

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting Minutes
Held in Council Chambers, streamed live on Facebook
November 25, 2024

Call to Order: By Council President John Lemmon 7:03p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence: Led by Council President John Lemmon.

Roll Call: Present: Don Cable, Deb Julian, Douglas Keener, John Lemmon, Sue Wadley, Tom Wolfe
Absent: Kellie Green

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

Approval of Public Hearing Minutes: Motion by Councilor Julian, seconded by Councilor Wolfe, to approve the public hearing minutes dated November 11, 2024.

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

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

Regular council meeting minutes for November 11, 2024 will be available at the next council meeting.

Approval of Clerk Treasurer’s Report: Motion by Councilor Wolfe, seconded by Councilor Keener, to approve the Treasurer’s report and October 2024 reconciliations dated November 21, 2024.

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

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

APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: Matthew Allison, Executive Director of Licking County Transit and Matt Hill, Technical Study Director from Licking County Area Transportation Study (LCATS) gave a presentation about a new fixed route transit system scheduled to service the Village of Buckeye Lake area in July 2025. They are asking for \$42,000 from both Hebron and the Village of Buckeye Lake to help fund this route, to be invoiced in May. Later expenses would be to install signage. This is no cost to the rider. Their presentation can be found in the meeting minutes binder.

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

Finance Committee: Next committee meeting to be held December 9th at 5:30pm to finalize budget and take a look at new possibilities for levy funding for the police department.

Public Safety Committee: Committee met tonight. Talked to police and fire chiefs. Going to replace fire chief vehicle with a police vehicle, move one over. Fire chief gave summary of maintenance in his budget. Will get an update for 2025 if new engine is needed. Police chief will give report if we need a new cruiser.

Public Service Committee: Report given at previous meeting. Union Avenue has been repaired. Have an additional two years of warranty on that. Next meeting December 2nd at 6:30pm.

Rules Committee: No report. He was not at the last events committee meeting.

Community Development Committee: Absent; no report.

Personnel Committee: Special personnel committee meeting was held – talked about year-end items, specifically employee benefits. Committee made some recommendations for changes for that which are on for discussion later tonight. Reviewed pay plan, also on for legislation tonight. Talked about longevity pay to encourage retention and some of the positions that are turning over that are difficult to fill.

Report of Council President: President Lemmon stated that a lot of work has gone into tonight's meeting. In the interest of time, he will spare the details and move on.

REPORT OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS – WRITTEN OR VERBAL

Police Department – Chief Jason Harget: Calls for service report submitted. Cruiser 803 had some repairs that were needed. \$2,600 that is still within the budget. Will be fine by the end of year. Includes tires at \$1,000 for a set of four tires for a police vehicle. Officer Drew Fox has been released from field training and will be on his own, shift 7am-3pm in the morning. Finalizing another application. Officer King looks good for application as officer. Officer Blaine Jenkins has decided to resign. He has put in his two weeks' notice and has expressed he enjoyed working with the village. He will go to Baltimore as a school resource officer at Liberty Union in a program that Chief Harget himself started. Radios – saved a lot of money on upgrades thanks to Dave Ruton. Will be finished Wednesday to get ready for 2025 upgrades. This will be the last time they will be able to accept an upgrade and will need to plan for radios in the future budget. Thanked the police levy committee members for getting signs out and talking to people. Though it was not the outcome that we wanted, it was a close result because of their hard work. Will remain optimistic in the police department and provide great service the best they can with what they have and Chief thinks they will be fine with what they have.

Fire Department – Interim Chief Jerry Brooks: Report submitted and read. Councilor Wadley asked are you able to provide 24-hour coverage? Chief answered yes, have been able to since the beginning of September.

Public Works – Super Intendent Toby Miller: Storm water project has started and there will be a bit of a traffic mess. Two-week shutdown in December where they will not work, otherwise the schedule is full through May 2025. A lot of steel plates for a while. Updates on this project will happen at public service committee meetings.

Parks and Recreation – Annetta Macedonia: Meeting minutes submitted. No representative; no verbal report.

Code Enforcement – Rex Adkins: Written report submitted. 21 invoices will be mailed out by the end of the week totaling \$7,858 for reimbursement on grass cutting. Finding a lot of unregistered short-term rentals. Those people have received letters letting them know they need to start the application process.

Zoning – Kevin Strang: Report submitted. 22 on-site visits, 57 calls and emails, 1 stop work order. Busy month. 23 days in office keeping up with paperwork until we get our new clerk. Councilor Julian stated the zoning application online is not very user-friendly at all. Kevin said there is a list of things they would like to change. Mayor Goodman thanked Rex and Kevin for stepping up after the zoning clerk quit. New clerk will start Monday December 2nd.

Planning & Zoning / BZA Commission – Tom Price: Absent, no report.

Report of Mayor Goodman: Update on Christmas parade – Big10 Championship football game is same night as the parade. Festivities should be finished by 7:45pm. Everything is going well. Randy has started getting Christmas lights up. Tomorrow the pole decorations down Hebron Road will go up. December 2nd the tree gets cut down and put in place in the green space across the street from the village office building, next to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. Harbor Community Center festivities start at 3:30pm December 7th with vendors. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church will have the tree lighting and live nativity. Hand bell choir will play inside the church. Accapella choir from Lakewood. Parade starts at 5:30pm. Brewery, Chef Shack, and Crenos Pizza may all do things as well. She hopes all will come out and join us. Third year for the parade. Building on it this year. Wished everyone a blessed thanksgiving. Enjoy your day and family.

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

ORDINANCES

Ordinances for 3rd Reading –

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

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Julian to adopt Ordinance 2024-60. .

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

Ordinances for 2nd Reading –

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

Discussion: Councilor Lemmon asked council to refer to Ordinance 2024-68 that was drafted by Solicitor Brad Nicodemus removing the hunting element from the legislation if they would rather have that.

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

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

Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Keener to adopt Ordinance 2024-62.

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

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.

Ordinances for 1st Reading –

Ordinance 2024-68 - AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE USE OF LEG-HOLD AND SIMILAR TRAPS WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE.

This will move on to a second reading.

Ordinance 2024-69 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK TO ADD LONGEVITY PAY FOR EMPLOYEES.

Discussion: The intent is for this to be paid out during the first pay in January so President Lemmon suggested suspension of the rules to have this ordinance go into effect before year-end. Personnel Chair Wadley also explained that this is to encourage people to stay employed as there are some positions that have some turn-over, some of which are difficult to fill.

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

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

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Julian to adopt Ordinance 2024-69.

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

Ordinance 2024-70 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2024 – 2025 PAY PLAN AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

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

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Wadley to adopt Ordinance 2024-70.

Discussion: Personnel Chair Wadley explained that typically what happens with the pay plan is whatever the percentage of increase is established by council, the pay plan is amended. Committee made recommendation to only change those that needed to have a change to the maximum level to accommodate that increase. This time around there was one position identified for that. The other change is for the Fire Chief position changing the maximum based on discussion. Wadley stated that at the beginning of 2025, the Personnel committee will come together to look at the whole pay plan and move it forward so it is more conducive to a typical pay plan and maybe have some mid points and identify how an individual, based on the skills they bring, where they would start in the pay range.

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

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

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions for 3rd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 2nd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 1st Reading – None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS –

Vote on Council Representative for New Planning Commission -

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Julian, to appoint Councilor Keener as the Council representative for the new Planning Commission

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

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

Councilor Keener accepts.

Mayor Goodman stated that the Charter Commission proposed these new groups as a change in the charter. Council voted to put the change on the ballot and it passed. What it does is, instead of having the Planning and Zoning Commission as one body, it separates it out. There will be a 5-member Planning Commission – two being Mayor and Council representative. Zoning will be 5 members and Board of Zoning Appeals will be 5 members.

Council President and Mayor met with the solicitor. Mayor Goodman sent an email to everyone who is currently on the Planning and Zoning Commission to see who wished to stay involved. One person is not an elector so they will not be able to continue, per a charter change. One member said he no longer wishes to stay on. Anyone out there interested, let her know. Planning Commission is filled. Zoning and Board of Zoning Appeals members are needed. Some may not meet every month. Councilor Wadley asked is there somewhere where people can get a list of the duties and responsibilities? Mayor's role is the acting Development Director until one is hired but council has not wanted to do that. All recommendations for members are from mayor and approved by council.

Personnel recommendations for change to the 2025 employee health care benefits:

Motion by Councilor Wolfe, seconded by Councilor Wadley to move the health benefit recommendations forward to the administration.

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

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

Renewal of any Class C and D retail permits to sell alcoholic beverages within the village in 2025:

No objections from police, administration, or council on liquor permit renewals.

Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Wolfe that the legislative authority does not need a hearing for the objection to the renewal of any retail liquor permit within the village.

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

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

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS – None.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS –

Councilor Cable – Thanked the Matts from Licking County Transit for their presentation. He wants the documents for the meetings to show on the main tv. Christmas will be very good this year in the village. Thanked Mayor Goodman and the businesses that are participating. Continuing to grow from past years.

Councilor Julian – Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilor Keener – Have a happy, safe, great Thanksgiving.

Councilor Lemmon – Thanked Officer Jenkins for his service to our village. Outstanding officer. Thanked Council Clerk Samantha for her tremendous amount of work. May your Thanksgiving be better than the turkey's.

Councilor Wadley – Happy Thanksgiving. Shop locally – this Saturday is Small Business Saturday. If you can't shop in Buckeye Lake, try to keep it in Licking County.

Councilor Wolfe – Thanked council group and mayor for this past month. Have spent a lot of time in here in the last month.

Motion by Councilor Wadley, seconded by Councilor Julian to go into executive session to discuss compensation and benefits.

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

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

Only council members invited in at this time.

Council entered into executive session at 8:24pm.

Council entered back into open session at 8:50pm.

Adjournment: Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Cable, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

NEXT MEETING: Regular Council Meeting – December 9, 2024



Samantha Torres, Council Clerk


John Lemmon, Council President