

Village of Waynesville Council Meeting Minutes July 21st, 2008 – 7:30p

Present: Mayor Earl Isaacs
Ms. Sandra Stemple, Council President
Mr. Ernie Tracy
Mr. Rick Becker
Mr. James Martin
Mr. Richard Philpott

Absent: Mr. Chuck Feicht

Village Staff Present: Kevin Harper (Law Director Representative), Bruce Snell (Village Manager), Stephanie Morgan (Interim Finance Director) Chief Gary L. Copeland (Chief of Police)

NOTE – This is a summary of the Village Council Meeting held on Monday, July 21, 2008. A video recording of the meeting is on file in the office of the Clerk of Council and is available for review.

Mayor Isaacs called the meeting to order at 7:30p.
Roll Call – 6 present

Mr. Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Disposition of Previous Minutes

*Motion to approve minutes of 07/07/2008 meeting – Ms. Stemple
Second – Mr. Philpott*

Roll Call – 6 yeas

*Motion to have Stephanie Morgan serve as Finance Director and Clerk of Council while Staci Morris is out – Ms. Stemple
Second – Mr. Tracy*

Roll Call – 6 yeas

Public Recognition/Visitor's Comments

Bill Fritts (8717 Ferry Road) filed a records request with Ms. Morgan for a worksheet of the 2007 compensation of employees. He also stated the proposed levies do not affect him and posed the question that they do not affect the Village staff either.

- Mr. Snell requested Mr. Fritts not approach Village employees for petition signatures while they are working.

- Mr. Fritts responded he did not approach any employees.

Gary Pelkey (830 Camp Creek) presented an initiative petition to change the plan of government within the Village and read a corresponding letter outlining the related order of events and adherence to the Ohio Revised Code and Village Charter. The petition was filed with Ms. Morgan.

Ray Otto (11 Fourth Street) asked for clarification by next council meeting on three issues: 1) \$50,000 debt amount for roads, yet levy calls for a reduction 2) plans by the Village to pay off its debt and 3) the possibility of Wayne Township sharing the financial responsibility for police services as they do for the fire department.

John Murray (398 Miami Street) expressed his confusion over the differing figures of debt amount. He also inquired about the plan for the debt on the government building and stated Council has provided no clear guidance to Mr. Snell on what to do with the building.

- Mr. Martin responded he and Council agree they need to get out from under the building and look to sell in the future.

- Mr. Murray added it would be expected after 5 years for there to be a policy in place for the building and posed the question can we afford to sell. He also cited the newsletter was "putting down the mismanagement of previous administrations in black and white" and stated he will not vote on any levy unless there is a clear plan to meet the financial obligations incurred.

- Mayor Isaacs stated the Village is trying to make things more solvent with the guidance of the fiscal recovery committee. He gave credit to Chief Copeland for his efforts and cost-saving measures thus far. He also stated he respects everyone in the Village.

Bill Lemay (Wilkerson Lane) stated he joined the political action committee thinking it would be an honorable campaign, but it changed in a few days, citing the request for Mr. Pelkey to move his sign from the right-of-way despite other pro-levy signs being in improper locations. He felt it was an invasion of privacy when Chief Copeland came to their meeting unannounced to discuss the signs. Mr. Lemay continued by numerating the various business opportunities he has attempted to bring to the Village stating "I'm not coming to you. If you want my help, I'll give it."

- Chief Copeland apologized to Mr. Fritts and the committee for walking in on their meeting. He stated he noticed Mr. Pelkey's vehicle out front and wanted to notify Mr. Pelkey the sign issues he had brought to Mr. Snell's attention were being addressed. He was not aware they were meeting.

Ron Kronenberger (50 Ellis Drive) recognized that council has many items to juggle in order to fix the Village. He served on the charter commission and was on council prior to the charter being established. He continued to explain the differences between the charter and statutory form of government and feels the charter has worked well for the Village.

Bill Stubbs (355 N. Fourth St.) shared not everyone in Waynesville dislikes Bill Lemay. He said he respects everyone's rights, offering that speaking out on an issue should be based on hard fact and not emotion. He also stated everyone is at the council meeting for the same reason, to determine what is best for the Village.

Pat Dubbs (6089 Oldegate Ct, Milford) stated he will be the new Superintendent of Wayne Local Schools as of August 1st and offered his support of the police department on behalf the school district. He presented checks from school board members for the police levy committee and was directed to take those to LCNB for deposit.

Don Donelson (1717 Marilyn Ave, Kettering), a six-year officer for the Village, spoke in support of Mr. Snell and expressed the positive changes that have occurred since Mr. Snell and Chief Copeland have been hired.

- Mayor Isaacs re-iterated his earlier comments, stating Chief Copeland is one of the finest officers we've had in this town and he is good about cost-saving measures.

Old Business

none

Reports

(1) Standing Council Committees

- (a) Finance Committee – will meet Monday, August 4th at 6:00p
- (b) Public Works Committee – no meeting today; Mr. Snell met with the Village Engineer regarding the repaving program; Bid deadline is August 4th at 11am
- (c) Special Committees – none

(2) Village Manager's Report – Mr. Snell stated the repaving project on Chapman will not hinder the normal flow of school traffic. He followed up on earlier questions from Mr. Otto and Mr. Murray stating a plan for paying off debt is being worked on by the fiscal recovery commission and the deficit in the police

department fund is unable to be legally paid by any other fund except the general fund. He continued it is his common practice in public service to limit contact with an individual if the entity is in litigation with that individual citing the Village is currently in litigation with Bill Lemay LLC.

Mr. Murray interjected again he would feel better voting on a levy once there is concrete evidence of a plan to meet debt obligations.

(3) Finance Director's Report – no report

Mr. Snell followed up the Village is meeting their debt obligations per the State Auditor's website.

(4) Police Chief's Report – Chief Copeland explained the pay schedules and employment requirements of the reserve officers.

(5) Law Director's Report – Kevin Frank filled in for Jeff Forbes and requested an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation at the end of the meeting.

New Business

none

Legislation

None

*Motion to have an Executive Session to discuss litigation with the Law Director and Village Manager at 8:53p – Ms. Stemple
Second – Mr. Tracy*

Roll Call – 6 yeas

Roll Call after returning from Executive Session at 9:35p – 6 present

Mr. Tracy stated he did not call Mr. Lemay a liar citing Mr. and Mrs. Lemay's name is listed on litigation with the Village.

Mr. Snell referenced material being distributed by the Concerned Coalition for Better Government for Waynesville. He offered clarification on the \$1.8 million debt discrepancy between the Coalition's figures and Village figures. The debt reported on the state audit is based on original debt issued as far back as 1997, not on current debt as it may appear at first glance. Based on the finance director's figures, the Village is just under 5 million in debt presently.

Mayor Isaacs stated he may not be in attendance at the August 4th council meeting.

Motion to excuse Mr. Feicht – Mr. Tracy
Second – Ms. Stemple

Roll Call – 6 yeas

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:42p – all move
Second – all in favor

No Roll Call

Date: _____

Stephanie Morgan, Interim Finance Director/Clerk of Council