

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting Minutes  
Held in Council Chambers, streamed live on Facebook  
**May 8, 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: Paula Brunton (0,2), Don Cable (0,0), Linda Goodman (0,0),  
(Consecutive, Total Absences) Deb Julian (0,0), John Lemmon (0,0), Sue Wadley (0,1), Tom Wolfe (0,0)  
Absent: None

**Staff Present:** Mayor Jeryne Peterson; Jennifer Dennis, Clerk/Treasurer; Samantha Torres, Clerk of Council; Police Chief Jason Harget;

**Approval of Regular Council Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Wadley, to approve the April 24, 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 Treasurer’s report dated May 4, 2023.

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

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

**APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS –**

Licking County Commissioner Tim Bubb came to talk about the electric and natural gas aggregation issue, permitted by the State of Ohio, that will be on the November ballot. He likes to use the words “group purchasing” or “wholesale” instead of “aggregation.” More than a decade ago, the state legislature allowed local communities to go into the open market and purchase gas and electric competitively to see if they can do better than what the utility provides. The Energy Cooperative is not affected by this as they are not a public utility, they are member-owned and they already have the ability to aggregate or go out and purchase their energy wherever they can at the best price they can. They were created to bring energy to rural communities. If you get your energy from them, you will not be affected by this issue, but members can still vote on it. This is one of the rare opportunities that the village council has to get something on the ballot where voters can benefit themselves financially. Tim passed around a piece of mail that the voters received the last time this was done for other communities in last year’s election. It won in six of the seven municipalities that had it on the ballot. They were able to lock in, in March of this year, an aggregation price for electricity of 6.24 cents per kilowatt hour and 5.79 cents per cubic foot for natural gas. This will be locked in for these other municipalities, fixed, through December of 2025. He stated that this Summer, AEP will be putting their rate up to between 10 and 11 cents per kilowatt hour. These customers who were able to get in on this for the coming years will be saving about \$300 per year on their electric bill. This will affect residential and small businesses, including the village municipal offices. It is not the council’s decision of whether it passes or not, it is simply their decision to give the voters the opportunity to consider it and vote.

Councilor Lemmon stated that his concern is that the resolution states customers can “opt out once every three years without paying a switching fee.” Tim stated they can opt out at any time for free. The once opt out is at the start of the plan. The recent communities that voted for this aggregation, their plan will start on the June meter reading / July bill. Two months before that, they will be sent a letter allowing them to opt out for free. Once every term when the price is renegotiated, there will be an opt out letter sent out allowing them to go back to the utility-stated price for energy for free. He stated that under this plan, residents can opt out or opt in at any time they want. Councilor Lemmon read the line in the legislation again and Commissioner Bubb stated that they would not sign any contract that has a switching fee and he gave an example that they will not sign a bad deal, they would rather wait. Once the aggregation is approved, they do not have to do it right away. Not every

day is a good day to buy energy. Bigger group equals better prices. More than 200 communities in Ohio aggregate right now. They are looking to have 22 communities on the ballot for aggregation in November. Councilor Julian asked who would be managing this and who are the decision makers in this. Commissioner Bubb said this is a county aggregation program that is under the Commission's umbrella that work together as a single unit. He asked council to consider a second resolution after this possibly passes in November that would agree, by resolution, to join the county aggregation group which is the larger pool of communities in Licking County that aggregate. They have a committee that has a representative from every community that come together to talk to Palmer Energy and talk about energy and when they want to aggregate and when they want to put the RFP out for it. The advantage of doing it under one county umbrella is that the village would give them the authority to represent the village in the RFP that is put out. They then can lock in the contract and vet it and get the village the price and then the energy provider that gets the contract delivers the electricity to the residents. Remember, if you are a customer of AEP, you are still a customer of AEP Ohio. They still have the wire to your house and connection to the grid and you will still get your bill from AEP. He explained how to read your utility bill and what would change on it. The village would not contract directly with the vendor, the aggregation group of Licking County government and a committee of the aggregation participants would do that on their behalf. He stated the importance of teaching the residents what that word aggregation means – wholesale or group purchasing to get a better price.

Mayor Peterson read a proclamation for National Kids to Parks Day to be held on May 20, 2023.

### **COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance Committee:** Meeting held today. The committee recommended the financial ordinances that are on the agenda tonight. Will be working on village fee schedule. Next meeting to be held on the second Monday of June at 5:45pm.

**Public Safety Committee:** Fire Chief Keisha Amspaugh sent a message as she could not attend the meeting. She thanked everyone for their support on the Fire Levy and for attending the fire levy functions. She gave a special thanks to Kitty Zwissler for her assistance throughout the fire levy process. She thanked everyone for their financial contributions and thanked the voters for helping pass this important levy. Next committee meeting will be May 22nd at 6:30pm.

**Public Service Committee:** Held a committee meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Meeting minutes submitted. Several Public Service projects going on around the village that are in various stages. Corner of Mill Dam Road looks great. Striping is taking place. The village received approval for a license to do their own mosquito spraying. Purchased, installed, and are running a new generator for the water tower. Regular meetings will be the first Monday of each month at 6:30pm. President Goodman encouraged the public to please come to join in on the public service discussion or watch the committee meetings for your own information about these important ongoing projects on the village Facebook page.

**Rules Committee:** She sent out a draft to everyone from their first Rules committee meeting. Next meeting will be held in June.

**Community Development Committee:** Chairman Wolfe had a photo he took and passed around to members showing that the emergency access road back between Maple Bay and Cranberry Bay was blocked by a dumpster and dirt piles. Chair Wolfe does not see how any vehicle can get through there. Council has asked that it is a consistently passable route for police and fire vehicles if there is an emergency. Mayor Peterson said she would make a call about the emergency road. Community Development committee is ready to move forward with the short-term rental ordinance amendment.

**Personnel Committee:** Next committee meeting to be held June 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

**Report of Council President:** May 29<sup>th</sup> there will be an event for the rededication of the fountain at North Shore Park from 11am-4pm. A proclamation will be read on that day. ODNR has run electric and water to it. Buckeye Lake Museum has done a lot to facilitate this and it will also be their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary open house on that day. Planning and Zoning and development issues – talking with others in the coming weeks about how to address some of these issues and how to move forward.

**Report of Mayor:** Written report submitted. Thank you to all who voted for the very important fire levy.

## ORDINANCES

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

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

**Ordinance 2023-14** - AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2021 INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO.

This will move on to a third reading.

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

**Ordinance 2023-16** - AMENDING ORDINANCE 2023-08 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Lemmon 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 Ordinance 2023-16.

**Discussion:** Councilor Lemmon stated this was recommended from Finance Committee.

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

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

**Ordinance 2023-17** - AMENDING ORDINANCE 2023-08 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING 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 Lemmon to adopt Ordinance 2023-17.

**Discussion:** Councilor Lemmon stated this was recommended from Finance Committee.

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

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

## RESOLUTIONS

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

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

**Resolution 2023-12** - A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED CREATION AND MARKING OF A LOCAL BIKE ROUTE AROUND BUCKEYE LAKE.

This will move on to a third reading.

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

**Resolution 2023-13** - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECT A GOVERNMENTAL ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION PROGRAM WITH OPT-OUT PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 4928.20 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, DIRECTING THE LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS.

Councilor Lemmon stated he would like the village solicitor to take a look at this to see if a change to the wording could be made in Section 4. He would like to know if it could be changed to “opt out of the program at any time with no fee.”

This will move on to a second reading.

**Resolution 2023-14** - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECT A GOVERNMENTAL NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM WITH OPT-OUT PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 4929.26 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, DIRECTING THE LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS.

Again Councilor Lemmon would like to see if the change in wording could be made.

Councilor Cable stated to Commissioner Bubb that the village is under Energy Co-op for gas. Commissioner stated he was under the impression that the village had some of both, but that if the village is 100% co-op, it may be pointless legislation and a pointless ballot issue unless they could see some future expansion in some direction where they might have something other than co-op. He said it will not hurt to authorize aggregation of public utility (will not cost anything to authorize, one way or the other), but if the village is 100% co-op, there is not going to be any better deal. President Goodman stated that with the current talks of the future of development in the village, there will be a lot of people coming to the area soon. Commissioner Bubb said that a lot of the communities are mixed. Councilor Wadley stated that our Buckeye Lake ballot will have quite a few issues on it in November and that if this is a non-issue, to not include it because of the importance of the other issues that will be on there.

This will move on to a second reading.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** -

**Mayor's Veto of Ordinance 2023-15** –

**Ordinance 2023-15** - AMENDING ORDINANCE 2023-08 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilor Lemmon stated that some of the mayor's veto reasons are good points. He stated that the reason he originally voted on it was because a couple of council members brought up some personnel issues that were concerning that were talked about in executive session. He realized coming out of the session that he is not an expert on personnel and he does not know what council's role is in that and what it is not. That is why he voted originally to hire an expert to tell them that: not that he wants any particular action taken, but that he wants a better understanding and an HR attorney would help him understand. Goodman stated that is a good point and that none of us are experts in that area and the question became, does council have an action? Council does need to be able to consult with an HR attorney and this ordinance means that we now have the money appropriated to contact one, as the village has done before, so that everyone has a better understanding for how to handle issues when they come up.

Motion by Councilor Wolfe, seconded by Councilor Julian to reconsider, override the mayor's veto, and adopt Ordinance 2023-15 and move it forward.

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

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

**Zoning Grant** – Councilor Julian asked what is the status of the zoning grant. President Goodman stated she has had a conversation with OHM and there will be another meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> with Licking County Planning who will submit the application. Commissioner Bubb said that they are getting ready to do this in June. President Goodman also stated there has been some talk from Planning and Zoning about overlay zoning because of what appears to be some development happening before we have the opportunity to work through the grant process and get the study done to completely redo all of the zoning. Will meet with OHM later this week to speak with them about that, though they briefly said the village may not need it because it has a PUD and PRD. Having a lot of variances go through in the meantime is what is concerning to Councilor Julian. Hoping to have some better answers within the next few weeks.

#### **NEW BUSINESS** –

**Conforming of Boundaries** – President Goodman stated there is discussion about the conforming of boundaries for certain areas (parts of Walnut Township and Licking Township) in the village. Will have more information at next council meeting. Will need to have public meetings with both townships involved after the first reading.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS** - None.

#### **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Councilor Wadley:** She is so happy that the Fire Levy passed. Keisha is relieved and is doing a great job and Councilor Wadley is here to support her in any way possible. Thanks to all who supported the levy. Thanked all of the staff who works for the village. There is a lot going on in the village and there are a lot of expectations and everyone is really stepping up to the plate and she appreciates that.

**Councilor Wolfe:** Appreciates the information received from Licking County Commissioner Tim Bubb today. It is awesome for a lot of people, possibly being able to save hundreds a year on electric or gas. A lot going on around the lake and it is nice to be here on council.

**Councilor Julian:** Facebook pushes from the Parks and Recreation Commission have been absolutely amazing. It is so informational and Commission member Melissa Tevis has a lot to do with that. Councilor Julian recently had a neighbor who went to use the park with their grandchild and they said that it is so nice. The more we get the word out, the better for our parks. She said the sign on Route 79 for Ryan-Braden Park and the Recreation Center could use an arrow pointing down the road toward the park because it makes it seem like the park is where the empty lot where the sign is located. There was discussion in Public Service Committee about starting to understand what undeveloped roads the village owns that is a future expense to us and what does the village do about private roads and do we ever allow them again. Those should be part of discussion on the zoning changes because they continue to cause a lot of issues.

**Councilor Brunton:** Thanked everyone for their support on the Fire Levy.

**Councilor Lemmon:** Thanked Tim Bubb for his information. What he is bringing in could be very helpful to people in the village. Having an informed group of people doing this for them could be very helpful. Nice proclamation from the Mayor for Kids to Parks Day.

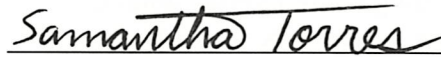
**Councilor Cable:** Fourth year of their four-year terms on council for himself, Lemmon, and Goodman – they have passed police and fire levies, increased wages, improved parks. He appreciates both old and new council

members. We are moving forward and doing good things. He is not a big levy supporter but he put up a sign for the Fire Levy. Thinks we are doing a good job and we will keep moving forward.

**Councilor Goodman:** Thank you everyone.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Councilor Cable to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Councilor Brunton. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

**NEXT MEETING:** Regular Council Meeting: May 22, 2023

  
Samantha Torres, Council Clerk

  
Linda Goodman, Council President