

**Council for the Village of Yellow Springs
Regular Session Minutes**

In Council Chambers @ 6 P.M.

Monday, January 5, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President of Council Gavin DeVore Leonard called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present were Council Vice President Gavin DeVore Leonard and Council members Carmen Brown, Angie Hsu, Senay Semere and Stephanie Pearce. Solicitor Amy Blankenship, AVM/Project Lead Elyse Giardullo, and Village Manager Johnnie Burns were also present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION INFORMATION

Blankenship presented information regarding Council's ability under Ohio Revised Code to enter an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the President and Vice President roles and who might be interested, etc.

DeVore Leonard inquired of Council as to interest in this option and there was no indication of interest.

NOMINATION FOR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Hsu NOMINATED DeVore Leonard as President. Pearce SECONDED. There being no further nominations, the Clerk CALLED THE ROLE, and the NOMINATION WAS APPROVED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

NOMINATION FOR COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

Pearce NOMINATED Brown as Vice President. Brown SECONDED.

DeVore Leonard NOMINATED Hsu as Vice President. Semere SECONDED.

There being no further nominations, the Clerk CALLED THE ROLL ON THE NOMINATION OF Brown. The NOMINATION FAILED 2-3 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE, with Hsu, Semere and DeVore Leonard voting against.

The Clerk CALLED THE ROLL ON THE NOMINATION OF Hsu. The NOMINATION WAS APPROVED 3-2 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE, with Brown and Pearce voting against.

Following the vote process, Council members exchanged places at the dias based upon their elected positions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Burns announced dates for Village Christmas tree pickup.

Hsu announced an upcoming conference she will be attending on Progressive Governance and asked any other interested Council members to contact the Clerk.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of December 15, 2025 Regular Meeting

Brown MOVED and Hsu SECONDED a MOTION TO ADOPT THE MINUTES of December 15, 2025 Regular Council Meeting. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

There were no changes made.

PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/LEGISLATION

Reading of Resolution 2026-01 Authorizing the Sale During Calendar Year 2026 of Municipally Owned Personal Property Which is Not Needed for Public Use, or Which is Obsolete or Unfit for the Use for Which It was Acquired, by Internet Auction, Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 721.15(D). Brown MOVED and DeVore Leonard SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Following a brief explanation from the Village Manager, DeVore Leonard CALLED THE VOTE, and the MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Reading of Resolution 2026-02 Approving Grant Funds to the 365 Project for MLK Day and Juneteenth Activities for Calendar Year 2026. Brown MOVED and Hsu SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

The Clerk explained that while Council has accounted for the grants in the annual budget, distribution of funds must be done by a request from the entity and a resolution of Council.

Hsu noted that the dollar amount was not filled in in the resolution.

The Clerk apologized for the omission and asked that Council approve a “not to exceed” amount.

Brown MOVED and Hsu SECONDED A MOTION TO AMEND SECTION ONE to REPLACE THE DOLLAR AMOUNT WITH “IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,500”. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Hsu further noted that the dollar amount listed in Section Two was less than had been requested.

DeVore Leonard MOVED and Semere SECONDED a MOTION TO AMEND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT LISTED WITH “\$1,200”. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

DeVore Leonard CALLED THE VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED, and the MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

CITIZEN CONCERNS

Mitzie Miller expressed hope that the new Council will be responsive and “transparent”.

Pan Reich asked that Short Street be immediately reopened, characterizing its continued closure as a burden to downtown businesses and a space underused in winter months. He requested that the Village’s hyper reach system be used to inform citizens if ICE is in the area.

SPECIAL REPORTS

There were no Special Reports.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Burns reported a successful Village Holiday gathering.

Burns made note of an upcoming Town Hall to discuss options for Tom’s Market.

Burns again made note of the multiple call-outs three weeks ago related to a power outage compounded by heavy snow and plowing needs. He asked that people not call the Village or 9-1-1 in such situations, since the switchboard was flooded with calls and people came to the lobby to express concerns, further complicating the matter.

Burns showed an updated photo of tire tracks covering the Gaunt Park playing fields which will need to be repaired.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Council Representatives to YSDC. Burns explained that a meeting addressing the sale of the former hardware store takes place January 6th, and Council representatives have been urged to attend, necessitating the appointment of temporary representatives if necessary.

Brown expressed interest in serving in this role, citing her prior experience on YSDC as a positive. Semere expressed his interest, citing background in the field as a positive.

DeVore Leonard received confirmation from Brown and Semere that they were both interested in retaining the representative position long term.

DeVore Leonard MOVED to appoint Brown and Semere as Council representatives to YSDC. Brown SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Appointment of Representatives to MVRPC and GCRPC. DeVore Leonard asked for indication of interest in serving on MVRPC. Brown and Semere both indicated strong interest. Both also indicated interest in serving on GCRPC. They agreed to alternate the lead role, with Semere taking lead on MVRPC and Brown taking lead on GCRPC.

DeVore Leonard MOVED and Hsu SECONDED a MOTION TO APPOINT Semere as Lead and Brown as Alternate to MVRPC. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Appointment of Representatives to GCRPC.

DeVore Leonard MOVED and Hsu SECONDED a MOTION TO APPOINT Brown as Lead and Semere as Alternate to GCRPC. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Draft Council Retreat Agenda. DeVore Leonard introduced the topic, requesting feedback as to timeframes and any topics that may need to be added.

Brown stressed the need to follow Roberts Rules of Order and asked that these be discussed at the Retreat.

Brown noted “Stop/Start/Continue”, identifying the need to be clear about who is in charge of what aspects of decisions, tasks and projects with regard to interaction between Council and staff.

Brown responded to a question from DeVore Leonard, stating that she wants clarity around how staff and Council roles inter-relate and when they do not inter-relate.

No further items were identified.

Scheduling of Regular Work Sessions: Purpose/Timing. DeVore Leonard received confirmation from Council that they are generally agreeable to holding regular Work Sessions. A discussion regarding frequency of the sessions and topics will follow.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There were no Board and Commission Reports.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Jan. 20: 5pm Work Session (Short Street)
6pm Regular Meeting
Ordinance 2026-01 Authorizing the Annual Transfer of Funds and Declaring an Emergency
Resolution Authorizing Grant Application for SRTS
Village End of Year Report/s
Discussion of Need to Schedule Meeting(s) with Other Taxing Entities
Council Rules
- Jan. 23: Council Retreat (9-4pm)
- Feb. 2: Short Street Presentation
Quarterly Financials
Treasurer Report
Stop/Start/Continue Discussion
Board and Commission Seats
Values/Strategic Approach
Village Goals
Review Annual Calendar
Retreat Follow-up
Draft Work Session Agenda
- Feb. 17: 5pm Work Session (Council Goals)
6pm Regular Meeting
- March 2:
- March 16:

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:57pm DeVore Leonard MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO ADJOURN. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Signed: _____
Gavin DeVore Leonard, Council President

Attest: _____
Judy Kirtner, Clerk of Council