

Record of Proceedings

Minutes of West Lafayette Village Council Regular Meeting

West Lafayette Village Council met in regular session on January 27, 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, Tim Cheney, Brittany Howell, 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 January 13, 2024. Roll call 6 yes.

Mayor Jessica Tubbs presented the 2025 State of the Village Address. See attached.

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

Citizens' comments: None

Department Reports:

Fire: No report.

Fiscal Officer: Fiscal Officer, Amy Bourne, reported that Resolution 2025-01 will receive its third and final reading authorizing the village administrator and fiscal officer to contract with Vic Allen to repair storm drains in the village. Resolution 2025-02 will receive its second reading authorizing the village to sell surplus items via internet auction for 2025. Today is the first day that village income taxes can be filed and accepted for 2024 taxes on the RITA website at www.ritaohio.com. Those residents receiving non-filing notices and subpoenas can also respond via the website. End of year reports are in progress and the annual financial report to be uploaded to the state. Bills were passed for approval.

Police: No report.

Solicitor: Village Solicitor, Joel Blue, had nothing to report.

Village Administrator: Village Administrator Tammy Hicks reported Resolution 2025-05 will receive its first reading to authorize the sale of village property, being the corner lot on Main St. and Orchard. It is an empty lot that is not being used. It will be advertised for bid for 5 weeks consecutively and then bids will be opened. An ad for the bids for village-wide trash service contracts will be ready to submit next week. It will run February 6th & 13th and bids will be accepted until 4pm on February 24, 2025 and opened at the Council meeting that evening.

Committee Reports:

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Building and Property: Chairman Tim Cheney reported discussing the resolution 2025-05 to sell property at Main & Orchard. A zoning violation was discussed on S. Kirk St.

Community & Business Development: No report.

Community Relations: Chairwoman Brittany Howell reported the Chamber is having a gun auction to raise money for fireworks and the tickets are \$20 each with 300 being sold. The drawing will be on February 14, 2025. Information about purchasing tickets can be found on the Chamber website.

Community Revitalization: Chairwoman Brittany Howell reported meeting on January 22, 2025 with new members and many items were discussed. An informational walking map for the village, pickle ball courts, concert series at Burt Park, lodging options, tournaments, festivals, new businesses such as medical facilities and grocery stores are a few ideas that were presented.

Finance: No report.

Fire Dependency Board: No report.

Ordinance: Chairman Jason Hursey reported the Fire Department presenting a new ordinance regarding open burning. Ordinance 2025-06 will receive its first reading regarding inoperable vehicles in the village and will replace the existing junk vehicle ordinance. Inoperable vehicles need to be stored, covered and secured to prohibit children and critters from getting inside. There is no longer a time limit that a vehicle can sit on the street in front of a resident's property as long as it is properly tagged and secured.

Park Board: Chairwoman Christie Maurer reported an application is being submitted to apply for ODNR grants for recreational trails at waterworks park.

Planning Commission: County Representative Rich Wheeler reported there was a meeting, though there were no discussions regarding the village.

Public Safety: Chairman Adam Fisher reported Adison Lahmers did a fundraiser for the fire department as part of her Youth Leadership of Coshocton Pay It Forward project. She had a bake sale and is presenting the money to the department on Wednesday at 6pm and all are invited to attend. The side by side has arrived and they are still looking for a trailer to fit it.

Public Works: Chairman Rich Wheeler reported discussing water for the splash pad, ideas for generating funds for the park and village-wide trash pick up.

Records Retention: No report.

Rules: No report.

Introduction to ordinances and resolutions:

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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 Third Reading

A motion was made by Christie Maurer and seconded by Jason Hursey to adopt Resolution 2025-01. Roll call 6 yes.

2025-02 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE BY INTERNET AUCTION DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2025 OF MUNICIPALLY OWNED PERSONAL PROPERTY WHICH IS NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE, OR WHICH IS OBSOLETE OR UNFIT FOR THE USE FOR WHICH IT WAS ACQUIRED, PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 721.15(D) Second Reading

2025-05 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF REAL ESTATE OWNED BY THE VILLAGE OF WEST LAFAYETTE BUT NO LONGER NEEDED FOR ANY MUNICIPAL PURPOSE First Reading

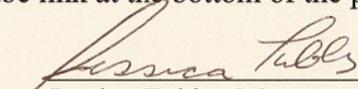
2025-06 AN ORDINANCE REGULATING INOPERABLE MOTOR VEHICLES WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF WEST LAFAYETTE First Reading

Other Business:

A motion was made by Jason Hursey and seconded by Adam Fisher 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, February 10, 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

New Year – New Roles – New Goals

We kicked off 2025 with swearing in Morgan Eckleberry as Chief as our very own Chris Walters steps into his new role as Sheriff. Sheriff Walters and Chief Eckleberry have some great ideas and plans in collaboration to better serve and protect our village residents. As the new chief buckles down on schedules and budgets, a new officer or two have joined the team and some needed repairs to the station have been discussed. They continue to keep our village safe, and we appreciate them for all that they do.

Our Fire department has been diligently working to provide the best possible protection for our community and surrounding areas. They have added several new members to their crew and replaced some older equipment with much needed upgrades. This summer was VERY dry, and we are very thankful to have them minutes away in case of an emergency.

Our Sewer Department was number one, quite literally this year. Ryan Cottrell received the honor of being named the 2024 operator of the year in our district! Congrats to Ryan! As we prepare for the Storm Sewer Outfall Project to start in the next couple weeks, our two-man team has done a great job of getting ahead of the maintenance and annual projects to allow for more dedicated focus on the outfall project this spring. They have made our plant more efficient, increased septic revenue from haulers, and have been quick to respond to the needs of our community. They are an exceptional and valuable part of our team!

As we step back into the village, Tammy Hicks-Lindig has made strides in some sidewalk projects that will be installed this spring/early summer. Sidewalks will include a walking path on the Football Practice Field from the high school/middle school parking lots to Union Ave. We appreciate Ridgewood Local Schools and Mike Masloski and their collaboration on this section to keep our kids safely off Wall Street before and after school. A few minor connections to Russell and Main, and West Main Street from Oak to the Dollar General will allow our residents (especially hungry students) to safely walk to businesses. There will also be some sidewalks added to the north end of the village. Watch for some sidewalks on the east side of Kirk Street to JB's Smoking BBQ and north Oak Street to encourage people to safely walk to Waterworks.

As we continue to see businesses pop up on Main Street and Railroad Street this year, watch for an epic transformation on Kirk Street as we welcome Baltic State Bank to our community. A restaurant is hopeful to open on Main Street, and several other businesses are looking to expand their spaces. We are excited to see our village bustling with small businesses, great opportunities, and legendary companies like Yankee Wire and Jones Metal who continue to grow and thrive.

Finding housing in our community has become more challenging. When you have the best school district in the area, everyone wants to be a General!!! We are working with a property owner who wants to develop lots in a new neighborhood. We are also talking with some larger companies who specialize in apartment housing and what that might look like in a couple areas around town.

Waterworks Park grew in the last couple of years and plans from Ridgewood Rec and WE R WL look promising for more growth this year. Last spring trees and benches were donated by individuals through WE R WL. This year they hope to add a soccer field and then another round of trees and

benches. As Ridgewood Rec continues to grow, a 4th ball diamond is being discussed. The Village Administrator is looking at some final details for the splash pad before breaking ground on that project. Teamwork has and will continue to make big strides in our outdoor community areas.

Some other projects of interest include Storm water projects that can help move the water that flows around the village and threatens potential flooding in several areas. A Storm Water Study is being funded by the Mayor Partnership for Progress and conducted by CT Consultants to see how we may best move forward to protect the residents and our neighbors around our village. The Village is working with Environmental Design Group to move forward with plans to repair a section of storm drain that has a sanitary sewer line running through it to eliminate the current blockage at the trunk of our storm drain system with hopes that we can add to our existing storm water system for some of the water issues.

The potential for village wide trash is also on the URGENT current list of to-dos. Tammy has worked with the council and reached out to Coshocton and other communities that have trash service to see what best works. She is in the final process of what the bid specifications look like and what exactly we would want to see from a trash company. That should go out to bid very soon.

Amy Bourne, our fiscal officer keeps us on track and our budget is ready to use for 2025. Her efforts do not go unnoticed. The suggestion she made after meeting with a financial advisor to move funds has proven to be a winning idea. She met with investors and banks to see where our investment accounts could possibly do better, made that move, and our accounts continue to grow in an even more positive direction. RITA (our village income tax administrator) has sent letters to potential residents who may not have filed their village taxes. This program pulls from their system and allows us to update if someone has moved and has collected a nice amount from those who maybe didn't know they were expected to pay taxes to the village. Amy continues to go above and beyond the duties to make sure that we continue to be the BEST stewards for our village with continued education, grant opportunities, and research on best practices.

With the help of the Coshocton Foundation Grant, our street department made the intersection at Kirk and Main safer with flashing stop signs. There are also flashing pedestrian signs at Railroad and Kirk and Plainfield Road near the apartments. The street department also added stop bars to intersections, maintain our parks, clear our streets of snow, and continue to step up when needed for other duties. This is another experienced team of two men and John & Bobby can fix most anything they put their mind to which proves to be a savings so often.

Another hurdle for the village is the renewal levy for the general operation of the village that failed in the November election. While the cost of electricity, repairs, engineering, and life in general have increased tremendously over the past couple decades, this levy is a renewal based on property values and needs from 2005. This is not a new tax and we hope that it is successful in the next election in May.

As the world changes, we are taking steps to make sure our employees are safe. In West Lafayette Village, all threats will be taken seriously, and charges will be pressed. No one should ever feel unsafe if we can possibly prevent it and we have taken steps towards a more secure facility.

As the snow turns to mud, then sun, and then leaves year after year, West Lafayette continues to be the BEST little village! We have so much to make us proud and the efforts to make things better cannot be beat. Welcome to 2025!! GO GENERALS!!!