

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC. FORM NO. 10148

Held June 3 2024

The Village of Weston
Council Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2024

Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Jeremy Schroeder at 6:00PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and presentation of the agenda. Mr. Myerholtz requested discussion on large trash pick up, and Ms. Susor requested addressing the County 911 Review Committee document, no objections. A roll call was taken: Mr. Craig Warner, Mr. Dean Babcock, Mr. Rob Myerholtz, Ms. Jessica Susor, Mr. Rick Easterwood, Ms. Brittney Klockowski. *A motion to approve May 20, 2024 council meeting minutes as written was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Mr. Babcock; Approved unanimously.*

Old Business

Ordinance combining official duties of the Village Administrator and Cemetery Sexton, establishing salary for the Village Administrator received a second reading.

A resolution determining to proceed with the submission to the electors of the question of levying a tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation pursuant to ORC sections 5705.19, 5705.191, 5705.25, and 5705.26 received a second reading.

Mayor touched base with Laura Baldanado regarding the fireworks agreement. Laura has high hopes for next year, there will be no event this year. The Firework Agreement will be held until next year.

During the May 7th committee of the whole meeting, the session was abruptly ended due to tornado sirens, curtailing the discussion on social media conduct and the discipline of council members. The council deliberated on whether social media conduct should be a standalone policy or integrated into Rule 15 of the council rules, which addresses council member discipline. Mr. Warner questioned the necessity of including social media conduct in council rules or at all. Ms. Susor argued that it sets a baseline, particularly for new members. A virtual visitor, De JC, suggested referencing the employee handbook policy, but it was noted that council rules have greater significance, being among the first documents new members review. The Mayor read a draft of the social media policy, emphasizing the importance of maintaining professionalism, avoiding political and private transactions, and steering clear of negative engagements. The Mayor urged council members to address community concerns calmly on social media and direct them to official channels for further discussion. Both Ms. Susor and the Mayor highlighted the negative interactions occurring in certain Facebook groups. Mr. Warner acknowledged witnessing such interactions only once and expressed opposition to making social media conduct a rule, though he was not against it being a suggestion. Mr. Myerholtz suggested simply refraining from commenting on social media and supported including social media conduct guidelines in the council rules. *Ms. Susor made a motion to add the social media section from the draft alert policy read by the Mayor as a standalone rule at the end of the council rules, which was seconded by Mr. Myerholtz and approved unanimously.*

Mr. Myerholtz proposed prohibiting any elected official of the village from holding another elected position simultaneously, arguing that it is not in the village's best interest. Mr. Warner countered by noting that several members hold regular jobs and questioned how that situation differs. The Mayor cited an Ohio Attorney General opinion, stating that officials are not prohibited from holding different offices unless a conflict exists. Ms. Susor suggested that the topic requires further research and recommended bringing suggestions back in two weeks.

Reports

Attendance: Stephanie Monts (Fiscal Officer), Harold Boggs (Village Administrator), Ken Taylor (Zoning/Code Enforcement)

Mayor: Mayor acknowledged and recognized the great things happening in town, such as the increasing attendance at ball games, the dedication of volunteers, the launch of an adult league, and the ongoing great work by Parks and Recreation for the community. He also shared the plan for holding office hours once or twice a month to encourage community engagement. Held office hours recently which have led to some great conversations.

Gave a Proclamation recognizing June as Pride Month in Weston.

Mayor also reported receiving a call from Ken Smith, the owner of the planned laundromat, about the unexpectedly high bill for grass mowing. The village had mowed the grass, which was over regulation height, and then billed to Mr. Smith. There is documented proof of the tall grass on file. The Mayor emphasized the importance of communication with property owners and noted that the mowing prices are set in the ordinance to clarify that the village is not a lawn mowing service. He requested that the council reduce the amount Mr. Smith owes, but the council was against this. Ms. Susor suggested setting up a payment plan instead.

Fiscal Officer: We have received 21 new applications for Hometown Hero banners. The next deadline for submissions, in time for Veteran's Day, is October 1st.

Administrator/Maintenance: The foundation was removed and replaced. Repaired the weed eater and mowed. Received applications for the cemetery sexton position and now have a total of three workers. Hung the Hometown Hero banners and placed flower pots. Applied cold patch to the roads. Deshler Electric repaired the ball diamond lights. Added stop bars at intersections.

Mr. Myerholtz asked why Alumni Park wasn't being mowed. The Mayor explained that the issue had already been addressed: the area was wet, there were animals present, and the intention was to observe the appearance of native prairie spots to put together a plan.

Code Enforcement/Zoning: Ken Taylor had to leave before presenting his report. Stephanie read a few items from his written report, including the issuance of two permits since the last report and that the Health Department is investigating the fence issue at Lawndale.

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Committee Reports

Community Development: Finalized discussion concerning maintenance of right-of-ways and voted to remove it from the agenda. Committee tacitly approved the subdivision regulations document to be shared with the Planning Commission. Had further discussion on the Thrive Vacant Property Program proposal. Revisited suggestions from resident Penny Taylor concerning downtown beautification, including but not limited to: incentivizing building use, staging of storefront windows, regulations involving downstairs apartments and subsequent tenant parking regulations. It was suggested to explore the idea of and possibly draft regulations for commercial building owner maintenance requirements. As an offshoot to that, also consider similar landlord property maintenance requirements. The committee would like the Village Administrator to arrange for building inspections of the Village Hall and Post Office to help assess problems with the structures and give a base with which to evaluate future necessary actions. Committee chair will consult with Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves professionals to formulate a detailed plan and timeline for the proper implementation of prairie areas in Alumni Park.

Public Works: CamTech to identify any issues for storm water that can be put toward possible grants. Harold is going to get different project scope for Sycamore St to the ditch to send back to Administrative Process for available funding by next meeting. Downtown Main Street and Taylor Street need an update from Kleinfelder. Also need to get with the Fiscal Officer for an update on the SIB loan program. Check with the Administrative Process committee for a possible additional employee for Harold. The Silver Street project needs updated quotes; \$17,482 and \$8,386. Budget for speed radars in 2025 and look into possible grants. Still waiting on Toledo Edison to update/finish lighting projects, especially Eileen and Sandridge. Move forward with the public parking restrictions to put together a final draft from legal.

Upcoming Meetings: Ball Program Special Committee 6/4 at 6PM, Cemetery 6/6 at 6PM, WSIB 6/7 at 4:45PM, Administrative Process 6/10 at 6PM (w/ Executive Session), Rec Board 6/12 at 6:30PM, Community Development & Public Affairs 6/18 at 6PM, Safety 6/24 at 6PM, Public Works 6/25 at 6PM

New Business

Council reviewed an ordinance making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024; to provide for the cost of Hometown Hero Banners. The amendment covers the costs of the brackets and banners, it was recommended to just increase the appropriations for this project enough so that it does not have to be amended again. The recommendation is to amend the appropriations in 1000-730-420-0000 to \$40,000. *Mr. Babcock made a motion to suspend the rules for emergency reading of Ordinance 2024-9 making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024, seconded by Mr. Warner; Roll Call Vote: Mr. Warner - Yes, Mr. Babcock - Yes, Mr. Myerholtz - Yes, Ms. Susor - Yes, Mr. Easterwood - Yes, Ms. Klockowski - Yes. A motion for passage of Ordinance 2024-9 was made by Mr. Myerholtz, seconded by Mr. Babcock; Approved unanimously.*

Approval of Expenditures

Council reviewed a summary of the bills (\$16,742.17) and outstanding invoices (\$18,743.83). A motion to approve the summary of the bills and payment of outstanding invoices was made by Mr. Babcock, seconded by Mr. Warner; Approved unanimously.

Miscellaneous Business

Mr. Myerholtz asked whether the Village provides the town backhoe for transporting heavy items to the trash drop-off area and when this practice began. The Mayor explained that requests for this service have been made before, and the offer has always been available. When Mr. Myerholtz inquired if this service was advertised, the Mayor responded that it is handled on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Myerholtz suggested that the service should be advertised to avoid the appearance of preferential treatment.

Ms. Susor referred to the letter from the Wood County Sheriff's Office, which is in the process of establishing a county 911 program review committee. A member of the committee must be a member of the legislative authority of a municipal corporation in the county. *Ms. Susor inquired if anyone was interested, Mr. Easterwood volunteered; accepted by motion of Mr. Myerholtz, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Approved unanimously.*

Ms. Susor proposed organizing a volunteer recognition event, and there was no opposition to including the planning for this on the Community Development agenda.

Ms. Klockowski shared that the cat cages are in and can be checked out at the Village Hall for TNR.


Citizens & Visitors

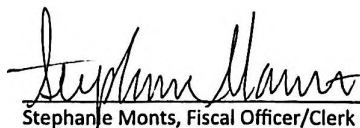
Samantha Wick, Ron Dallas, Steve Shellhammer, Anne Allen, De JC (Virtual), Ron Dallas (Virtual)

Ron Dallas requested that council take consideration into petitions, giving equal opportunity of time.

Steve Shellhammer mentioned that his wife writes grants for the university. The Mayor provided information about upcoming grant writer interviews and invited her to the meeting this Monday. Steve also inquired about the last time the council reviewed RITA and considered alternative tax collection methods. He expressed frustration with employers not withholding local taxes and issues with delinquent tax billing.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18PM.


Jeremy Schroeder, Mayor


Stephanie Monts, Fiscal Officer/Clerk