

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC. FORM NO. 10148

Held June 17 2024

**The Village of Weston  
Council Meeting Minutes**

June 17, 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. Dean Babcock, Mr. Rob Myerholtz, Ms. Jessica Susor, Ms. Brittney Klockowski. *A motion to excuse Mr. Craig Warner and Mr. Rick Easterwood was made by Mr. Babcock, seconded by Ms. Susor; Approved unanimously. A motion to approve June 3, 2024 council meeting minutes as written was made by Mr. Babcock, seconded by Ms. Susor; Approved unanimously.*

**Hearings & Presentations**

Mark Sheffer attended the meeting to seek nomination for another three-year term on the NWWSD Board of Trustees. He also pointed out that watershed usage is below expectations.

**Old Business**

Ordinance 2024-10: combining official duties of the Village Administrator and Cemetery Sexton, establishing salary for the Village Administrator received a final reading. *A motion for passage of Ordinance 2024-10 was made by Ms. Klockowski, seconded by Mr. Babcock; Approved unanimously.*

Resolution 2024-9: 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 final reading. *A motion for passage of Resolution 2024-9 was made by Ms. Klockowski, seconded by Ms. Susor; Approved unanimously.*

Council reviewed the addition of rule 38 in regards to social media conduct to the council rules. The draft version was verbatim from the draft social media policy which was more geared toward the Village social media account which is managed by the Village Clerk. Suggested edits were made during the meeting to now read: "All official Village related communication through social media should remain professional in nature and the official agency social media must not be used for political purposes, to conduct private commercial transactions, or to engage in private business activities. Elected officials are discouraged from interacting with social media discussions that become divisive or negative in nature. In the case that further communication is required, the official is encouraged to communicate in a more formal setting, communicate directly, or refer the matter to an appropriate individual or committee."

Mr. Myerholtz noted the absence of updates regarding the rules on elected officials holding two public offices. It was highlighted that at the last meeting, it was decided that research and requests would be compiled and shared at the next meeting. Ms. Susor reported that she reviewed the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), which is already included in the rules and addresses council members, but she has not found research on mayoral duties. Mr. Myerholtz mentioned he spoke with the election board, which stated that elected officials cannot hold two elected positions. The Mayor, however, stated that an Ohio Attorney General opinion holds the opposite view. Mr. Myerholtz questioned why anyone would think they could hold two elected offices when the board of elections disallows it. Ms. Susor reiterated the legislative authority rules, which prohibit a member from holding any other public office, and noted that various forms of research have been found on the topic, suggesting it could be addressed further when/if it is necessary. Ms. Klockowski stated that the mayor belongs to the executive branch, not the legislative branch, and expressed contentment with the council rules as they are, reflecting the ORC. She also requested to read the correspondence Mr. Myerholtz had with the board of elections. Mr. Myerholtz indicated he spoke in person with the head of the board, prompting Ms. Klockowski to suggest inviting this person to a meeting for a direct conversation with the council. The Mayor acknowledged that this issue is arising now because there is a possibility he could be elected to a second public office, though it's not guaranteed. Mr. Myerholtz expressed concern about the potential complications this could bring to the council. The Mayor addressed previous criticism from Mr. Myerholtz regarding time management, to which Mr. Myerholtz clarified it was more about "double dipping" into OPERS. He shared his experience attempting to join the library board in the past and referencing a letter that was sent by the prosecutor's office regarding the situation. The Mayor pointed out that the mayor's position pays \$6,000 per year and has often been held by individuals with full-time jobs. Mr. Myerholtz responded that the issue is purely political and concerns double dipping into taxpayers' money. The Mayor expressed a desire for official communication or policies on this matter. Ms. Susor agreed that hearing from the board of elections would be beneficial. Finally, Ms. Susor asked if the council agreed with the adjustments made to the council rules regarding social media. She motioned to approve the council rules, seconded by Mr. Babcock; Approved - 3, Opposed - 1, Mr. Myerholtz.

Randy Hann asked if there is a procedure in place if the Mayor would have to give up his position, which is in council rules and ORC.

**Reports**

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

**Mayor:** Read a Proclamation recognizing Juneteenth.

The Mayor expressed his gratitude for the community support shown to the Crowe family after their recent house fire on Walnut Street. He noted the house is now uninhabitable and referred to an email explaining how such situations are handled. The Mayor also mentioned Rick Easterwood's inquiry about the fire insurance ordinance, which involves putting insurance proceeds into escrow to ensure the damaged building is properly managed. This only applies if there is insurance money, but it was noted on the news that the family does not have insurance. The Mayor emphasized that other Village ordinances still apply and asked for generosity and

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patience, stating the Village will assist the family through these circumstances. Mr. Myerholtz pointed out that the house is a safety issue and the Village might need to demolish it at its own expense, placing the cost as a tax lien. The Mayor stressed the importance of giving the family time to resolve their situation.

**Fiscal Officer:** No report.

**Administrator/Maintenance:** The walking path is complete. Met with Feller & Finch and the bid should be out within the next week for Main Street residential.

**Code Enforcement/Zoning:** Absent from the meeting, it was noted in the written report that a discussion about solar panels was suggested. The mayor requested inviting Ken to the July Community Development & Public Affairs meeting.

### Committee Reports

**Ball Program Special Committee:** Updates were provided from the WSIB meeting regarding thoughts and research on the business aspects of transitioning to a 501(c)(3). Topics to be addressed at the next board meeting were discussed, including the formation of a board of directors, officer positions and duties, potential capital improvements, and ownership and lease contracts. Mr. Myerholtz was asked to find additional resources to be shared with and utilized by the WSIB in the process of forming a 501(c)(3). Ideas to ensure a smooth transition for the board were discussed, such as training the treasurer to take over fiscal duties, providing templates of necessary forms for the transition, and starting to work on the details for a future contractual agreement with the WSIB.

Mr. Myerholtz inquired about the status of obtaining a computer for the treasurer, to which Ms. Susor replied that the decision is up to the board and the treasurer. Ms. Susor also mentioned that Jeanettie requested a list of pros and cons of a 501(c)(3), noting that the fiscal duties are the challenging aspect of a nonprofit organization.

**Cemetery:** Brittney Klockowski praised the cemetery cleanup event and the volunteers who participated, suggesting an additional event in the fall. An update on personnel was provided: there are currently two mowers, and Harold is meeting with two more interested candidates. The mowers have used 340 hours, leaving 460 hours for the remainder of the year. Palmer is increasing grave digging prices to \$290. Jodie Domer presented a draft of new cemetery rules, with many topics under review, and a request was made for a copy of the Village ordinance for indigent burials as a reference. The ordinance to combine the sexton and administrator roles was shared, with all members approving the wording and agreeing to move forward. The Allen Foundation was discussed, raising questions about the sequence of events and statements made, including comments about Weston Cemetery being difficult to work with, lack of communication, and improper process regarding the chain of command. The Mayor is requested to attend the next cemetery board meeting to clarify these details. The board is also discussing policies on specialty headstones, with current requesters being asked to attend a board meeting to share details. Additionally, some community members have expressed interest in donating to repair damaged headstones. There are three foundations to be poured, with plans to make a short order for cement pending any additional orders before the spring order. Plans for the fall lantern tour were discussed, and individuals were chosen to be highlighted on the tour. The July 4th meeting was moved to July 11th due to the holiday, and the August meeting was moved to August 8th due to conflicts with the Wood County Fair.

**WSIB:** Rachael Beard was appointed to the community relations seat. Paul Klockowski proposed dates for the adult league program for summer and fall, while Jeanettie Zamarripa requested reminders for field rules and Village ordinances be relayed. Concession stand improvements were discussed, and it was approved to order a cash register and hot dog roller. Improvements for field maintenance were also discussed, with approval given to order a leaf blower, rule signs, chalk, and marking paint. Updates on Otsego Town Ball will be available after their upcoming meeting. Jessica Susor attended to discuss the plan to move towards a 501(c)(3) status and answered questions from the board, clarifying issues related to property, procedures, and roles.

**Administrative Process:** The Fiscal Officer reviewed the estimated 2025 budget with the committee. They discussed the DOL salary threshold and the importance of accurately tracking the fiscal officer/clerk's weekly hours over the summer months to discuss the threshold before appropriations are due. Kristi Galarza from GEM Consulting was interviewed, and the committee recommended drafting a contract for Paul Skaff to review and requesting a background check. The committee also reviewed an ADT quote for Village Hall security and proposed that the Safety Committee examine both quotes to make a decision. Funds would need to be reappropriated in the general fund to cover the security costs, with plans to submit for PEP grant funding to offset the expense of the security cameras.

**Rec Board:** Reviewed the Park Rules ordinance and recommended adding regulations to prohibit motorized vehicles on park land to the council. Discussed with Harold the addition of parking lines to designate parking areas along the paved drive at Alumni Park. Reviewed upcoming W.I.L.D. program topics and dates: June 22 - Insects, July 9 - Yoga/5 Senses, July 20 - Space & Sun. Planned a ribbon-cutting event for the Walking Path on June 26th from 6-8 PM, which will include activities, promotion of an adult walking program, and an ideas/suggestion box. Requested the attendance of the Mayor and Council Members. Approved a \$400 budget for the ribbon cutting and walking program. The board unanimously voted to name the walking path "Keeler's Path." Discussed sharing the history of Weston on a plaque once more permanent signage is displayed; temporarily, there will be a QR code with history information from the website. The discussion led to grant opportunities, including the Storybook Trail Grant through ODNR, which could facilitate the history plaque,

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signage, and a storybook that can be updated seasonally. Other project ideas for grant opportunities were discussed, including a Shelter House over the old blacktop pad behind the bus garage, a Painted Obstacle Course, and an Equipment Obstacle Course. Considered the idea of installing adult playground equipment on a smaller scale along the path to gauge interest before fully committing. Also discussed finding replacement playground equipment for the area where broken equipment was removed a few years ago, such as musical instrument features found in many inclusive parks. Talked about fixing up the Michael Merrill park sign and selecting paint colors for it. Will plan a park visit to see what else needs fixed up before putting a budget together.

The Mayor suggested adding the motorized vehicles regulation recommendation to the Community Development & Public Affairs committee agenda, and there were no objections. *The Mayor also requested the Council's approval of the Parks & Rec recommendation to name the path, with Ms. Klockowski making a motion to accept naming the walking path "Keeler's Path," seconded by Mr. Babcock; Approved unanimously.*

**Upcoming Meetings:** Community Development & Public Affairs 6/18 at 6PM, Safety 6/24 at 6PM, Public Works 6/25 at 6PM, Administrative Process 7/8 at 6PM, Rec Board 7/10 at 6:30PM, Cemetery moved to 7/11 at 6PM

#### New Business

*The 2025 budget certificate was presented, with a motion for approval made by Mr. Babcock, seconded by Ms. Susor; Approved unanimously.*

Kristi Galazara provided both a 5-month and a 7-month contract for the grant writer position. The original 7-month contract, which was included with the application and reviewed during the interview process, was favored. The proposed start date is August 1 to allow the council sufficient time to review all documents and make a final decision. Paul Skaff has already reviewed the contract and found no issues or a need for legislation. The applicant, who is based in Colorado, applied through Indeed.com. The contract outlines monthly deliverables starting with research, and the rate fits within the \$10,000/year grant writing budget.

Zach Schmidt will attend the next council meeting to present a grant proposal for his BGSU class, expressing interest in conducting groundwork for a community building grant. In the meantime, council members are encouraged to share additional ideas.

#### Approval of Expenditures

Council reviewed a summary of the bills (\$33,209.88) and outstanding invoices (\$8,203.97). A motion to approve the summary of the bills and payment of outstanding invoices was made by Mr. Babcock, seconded by Ms. Susor; Approved unanimously.

#### Miscellaneous Business

**Important Date Reminders:** WILD Program (Insect Topic) Saturday, June 22nd at 10AM & Walking Path Celebration/Ribbon Cutting Wednesday, June 26th from 6-8PM

Mr. Myerholtz asked Harold about the status of the sidewalk corners connecting to the street/handicap accessible areas. Harold stated that no progress has been made yet, but it is on the radar and will work on obtaining cost estimates. Mr. Myerholtz also inquired about the repair timeline for the catch basin on Mill/Main St. Harold responded that JPX is the contractor, and the repair should be on their schedule.

#### Citizens & Visitors

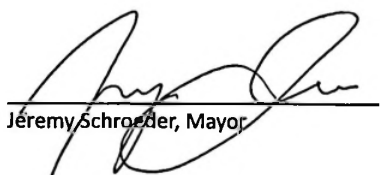
Howard Lashuay, Samantha Wick, Shirley Moore, Mark Sheffer, Randy Hann, Gary Betz, Ron Dallas (Virtual)

Howard Lashuay inquired about the issue of tall weeds, to which the Mayor responded that they were working on determining the layout of a natural prairie. Howard clarified that he was asking about weeds on personal property and assertively told the Mayor to inspect his own fence and mow.

Randy Hann noted sound quality issues with the council meeting recordings and mentioned that his brother, a video engineer, might be able to offer professional advice on improving the recordings. The Mayor acknowledged that the microphones had been repositioned from the previous meeting to the current one in an effort to enhance sound quality. It was also mentioned that the fans, which may have caused some interference, would not be used consistently.

Gary Betz, the Village's Part-Time Maintenance employee, attended the meeting to inquire about the 2025 budget and noted that the John Deere mower needs to be replaced. He also expressed frustration, accusing someone on council of spreading a rumor that he is still using his truck on Village time. He clarified that he has not used his truck for Village work in the past 4-5 months.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18PM.

  
Jeremy Schroeder, Mayor

  
Stephanie Monts, Fiscal Officer/Clerk