

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting  
Held in Council Chambers, streamed live on Facebook  
**May 24, 2021**  
Meeting Minutes

**Call to Order:** By Council President Geiger at 7:17 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence:** Led by Council President Geiger.

**Roll Call:** Present: Bill French (0, 0), John Geiger (0, 0), Linda Goodman (0, 0),  
(Consecutive, Total Absences) John Lemmon (0, 0), Kitty Zwissler (0, 0), Don Cable (0, 0)  
Absent: Melissa Beard (0, 3)

**Staff Present:** Mayor Peggy Wells; Jennifer Dennis, Clerk/Treasurer; Samantha Torres, Clerk of Council; Jason Harget, Police Chief; Ryan Wyse, Fire Chief; Rex Adkins, Code Enforcement Officer; Kellie Green, Parks and Recreation Commission Member

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:** No Citizen's Comments received.

**Approval of Council Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Councilor French, seconded by Councilor Zwissler, to approve the May 10, 2021 council meeting minutes.

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

**Abstain: 0;**

**Nays: 0; Absent: Beard Motion Passed 6 – 0**

**Approval of Clerk Treasurer's Report:** Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor French, to approve the Treasurer's report and April 2021 Reconciliations dated May 17, 2021.

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

**Abstain: 0;**

**Nays: 0; Absent: Beard Motion Passed 6 – 0**

**APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:** Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Zwissler, to appoint Sue Smith to the vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

**Roll call vote: Yes:** French, Geiger, Goodman, Lemmon, Zwissler

**Abstain: Cable;**

**Nays: 0; Absent: Beard Motion Passed 5 – 1 – 0**

**COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance Committee:** Had a meeting this evening before the Council meeting to discuss funding for a few projects and distribution of the CDBG grant. Given 3 options from Licking County on which way to go and decided on option #3 to take the full \$65,000 to fund the Comprehensive Plan and then to request and hopefully receive another \$4,000 towards the Ryan Braden Skate Park, all work done through the Community Development Committee. Received \$54,500 of the \$112,000 spent for the Pavilion.

**Public Safety Committee:** Melissa Beard was absent, so no report.

**Public Service Committee:** Toby Miller working on RAISE grant, but have not heard back. Next meeting will be held June 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Councilor French read that the Governor's order states that the COVID-19 mandates will be lifted on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12:01am and he would like to have the public back in the building for meetings. During the discussion of this, Jennifer Dennis suggested that the COVID task force meet to discuss the new protocol for open meetings and signage and to go over the Governor's order.

**Rules Committee:** Will be reviewing a concern that Councilor French had during the Finance Committee meeting about meeting notification.

**Community Development Committee:** Dealing with the need for a comprehensive plan for land use within the village, the last one of which was in 2008. Licking County had funds that they told the village about. Able to receive \$65,000 for the comprehensive plan and a potential \$4,000 for the skate park. Councilor Zwissler wants everyone to look for grants to apply for, particularly for the skate park.

**Personnel Committee:** Still working on the employee handbook. Next work session will be June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00pm to speak about social media disciplinary issues.

#### **REPORT OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS:**

**Police Department - Chief Jason Harget** – Written report submitted. Chief will be attending the Art & Music Fair on May 29<sup>th</sup> at the Harbor Community Center. Councilor Goodman mentioned the canceled fireworks displays in Columbus and in Newark. Chief Harget said the Police Department has been reaching out to other municipalities to get extra coverage as the Buckeye Lake area may be crowded during this year's BLAAST fireworks due to these other canceled displays. Also working with ODNR.

**Fire Department – Chief Ryan Wyse** – Written report submitted.

**Public Works – Toby Miller** – Absent, no report.

**Parks and Recreation – Kellie Green** – Officers elected are Annetta Macedonia as Chair, Barb Sills as Vice-Chair, and Kellie Green as Secretary. Newly appointed Sue Smith met them at their Ryan Braden park walkthrough. Updated all shelter and pavilion rental documents and rules that will go on the website. Barb Sills did local research for the pricing. Barb also manages the facility use calendar for pickleball, basketball, etc to prevent scheduling overlap. Decided locations for 3 new benches and location for equipment shed with realty lockbox. Looking to get a message board to show calendar of games and park schedules. Horseshoe pits installed on May 29. Looking to put a grill at the pavilion and need trash cans there. Safety concern for the pavilion is it is difficult to see the cars that are coming over the hill when trying to leave. Ryan Braden Skatepark – looked into grants from the Tony Hawk Foundation but they do not open for applications until August 2021. Thanks to Peggy Wells and her son for the patches to the skate ramp. Parks and Rec Commission would like to have their meetings at the park to meet residents from April until October and want to do it legally correct. Kellie mentioned that she uses Spotify to record meetings. Still have a vacancy on the Commission. Fiscal Officer Jennifer Dennis asked how their money for deposits and park / pavilion use will be handled. Residents will bring the money to Village Hall.

**Code Enforcement – Rex Adkins** – Written report submitted. Hired lawn care service this week. Bid came in lower than who was hired last year. 39 tall grass lots so far this year. Working with Prosecutor Brad Nicodemus for an ordinance for weeds and tall grass to fine them right away. The current process is very long (20+ days) and some properties are on the list every year.

**Planning and Zoning / BZA** – Summary report submitted from January through May. Councilor Goodman reminded council of the moratorium that had been passed on April 5<sup>th</sup> and wondered who addresses that the double-wide that was pulled in after the moratorium passed has not been moved yet and is in violation of said moratorium? Mayor Wells talked to the people in charge of the mobile home who said that the site for the double wide is almost ready for it to be moved to within the mobile home park. Councilor Zwissler suggested giving them a written notice with a deadline to move it. Mayor Wells said they should have gotten a permit to place it there, but that she will notify them. Councilor Zwissler asked if anyone else would need to be notified? Community Development will look into a notification letter.

**Report of Council President – John Geiger** – By next regular council meeting, will have a clear COVID guideline as far as opening future meetings to the public.

**Report of Mayor** – Pavilion ribbon cutting ceremony rescheduled to June 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am due to forecast of rain. Toby Miller putting sod at the pavilion. Council President Geiger said someone had come to the office to come up with a quote on fixing the gutters on the office building but the village staff never received that or saw anyone come to look, per Fiscal Officer Jennifer Dennis. Mayor Wells requested that the Public Safety Committee have a meeting to discuss an ordinance regarding insurance for fire damaged buildings within the village. She suggested that the village do something nice for Austin Wright, whose last day as Zoning Inspector for the village is May 31<sup>st</sup> and who has worked hard and put in a lot of time. There are two individuals who have expressed interest in being Zoning Inspector and she invited Personnel Committee to help interview them. Received an email from a realtor / attorney who asked if the village is considering tax incentives for people to come and locate here? She told him the village is working on the comprehensive plan and could probably get professional consultation if that were to be considered and she asked council to consider it as another part of their forward-thinking efforts. Police Officer Heath Steele has resigned and Police Chief Harget is looking to fill that position. Some skate park repairs done by Phil Thogmartin and Peggy and her son. She will ask the attorney about meetings needing to be recorded. Parks and Recreation Committee still has a vacancy.

## **ORDINANCES**

### **Ordinances for 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading –**

**ORDINANCE 2021-16** - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN ADDENDUM AND AMENDMENT TO WATER CONTRACT WITH VILLAGE OF MILLERSPORT FOR PURCHASE OF BULK WATER.

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor French, to adopt Ordinance 2021-16.

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

**Abstain: 0;**

**Nays: 0;**

**Absent:** Beard

**Motion Passed 6 – 0**

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

**ORDINANCE 2021-17** - AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 2016-16 AND ADOPTING RoW ORDINANCE ver2021\_1 REGULATING THE USE OR OCCUPATION OF ALL PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAYS, THE ISSUANCE OF RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS TO PERSONS FOR SUCH USE OR OCCUPANCY, AND TO SET FORTH THE POLICIES OF THE VILLAGE RELATED TO ITS PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAYS (ROW) FOR THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO.

Will move on to a third reading.

**ORDINANCE 2021-18** - AN ORDINANCE FOR THE LEVY OF FINES ASSOCIATED WITH NUISANCE FALSE FIRE ALARMS FOR THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE, OHIO, LICKING COUNTY.

Will move on to a third reading.

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

**ORDINANCE 2021-19** - AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN ADR & ASSOCIATES, LTD. AND THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE FOR BIDDING, INSPECTION, AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR THE PARK STREET RETAINING WALL REPLACEMENT PROJECT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

**Abstain: 0;**

**Nays: 0; Absent: Beard Motion Passed 6 – 0**

Motion by Councilor French, seconded by Councilor Zwissler, to adopt Ordinance 2021-19.

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

**Abstain: 0;**

**Nays: 0; Absent: Beard Motion Passed 6 – 0**

**ORDINANCE 2021-20** - AN ORDINANCE TO DISPOSE OF UNNEEDED AND OBSOLETE ITEMS THAT ARE OWNED BY THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE, OHIO.

Discussion: Clarification from Council Clerk Samantha Torres that this Ordinance is to authorize listing the old Medic Ambulance on GovDeals website to be sold since the village has a new Ambulance. Fire Chief Ryan Wyse asked council if they could pass this as an emergency.

Motion by Councilor French, seconded by Councilor Zwissler, to add a declaration of emergency to Ordinance 2021-20 and to suspend the rules.

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

**Abstain: 0;**

**Nays: 0; Absent: Beard Motion Passed 6 – 0**

Motion by Councilor French, seconded by Councilor Zwissler, to adopt Ordinance 2021-20.

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

**Abstain: 0;**

**Nays: 0; Absent: Beard 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:

#### **Design Group DPZ of Miami - Route 79 corridor design for \$20,000 – Decision for BLRC**

**2036 discussion** – Councilor Zwissler mentioned that for the village spending \$20,000, they would be getting \$100,000 worth of design work from DPZ. Councilor Lemmon likes what BLRC 2036 is doing for the North Shore Pier project at the State Park, however is not comfortable moving forward with the \$20,000 at this time. Councilor Goodman said she was trying to understand how this works hand in hand with the comprehensive plan and says the comprehensive plan comes first and this design work comes later. Once the village does the comprehensive plan, she says a committee will be formed for input including elected officials, business people in the community, and residents that will decide what the village wants that to look like. Councilor French agrees that it is too early to spend the \$20,000 when the village is still waiting for the plat. Councilor Cable asked why would the village pay for private property designs? Who would own the designs – the village or BLRC2036 since they are both paying? Are they drawings? Development is going to happen. Is a Miami designer what we want? Also an eminent domain / private property issue. Councilor Lemmon said if private property owners follow the rules, they can put what they want. Determine what the village wants within the comprehensive plan. Councilor Geiger said he would need to be shown how \$20,000 equals \$100,000 of work. Mayor Wells thinks they were missing the point of Mike Fornataro of BLRC2036 bringing design group DPZ to the attention of council as a potential designer. She says they are meant to provide vision and inspiration with how the properties could look, not that they have to look like that. She supports what DPZ is offering.

Motion by Councilor Zwissler, seconded by Councilor French, to table DPZ of Miami Route 79 corridor design for \$20,000.

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

**Abstain: 0;**

**Nays: 0; Absent: Beard Motion Passed 6 – 0**

### NEW BUSINESS:

The Village received a notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for the Kulture Kitchen Authentic Foods restaurant for liquor license issuance hearing request, if any. Police and Fire Departments have no objections to the restaurant receiving a liquor license.

**Floor Vote - "Yay or Nay for a hearing request"**

**Roll call vote:**

**Yay to hearing request: 0;**

**Abstain: 0;**

**Nay to hearing request:** French, Geiger, Goodman, Lemmon, Zwissler, Cable; **Absent:** Beard  
**NO HEARING REQUEST**

**Ordinance 2021-21 – AMENDING ORDINANCE 2021-10 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Code Enforcement Officer Rex Adkins and Fiscal Officer Jennifer Dennis presented this ordinance and stated that the Code Enforcement and Planning and Zoning software called iWorq would be easier accessed online in the field by using an iPad. This ordinance appropriates money for a new monthly Verizon account line, an iPad, and a cell phone for the code enforcement officer. Jennifer cushioned the line some just in case.

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Zwissler, to suspend the rules.

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

**Abstain: 0;**

**Nays: 0; Absent:** Beard **Motion Passed 6 – 0**

Motion by Councilor French, seconded by Councilor Goodman, to adopt Ordinance 2021-21.

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

**Abstain: 0;**

**Nays: 0; Absent:** Beard **Motion Passed 6 – 0**

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**Councilor Cable:** No comments.

**Councilor Lemmon:** Thanked Officer Steele for his service and professionalism and wished him luck, Austin Wright as well. Appreciates Kellie Green for coming in to speak for the Parks and Recreation Commission. Wants to look into modernizing the phone systems.

**Councilor Goodman:** IBEW needs a certified lifeguard for the week they will be in the village, June 20-26<sup>th</sup>. They will have 800-1000 people coming to town that week. Happy that Licking County has supported the village's comprehensive plan. Thanks to Austin Wright; he will be missed.

**Councilor Zwissler:** Thanks to Linda Goodman and Bill French for helping get \$65,000 for the comprehensive plan and possibly \$4,000 for the skatepark. Reason the village was eligible for the grant is because there are 2871 people in the village and 62% of them are at the low-to-medium level of income and 40.5% are at the low-income level. Art and Music Fair on May 29<sup>th</sup> at the Harbor Community Center from 12-6pm. Greenspace at the Harbor was revamped this past weekend. Rummage Sale date changed to June 26<sup>th</sup> from 10am-3pm due to the Pavilion Ribbon Cutting and then a lobster dinner at the Harbor Community Center on the originally scheduled June 19<sup>th</sup> date.

**Councilor French:** Thanked Kitty Zwissler for taking the lead on the CDBG grant efforts.

Thanks to Kellie Green for her Parks and Recreation report. Excited to have the public back at the meetings.

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

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS ALL YEAS; MOTION CARRIED 6-0**  
Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm

NEXT MEETING: June 14, 2021

  
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Samantha Torres, Council Clerk

  
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John Geiger, Council President