

Record of Proceedings

Minutes of West Lafayette Village Council Regular Meeting

West Lafayette Village Council met in regular session on March 23, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the municipal building with Mayor Jessica Tubbs presiding.

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer

Roll Call: Adam Fisher, Jason Hursey, Kenny Koch, Tyler Maple, Christie Maurer and Jacob Yoho were present. Patrolman King was also present.

A motion was made by Jason Hursey and Kenny Koch to approve the minutes from the regular council meeting held on March 9, 2026. Roll call 6 yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Jason Hursey and seconded by Kenny Koch to approve the minutes from the special council meeting held on March 11, 2026. Roll call 6 yes. Motion carried.

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

Citizens' comments: Michael Pennington was on the agenda to speak but was not here at this time.

Committee Reports:

Building and Property: Chairman Adam Fisher reported discussing the spring property cleanup. The Village Cleanup Day is April 18th at 8am until the dumpsters are full. The Boy Scouts will be helping again this year, and their help is much appreciated. Tires will possibly be collected in the Fall cleanup but will not be accepted in the Spring cleanup.

Community & Business Development: Chairman Kenny Koch reported discussing a community event happening on June 27th. A Bike Night/Community Event will be at Burt Park with a couple of bands performing, food trucks, karaoke, and kids activities. Proceeds will go toward the village parks and recreation.

Community Relations: Chairwoman Christie Maurer reported that the Janusian Women's Club will have their Ladies Night Out on May 12th at 6pm at the Ridgewood Middle School. Tickets are \$25 with a limited number being sold and will be available beginning next week at Statements by Shannon, Haarman's Pallet Shop and the French Press Café. West Lafayette Chamber of Commerce meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at the West Lafayette Fire Station meeting room. The Community Yellow Flag sales will be May 1 & 2nd. The signup is April 14-28th at the Library, JB's Smoking BBQ and Statements by Shannon. Homecoming is July 23-25th and the theme is Happy Birthday America with Congressman Troy Balderson being the Grand Marshal. The fireworks display is tentatively planned to be set off from Waterworks Park. The display is expected to cost \$12,000 so there is the opportunity for individuals and businesses to donate money at different recognition levels. Donations can be made at Home Loan Savings Bank in care of the West Lafayette Chamber Fireworks Fund or mail a check directly to the West Lafayette Chamber at PO Box 113, West Lafayette, OH 43845. We R WL has started their American Flag rental program with flags being \$30 each if paid before May 10th and \$35 after

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that date. Forms and payment can be made at the French Press Café or Haarman's Pallet Treasure. They will be having a meeting on Wednesday at 6pm in Council Chambers. Village Cleanup Day will be April 18th from 8am until the dumpsters are full. Police Department will be holding their Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Friday, April 3rd at 11am at the Ridgewood football field. The America 250 Freedom Train will be going through the village on April 25th and 26th

Community Revitalization: Chairwoman Christie Maurer reported meeting Monday, March 16th at 5:30 but no one showed up except for Mayor Tubbs due to the snowstorm.

Finance: Chairwoman Christie Maurer reported that the Year-end Annual Financial Report is complete and available for public review in the Village Administration office.

Fire Dependency Board: No report.

Ordinance: Chairman Jason Hursey reported discussing the grant application process and the necessity to present them as emergencies. Ordinance 2023-23 Building and Zoning codes was briefly discussed to note a couple of discrepancies were found and will be discussed further. Ordinance 2024-21 regarding park usage was also discussed. Clarification was given to say that the parks are always free to use for anyone. The reservation policy was put in place to ensure the desired location is held for the time being reserved. The parks are booking up quickly and the reservation fees go straight back into the Park fund.

Park Board: No report.

Planning Commission: No report.

Public Safety: Chairman Adam Fisher reported discussing mosquito spraying contracts with other villages and subdivisions for 2026. Plainfield will be sprayed for \$300 per spray. The Welker addition and Bluck Acres may also contract for spraying.

Public Works: Chairman Jason Hursey reported discussing a resolution on the agenda to approve repairs to the sewer line behind council chambers and that it was more of an urgent matter due to plans of housing being built on the vacant lot on Main and Orchard. The lot is now up for sale and there are no immediate plans to build, so the urgency of the sewer line repair has diminished. The project may be put on hold in order to look at expanding the project and utilizing grant funding.

Records Retention: No report.

Rules: No report.

Department Reports:

Fire: No report.

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Fiscal Officer: Fiscal Officer, Amy Bourne, reported Resolution 2026-16 will receive its second reading to approve the work to the sewer line behind the administration office by Vic Allen. Resolution 2026-17 will receive its second reading authorizing the village to sign a new IT agreement with the County Commissioners for the Police Department, allowing our current IT provider to service the computers, but continuing the VPN access to the County for the Zuercher computers. Resolution 2026-18 will receive its second reading to add funds in the Fire Fund in the amount of \$15,000 to purchase SCBA equipment utilizing grant funding from the State Fire Marshal. In the 263 Drive to Succeed Grant fund, the remaining grant funds of \$16,509.53 needs appropriated in order to spend the remaining funds prior to the grant deadline of June 30th. Resolution 2026-20 will receive its second reading to establish a separate fund for the Police Department. Resolution 2026-21 will receive its second reading authorizing the purchase of the fire equipment mentioned in the adding funds resolution from Atlantic Emergency Solutions. A quote was received for around \$16,000, which is over the approval limit of the department heads. Bills were passed for approval.

Police: No report.

Solicitor: Village Solicitor, Joel Blue reported receiving emails regarding the Opioid settlements.

Village Administrator: Village Administrator Tammy Hicks reminded residents that Rumpke will take yard waste and limbs if they are in 3' bundles and set next to the trash. The village will assist with some of that but do not have any place to take the debris so it is a good service that can be put out with the regular trash. Potholes are still being addressed. Residents are asked to let the village know if there are holes not being addressed. Councilman Koch asked if there was a weight limit. Hicks responded that there is no limit and that residents are permitted to set out up to 2 cubic yards of waste each week.

Citizens Comments: Mayor Tubbs gave Michael Pennington the opportunity to address Council. Mr. Pennington stated that he owns a property on 538 N. George St., but lives at 600 Plainfield Rd. Apt. 305. Mr. Pennington addressed council regarding corruption within the police department, stating that he and his family have been a part of the community for many years. Mr. Pennington accused Officer Bishop of discrimination, falsifying documents, committing conspiracy along with other accusations. Mayor Tubbs provided Mr. Pennington with a complaint form for him to complete that would be submitted to Chief Eckelberry for further investigation. Councilman Koch thanked Mr. Pennington for bringing this to their attention, but that the council members would not be asking any questions as it is not their place to do any type of investigation, but that it would all be submitted to the Police Chief. Officer King spoke to say that with himself being an African American he has never been discriminated by anyone at the West Lafayette or Coshocton police departments. Bishop trained him and gave him all the information he needed to succeed.

Introduction to ordinances and resolutions:

2026-16 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER AND VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY WITH VIC ALLEN CONSTRUCTION, LLC, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPAIRING A SANITARY SEWER MAIN IN THE VILLAGE OF WEST LAFAYETTE, OHIO Second Reading

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2026-17 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER AND/OR POLICE CHIEF TO SIGN AND EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY WITH THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COSHOCTON COUNTY, OHIO Second Reading/Emergency

2026-18 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2026 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE 2025-63, ADDING FUNDS Second Reading/Emergency

2026-20 A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A POLICE FUND (217) FOR THE ACCOUNTING OF FUNDS FOR THE VILLAGE OF WEST LAFAYETTE Second Reading

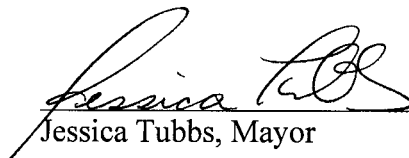
2026-21 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER AND FIRE CHIEF TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY WITH ATLANTIC EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING FIRE EQUIPMENT Second Reading

Other Business: Councilman Kenny Koch read a statement regarding information received from the Ohio Municipal League regarding State Bill 63 that sets a precedent that the State can condition funding based on whether the local government chooses to operate in the way the State prefers. Koch feels that a local government should have the autonomy to operate as they see best. Though this may not be an immediate issue, it could be in the future and worth paying attention.

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


A motion was made by Kenny Koch and seconded by Adam Fisher to adjourn until the next meeting on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Roll call 6 yes. Motion carried.

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



Jessica Tubbs, Mayor

Attest:



Amy Bourne, Fiscal Officer

Before we adjourn, I'd like to take a moment to address a broader issue that impacts every village, town, and city in Ohio. Although this may not affect us, at the moment, after reading through it I felt it important to mention it on record since there could be other things that may come along in the future, and we have to be ready now.

Senate Bill 63 may not be getting a lot of attention right now, but it should. It sets a precedent where the state can condition funding based on whether a local government chooses to operate in a way the state prefers.

I believe strongly that any village, town, or city should have the autonomy to run its local affairs in a way that best serves its constituents, not in a way that avoids financial penalties.

Autonomy should not come with a price tag and I am a big proponent of our ability to be able to manage our community the way we see fit, not the way someone else decides, once we give up our authority.

When essential funding, funding that supports police, fire, infrastructure, and daily operations, is used as leverage, it changes the relationship from partnership to pressure.

And while this may seem like a narrow issue today, I think it's important to recognize what it could represent going forward. When a precedent is set that funding can be tied to compliance, it raises the question of where that approach stops.

This isn't just something municipalities should be aware of. County commissioners and other local officials should also be paying attention, because decisions at the state level can influence how funds move down through the system and ultimately impact our communities.

I would also ask the state to consider how it would view a similar situation from above. If the federal government conditioned funding on whether Ohio adopted certain policies—allowing the state to operate only within those boundaries, believe most would recognize that as overreach.

Our role here is to serve the people of West Lafayette. And decisions about how we govern should be made here, by those closest to the people, not influenced by financial pressure.

I believe in working with the state, but not at the expense of local independence. We should be partners, not followers.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Koch

West Lafayette Village Councilman

