

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting Minutes
Held in Council Chambers, streamed live on Facebook
November 11, 2024

Call to Order: By Council President John Lemmon 7:00p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence: Led by Buckeye Lake Police Officer Blaine Jenkins, Veteran of the United States Marine Corps.

Roll Call: Present: Don Cable, Kellie Green, Deb Julian, Douglas Keener, John Lemmon, Sue Wadley, Tom Wolfe
Absent: None

Staff Present: Linda Goodman, Mayor; Samantha Torres, Clerk of Council; Amanda Hoppel, Clerk Treasurer; Blaine Jenkins, Police Officer; Jerry Brooks, Interim Fire Chief; Toby Miller, Public Works Superintendent; Rex Adkins, Code Enforcement Officer

Approval of Regular Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Councilor Julian, seconded by Councilor Green, to approve the October 14, 2024 regular council meeting minutes.

Roll call vote: Yes: Wolfe, Cable, Green, Julian, Keener, Lemmon
Abstain: Wadley; Nays: 0; **Motion Passed 6 – 1 - 0**

Approval of Regular Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Cable, to approve the October 28, 2024 regular council meeting minutes.

Roll call vote: Yes: Wolfe, Cable, Green, Keener, Lemmon
Abstain: Julian, Wadley; Nays: 0; **Motion Passed 5 – 2 - 0**

Approval of Clerk Treasurer’s Report: Motion by Councilor Julian, seconded by Councilor Keener, to approve the Treasurer’s report dated November 6, 2024.

Roll call vote: Yes: Wolfe, Cable, Green, Julian, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley
Abstain: 0; Nays: 0; **Motion Passed 7 – 0**

APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: None.

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

Finance Committee: Meeting held tonight where they discussed the 2025 permanent budget. Have some things to work through. Will have a first reading of the budget. \$340,000 taken out of the budget as presented, but that does not mean they are not approved for next year, just should not be in the initial budget.

Public Safety Committee: Would like to address the condition of the police and fire vehicles – mileage, condition, replacement needs for 2025. Would like a meeting at 6:00pm November 25th.

Public Service Committee: Chair Cable asked Mr. Miller, per the notification of cancellation, did Union Avenue paving get redone? Mayor is not happy with the company and stated that Union Avenue paving is to be completed by end of day on Friday. It apparently rained when they were scheduled to be here, but this has been going on for several months now. She contacted Neff Paving and our solicitor. Next meeting first Monday of December at 6:30pm.

Rules Committee: Nothing to report.

Community Development Committee: Nothing to report.

Personnel Committee: Meeting was scheduled for tonight but Finance ran late. Will reschedule for next Monday at 6:30pm to discuss pay scale potential changes and health insurance. Mayor stated it will be important that she knows how

to move forward with a full-time fire chief position; she will start soon setting up interviews for that. There may be people who may not wish to apply for part-time but may be interested in full time. Will discuss more in new business tonight.

Report of Council President: Thanked the veterans. He has asked previous mayors for some way of honoring the veterans on Veteran's Day. Mayor Goodman could vet that through the Events Committee. DORA first reading and public hearing held today. Worth Drive PMUD rezoning public hearing to be held November 25th 6:30pm. Charter amendments have passed on the ballot. Police levy has failed. Due to responsible spending habits of the police department, we do have funds for 2025. Need to make a plan for 2026 and moving forward. Either way, this is a big hit to the police department's finances that sets them back years financially. Will be working out of the working capital that has been building up for times like these. Will not have working capital and it will take several years to build that back up.

Report of Mayor: Mayor Goodman attended a conference in Newark held by the United Way attended by around 200 people addressing the homeless community and how the county can work together to improve housing and funding expanded programs. This is a group that will continue to meet. Very good discussion. Her takeaway: it takes money but hopefully we can start to form this group and address this situation in a better way. Side note: Downtown Newark at the hotel. Walked across the street, got in the car. There was a homeless person sleeping on the porch of an insurance building, right outside of the meeting. It's heartbreaking and sad. Some people need help others don't want help. We have a small homeless group in the village. We are aware of it and looking into it.

Trunk or Treat was very successful and well-attended. Thanked the Harbor and volunteer Cranberry Lane ladies. Did a fabulous job providing drinks and pizza and dressing festively. They had money left over and bought some additional decorations and made a contribution to the Harbor. She met with reps for Licking County Transit for the fixed route for Hebron and Buckeye Lake and they will be attending the council meeting on November 25th to discuss possible routes and stops. Events committee met last week. Getting close to finalizing the Christmas in the Village event. Harbor will have 20 vendors inside and outside. Large soup pot will be there. Other food vendors. Parade route starts at First Community Church. Take a moment to honor the veterans, including Officer Blaine Jenkins of our Police Department.

Citizen's Comments Regarding Legislation on Tonight's Agenda: None.

ORDINANCES

Ordinances for 3rd Reading – None.

Ordinances for 2nd Reading –

Ordinance 2024-59 – AN ORDINANCE MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS AND AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA (DORA).

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

Roll call vote: Yes: Wolfe, Cable, Green, Julian, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley

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

Motion by Councilor Julian, seconded by Councilor Wadley to adopt Ordinance 2024-59.

Roll call vote: Yes: Wolfe, Cable, Green, Julian, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley

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

Ordinance 2024-60 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN PARCELS FROM AGRICULTURE AND R2 TO PLANNED MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT (PMUD).

There will be a public hearing on this on November 25th at 6:30pm.

This will move to a third reading.

Ordinances for 1st Reading –

Ordinance 2024-61 - AN ORDINANCE APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NUMBER 1 FOR THE WEST NORTH BANK STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Roll call vote: Yes: Wolfe, Cable, Green, Julian, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley
Abstain: 0; Nays: 0; **Motion Passed 7 – 0**

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Cable to adopt Ordinance 2024-61.

Roll call vote: Yes: Wolfe, Cable, Green, Julian, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley
Abstain: 0; Nays: 0; **Motion Passed 7 – 0**

Ordinance 2024-62 - AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING HUNTING AND TRAPPING OF ANIMALS WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE.

Discussion: Councilor Lemmon stated he would get with the solicitor about making the change so that agriculture zoned and other areas or property owners with a certain amount of acreage could still hunt on their land and are grandfathered in. This will move on to a second reading.

Ordinance 2024-63 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF LEGAL COUNSEL FOR INDIGENT DEFENDANTS FOR THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO.

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

Roll call vote: Yes: Wolfe, Cable, Green, Julian, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley
Abstain: 0; Nays: 0; **Motion Passed 7 – 0**

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Cable to adopt Ordinance 2024-63.

Roll call vote: Yes: Wolfe, Cable, Green, Julian, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley
Abstain: 0; Nays: 0; **Motion Passed 7 – 0**

Ordinance 2024-64 - AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ESTIMATED REVENUE FOR THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Roll call vote: Yes: Wolfe, Cable, Green, Julian, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley
Abstain: 0; Nays: 0; **Motion Passed 7 – 0**

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Cable to adopt Ordinance 2024-64.

Roll call vote: Yes: Wolfe, Cable, Green, Julian, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley
Abstain: 0; Nays: 0; **Motion Passed 7 – 0**

Ordinance 2024-65 - AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-10 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Roll call vote: Yes: Wolfe, Cable, Green, Julian, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley
Abstain: 0; Nays: 0; **Motion Passed 7 – 0**

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Wolfe to adopt Ordinance 2024-65.

Discussion: Why is this retroactive? Going back to pay the bills that came in. Process changes from one loan to the next. Pay the bills and reimburse. Toby – these are engineering bills from 9-2-2024. We went from a design loan to construction loan. When the construction loan came in, they rolled the design into the construction loan. We were under the impression they would take over with the expenditures. Had to wait until the funds were encumbered by the state. They will reimburse out of a loan. Have to do with a now PO. The PO still has not been pulled.

Roll call vote: Yes: Wolfe, Cable, Green, Julian, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley

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

Ordinance 2024-66 - PERMANENT ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE, OHIO, FOR 2025, AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

This will move on to a second reading.

Ordinance 2024-67 - AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-10 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Roll call vote: Yes: Wolfe, Cable, Green, Julian, Keener, Lemmon

Abstain: 0; Nays: Wadley; Motion Passed 6 – 1

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Green to adopt Ordinance 2024-67.

Discussion: Why are we having to get emergency to pay for everyday things? Came in higher than we budgeted for leak earlier this year. Water bill went up a little bit. Get us through November and December bills. Averaging \$350-400 \$450-500 a month now. Has gone up over the past few months. Other was requested by commission chair.

Roll call vote: Yes: Wolfe, Cable, Green, Julian, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley

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

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions for 3rd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 2nd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 1st Reading – None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

2024-25 Pay Plan – Have not vetted out the exhibit yet. Need to pass as emergency today then bring another ordinance.

Motion by Councilor Wadley, seconded by Councilor Keener to remove Ordinance 2024-55 from the table.

Roll call vote: Yes: Wolfe, Cable, Green, Julian, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley

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

Ordinance is now back into discussion as a second reading.

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

Roll call vote: Yes: Wolfe, Cable, Green, Julian, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley

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

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Julian to adopt Ordinance 2024-55.

Discussion: Councilor Wadley – She and the mayor had some discussion with the challenges that they’ve had at the Fire Department for the last 20-30 years. Would be in the best interest of the village to recruit a full-time Fire Chief and that’s why they are moving forward asking for a full-time fire chief position. Full time would give more stability. Working at one department which will help with scheduling. They will work 48 hours a week. They will be an active Fire Chief going on runs versus an administrative Fire Chief. That person will be there as a point of stability and continuity that we have not had. 6 Fire Chiefs in the last two administrations. Councilor Cable agrees with all being said. What he does not understand is the pay plan ordinance in conjunction with the Fire Chief. Councilor Wolfe - this is a working Fire Chief; would that Fire Chief hold paramedic credentials? Mayor stated they will have specific qualifications they would need to hold. Have talked about the certifications required. Now they have to have multiple requirements. Councilor Wadley – full time Fire Chief will help with recruiting and training. Ideally, yes, Fire Chief should be qualified as paramedic. Councilors Wadley and Green – don’t want to create something so challenging or boxing great candidates out from applying for the position. Mayor – there is a stipulation that they need to have ten years to be a Fire Chief. Preferred requirement that they be a paramedic. Fire inspector for short-term rentals. Councilor Julian – when this came up before –

when she was looking at the fire budget last year – back into the number of hours we have to have on duty. 2 people 24 hours a day 365 days a year. Before, almost 100% of the hours were administrative and very little as part of the team. When we get to specifics of the application, need to specify that so we do not make a mistake in hiring. Need to look at how our whole fire department is comprised. If 90% of our runs are EMS, it is critical that we don't just hire fire. Councilor Keener – is pay high enough? Councilor Wadley – getting away from hourly. Looking at salary with benefits. Is it competitive for a like-size community? It is a mayor's hire. For mayor to get rid of them, they have to come back to council. Councilor Julian – pay scale on EMT and paramedic are changing in the budget. Income we get from runs is in there. About \$600k a year in revenue. Are not going into reserves. Does work out for 2025 as long as the budget does not increase. Councilor Wadley – the current budget is self-supported so general does not have to help. Pay scales do say whether they are part-time. Wadley – looked at internal equity and how it fit into the budget when determining rate.

Roll call vote: Yes: Wolfe, Cable, Green, Julian, Keener, Lemmon, Wadley

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

Capital Projects Workgroup – President Lemmon would like to hold off on this. Duties we were looking for were passed by the charter changes. Planning commission board – part of their duties.

Electric Aggregation – Councilor Wolfe stated that his bill is sky-high. Other council let him know he had to opt out of the program. Went to public vote last year.

NEW BUSINESS –

Police Funding – Lemmon – it is not official that the levy has failed until certified. Will need to bring some things to the table for what to put on the ballot for May 2025. Councilor Cable – why do we believe it did not pass? Need to discuss this. Councilor Julian – there needs to be something that goes out to our residents. It is about the 51% that voted it down. There were other municipalities that voted against similar levies. Go out to residents and ask the question. But how? Councilor Lemmon – need to have two steps of resolutions passed by this council for May. We are looking at a tight schedule. Cable has asked about income tax vs levies. We have 3 levies that are constantly being run through the village. Seems like every voting cycle there are hands out again. Do we look at combining the levies? He heard through several people that the lack of approval for Mopar had some issues for it. People will vote how they want to vote. Councilor Julian – hears more often than not from people in the village that we have not grown. We are still at 2800 people in the village. She thinks that with every extra dollar we get, the spending is a lot of asks. If council and admin don't start listening, that people do not want to pay for things that do not benefit them. Need to be fiscally responsible to the residents. Have held on to properties for 12 years. Why not sell the drive-thru that is a horrible building that someone else wants. Mayor – police department did not shut down Mopar, council did, it was a joint decision. Being fiscally responsible is all of our jobs. She has a problem wrapping her head around the nature of this village has changed a lot in the last 10-15 years. Multiple million-dollar homes in this village that do not want proper police protection? Wadley – property value should not determine if you want police protection. Mayor – we do not have someone on police in the middle of the night and 40 storage units were broken into on Mill Dam last night. We cannot schedule 24-7 right now with 4 people on duty. She values the residents and this council and values our police chief and our police department and we need to find a way to support them. Councilor Lemmon – would have to get 7 officers for 24-7 coverage. Sheriffs help us. Councilor Green - With recreation and increased traffic comes an increase in crime, there is a need for safety. Can't have that without our own police force. If she makes a phone call, average is 6 full time in the whole county. Second or third largest county. Sheriff could be 20 minutes away. We want more people in our village but need to have our own police department. Councilor Cable – if we can reduce the amount of times the money is being asked for, there is a better chance for success. Councilor Keener – let it calm down then bring it back. Mayor - OML will help guide us through that process. They were shocked that we do not have an income tax. Talk to people and get their opinions.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS –

Jonathan Vince – 78 Second Street – Has lived here for ten years and his taxes have gone from paying \$800 to \$1200 to \$2400 in taxes. Make sure you set specific dates. When the current ends and when new one starts. Let public know it's a

continuation, not an increase. Why people voted against it? How many times have we had levies? How many levies in 40 years? How are we passing to have police all these times and then this one did not pass? Need to find a reason because we need to have police and fire in the village.

Kaye Hartman – 4631 North Bank Road – Election results will be certified on November 18th. Key to passing anything is education. Failed in educating the residents. Do you want to live in a village that has no police protection at all? Sheriff is the alternative; how much is that going to cost? They are not going to work here for nothing. When people come to you about the levy, ask them are you going to dump that money into the county and let them tell you what you're going to do? No one here had any questions about the DORA. It's okay to let people walk up and down the sidewalk with a drink in their hand when you might not even have a policeman to enforce.

Jeff Guth - 242 Cranberry Lane – Need a police presence. Property tax is not a way to fund it. Income tax would be the way to go. Has anyone done research on how much would be generated with that? Continuing to increase property tax will cause people to move. We are paying for them to come and have a good time. He is all for a well-overdue income tax. It needs to be spelled out for them as well. Can't continue to fund off of property tax.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS –

Councilor Wolfe - Could get refreshed by someone from RITA or OML on the numbers of an income tax to get some clarification. Thanked veterans for their service. Had a great trunk or treat. Aware of camping on public property. Thanked mayor for her Union Avenue paving push. Thanked her for her work on the DORA; did a great job. Appreciates the people who came up tonight to talk. We love to hear more citizen's comments. Come to our meetings.

Councilor Cable – Recognized excellent work Councilwoman Green did on the charter ballot process and getting that passed. We need to think outside of the box for some of our processes. Looking forward to Christmas in the Village. Buy local.

Councilor Green – Thanked all who came to the microphone to speak. Gave them food for thought. Thanked Councilor Keener and his wife and family for their time at the Halloween event. Thanked Sam for her work with the ladies on Trunk or Treat. Her heart goes out to Police Chief Harget. He cannot be feeling anything but down about the police levy failing. Seeing our own police services here make her want to be a member of the community.

Councilor Julian – Thanked veterans. Think about being closed for next year Veteran's Day. We should have some sort of celebration for them. It was unfortunate that it was the first Trunk or Treat that she missed. Coordination from the groups (such as the Harbor) was better than it's ever been. She suggested a volunteer group that gets together to clean up the roads and the streets that is designated by area. Jeff Guth's wife picks up trash when she walks. Municipality provides the vests and picker uppers supplies. Wants to look into that for 2025. Kudos to mayor for her work on the budget.

Councilor Keener – Thanks to veterans and all who came out.

Councilor Lemmon – Thanks to all veterans. A lot of people around here are veterans. Thanked people for the work that is being done by individuals. Have put a lot of work on our council clerk. DORA – was being worked on two mayors ago and it was said to be moving forward. It did not get done because it was difficult. Took a lot of work and dedication. Says a lot for our current mayor that she was able to do in a short amount of time what others could not get done.

Councilor Wadley – Sorry to hear that police levy did not pass. It is critical. The messaging fell short and that is something we need to look at. Budget – we had a big discussion. Thank you to Mayor for her budget. We should be as transparent as possible – big asks should have a summary or support or need to be pulled out and vetted individually. Excited about Christmas in the Village. Hoping Council can do something organized in that event.

Adjournment: Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Wolfe, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:54pm.

NEXT MEETING: Regular Council Meeting – November 25, 2024



Samantha Torres, Council Clerk



John Lemmon, Council President