Minutes of West Lafayette Village Council Regular Meeting

West Lafayette Village Council met in regular session on December 30, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the municipal building with Mayor Jessica Tubbs presiding.

#### Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer

Roll Call: Rich Wheeler, Jason Hursey, Tim Cheney, Brittany Howell, Adam Fisher and Christie

Maurer were present. Captain Eckelberry, Frank Mathias, Wesson McPherson and

several others were also present.

A motion was made by Jason Hursey and seconded by Adam Fisher to approve the minutes from the

regular council meeting held on December 9, 2024. Roll call 6 yes.

Mayor's Correspondence: Mayor Tubbs reported receiving no correspondence.

Police Chief Appointment: Mayor Jessie Tubbs recommended Morgan Eckelberry be appointed to Police Chief. A motion was made by Jason Hursey and seconded by Adam Fisher to approve the appointment of Morgan Eckelberry as Police Chief of the Village of West Lafayette, Ohio. Roll call 6 yes.

Mayor Jessie Tubbs presented the oath of office to Chief Morgan Eckelberry.

Citizens' comments: Boy Scout Wesson McPherson from troop 419 addressed Council requesting permission to renovate the village Welcome sign on SR 93 (N. Kirk St.) for his Eagle Scout project. He will be working with Kelly Erb and using the same design established for the other Welcome signs proposed for the village entrances. A motion was made by Tim Cheney and seconded by Jason Hursey to approve Wesson McPherson to work on the village Welcome sign on SR 93 North. Roll call 6 yes. Frank Mathews from 201 W. Platt addressed Council with concerns regarding Kimble trash collection in the village stating that the only thing that arrives on time is the bill. The prices have drastically increased since they took over for Skip's Refuse and the collections have not been consistent and on time. Mr. Mathews asked when the village will be moving forward with contracting for village-wide trash service because he is ready to leave Kimble and hopes that the village-wide contract is not awarded to Kimble due to the poor track record.

### **Department Reports:**

Fire: No report.

**Fiscal Officer:** Fiscal Officer, Amy Bourne, reported that Resolution 2024-53 will receive its first reading to place the General Expense renewal levy back on the ballot in the spring election in May. The deadline to have the paperwork submitted to the board of elections is early February, therefore, the three readings are being requested to be waived. This resolution is authorizing the request from the county auditor for certification of millage. This renewal levy is used for police department budget, payroll for village officials and village solicitor. Resolution 2024-54 will receive its first reading requesting approval for a Then & Now purchase order for William Albert in the amount of \$3,745.50 for alley repairs resulting from an emergency sewer

line repair behind the Administration building earlier in the year. It was assumed that the completion of the project was already paid for, but it had not been itemized with the original bill. It is requested to waive the three required readings in order to pay the bill before the end of the year. The other two pieces of legislation will be discussed during the Village Administrator report. Approval was requested to pay any other outstanding bills that come in before the end of the year. A motion was made by Jason Hursey and seconded by Adam Fisher to pay any other outstanding bills that come in before the end of the year. Roll call 6 yes. The new health insurance for village employees is in place and will be effective January 1, 2025. A meeting will be held in the morning with the employees to review the coverage again and the new process for the HRA accounts. Bills were passed for approval.

Police: No report.

Solicitor: Village Solicitor, Joel Blue, requested an executive session at the end of the meeting.

Village Administrator: Village Administrator Tammy Hicks reported Resolution 2024-55 is to authorize the Fiscal Officer, Village Administrator and the Environmental Design Group to apply for a grant with the deadline of January 31, 2025 and requesting to waive the three required readings. Resolution 2025-01 will receive its first reading authorizing the village administrator and fiscal office to sign agreements with Vic Allen Construction to repair 9 storm drains in the village.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Building and Property: Chairman Tim Cheney reported the Village Administrator posted notices to 2 properties.

Community & Business Development: No report.

**Community Relations:** Chairwoman Brittany Howell reported the We R WL has a meeting scheduled for January 15, 2025 at 6pm with the location to be determined.

Community Revitalization: Chairwoman Brittany Howell reported they will meet in January.

Finance: No report.

Fire Dependency Board: Chairwoman Christie Maurer reported meeting tonight and establishing the board members for 2025.

Ordinance: No report.

Park Board: No report.

Planning Commission: No report.

**Public Safety**: Chairman Adam Fisher reported meeting and stated that the alarm and panic buttons have been installed at the administration office and council chambers. The security cameras will be installed soon.

Public Works: No report.

Records Retention: No report.

Rules: No report.

#### Introduction to ordinances and resolutions:

2024-53 A RESOLUTION FOR CERTIFICATION OF MILLAGE FOR RENEWAL OF TAX LEVY FOR THE VILLAGE OF WEST LAFAYETTE, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY First Reading/Emergency

A motion was made by Christie Maurer and seconded by Jason Hursey to waive the three required readings for Resolution 2024-53. Roll call 6 yes.

A motion was made by Tim Cheney and seconded by Christie Maurer to adopt Resolution 2024-53. Roll call 6 yes.

2024-54 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PURCHASE ORDER 24440 TO WILLIAM ALBERT INC., A "THEN & NOW" PURCHASE ORDER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY First Reading/Emergency

A motion was made by Christie Maurer and seconded by Jason Hursey to waive the three required readings for Resolution 2024-54. Roll call 6 yes.

A motion was made by Tim Cheney and seconded by Christie Maurer to adopt Resolution 2024-54. Roll call 6 yes.

2024-55 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR, FISCAL OFFICER AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN GROUP TO FILE AN APPLICATION TO THE GREAT LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE THRIVING COMMUNITIES GRANTMAKING PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY First Reading/Emergency

A motion was made by Christie Maurer and seconded by Tim Cheney to waive the three required readings for Resolution 2024-55. Roll call 6 yes.

A motion was made by Jason Hursey and seconded by Tim Cheney to adopt Resolution 2024-55. Roll call 6 yes.

2025-01 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER AND VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY WITH VIC ALLEN CONSTRUCTION, LLC. FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPAIRING STORM DRAINS IN THE VILLAGE OF WEST LAFAYETTE, OHIO First Reading

Other Business: Fiscal Officer, Amy Bourne, presented the proposed 2025 Village Holidays. Discussion was held whether to have the alternate day with Christmas to be the day after Christmas. A motion was made by Adam Fisher and seconded by Christie Maurer to adopt the 2025 Village Holidays as presented. Roll call 6 yes.

A motion was made by Christie Maurer and seconded by Jason Hursey to pay the bills. Roll call 6 yes.

A motion was made at 7:26pm by Christie Maurer and seconded by Jason Hursey to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation with the Fiscal Officer and Village Administrator to remain. Roll call 6 yes. A motion was made at 7:36pm by Jason Hursey and seconded by Christie Maurer to continue in Open Session. Roll call 6 yes.

A motion was made by Adam Fisher and seconded by Jason Hursey to adjourn until the next meeting on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. Roll Call 6 yes.

A full recording of this evening's minutes can be heard by visiting <a href="www.westlafayettevillage.com">www.westlafayettevillage.com</a> and clicking on the recorded minutes tab.

Jessica Tubbs, Mayor

Attest:

Amy Bourne, Fiscal Officer