

Record of Proceedings

Minutes of West Lafayette Village Council Regular Meeting

West Lafayette Village Council met in regular session on June 26, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the municipal building with Mayor Stephen R. Bordenkircher presiding.

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer

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

A motion was made by Bo Fortune and seconded by Tim Cheney to approve the minutes from the regular council meeting held on June 12, 2023. Roll call 6 yes.

Mayor's Correspondence: Mayor Bordenkircher reported receiving an invitation to attend the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Coshocton County Farm Bureau on July 18, 2023.

Citizens' comments: None

Zoom Log-in

<https://zoom.us/j/96595775556?pwd=eVJIY04yaFFmbU9GSEISRU9kNnRjQT09>

Or Dial: 1-301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 965 9577 5556

Passcode: 571265

Department Reports:

Fire: No report.

Fiscal Officer: Fiscal Officer, Amy Bourne, reported on the legislation being presented. Resolution 2023-35 is needed to add funds to three different funds. In the 103 Police dept Debt Service fund, \$0.63 is needed to cover the payoff balance of the Police cruiser as the amortization schedule was off from the actual balance due. There is a balance of \$3,462.97 left in the 212 ARPA fund that needs to be appropriated to try to spend it down before the end of the year. In the 602 Sewer fund, \$18,000 is needed for the remaining balance of the Critical Infrastructure grant matching funds going to MJ Excavating. Ordinance 2023-36 has updates to the Grass and Weed regulations to clarify how rates are charged when the Village cuts grass and weeds as well as adding an administrative charge of \$100 per occurrence. The applications are ready for the Banner Program and have been posted on the Village website, the Village Facebook page and printed copies available in the Village Administration building. The first 2 banners have been hung on Main St. next to Bradford's Auto. The cost of the banners will be \$45 and there are options to purchase additional banners and yard signs. The banners in the Village will be hung and stored by the Village. More details can be found on the application regarding the picture to submit and where to submit. Bills were passed around for approval.

Police: No report.

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Solicitor: Village Solicitor, Joel Blue, attended via conference call and reported that there have been little updates to the complaints that have been filed due to difficulty in getting the people served.

Village Administrator: Village Administrator Tammy Hicks reported that mosquito spraying will be done this week in the evening when the weather permits. The storm sewer project on Oak St continues and the construction portion is expected to be completed this week. The date is unknown as this time for when the paving for that project will be done. There is a possibility that there will be enough money to extend the line further down Oak St. due to avoiding the expense of having to move a water line. Letters went out to all pool owners in the Village that advised them of the ordinance regarding fences around pools. The letter is for informational purposes only. The pump at the 5th St. lift station has become clogged with wipes for the 2nd time in the past 3 weeks causing the pump to stop working and sanitary sewer water to back up at the lift station. Residents are asked not to flush any wipes, even the so-called flushable wipes, as they do not break down quickly and cause clogs and equipment failures. Ordinance 2023-36 relating to the trimming of weeds and grass has been updated to clarify how the mowing is charged and to establish an administrative fee. Mayor Bordenkircher added that there was a lot of discussion among other Mayors at the Mayor's conference last week about the fee charged for the labor to cut the grass as well as the administrative fee to cover the time and expense to draft and serve/mail letters and invoices as well as processing the assessments to the County Auditor. The first edition of the Village Newsletter was distributed last week and looks great. The newsletter stemmed from the Community & Business Development committee and Councilwoman Brittany Howell took on the task to write the newsletter. It is posted on the Village website, the Village Facebook page and printed copies are available at the West Lafayette library as well as the Village Administration office. Mayor Bordenkircher commended Brittany for a job well done and looks forward to future newsletters.

Committee Reports:

Building and Property: No report.

Community & Business Development: No report.

Community Relations: No report. Mayor Bordenkircher reported that the Chamber of Commerce will be meeting on June 27th, most likely in the Rotary shelter due to all of the construction near the eat stand. There is paving that will be done starting on July 23, 2023 in the school parking lots and possibly finishing up the storm sewer project paving that could cause changes with the Homecoming set up and parade routes.

Finance: No report.

Fire Dependency Board: No report.

Ordinance: No report.

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Park Board: No report.

Planning Commission: No report.

Public Safety: No report.

Public Works: No report.

Records Retention: No report.

Rules: No report.

Introduction to ordinances and resolutions:

2023-35 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2023 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE 2022-68, ADDING FUNDS First Reading/Emergency

A motion was made by Bo Fortune and seconded by Brittany Howell to waive the three required readings for Resolution 2023-35. Roll call 6 yes.

A motion was made by Christie Maurer and seconded by Bo Fortune to adopt Resolution 2023-35. Roll call 6 yes.

2023-36 AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE TRIMMING OF WEEDS AND GRASS First Reading/Emergency

A motion was made by Bo Fortune and seconded by Tim Cheney to waive the three required readings for Ordinance 2023-36. Roll call 6 yes.

A motion was made by Christie Maurer and seconded by Adam Fisher to adopt Ordinance 2023-36. Roll call 6 yes.

Committee Meetings:

Building & Property-

Community & Business- July 17, 2023 at 6:30pm

Community Relations –

Fire Dependency Board-.

Finance- July 10, 2023 at 6:00pm

Ordinance- July 6, 2023 at 5:00pm

Park Board- July 17, 2023 at 6:00pm

Planning Commission –

Public Safety –

Public Works- July 6, 2023 at 5:00pm

Records Retention –

Rules –

Tax Review Board –.

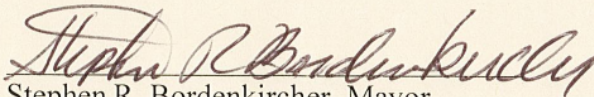
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Other Business: Mayor Bordenkircher reported attending the Mayor's conference last week and shared topics discussed. The State budget is supposed to be passed and signed by June 30th, but if not, they may extend it through July. The Local Government fund dollars are expected to increase from 1.66 to 1.7% however, there is also talk in both houses to give everyone a State tax cut, which would end up decreasing the Local Government dollars rather than increasing. There is legislation regarding municipal income tax and exempting stock options and deferred compensation from being taxed. There were quick calculations on electronic filings in the RITA municipalities showing that it would be roughly a \$9 million loss with the City of Cleveland potentially losing \$3.5 million if the legislation passes. There is also talk about possible proposed legislation allowing the State to collect and process all municipal taxes which would be an invasion of Home Rule. There were presentations about how to fund new housing developments through diversion of tax money. There were discussions about internet security and it was strongly recommended to be sure that no one is on Windows 7 and also to look to move to Windows 11 because as of October 2024 Windows 10 will no longer be supported. There is a move in communities our size that have fire departments to bring on full-time firefighters for day shift, but possibly night shift as well. There is an Ohio Heritage grant for Main St. improvements that should be researched for the Village. For Police departments, there has been a move to an apprentice type program set up to recruit new hires that would cover the cost of OPATA training, which is roughly \$8,500, as well as a wage while they are in class with a commitment to stay with the Village for a time period and mandatory drive-along time that would prepare them to hit the road as soon as they graduate. There is new legislation to reduce the hiring age of Police officers from 21 to 18, but it will not be mandatory to hire at 18. It will be up to the hiring Chief to make the decision on age. Mayor Bordenkircher also reported that there is an Appalachian grant program that the Village may be a part of that would fund the proposed walking trails project at the Waterworks Park. It is a joint effort with multiple counties to connect them and one of the projects within the grant is a pollinator trail that would extend through the Village as well as a monument erected for Chief White Eyes. There will be more information to come soon.

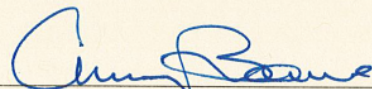
A motion was made by Adam Fisher and seconded by Christie Maurer to pay the bills. Roll call 6 yes.

A motion was made by Adam Fisher and seconded by Tim Cheney to adjourn until the next meeting on Monday, July 10, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Roll Call 6 yes.

A full recording of this evening's minutes can be heard by visiting www.westlafayettevillage.com and clicking on the recorded minutes tab.


Stephen R. Bordenkircher, Mayor

Attest:


Amy Bourne, Fiscal Officer