

Buckeye Lake Village Council Meeting Minutes
Held in Council Chambers, streamed live on Facebook
July 8, 2024

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

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

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

Staff Present: Linda Goodman, Mayor; Samantha Torres, Clerk of Council; Jason Harget, Police Chief;
Amanda Hoppel, Fiscal Officer; Solicitor Brad Nicodemus;

Approval of Regular Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Councilor Wadley, seconded by Councilor Wolfe, to approve the June 24, 2024 regular council meeting minutes.

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

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

Approval of Clerk Treasurer's Report: Motion by Councilor Julian, seconded by Councilor Green, to approve the Treasurer's report dated July 5, 2024.

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

Abstain: Lemmon; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 7 - 0**

APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: None.

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

Finance Committee: Meeting held this evening at 5:30pm. Ordinances 2024-31 and 2024-32 on agenda tonight are recommended by the committee. Also discussed the appropriation status for the rest of the year. Also asked fiscal officer to run a report on the top vendors that are paid out. Next Finance Committee meeting to be held August 12th at 5:30pm.

Public Safety Committee: Fire Chief has someone coming in August from Minnesota to look at the fire truck. Wants to thank safety services for their 4th of July work; they did a great job. Update on police levy – there is a chair of the levy committee – Casey Clark. Will have a meeting at 3pm on Thursday at Pizza Cottage for that committee if people would like to help with that. Thousands of people attended the fireworks. Smooth sailing in the department.

Public Service Committee: Meeting held on July 1st, meeting minutes submitted. Next meeting August 5th at 6:30pm.

Rules Committee: Nothing at this time. If anyone wants any rules looked at specifically, get with him.

Community Development Committee: Special meeting held July 1st to bring forward their Charter suggestions for what to put on the November ballot for public vote. Articles 6, 7, and 8 are the meat of what they would like to include on that. Charter changes and how to notify the public will be discussed in unfinished business tonight. Community Development meeting to be held August 12th after Personnel Committee.

Personnel Committee: Meeting held tonight. Did a review on where they are with employee handbook changes. Talked about personnel performance evaluations process to make sure that is happening, along with position descriptions. Talked about a change in exempt versus non-exempt. Talked about some training options that are coming up that are required. Sunshine Law training with regards to public records and who should be taking that. Will be bringing forward ethics policy that was drafted that references Ohio Ethics Law and the social media policy will be brought forward. Next meeting August 12th following Finance Committee meeting.

Report of Council President: President Lemmon stated that the solicitor stated that the next mayoral election will not need to take place until November of 2025. A copy of that memorandum is available. Councilor Julian asked is there something procedurally that needs to be followed up on for the interim positions? Interim titles go away. Mayor Goodman stated this was not something she requested. Board of Elections and Licking County prosecutor researched it. Councilor Lemmon had asked Public Safety to take a look at fireworks usage in the neighborhoods. He noticed some larger ones that may not be safe around houses that close together. Maybe look at some legislation for that in the future.

Report of Mayor Goodman: Mayor Goodman stated that Toby Miller said that the crews in Cranberry Bay have started top soil, seeding, and mulch. Pre-BLASST celebration for the kids at the park was a huge success. 60 kids attended and Mayor Goodman thanked the sponsors who provided food – Lindsey’s Smokehouse Barbecue, Dips on the Lake, BLASST, Casey Clark, Buckeye Lake Brewery, Barb Sills, Miller Family. Thanked BLASST board for their donations as well. Boat parade was a lot of fun. Village had a boat in the parade. Great turn out. I Walked the Whole Damn Dam event was successful – 198 walkers. A representative from the State Auditor’s office talked about how AI is influencing governments. MOPAR – both Chiefs and our Public Service have asked that we do not have it this year. The safety issues grow larger each year. She has had some businesses state their own concerns to her. Need to make that statement public no later than next week. Businesses need to prepare if it is in fact happening. President Lemmon added it to new business for discussion tonight.

Citizen’s Comments Regarding Legislation on Tonight’s Agenda – None.

ORDINANCES

Ordinances for 3rd Reading –

Ordinance 2024-24 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING FOR THE CODIFICATION OF VILLAGE ORDINANCES.

Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Julian to adopt Ordinance 2024-24.

Discussion: Long overdue and there will need to be appropriations for this for 2024.

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

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

Ordinances for 2nd Reading – None.

Ordinances for 1st Reading –

Ordinance 2024-31 - AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-10 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Keener to adopt Ordinance 2024-31.

Discussion: Recommended from Finance Committee.

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

Ordinance 2024-32 - AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-10 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Motion by Councilor Keener, seconded by Councilor Wolfe to adopt Ordinance 2024-32.

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

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions for 3rd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 2nd Reading – None.

Resolutions for 1st Reading – None.

NEW BUSINESS –

MOPAR – Councilor Wolfe asked if this is council or administrative decision? Councilor Julian stated that if there is recommendation from both chiefs and the public service director and businesses are against it, she would have a hard time going against that. President Lemmon stated it is not an official event of the village. Roads were torn up last year and there were safety issues. Lemmon supports what the administration wants to do. Mayor Goodman stated there is nothing legislative that has to be done and the challenge is how do we stop it. Councilor Cable said it will be about communication. Cannot have the raceway tell people to go to Buckeye Lake to enjoy the night. They have no right to say that. Councilor Wadley stated another issue could have been that last year we were doing the school supply drive at the same time and they merged. Last year the village was prepared for them to show up on Saturday but they showed up Friday night. President Lemmon stated that they announced it over the loud speaker at the raceway to come to Buckeye Lake. Maybe someone needs to call them and tell them not to say that. Councilor Julian stated it used to happen in Heath and Hebron and they sent out strong messages to stop it. Councilor Wolfe – there is a part that he likes – the part that concerns the safety people – the burnouts. What if no burnouts allowed and it was more like a parade – is that an issue? People want to come like a car show. It draws a lot of people. Will be a challenge for enforcement. Only way to do that would be an organized car show or organized parade where you need to register.

Chief Harget – if we say we are not doing the event, then we need to bring in more personnel and manpower to help us out. If we do not want it, we need ways to block it off and detour around the village. He thinks the cars will still be here and there will still be issues and there will need to be advertising and strong messaging. Need quick planning to stop it. Car show would need to be planned out through the events committee to plan that. Mayor – need to reach out to City of Heath to see how they stopped it. We are about having fun but it is a safety issue of someone getting hurt or killed. Julian – if there is a true emergency, will be hard to get around in the

village neighborhoods. People cannot even get home. Chief does not know if Buckeye Lake is the place for this to happen. Ruined our streets last year that took a lot of hours and manpower to fix. Businesses are also voicing their concerns. Does not aid their businesses but takes the business away.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

Pay for elected officials for 2026-2028 – Working on this with solicitor. Their salaries cannot change in the middle of the term. Should be able to have that completed for the next meeting. Lemmon – doing this now because no one on current terms are eligible for that / not asking for money for themselves.

Selection of Charter Review recommendations – Councilor Green stated that during her Community Development meeting, her committee agreed that Articles 6, 7, 8 would be the 3 sections they would like to change. Article 7 being the biggest section and most important. She stated that the changes they wish to see would need to be mailed in its entirety what changes the village wishes to make to the voting members of the community or it is published in the newspaper once in its entirety, second printing bullet pointed or summarized. Articles 7, 8, 6 in that order of importance, per the committee. Advertising is expensive. She does not know how many people read The Advocate newspaper or get their news in that way. What is the cost of mailing versus cost of ad in newspaper. Might be able to get two articles passed in one election. May be able to do a page of bullet points of the major changes. Cable stated more people may read the Buckeye Lake Shopper to get that. Councilor Lemmon stated how we send it out is not as relevant right now as how much we can get out at one time. Articles 7 and 8 could be manageable to do. If only bullet points, want to include Article 6. Councilor Julian stated it goes to electors. It is totally transparent and trying to get the exact information out to the true people who vote and who care about the community as opposed to getting it out to a hit or miss audience in a newspaper that they may not read. Once people get to the ballot, if they have not seen it before, they may find it to be way too much information and may vote against it. Councilor Wadley stated she thinks that due to volume, mailing would be better. Solicitor Brad Nicodemus stated that mailing is only to registered voters as of the last election, not everyone in the village. Mailing is not a before and after. He thinks the village could do a red-line copy of the changes as long as it has the strikethroughs of what is being removed and underlines for what is added so they do not have to compare what it was before versus what it could become. Can print it front and back in 10-point font to condense and help save money on copies and make a reference page online where they could look at it more in depth. Would need to appropriate money for postage. Much more personal and professional way of getting the information out to the people and we have to do that one time.

Motion by Councilor Wadley, seconded by Councilor Cable to place Charter articles 7 & 8 on November 5, 2024 ballot as recommended changes from the Charter Review Commission.

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

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

Solicitor Nicodemus will create legislation to put these on the ballot for next council meeting. Will need a motion to not place the changes to the other articles on the ballot. Publication and mailing have to go out two weeks prior to the election. Newspaper it has to run two consecutive weeks.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS – None.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS –

Councilor Wadley – Thanked safety forces for work they did during BLASST. Thanks to Linda and rest of the people who coordinated the pre-BLASST kids' fest. Great we are doing this.

Councilor Wolfe – No comments.

Councilor Cable – Buy local; support the village.

Councilor Green – Thanked BLASST for fantastic fireworks display. Great atmosphere at the lake. Businesses thriving. Special shoutout to postal workers that helped her with a package today. Great living in a village where they come out to help that might not happen in bigger places.

Councilor Julian – For the dam walk event, it was just amazing. Thanked Sam as a village employee and the whole Parks and Recreation Commission. It was so well-organized. They made it look extremely easy and there were so many great comments about it. Raised lots of money for our Pickleball courts. Boat parade was great. Would like council to coordinate with administration on the village boat for next year. Holiday weekend does really make our village shine. If you drive around, tons of new building going on and everything is starting to bloom in our neighborhoods and thank you to all of the residents and people investing in our community.

Councilor Keener – No comments.

Councilor Lemmon – What is administrative versus what is council function. A lot of time, things overlap. He has been here for five years and does not think it has ever been as smooth as it is right now. Still have our duties and some things that need to overlap. There is an issue of council but the information will be coming from mayor and solicitor.

Motion by Councilor Lemmon, seconded by Councilor Green to enter into executive session for employment matters pursuant to Revised Code 121.22(g)(1).

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

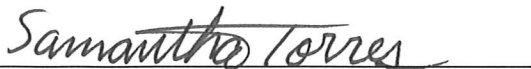
Abstain: 0; **Nays:** 0; **Motion Passed 7 – 0**

Council entered into executive session at 7:54pm.

Council entered back into open session at 8:47pm.

Adjournment: Motion by Councilor Cable, seconded by Councilor Wolfe, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.

NEXT MEETING: Regular Council Meeting – July 22, 2024


Samantha Torres, Council Clerk


John Lemmon, Council President