

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

In Council Chambers @ 6 P.M.

Monday, March 2, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hsu announced that preparations to hold a "Longest Table" community meal are underway, working towards a September event.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of February 17, 2026 Work Session
2. Minutes of February 17, 2026 Regular Meeting

Hsu MOVED and Semere SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE ALL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

There were no changes made.

PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk will receive and file:

Superintendent Holden re: Requested School Signage (2)
Judith Hempfling re: Comments on Village Goals
Gavin DeVore Leonard/Angie Hsu re: Decision to Lower Municipal Flag

Hsu reviewed communications.

DeVore Leonard received confirmation that Burns is looking into the signage requested by Superintendent Holden and will bring any pertinent information back to Council.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/LEGISLATION

Brown MOVED and Hsu SECONDED a MOTION TO READ ALL SECOND READINGS BY TITLE ONLY. THE MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance 2026-04 Repealing Chapter 220.01 "Rules and Procedures" of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio and Enacting New Chapter 220.01 "Rules and Procedures". Hsu MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

DeVore Leonard noted that Council has discussed and reviewed the rules document several times. He asked for clarification from the Clerk as to why the section on the handling of complaints among and about Council was cut, and was told that this was because, as elected officials, not employees, only Council can hold one another to policies regulating conduct. She added that any such policy is better as a collaborative approach and as a codified piece of legislation.

Semere asked that Council discuss how they wish to handle complaints against Council members at some point, since this is being removed from the ordinance.

DeVore Leonard OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Ralita Hilderbrand stated that she thought a conduct policy should be included as a means for Council to hold themselves accountable.

DeVore Leonard commented that Council will address conduct matters as a body, perhaps in a work session dedicated to that purpose.

DeVore Leonard CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING AND CALLED THE VOTE. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Reading of Resolution 2026-10 Approving 2026 Expenditures for Public Arts and Culture Commission as Appropriated in the Village of Yellow Springs 2026 Budget. Brown MOVED and Hsu SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

The Clerk explained that while an appropriation was made for PACC for 2026, legislation approving the nature of the expenditures still needs to be passed.

DeVore Leonard acknowledged that this Council has the latitude to fail to approve the expenditures, but that opposition should be carefully considered, since work has already begun in many cases.

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

Reading of Resolution 2026-11 Approving 2026 Expenditures for Environmental Commission as Appropriated in the Village of Yellow Springs 2026 Budget. Hsu MOVED and Semere SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

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

CITIZEN CONCERNS

DeVore Leonard read in a statement regarding protocol and responses to Citizen Concerns.

Mitzie Miller commented on items identified by a McKee Group conversation as important to address, including school safety in drop off and pick up. She remarked on handicap parking location.

Resident Mao Ju brought up concerns regarding YSPD enforcement of her visitation order.

Ralita Hilderbrand encouraged registration for persons wishing to vote in the May 4th election. She noted the rescinding of the 4-day grace period for mail-in absentee ballots. She commented on Council's housing goal, speaking against Village funding on Home, Inc.

Mayor McQueen stated his support for the Earth Day celebration, commenting that he has long been interested in Earth Day and environmental issues and will be hosting the Mayor's Monarch Pledge booth at that event.

Reilly Dixon, Yellow Springs News, expressed excitement regarding the plan to move Citizen Concerns ahead of Legislation.

Brian Housh commented on Earth Day funding, noting that a great deal of work has already occurred towards this event. He noted the Village's signature events, and a decision made include Earth Day as one of these.

SPECIAL REPORTS

End of Year Report: Finance. Robinson presented the year end financials.

End of Year Report: Treasurer. Kintner presented fourth quarter investment information.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Burns provided information on the OCMA conference he and Giardullo attended last week, reporting it as highly informative.

OLD BUSINESS

Finalize Goals Document: Assign Responsibilities/Timelines. DeVore Leonard explained the process, stating that the task at hand is to review goals for accuracy and to then assign a general timeline, outcomes and person responsible. He noted that goals will change and adapt throughout the year.

Council addressed each goal, with the understanding that additions and changes will return with the legislation at the March 16th meeting.

The goal regarding economic development in the form of pop-up, markets and suggesting review of the Zoning Code engendered a fair amount of conversation, with Semere responding to the Clerk's concern that information gathering should precede consideration of policy change, stating that he sees these proposals as ways to increase downtown vitality.

DeVore Leonard asked that Semere work with staff and Chamber to gather more information on these ideas.

Housing will be addressed at a Council retreat in the near future.

DeVore Leonard stated that he will work on a scope for hiring a consultant to engage in strategic planning.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Consideration of Request for Earth Day Sponsorship. Brown went over each of the listed expenditures, objecting to the printing of a color flyer as counter to environmentally sustainable practices.

Council asked several questions regarding the need for separate legislation to approve the expenditure of appropriated funds.

Brown received confirmation that funds for Earth Day were appropriated in the 2026 budget and those funds will derive from the "Council Commissions" budget line.

DeVore Leonard received general Council approval that a resolution return to approve a total of \$1,393 for Earth Day.

Pearce asked whether every requesting group's request is so closely scrutinized and received the information that this is generally accomplished by the sponsoring organization in advance of the request.

Prioritization of Projects/Requests. DeVore Leonard commented that this is an opportunity to add any additional topics if needed. He asked about the Smoke Shop Moratorium and was informed that this effort will resume once a Planning and Zoning Director is hired.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- March 16: **5-6pm: Executive Session:** Under section 121.22 (G)(1): To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee.
 Reading of Resolution 2026-12 Approving Village Goals for 2026-2027
 Resolution Establishing Tax-Exempt Certificate and Reimbursement Policy
 Resolution Authorizing Earth Day Funding
 Swearing In: Schultz-Herman; Gibson; Green
 Annual Calendar Update
- April 6: Executive Session
 Personnel Policy Manual Ordinance
 Board/Commission Leadership/Purpose/Priorities
 Ordinance Amending 252.03
- April 9: Retreat: 9-3:30
- April 20: Solicitor Evaluation Timeline

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:52pm Brown MOVED and Hsu SECONDED a MOTION TO ADJOURN. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Signed: _____
 Gavin DeVore Leonard, Council President

Attest: _____
 Judy Kintner, Council Clerk