

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting Minutes
Held in Council Chambers, streamed live on Facebook
September 27, 2021

Call to Order: By Council President Geiger at 7:10 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Present: John Geiger (0,0), Linda Goodman (0,0), John Lemmon (0,0),
(Consecutive, Total Absences) Tom Wolfe (0,0), Kitty Zwissler (0,0), Don Cable (0,0),
Bill French (0,0)

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

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Citizens from the audience came to the microphone to comment –

Barry Zwick – 226 Cranberry Lane – stated that he was there to keep in front of council the Cranberry stormwater and emergency exit issues. He said that Toby Miller and Peggy Wells came to one of their Cranberry Bay Homeowners Association meetings while Barry was president to talk to them about stormwater. He said he took video of the stormwater issues he faces and that he is just one of many. He asked what will council do and how will they solve the issue. He said he understands it is not an easy task, having to deal with the State about it. He said he was at the meeting to tell council to please do something to help the problem that they have had for years and years. He said it is getting worse because people are building houses and adding hard surfaces that is making the water gush faster than before and it is causing flooding and ponding and damage to residents.

Councilor Bill French told Barry that at 6:00pm before the Council meeting, they had a Public Service Committee meeting to discuss Cranberry Bay's stormwater issue and that engineers from ADR will be here to talk with them to have better direction and any questions answered at the next Public Service Committee meeting early next month. He said that a few of the council members either live in the area or have walked the area numerous times before, during, and after heavy rain and are aware of the issues. Even still, nothing could be done until 2023. Council President Geiger said that the emergency exit has also been on council's agenda and that the mayor is working with the Landings at Maple Bay developer and that if there are no results by October 31st, council plans to have a Resolution to push it forward.

Dave George – 290 Slocum Avenue – He thinks it is important that the residents show up because they are concerned. Council President Geiger mentioned that the feasibility study for the Cranberry stormwater issue might possibly be tabled tonight. Dave George asked what does tabling the feasibility study ordinance mean? Councilor French said it depends on the meeting with the engineers and if there can be a consensus from council and then they can move forward. Councilor Wolfe said there were questions that came up about public works money on private roads and how to get public stormwater on private roads, but he thinks they can get more detail from the engineers at the next Public Service Committee meeting. He said everyone on council, including the mayor, want to get the emergency road put in as well and they are working on that with the help of the solicitor. Dave asked why not go ahead with the vote for the feasibility study tonight. Councilor Lemmon said the verbiage of the ordinance seems to be wrong.

Councilor Cable said he received a comment about a lot of stray cats on Elliott Avenue. He said he is not sure how many is “a lot” but that he will get information about it soon. Mayor Wells said there is a lady at the end of the road that feeds and supports the feral cats.

At 7:33pm, Council President Geiger opened the public hearing for changes to the zoning book regarding manufactured and mobile homes via Ordinance 2021-49 for public comment, but there were no comments. The hearing remained open until the reading of Ordinance 2021-49 later in the agenda.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Zwissler, to approve the September 13, 2021 regular council meeting minutes.

Roll call vote: Yes: Geiger, Goodman, Lemmon, Wolfe, Zwissler, Cable, French
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 September 23, 2021.

Treasurer Jennifer Dennis stated that her first report for the Recovery Act money is due October 31st and that she is beginning to have 2022 budget meetings with department heads and she will meet once a week with them to find out what they foresee in 2022 for their budgets.

Roll call vote: Yes: Geiger, Goodman, Lemmon, Wolfe, Zwissler, Cable, French
Abstain: 0; Nays: 0; Motion Passed 7 – 0

APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: None.

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee: Had a brief meeting this evening before the Council meeting. The committee recommended that the \$1,000 safety bonus be appropriated when it is drafted and sent to the Personnel Committee. Recommended to approve Ordinance 2021-48, with the two \$10,000 in the Fire lines to be amended to \$5,000 each instead. He said the next Finance Committee meeting will be October 18th at 6:30pm to discuss the 2022 budget.

Public Safety Committee: No report.

Public Service Committee: Meeting today before the Council meeting where they discussed the stormwater issues, mainly at Cranberry Bay. Licking County Health Department has started their webinars again. Councilor French also mentioned that Licking County is having to put people where they can in hospitals because of the spike in COVID-19 cases.

Rules Committee: No report. Next Rules Committee meeting will be October 4th after the Public Service Committee meeting to discuss public hearings and zoning revisions within Council rules.

Community Development Committee: Next meeting will be October 11th at 6:30pm to discuss Broadband internet for low-income people within the village. The Governor has decided that there are COVID-19 test kits available through the libraries, but Licking County Library is not doing it. Councilor Goodman said Pickerington does it through their drive-up window.

Personnel Committee: Personnel Committee had a brief meeting tonight to address and make a recommendation to issue, from the American Rescue Plan funds, a bonus for this year for the first responders, which is all of the paid employees of the fire and police departments, who will receive \$1,000 each (15 people on Fire and 5 on Police). The committee did recommend it to full council to be appropriated at the next council meeting. The next Personnel Committee meeting will be on October 11th at 6:00pm, and they will need the full 30 minutes to look at the pay raises for the 2022 budget and increase in stipends.

REPORT OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS WRITTEN OR VERBAL

Fire Department – Chief Ryan Wyse – Written report submitted.

Police Department – Chief Jason Harget – Excused this evening; not present.

Parks and Recreation – Kellie Green – Kellie submitted a Parks and Recreation report, which was read by Council Clerk Samantha Torres.

Code Enforcement – Rex Adkins – No report. Rex was excused for family emergency.

Report of Mayor – No report.

ORDINANCES

Ordinances for 3rd Reading –

ORDINANCE 2021-38 - AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN ADR & ASSOCIATES, LTD. AND THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY AND PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING FOR CRANBERRY LANE STORMWATER DRAINAGE.

Motion by Councilor Wolfe, seconded by Councilor Cable, to table Ordinance 2021-38 for further review.

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

Ordinances for 2nd Reading – None.

Ordinances for 1st Reading –

ORDINANCE 2021-48 - AMENDING ORDINANCE 2021-10 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Roll call vote: Yes: Geiger, Goodman, Lemmon, Wolfe, Zwissler, Cable, French
Abstain: 0; **Nays: 0;** **Motion Passed 7 – 0**

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Cable, to adopt Ordinance 2021-48.

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Cable, to amend Ordinance 2021-48 fire line 2901 120 430-490 Repairs & Maint of Machinery & Equip from \$10,000 to \$5,000, and Fire line 2901 120 510-590 Equipment – Major from \$10,000 to \$5,000.

Roll call vote to amend: Yes: Geiger, Goodman, Lemmon, Wolfe, Zwissler, Cable, French
Abstain: 0; Nays: 0; Motion Passed 7 – 0

Roll call vote to adopt as amended: Yes: Geiger, Goodman, Lemmon, Wolfe, Zwissler, Cable, French
Abstain: 0; Nays: 0; Motion Passed 7 – 0

Public hearing for Ordinance 2021-49 was closed at this time, 8:01pm.

ORDINANCE 2021-49 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING CODE FOR THE VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE REGARDING MANUFACTURED AND MOBILE HOMES AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY.

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

Discussion: Councilor Lemmon not in favor of this ordinance being an emergency.

Roll call vote to suspend: Yes: Geiger, Goodman, Zwissler, French
Abstain: 0; Nays: Lemmon, Wolfe, Cable; Motion Failed 4 – 3

Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor French, to adopt Ordinance 2021-49.

Discussion: Councilor Goodman asked if this Ordinance has 3 readings, will it still be within the moratorium time that is in place. Council Clerk Samantha Torres stated that the moratorium would expire on September 28th. Councilor Zwissler said it is needed as an emergency. Councilor Goodman said this has been worked on all summer, with 2 moratoriums, and the Planning and Zoning Commission has worked on it. Councilor Lemmon said it should be read three times in front of the members of the village in case they want to have a say based on the Charter if it is no real emergency. Councilor Zwissler said it has been discussed over and over and it is really important. Council President Geiger said the public had the opportunity tonight during the open public hearing for the ordinance. Councilor Goodman said we have heard nothing for months from the public.

Motion by Councilor Wolfe, seconded by Councilor Zwissler, to reconsider suspension of the rules.

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

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

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

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor French, to adopt Ordinance 2021-49.

Roll call vote: Yes: Geiger, Goodman, Lemmon, Wolfe, Zwissler, Cable, French
Abstain: 0; Nays: 0; Motion Passed 7 – 0

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions for 3rd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 2nd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 1st Reading – None.

RESOLUTION 2021-16 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION TO OVERSEE AND ADMINISTER NEWLY ACQUIRED PARKS PROPERTIES.

This will move forward to a second reading.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

Councilor French asked if the trash contracts had been looked at. Toby has that information and will get it put on the website for companies to be able to bid.

Councilor Lemmon asked if anyone knew where the deed is that says who owns east of Bayview on Slocum. Councilor French said he would look it up.

Councilor Goodman asked the mayor where things are at regarding the selling of the vacant village-owned lots. Mayor Wells said she spoke to the attorney and the second auctioneer who has changed his mind from charging 6% to wanting to charge 10%. She said the auctioneer asked to see the appraisals from others. She also talked to the attorney about how much needs to go into the advertising, legal description or no? They are not advertised yet. Also, there is no roof estimate yet and she has not had time to deal with the electrical box in the 5206 Walnut Road space.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Councilor Goodman, seconded by Councilor French, to approve the \$1,000 bonus to all paid employees of the fire department and police department, which will come from the American Rescue Plan funds.

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

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

Slow-moving vehicle laws - Councilor Wolfe would like to entertain the idea to allow side-by-side vehicles (that look more like a dune buggy) in addition to golf carts here in the village. He thinks they are safer with better bumpers, lights, seatbelts, two or four doors, better shocks, wider wheel base. Councilor Cable asked what ODOT may say about that. Councilor Wolfe would like ODOT and the police chief here to discuss. Councilor Lemmon thinks that the village should redo the golf cart/slow-moving vehicle ordinance and adopt what the state has. Council President Geiger said council should have the police chief do research on side-by-side and slow-moving vehicle laws.

Broadband in the village – Councilor Zwissler stated that the Community Development Committee will have a meeting on October 11th at 6:30pm to discuss this (due to time restraints during their meeting tonight). She said briefly that the Ohio Department of Development has state grant money and there is a proposal to get broadband internet in Buckeye Lake. Buckeye Lake is eligible due to low-to-medium income. If the village can get this grant, they could partner it with a federal grant. She said they are researching it. It could become available as an

option in the village. Councilor Zwissler will try to get someone to the meetings to speak about it.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:

Councilor Goodman: Thanked everyone for their hard work and for moving forward with the bonus to the first responders. Licking County lost a fire chief to COVID-19 that he contracted on the job; it is getting bad again and never went away. Hospital beds in short supply. Do what you can to be careful.

Councilor Lemmon: Thanks everyone for their hard work. There are differences of opinion and concerns. Thanked Councilor Zwissler for her work on the broadband discussion.

Councilor Wolfe: Would like Zoning Inspector to attend council meetings. Thinks more citizens need to come to committee meetings to get more detail on what is being discussed. A lot of good discussions tonight.

Councilor Cable: There are pertinent discussions that are very good. Council tries to get it right. Said that Councilor Wolfe's comment on the committees is exactly right, 15-minute committee meetings do not do it justice. He thinks the public should make comments at committee meetings.

Councilor Zwissler: Agrees with Councilor Wolfe that it is good to hear from the public and that they be at the committee meetings. Council doing what they can to be transparent and open. Received good information from committee meetings.

Councilor French: Next Public Service Committee meeting will be at 6:30pm on October 4th but could change due to availability of the ADR engineer who will come to speak. Likes input at the committee meetings but need to be timelier.

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

All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm

NEXT MEETING: October 11, 2021



Samantha Torres, Council Clerk



John Geiger, Council President