

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

In Council Chambers @ 5 P.M.

Monday, March 16, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Gavin DeVore Leonard called the meeting to order at 5:02 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 Police Chief Burge were also present. The Village Manager was not present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:02, Pearce MOVED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION under Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(1): To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee. Semere SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Present in the session were Solicitor Blankenship, FD Robinson, Police Chief Burge and Assistant VM Giardullo.

At 5:58, Brown MOVED and Hsu SECONDED a MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

MOTION TO ENTER REGULAR SESSION

At 6:05 Brown MOVED and Hsu SECONDED a MOTION TO ENTER REGULAR SESSION. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

SWEARINGS-IN

DeVore Leonard swore in Brian Gibson (new) and Johanna Schultz-Herman (returning) to Environmental Commission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of March 2, 2026 Regular Meeting
2. Credit Card Statement for February

Hsu MOVED and Brown 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:

Dorothee Bouquet re: MLS Traffic Concerns
Gavin DeVore Leonard re: Draft Grant Support Letter for Council Consideration
Bethany Gray re: Request for Earth Day Funding
Mayor's Clerk re: Mayor's Monthly Report (2)
Mao Ju re: Police Complaint

Hsu reviewed communications.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/LEGISLATION

Semere MOVED and Hsu SECONDED a MOTION TO WAIVE FULL READING OF THE EMERGENCY LEGISLATION. THE MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Emergency Reading of Ordinance 2026-05 Approving a Second First Quarter Supplemental Appropriation and Declaring an Emergency. Hsu MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Robinson explained the need for the Supplemental, noting that the Village has received a Miller Foundation grant to cover lifeguard salaries for 2026 and also received an insurance payment to cover water damage to the Bryan Center. Those additions were added to the proper accounts to enable expenditure.

DeVore Leonard OPENED A PUBLIC HEARING. There being no comment, DeVore Leonard CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING AND CALLED THE VOTE. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Reading of Resolution 2026-12 Approving Village Goals for 2026-2027. Brown MOVED and Hsu SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

DeVore Leonard noted that the goals document is the result of ongoing work, noting that it is expected to change as efforts continue.

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

Reading of Resolution 2026-13 Establishing a Tax-Exempt Certificate and Reimbursement Policy. Brown MOVED and Hsu SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Robinson explained that as a tax-exempt public entity, the Village is permitted to make purchases without paying sales tax when those purchases are made directly by the Village for a valid governmental purpose.

She noted that the Ohio Auditor of State has recommended that public offices adopt a written policy governing the use of their tax-exempt certificate and reimbursement, hence the policy presented to Council for approval.

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

Reading of Resolution 2026-14 Approving 2026 Expenditures for Earth Day Activities as Appropriated in the Village of Yellow Springs 2026 Budget. Hsu MOVED and Semere SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

DeVore Leonard noted that Council addressed the matter at their previous meeting and had requested the legislation now before them.

There being no questions, DeVore Leonard CALLED THE VOTE, and the MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Reading of Resolution 2026-15 Naming Bruce Eakins as Municipal Representative to the Greene County 911 Review Committee. Hsu MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Blankenship explained that a municipal representative to the 911 Review Committee is a statutory requirement, and because the previous representative was not re-elected to his Council, the open seat again needs to be filled.

Giardullo noted that Burns attends the Review Committee meetings and could certainly speak to why Jamestown has provided the candidate were he present to do so.

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

CITIZEN CONCERNS

Mao Ju stated a request that PD file a Missing Child report in February was not followed up on. She has filed a complaint and stated that she has not yet received a response to the complaint.

Sasha Newgate reminded all of an event at Trail Town Brewery taking place tomorrow.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Fourth Quarter Financials. Robinson presented the fourth quarter financials, providing a year-to-year and three-year comparison. Brown MOVED and Semere SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Giardullo provided information regarding the recent—an ongoing—wind event and power outage update, which required many person-hours over the course of three days and involved myriad tree-and tree-limb removals and many power outages. She noted that despite the sustained high winds and wayward tree parts that no poles came down: a testament to the aggressive pole-replacement program in place the last several years.

Giardullo highlighted portions of the report, in part stating that due to increased electric capacity charges, which are set by auction, the average household electric bill has increased by \$9 since June 2025.

DeVore Leonard commented that it is important to note that the capacity charges are not in Village control. He added that the Village will continue to try to address citizens' questions regarding increases to water bills.

OLD BUSINESS

Citizen Concerns to Move Before Legislation Starting April 6. DeVore Leonard reminded all of this upcoming change to the agenda.

Memo re: Request for Increased Signage and Traffic Mitigation at MLS. Giardullo highlighted the provided memo, stating that as soon as information and recommendations are received from Choice One, that information will be brought back to Council.

Pearce commented that the construction work at Mills Lawn will still be underway when recommendations are received, expressing concern that the student drop off/pick up configuration might change in the interim.

Giardullo commented that Burns has been in communication with Superintendent Holden, and will continue this communication.

Hsu added that Pearce's roles as both Active Transportation Committee representative and School Liaison will serve as an advantage in this instance.

NEW BUSINESS

Update of Annual Calendar. DeVore Leonard read through the draft calendar, noting that it is subject to change, but provides a good sense of regular items of business.

Draft Housing Retreat Agenda. Hsu read through the draft agenda. She stressed that the goal of the meeting is to prioritize, to gain a common understanding of what has been done previously, and to define what type of housing Council wishes to support.

Hsu noted that six topics have come up repeatedly in connection with housing over the years. She has identified these in the agenda, and one aspect of the retreat will focus on ranking those topics as a way of setting priorities.

Brown commented that she sees a need for more than 5 minutes per person for the section dedicated to "Background on Village Housing".

Draft Support Letter for Antioch Grant Application. DeVore Leonard explained that he had been asked to present a draft support letter to Council in hope of obtaining a letter of support for a Legislative Capital Grant Antioch College is applying for from the State of Ohio.

There was general agreement among all Council members that DeVore Leonard has their go-ahead to proceed with the letter on behalf of Council as a whole.

The final version will appear in Council's April 6th packet.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

DeVore Leonard reported on Finance Committee, noting that the group is addressing financial conservatism in budgeting, working to find the "sweet spot" between good fiscal stewardship and good use of funds.

Semere reported on a recent MVRPC meeting, noting that two areas in the Village have been identified as risk areas under MVRPC's Safe Streets Action Plan. He will keep an eye on the situation for potential grant opportunities based on this identification.

Semere reported that YSDC held both its annual and monthly meetings recently, and that he had met with Executive Director Abel to discuss economic development.

Pearce reported having attended a School Board meeting to introduce herself as the Council liaison to the School Board.

Brown reported that Environmental Commission is exploring conservation development in other municipalities and plans to focus more narrowly on options within the village following Council's Housing Retreat. She announced that information on community garden plots is available online with more to come.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

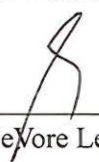
April 6: 5pm Executive Session
Discussion re: Sidewalks/Parking/Economic Development
Strategic Plan Scope of Services
April 9: Retreat: 9-3:30
April 20: Work Session @5pm
April 20: Solicitor Evaluation Timeline
First Reading of Ordinance 2026-XX Amending Chapter 252.06 "Personnel Policy Manual" of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio
First Reading of Ordinance 2026-XX Amending Chapter 252.03 "Computation of Composite Rate of Compensation" of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio
Board and Commission Goals
May 4: 5pm Executive Session (Solicitor Evaluation)

Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance 2026-XX Amending Chapter 252.06
"Personnel Policy Manual" of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio
Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance 2026-XX Amending Chapter 252.03
"Computation of Composite Rate of Compensation" of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of
Yellow Springs, Ohio

May 18: 5pm Work Session: Information Session with Craig Kleinhenz of AMP re: Power Contracts and
PJM Capacity Charges
May 18: 6pm Regular Session

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:12pm 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