

Record of Proceedings

Minutes of West Lafayette Village Council Regular Meeting

West Lafayette Village Council met in regular session on June 23, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the municipal building with Mayor Jessica Tubbs presiding.

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer

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

A motion was made by Jason Hursey and seconded by Adam Fisher to approve the minutes from the regular council meeting held on June 9, 2025. Roll call 6 yes.

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

Citizens' comments: None

Committee Reports:

Building and Property: Chairman Tim Cheney reported discussing nuisance properties at 112 E. Park St. with chickens, and brush as well as 520 N. George St. that has a sheep for a support animal. The roof at the Wastewater plant has roof damage from the recent storm and has been turned into the insurance company. The insurance adjuster will assess the damage tomorrow.

Community & Business Development: Chairwoman Christie Maurer reported that Good Girl Grooming is open. Quality Brake is still for sale, an office/store front at the Dale Gress building is available and a spot is available in the Brickstone building. The Baltic State Bank is ahead of schedule with construction.

Community Relations: Chairwoman Brittany Howell reported that there will be a Cool Off party at Ridgewood High School tomorrow at 4pm. The First Responders party is scheduled for this Saturday from 4-7pm. A Police Department vs. Fire Department softball game will be held at Lake Park on July 19th. West Lafayette Homecoming is July 24-26th with the parade being Friday the 25th at 7pm. Anyone wanting to be part of the parade, donating merchandise for the drawing or fireworks can contact Oren Griffith. We R WL next meeting is scheduled for July 16th. Audrey Tubbs has organized a 5k called the Fast and Furious to help raise money for the Trap Neuter and Release program. Contact her on Facebook or through We R WL. Applications will be at French Press Café and Harmaan's Pallet Treasure. Rachels Rescue is having a fundraiser at the Kirk Street Even Center on July 3rd for the neuter and release program. We R WL is paying for the replacement of trees that have been killed at Waterworks Park. A Wiffle Ball tournament is scheduled for July 27th at 1pm at the Waterworks Park to raise money for the splash pad.

Community Revitalization: No report.

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Finance: Chairwoman Brittany Howell reported that a new police cruiser will be purchased using the insurance settlement money from the recently wrecked cruiser. The 2026 tax budget was reviewed and a Public Hearing is scheduled for July 14th at 6:45pm in Council Chambers.

Fire Dependency Board: No report.

Ordinance: Chairman Jason Hursey reported that the Village is unable to utilize the COPS grant due to the fact that the grant only allows for an entry level position and a higher level position is what needs filled. A resolution for applying for a Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District grant is being put on hold until after meetings with the County and Muskingum Watershed representatives. The Village is not eligible for the Urban Forestry grant due to the village not being on an eligibility list. Resolution 2025-29 will receive its first reading to oppose House Bill 335. HB 335 is a Property Tax Relief Act that will eliminate all inside millage for municipalities and school districts. The inside millage is a long-standing source of revenue for local governments that covers services such as police, fire, mandatory contributions to Ohio Police and Fire pensions, infrastructure, and parks without voter approval. This act will undermine the local government and allow appointed officials to override elected officials and dictate village spending. The funding that could be lost is roughly \$54,000 per year, starting with tax year 2025, payable in 2026. The village is also looking to potentially lose funding with the general expense levy that has failed the past 2 elections and is up for a final vote this fall and is estimated at roughly \$68,000. A total of roughly \$120,000 is at risk of being lost and that is very scary for the village budget and will be very crippling. This could end up in a reduction in the police force as well as other necessities.

Park Board: Chairwoman Christie Maurer reported park reservations have increased with a total of 15 year to date bringing in \$590, which is helping the Park Fund a lot.

Planning Commission: No report.

Public Safety: Chairman Adam Fisher reported discussing making certain alleys and streets one-way in the village. Specifically, the alley behind Beverage Barn between Oak St. and Kirk St. It is not officially one-way, though there is a sign at the exit of the drive-thru. Kirk St. from Railroad or Main St. to Russell was also discussed to make one-way, going south. The village will be seeking input from the area residents, businesses and local emergency agencies before any decisions will be made. Stop signs at the alleys between Main and Russell on Kirk and Oak have been installed. The new police cruiser should be back and in service next week.

Public Works: Chairman Rich Wheeler reported work is being done with catch basins in the village as well as sidewalks that are done so far. The sewer outfall project will start next week. Equipment is being moved in this week. Paving will be done in the fall in a few areas in the village. The updated sewer rate ordinance will be introduced at the next regular council meeting.

Records Retention: No report.

Rules: No report.

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Department Reports:

Fire: No report.

Fiscal Officer: Fiscal Officer, Amy Bourne, reported that Resolution 2025-28 will receive its second reading for the Urban Forestry grant, however, the village is not eligible to apply. Solicitor Blue recommended voting the resolution down. Resolution 2025-29 regarding House Bill 335 was presented in the Ordinance committee report and will receive its first reading. Resolution 2025-30 to add funds will receive its first reading. Brittany mentioned in the Finance committee report that a new cruiser will be purchased using the insurance claim proceeds and that money needs to be appropriated in order to make the purchase. A total of \$18,500 is needed to cover the 2018 Ford Explorer at \$11,000 and \$7,500 for the additional equipment that needs added. Representatives from the Auditor of State's office will be in the office to review the audit findings in the morning before it is posted to the website and made public. Bills were passed for approval.

Police: No report.

Solicitor: Village Solicitor, Joel Blue, reported having discussions with the Mayor and Fiscal Officer about some issues. The resolution to place the levy on the ballot has been revised and is out for approval.

Village Administrator: Village Administrator Tammy Hicks reported Rumpke trash service contract begins June 30th and residents should have already received a letter indicating their trash pick-up day of either Monday or Wednesday. They included a Rumpke trash can for each resident free of charge and have begun delivering those today and will continue throughout the week. There have been some delivered to residents outside of the village and to commercial addresses and those issues are being resolved. Tammy is asking residents to be patient with the process as they are new to the area and if there are issues to call Rumpke customer service or herself. The sewer outfall project is being mobilized now and should begin next week. This year's sidewalk project has begun with the walking path that runs from the field house to Union, parallel to Wall St. The rest of the sidewalk project will resume later in July and should be completed by the end of September. The Street department and summer youth program have been working on sprucing up the Troop Train Memorial across from the Police Department and looks great.

Introduction to ordinances and resolutions:

2025-28 A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF WEST LAFAYETTE, COSHOCTON COUNTY, OHIO, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE VILLAGE MAYOR AND/OR VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FORESTRY, FOR THE URBAN FORESTRY GRANT 2025 AND ONCE THE GRANT OFFER IS RECEIVED, FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE GRANT CONTRACT AND ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS AND

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AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF WEST LAFAYETTE TO ACCEPT ANY GRANT MONEY AWARDED TO THE VILLAGE OF WEST LAFAYETTE Second Reading

2025-29 A RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 335 AND URGING THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REJECT LEGISLATION THAT ELIMINATES INSIDE MILLAGE AND TRANSFERS LOCAL BUDGETARY AUTHORITY TO COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSIONS, 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 2025-29. Roll call 6 yes.

A motion was made by Jason Hursey and seconded by Adam Fisher to adopt Resolution 2025-29. Roll call 6 yes.

2025-30 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2025 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE 2024-48, ADDING FUNDS First Reading/Emergency

A motion was made by Christie Maurer and seconded by Jason Hursey to waive the three required readings for Resolution 2025-30. Roll call 6 yes.

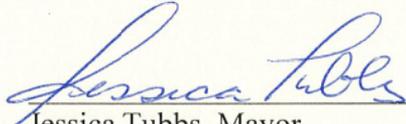
A motion was made by Jason Hursey and seconded by Adam Fisher to adopt Resolution 2025-30. Roll call 6 yes.

Other Business: Mayor Tubbs had no other business to discuss.

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

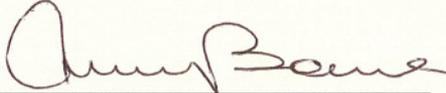
A motion was made by Adam Fisher and seconded by Jason Hursey to adjourn until the next meeting on Monday, July 14, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. Roll Call 6 yes.

A full recording of this evening's minutes can be viewed by visiting www.westlafayettevillage.com and clicking on either the Facebook or YouTube link at the bottom of the page under CONTACTS.



Jessica Tubbs, Mayor

Attest:



Amy Bourne, Fiscal Officer