

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC. FORM NO. 10148

Held

September 3

20

24

**The Village of Weston
Council Meeting Minutes**

September 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. 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 August 20, 2024 council meeting minutes as written was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Mr. Myerholtz; Approved unanimously.*

Old Business

Kristi, the grant writer, should have a list of grants within the week.

No updates to the Prairie Project Proposal. Mayor shared that Stephanie had found a cheaper bench set.

An ordinance enacting and adopting a supplement to the code of ordinances of the Village of Weston received a second reading.

An ordinance repealing ORD. 28-05, and establishing Cemetery Rules, Regulations and Restrictions received a second reading.

A resolution submitting votes to fill a vacant board seat on the Northwestern Water and Sewer District received a second reading.

Reports

Attendance: Stephanie Monts (Fiscal Officer), Harold Boggs (Village Administrator)

Mayor: No report.

Fiscal Officer: The handicap door at the Village Hall had been having trouble latching since June. Recently, Harold made a service call, and Northwood Door came out the next day. The door is now latching properly again. Waiting on the contracts for Main Street residential, so they can be signed and returned to get a start date for the project.

Administrator/Maintenance: In regards to the storm damage the old bus garage encountered, Harold contacted the same company that previously repaired the Village Hall roof to request a quote, following instructions from the insurance company. He informed everyone that the bus garage appears to be the only Village property that sustained damage.

Code Enforcement/Zoning: Not in attendance. The Mayor read Ken's written report as follows: No permits have been issued since the last report. A variance is required for a fence on Sycamore Street. There has been correspondence with the property owner and real estate agent regarding a property on Broadway.

Committee Reports

Safety: EMS has responded to 240 runs year-to-date. T. Schroeder reported that Unit 914 needs to be scheduled for repairs and an oil change, while Unit 915 has a slow air conditioning leak. T. Schroeder also raised concerns about narcotics dispensing issues at Wood County Hospital, which are being addressed by the EMS medical director. Additionally, radio issues will require upgrades, and a quote has been requested. K. Heyman reported via email that EMS received a \$6,600 grant, and T. Schroeder suggested that the grant money could be used for another class. Mr. Easterwood inquired about payment issues related to the Milton Center contract. Stephanie provided Mr. Myerholtz with an update on these issues via email. Mr. Myerholtz provided an update on a meeting with K. Heyman and Jamie Schroeder regarding the new EMS volunteer payment program. They discussed the disbursement of funds per run and the importance of establishing a monthly schedule. Another meeting is planned to finalize a draft for committee review. The meeting ended early due to an emergency run.

Public Works: Harold was asked about the start date for Silver Street and indicated that it would be late September. At the time of the meeting, there were no updates regarding Main Street paving or crack sealing; Harold provided additional updates on these items in his written report. The status of the OPWC project remains pending, with further information expected from Kleinfelder. Updates on sidewalk approaches from K&K are still awaited, along with a meeting with Harold to discuss approach locations. Additionally, TMACOG's infrastructural analysis for stormwater issues was discussed, and Ms. Klockowski volunteered to reach out to them for more information. The County Engineer plans to begin ditch cleaning in 2027. New street lights for Poplar, Beech, and Orange would be a cost of \$1,900 each, and will need to see if the current assessment balance would be able to cover this project. The 2025 wish list includes starting water analysis and exploring grant opportunities, Sycamore Street stormwater issues (JPX quote), and paving Washington Street after analysis. Public Works recommends maintaining a \$75,000 budget for 2025 to align with potential OPWC grant and SIB funding and to allow for small updates, such as paving Washington Street. It was proposed to allocate the remaining ARPA funds to the sidewalk fund to close out that line item. However, Stephanie explained that the funds cannot be transferred to another fund; instead, the sidewalk project needs to get underway so the money can be encumbered for that purpose.

Mr. Easterwood made a motion to use the remaining ARPA funds for the sidewalk approach project, seconded by Mr. Warner; Approved unanimously. Mr. Myerholtz raised a question about prioritizing sidewalk approaches in areas where residents might benefit most, such as those with mobility issues. There was agreement that this

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would be a good idea, and the focus shifted to figuring out how to gather input from the community to identify those priority areas. Suggestions included looking at specific areas in town, possibly using context clues to identify residents with accessibility needs, and reaching out to the public via Facebook or similar methods to gather feedback. Harold mentioned starting work on identifying potential locations and would present a map to the committee for review.

Special Ball Committee: The committee reviewed and approved additions and updates to the minutes from the previous meeting. They discussed potential options for funding the port-a-pots at the ball diamonds and explored a collaborative process to develop solutions for inclusion in a contractual ordinance. One option considered was the Village covering the cost of the port-a-pots instead of a small lease fee, or vice versa. Key items for further discussion include the port-a-pots, utilities, lease terms, and equipment usage or ownership. It was decided that the contractual ordinance would be drafted by the baseball special committee, reviewed by the attorney for any changes, sent to Public Works for review of land and building permissions, and then presented to the council for official proceedings. A rough timeline was agreed upon, keeping in mind the WSIB's goal of becoming a 501(c)(3) organization by the beginning of the year for tax purposes. Existing challenges and opportunities to be communicated with the WSIB included reviewing the current purchase threshold to ensure council approval when necessary, ensuring purchases are made using tax-exempt locations, potentially registering as tax-exempt with Dollar General, aligning better with Wood County Health Department standards, exploring options for future growth, and adjusting pricing and policies to protect the concession stand's future. The committee answered questions from the WSIB representative regarding filing for an EIN and 501(c)(3) status. They also discussed contacting the Village attorney for assistance or a referral to address these questions and file the appropriate paperwork. The special committee also requested legal clarification on the proper process for equipment transfers to be included in the draft ordinance. Additionally, they planned to reach out to Stephanie to inquire about the origin of the current youth league email address and determine if the WSIB would need a new email. Update: Jessica met with Stephanie the following day to discuss changes to the minutes, questions for Paul, and the WSIB email. The email is not associated with Weston.org and does not need to be replaced. Lastly, the committee suggested considering options for marketing and communication to help guide the community toward WSIB after the transition to 501(c)(3) status. Potential options include utilizing the Village newsletter, website, and Facebook pages.

Council discussed actionable items, including the division of concession stand equipment and the need to review the purchasing threshold policy, which will be sent to the Administrative Process Committee. The discussion centered on determining ownership of equipment like refrigerators, Gatorade coolers, and the drag unit. It was debated whether the Village should continue to own and maintain these items or transfer ownership to the WSIB. It was noted that much of the smaller equipment was purchased with funds raised specifically for baseball and softball, so it likely belongs to the WSIB. There was also talk about the WSIB covering utilities instead of paying rent for the land, aligning with previous discussions. The special ball committee plans to draft an ordinance/contract for equipment ownership and responsibilities, which will be reviewed by Public Works. Council also discussed whether it would be more practical to handle the agreement through a separate contract rather than incorporating all details into the ordinance, allowing for easier amendments. Clarification from the Village attorney was requested on whether this could be done.

Upcoming Meetings: Cemetery 9/5 at 6PM, Administrative Process 9/9 at 6PM, Community Development & Public Affairs 9/10 at 6PM, Parks & Rec 9/11 at 6:30PM, Special Ball Committee 9/17 at 6PM, Planning Commission Variance Hearing 9/18 at 6PM, Safety 9/23 at 6PM, Public Works 9/24 at 6PM

New Business

Resolution 2024-15 received an emergency reading: authorizing expenditure. Harold had arranged for Morlock to bill the Village directly for the Township Silver Street project, but the invoice came from Weston Township instead. A Then & Now Purchase Order needs to be certified because the current PO is for Morlock's quoted price, not the 25% charged by the Township. *A motion to suspend the rules for emergency reading of Resolution 2024-15 was made by Mr. Warner, seconded by Mr. Babcock; 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 Resolution 2024-15 was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Mr. Babcock; Approved unanimously.*

Approval of Expenditures

Council reviewed a summary of the bills (\$27,790.82) and outstanding invoices (\$12,194.33). A motion to approve the summary of the bills and payment of outstanding invoices was made by Mr. Myerholtz, seconded by Mr. Warner; Approved unanimously.

Miscellaneous Business

The health insurance rate is increasing by 7.4%. Medical Mutual did not offer rate relief, but the new rate is still within our budget. Council will need to decide whether to proceed with the current plan or explore other options. *Mr. Easterwood made a motion to keep the current plan at the increased rate, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Approved unanimously.*

Council discussed the storm damage to the old bus garage, with Harold providing an update. He has reached out to insurance and is obtaining quotes for roof replacement. Mr. Easterwood suggested getting quotes for both a flat tar roof and a peaked steel-covered roof. Mr. Myerholtz expressed concern regarding the structural integrity of the building, especially with visible cracks, and whether the building could support the additional weight of a peaked roof. Harold was directed to proceed with getting quotes for the roof.

Council considered an emailed request from Mr. Myerholtz to be assigned to an additional standing committee

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in accordance with a recent amendment to council rules, which requires all members to serve on at least two standing committees. Mr. Warner expressed concern that removing a current member from a committee to fulfill the request would be unfair. Ms. Klockowski proposed the idea of creating a new committee, sparking a discussion on whether the new rule should take effect immediately or the following year. *Mr. Warner made a motion to delay the rule's implementation until the beginning of the year, seconded by Mr. Babcock; Approved - 4, Opposed - 1 (Mr. Easterwood), Abstained - 1 (Mr. Myerholtz).*

Citizens & Visitors

Howard Lashuay, Rachel Kershner, Travis Ackerman, Randy Hann, Shirley Moore, Sue Clanton, Ron Dallas (Virtual), Ashley Patel (Virtual), Josh Tschappat (Virtual)

Shirley Moore made an announcement that the Methodist Church will be selling mums on September 14th as a fundraiser. The sale will take place from 10AM to 5PM at the church, where the mums will be available for purchase on-site. There was discussion about whether the event could be posted on Reach Alert, with confirmation that it could be recommended, as long as the fiscal officer is informed. Mayor stated that the policy allows requests for Reach Alerts, which will be in draft mode for approval for 24 hours before being sent out. *Mr. Warner made a motion to proceed with the Reach Alert for the mum sale, seconded by Mr. Easterwood; Approved unanimously.* Shirley also extended an invitation for everyone to attend church on Sundays.

Randy Hann expressed gratitude for the quick response to the recent storm, particularly for efforts to direct traffic around fallen trees and address hazards. However, Randy raised concerns about safety, particularly with the use of chainsaws and wood chippers during post-storm cleanup by volunteers. He highlighted the risks involved with operating such equipment and the importance of proper training and personal protective equipment (PPE). Randy questioned whether all volunteers assisting in the storm cleanup were properly trained or insured. He suggested that the Safety Committee should consider proactive measures, including providing training for both employees and volunteers, and possibly limiting certain high-risk tasks to trained individuals only. Randy emphasized the importance of safety while acknowledging the commendable efforts during the storm, hoping that future responses continue to be effective without any injuries. He concluded by asking the Safety committee to look into the matter for future preparedness.

Sue Clanton followed up with Ruthann House, director of GLCAP (formerly WSOS), about the organization's programs that could benefit the village, such as weatherization, housing, and community development. Ruth offered to send representatives to present to the Council or a committee to introduce the programs. Sue suggested a general introduction to their wide range of services, with committees potentially delving into specifics later. Council was open to a brief presentation at a future meeting, and Sue agreed to coordinate dates with GLCAP.

Ron Dallas inquired about the revenue generated by the sports programs, including youth baseball, adult softball, and the concession stand, and how it would impact the creation of a 501(c)(3) organization. He was informed that the ball program generates around \$18,000 annually, which goes into a special fund for all ball-related activities. This fund is managed collaboratively by a special council committee, members of the sports initiative board, and the fiscal officer. Ron also asked about the potential expenditures for the 501(c)(3) and what their starting balance might be. The Mayor explained that the goal is to establish the 501(c)(3) by the beginning of the year, enabling revenue from fundraisers, like baseball banner sponsorships (estimated to generate \$5,000 to \$6,000). Additional revenue comes from signups and concessions. There was also discussion about leasing arrangements, liability insurance, and the possibility of leasing the facilities for a nominal fee, similar to past arrangements. The special ball committee is working on finalizing details, including covering utility costs and insurance, for the upcoming year.

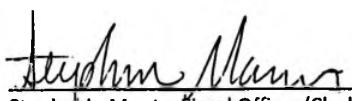
Ashley Patel expressed her gratitude to the town for everyone coming together during the recent storm. She mentioned that her business kept the market open until 3 or 4AM. with the help of a generator and even had customers during that time. She also thanked local citizens who helped save their goods. She concluded by saying how proud she was of the community's efforts. The Mayor thanked her for sharing the information.

Training

The Fraud Prevention Training, which lasted 7 minutes and 55 seconds, was arranged for the remaining officials who needed to complete it before the deadline. Some citizens also stayed to observe.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15PM.


Jeremy Schroeder, Mayor


Stephanie Monts, Fiscal Officer/Clerk