

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

In Council Chambers @5:00 P.M.

Monday, May 5, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Kevin Stokes called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

ROLL CALL

Present were President Stokes, Vice President DeVore Leonard and Council members Carmen Brown and Trish Gustafson. Solicitor Blankenship, Finance Director Michelle Burns, Project Lead Elyse Giardullo and Village Manager Johnnie Burns were also present.

Gustafson MOVED TO EXCUSE THE ABSENCE OF COUNCIL MEMBER Housh.
DeVore Leonard SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Conine announced upcoming events related to Asian American/Pacific Islander Awareness Month.

Burns announced that this week is Spring Clean Up week.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of April 21, 2025 Regular Meeting

DeVore Leonard MOVED and Gustafson SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES of April 21, 2025. The MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

There were no changes made.

PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk will receive and file:

Jaimie Sharp, YS Toy Company re: Letter of Support Asked of Council
Mayor's Clerk re: Mayor's Monthly Report (2)
Emily Seibel re: Request Legislation Supporting Ohio Housing Trust Fund

DeVore Leonard reviewed communications.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/LEGISLATION

DeVore Leonard MOVED and Gustafson SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE READING IN ALL ORDINANCES BY TITLE. The MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance 2025-06 Repealing Section 242.01 "Composition; Classification" of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio and Enacting New Section 242.01 "Composition; Classification" Regarding Community Outreach Specialist Position. DeVore Leonard MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Burns noted two reports provided by Chief Burge related to the request for a second COS position. The request is based upon an increasing work load for the current position. Burns stated that he and Finance Director

Robinson have estimated the salary and compensation range for the additional position at \$50,000.00- \$75,000.00 annually. He stated that a Supplemental Appropriation would be needed if the position is approved.

Burns acknowledged that Burge had indicated enough savings in the YSPD budget due to unfilled positions to fund the position for 2025, but stated that because those positions could be filled at any point, he is more comfortable appropriating the needed funds.

Stokes OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Reilly Dixon asked what credentials would be required of a candidate for the position, and what would be prioritized.

DeVore Leonard received clarification that the number of individuals served was for separate persons, not for separate interactions. He noted that part of the responsibility is identifying services and resources, and asked whether there are enough resources to engage a second position in this work.

Burns responded that a second position could aid in identifying additional resources. He addressed an additional concern, stating that the second position might assist with victim advocacy, noting that the issue of victim advocacy will be revisited in six months.

DeVore Leonard commented that he would like to see as much of these kinds of requests during the regular budget process as possible.

Brown commented that this position is essentially acting as a social worker for 600 people, which is not sustainable.

Stokes CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING AND CALLED THE VOTE. The MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Emergency Reading of Ordinance 2025-07 Approving a Supplemental Appropriation for the Second Quarter of 2025 and Declaring an Emergency. Gustafson MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Robinson explained the supplemental, which is primarily moving donations and grants into fund lines so that they can be accessed.

Stokes OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING.

There being no comment, Stokes CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING AND CALLED THE VOTE. The MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Reading of Resolution 2025-26 Approving Village Goals for 2025-2026. Brown MOVED and Gustafson SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Project Lead Giardullo noted the process used to develop the Village Goals for 2025-26.

Stokes CALLED THE VOTE and the MOTION PASSED 4-0 on a VOICE VOTE.

Reading of Resolution 2025-27 Approving a Development Agreement. Gustafson MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Blankenship introduced the legislation, noting that the resolution presents a development/pre-annexation agreement which has been discussed for quite some time, and was contemplated in the agreement between the Joneses and the YS School Board, in which the Joneses agreed to donate 3.6 acres of their property to the School Board to accommodate athletic fields.

Blankenship stressed that the Village is not a party to the agreement between the School Board and the Joneses, that there is no contractual obligation. She stated that the agreement reserves all discretion to Council regarding the annexation and/or zoning of the property.

Burns commented that this is another step in a lengthy process.

Stokes CALLED THE VOTE, and the MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

CITIZEN CONCERNS

Rick Sanders made the incorrect assumption that the Village had just acquired the land and asked what the plans are for the land.

Burns responded that this is an annexation of 84 acres, not an acquisition.

Reilly Dixon, YS News, expressed disappointment that Village residents were not included as exempt from fees in the resolution passed on April 21st regarding fees for videos requested as public records. He commented that print journalists could benefit from viewing video footage, arguing the benefit of small town compassion in such reporting.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Quarterly Financials. Robinson presented the quarterly financials. DeVore Leonard MOVED and Gustafson SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCIALS. The MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Treasurer Report. Kintner presented the Treasurer's Report for month ending March 31, 2025.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Burns reported on the following:

He and Elyse Giardullo attended a Dayton Area Manager's Meeting with a focus on better service provision through better collaboration.

The Village Electric team presented at a recent AMP conference regarding their participation in the Light Up Navajo Nation work project last year.

Burns announced that Daysi Cusack won the Greene County 2025 Crisis Intervention Team award for outstanding Dispatch services.

Giardullo noted a successful internship with Bridey Jackson, who graduates from Wright State tomorrow.

Burns announced the YSPD Blue Envelope program launch for Villagers living with autism.

The team is continuing to investigate water loss, but have not yet identified the smoking main.

Pool inspection is scheduled for May 15th.

OLD BUSINESS

Council Process for Projects. DeVore Leonard referenced his memo and the flowchart provided in the packet, noting that following the process outlined should facilitate equitable access and a vetting process that aids staff in understanding what initiatives have full Council support. Council members agreed that the outlines process looks reasonable, and indicated willingness to follow the process.

Discussion re: Change to Remote Meeting Status. Council members discussed the prospect of eliminating a zoom option for otherwise absent Council members and a majority indicated a desire to retain this option. There was agreement that the option of fully remote meetings should be expanded to include an emergent Council situation. There was general agreement that the zoom option for citizens should not be continued.

Stokes brought up an issue of Council attendance, which the Clerk suggested should be addressed in Council Rules and Procedures if needed.

Legislation to be brought on May 19th will reflect these interests.

NEW BUSINESS

Porchfest Funding Request. Council approved the request as submitted and will see legislation to that effect on May 19th.

Urgent Repairs to John Bryan Center. Burns referenced documents provided in the packet, noting repairs urgently needed to the Bryan Center HVAC system. These repairs total an estimated \$218,000. Burns stated that this will be added to the supplemental appropriation for Council's next meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- May 19: **First Reading of Ordinance 2025-08** Repeal and Replace Chapter 220.02 "Remote Meetings"
 Reading of Resolution 2025-26 Approving a Smart Thermostat Agreement with American
 Municipal Power to Assist in Peak Shaving Efforts
 Reading of Resolution 2025-28 Supporting Continued Funding of Ohio Housing Trust Fund
- June 2: **Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance 2025-08** Repeal and Replace Chapter
 220.02 "Remote Meetings"
 First Reading of Ordinance 2025-10 Rezoning 11 Parcels Totaling 1.256 Acres of Property
 Located at 150 East South College Street to Planned Unit Development (PUD) and Amending the
 Zoning Map Accordingly and Approving the Preliminary Development Plan
 First Reading of Ordinance 2025-11 Rezoning 1 Parcel Totaling 2.169 Acres of Property
 Located at 275 East North College Street to Planned Unit Development (PUD) and Amending the
 Zoning Map Accordingly and Approving the Preliminary Development Plan
 Reading of Resolution 2025-xx Determining the Necessity of Levying a Renewal of an Existing
 8.4 Mill Property Tax Levy in Excess of the Ten-Mill Limitation for the Purpose of Paying for
 Current Operating Expenses of the Village to Run for Five (5) Years, Pursuant to Section 5705.19
 as Amended, and Requesting the County Auditor to Certify Matters in Connection Therewith
 Reading of Resolution 2025-XX Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into an Agreement
 with TBD For 2025 Utility Line Clearance (Section 3) of the Village
 Request to Extend Greenspace Fund Availability Through December 31
- June 16: **Reading of Resolution 2025-xx** Official Question and Issue Ballot-General Election- Proposed
 Tax Levy (Renewal)

*Future Agenda items are noted for planning purposes only and are subject to change.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:36pm, Gustafson MOVED TO ADJOURN. Brown SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Signed: _____
Kevin Stokes, Council President

Attest: _____
Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council