 0;

Nays: 0;

Motion Passed 7 – 0

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee: Welcomed Jason Harget as Police Chief, will meet with him to discuss priorities. Did not have a Finance Committee meeting as it was canceled. Next meeting will be March 22, 2021 at 6:30pm.

Public Safety Committee: No report.

Public Service Committee: Meeting was March 1st. Discussed extending the contract with Millersport for public water. Cap rate of 2% instead of 15% or 18% but it can go down. Millersport is working on the contract. Evaluation of 2 requests for qualifications for the service building from the Omness Design Inc and Wachtel & McAnally. Polled the service committee like was done for the bridge project. Councilor Cable and French liked Omness. Councilor Lemmon likes Wachtel & McAnally because they are local and their work is seen around town. No money is being put forth as these are just ideas, and for finding out the qualifications of each company, as well as forward thinking about the future of bringing water and street departments together. It has been decided that the village owns the Taco Bell bridge and replacing it will be expensive.

Rules Committee: Asked by President Geiger to review page 12 of the Council Rules. Encourages all of Council and the Mayor to review it as well, especially the second bullet point: be aware of the insecurity of written notes, voicemail messages, and emails. He did an email experiment to make a point that anything can be manipulated. "How would that reflect on the Village?"

Community Development Committee: Meeting held today before the Council meeting focused on Ryan Braden Park and considered what needed to be done there for the citizens to enjoy it and made some suggestions for the Parks & Recreation Committee to consider. Suggested that some things can be done by volunteers rather than paid by the village. Safety and security are priority. Suggested that the Police monitor the park, including opening and then closing the bathrooms at dusk. Councilor Lemmon asked Police Chief Harget to share his input about security lighting at the park. New restaurant in town: Kulture Kitchen. COVID vaccinations at the Harbor Community Center. Age of eligibility dropped to 50+. Long waiting list for the vaccine but if you are scheduled for the first shot, you will be scheduled for the second one as well.

Personnel Committee: Personnel Committee met tonight. Completed amending employee benefits section of the employee handbook. At the next Council meeting, the committee will present to full council to make a motion to approve the new amended version of the benefits section and then begin work on the next section of the handbook.

Report of Council President: Reminded everyone to turn in meeting minutes and agenda when there is a Committee meeting. Working to come up with a better method for attendance rather than the green book.

Report of Mayor: Mayor Wells thanked Police Chief Harget. Thanked Council Clerk Samantha Torres for being very patient with Planning and Zoning. Council's decision to invest in software for planning and zoning and Mayor's Court has been helpful. Thanked Councilor French for his great Public Service Committee meeting minutes. 26x50 pavilion concrete contractor will start soon but the area is wet, so they are waiting for dryer times. Extra money in the \$125,000 pavilion budget, so there is an ordinance tonight for a driveway for the pavilion while the concrete contractor is already there. There will be a meeting with Solicitor Brad Nicodemus this week to talk about the zoning map and the annexation on North Bank Road (the area of and around 4350 North Bank Road).

ORDINANCES

Ordinances for 3rd Reading –

Ordinance 2021-05 - AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN ADR & ASSOCIATES, LTD. AND THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING AND SERVICES FOR THE VILLAGE MUNICIPAL COMPLEX DEVELOPMENT.

Motion by Councilor French, seconded by Councilor Goodman, to adopt Ordinance 2021-05.

Roll call vote: Yes: Goodman, Lemmon, Zwissler, Beard, Cable, French, Geiger

Abstain: 0;

Nays: 0;

Motion Passed 7 – 0

Ordinances for 2nd Reading – None.

Ordinances for 1st Reading –

Ordinance 2021-11 - AN ORDINANCE APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NUMBER 1 FOR THE PAVILION CONCRETE AND ELECTRICAL PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilor Lemmon to table Ordinance 2021-11 until after the next Finance Committee meeting, seconded by Councilor Zwissler.

Roll call vote: Yes: Goodman, Lemmon, Zwissler, Beard, Cable, French, Geiger

Abstain: 0;

Nays: 0;

Motion Passed 7 – 0

Ordinance 2021-12 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2020-60 CREATING PAY LEVELS AND SALARY SCHEDULES FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE, OHIO AND DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY.

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

Roll call vote: Yes: Goodman, Lemmon, Beard, Cable, French, Geiger
Abstain: 0;
Nays: Zwissler; **Motion Passed 6 – 1**

Motion by Councilor Goodman, seconded by Councilor French to adopt Ordinance 2021-12.

Discussion: Councilor Zwissler asked what this Ordinance was for. Council President Geiger explained that it was a change in language for the Police Chief position to simplify the process for moving forward with the new Police Chief.

Roll call vote: Yes: Goodman, Cable, French, Geiger
Abstain: Beard;
Nays: Lemmon, Zwissler; **Motion Passed 4 – 1 – 2**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Lee’s Chicken Place / Fitness Center Proposal – \$21,500 renovation proposal from Crossfit business for use of the space at the end of the municipal building. 3-year lease proposal vs. 2-year lease where the village would owe them money at the end. This could be an enhanced area of the village at no cost to the village. Councilor Goodman’s concerns are that yes, the village needs to be business-friendly. However, the village does not need to set a precedent of leasing property and then having to reimburse the tenant. Space to be used by the village. Councilor French said this could be one of the first things for the police department to address, starting with the noise, and this could be a space and bathroom for them. Council President Geiger said the roof issue was not addressed in the proposal. It could be expanded as a holding and locker room for the police. Parking is a concern. Space could also be used for the washer and dryer that has been purchased and is waiting for a space. The village could help them find another place for their business.

Recycling Update – Mayor Wells received an email from Licking County a while ago saying the bins from the back were being picked up for repair, but they could pick up recycling that was held inside. No room to hold recycling inside. Councilor Lemmon mentioned that Newark has some recycling collection bins in a municipal lot, which could be a consideration. It comes down to what was talked about during citizen’s comments: recycling bins at home vs. having a central drop-off location.

LEADS Food Pantry Lease – LEADS contributes a lot for the village. \$1 for 1 year lease.

Floor vote to authorize the Mayor to sign the LEADS Food Pantry contract: \$1 for 1 year, May 14, 2021 through May 13, 2022.

Roll call vote: Yes: Goodman, Lemmon, Zwissler, Cable, French, Geiger
Abstain: 0;
Nays: 0; **Floor Vote Passed 6 – 0**

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor's Court - Delinquency Debt Collection Contract – Ohio Attorney General's office will not charge the village anything to take care of delinquent debt collection (unless a difficult situation, then it would be 25%) and assess taxes. People may pay more attention and are more likely to pay on their fines if they receive something from the Ohio Attorney General's office than from a debt collector. The contract requires 3 signatures from Council. Councilors Goodman, French, and Zwissler volunteered to sign it.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:

Councilor Goodman: Welcomed the new Police Chief, looks forward to working with him. Thanked Councilor Cable for keeping an eye on the Council rules.

Councilor Lemmon: Welcomed the new Chief. Wants employees to be treated well. The Village recently lost a resident to COVID-19. Try to be safe.

Councilor Zwissler: Thanks for the involvement in Community Development. Support the new Kulture Kitchen restaurant. Reminder about the Harbor and Licking County Health Department giving out COVID-19 vaccinations. If you get the first, you will be scheduled for the second dose. Welcomed the new Police Chief, wishes him the best and hopes he gets the support he needs.

Councilor Beard: No comments.

Councilor French: Welcomed Police Chief and two new Fire Department employees. Reminder for meeting minutes to be what was done, not what was said.

Councilor Cable: Welcomed new fire personnel Police Chief and offered recognition for the work former Police Chief Vicki Wardlow had done for the Village.

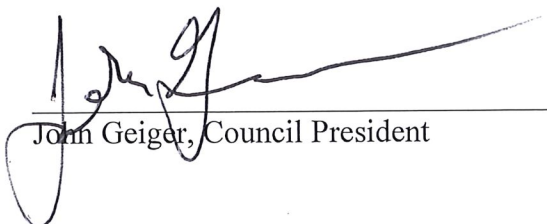
ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Councilor Zwissler to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Councilor French.

VOTE: IN-FAVOR ALL YEAS; MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm

NEXT MEETING: March 22, 2021


Samantha Torres, Council Clerk


John Geiger, Council President

