

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

In Council Chambers @5:00 P.M.

Monday, August 18, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Kevin Stokes called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

ROLL CALL

Present were Council President Kevin Stokes, Vice President Gavin DeVore Leonard and Council member Brian Housh. Solicitor Amy Blankenship and Village Manager Johnnie Burns were also present. Gustafson joined the meeting at 5:04. Brown joined the meeting at 5:14.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (5:00)

DeVore Leonard MOVED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION to Consider the Compensation of a Public Employee and to Consider the Appointment, Employment, or Promotion, of a Public Employee or Official, and to Consider the Purchase of Property for Public Purposes. Housh SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 3-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

MOTION TO ENTER REGULAR SESSION

Brown MOVED and DeVore Leonard SECONDED a MOTION TO ENTER REGULAR SESSION. The Motion Passed 5-0 on a VOICE VOTE.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (6:10)

Greene County Department of Public Health re: Renewal Levy. Sheryl Wynn, Director of Planning, Preparedness and Preparation presented information on services provided by the GCBPH and reminded Council of their upcoming renewal levy, which provides 44% of their funding.

Village Levy Update. The Clerk announced that ballot language has been approved and the Village levy will be Issue #10 on November 11th. DeVore Leonard asked that informational material regarding the levy be provided to Council at their next meeting.

Housh announced the following: an upcoming forum at Antioch College; Mayor Conine will be inducted into the Greene County Hall of Fame in the near future; School Board member Judith Hempfling met with Chief Burge to discuss safe gun storage; the next grant round for “age friendly activities” is this October; a trail patron on a motorized bike was reported harassing horseback riders in Village limits—Housh noted that horses are permitted along the trail and higher-speed capacity motorized bikes are not, and urged increased signage.

Stokes announced a renewal levy for MTFR and a new levy for the Greene County Public Library will join the Village levy on the November ballot.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of July 21, 2025 Regular Meeting
2. Minutes of August 1, 2025 Special Meeting (Levy Legislation)
3. Credit Card Statement for July

DeVore Leonard MOVED and Gustafson SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES of July 21, 2025. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

DeVore Leonard MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES of August 1, 2025 Special Meeting. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Housh MOVED and DeVore Leonard SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE THE JULY CREDIT CARD STATEMENT. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Brown requested addition of discussion of a Council stipend increase. This was added to New Business.

PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk will receive and file:

Ann Randolph re: Request to Reopen Short Street
Johanna Northway re: Comments re: Proposed Development and Annexation
Marianne MacQueen re: Communication Forum Flier
Matt Raska re: Request to Address Zoning
Mayor's Clerk re: Mayor's Monthly Report (2)
Meg Leatherman re: Inclusionary Zoning Memo

DeVore Leonard reviewed communications.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/LEGISLATION

Emergency Reading of Ordinance 2025-14 Authorizing the Transfer of Funds and Declaring an Emergency. Brown MOVED and DeVore Leonard SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE.

Robinson introduced the legislation, stating that the Budget Ordinance passed in December of 2024 had authorized the appropriations, but that she had not brought a Transfer Ordinance following passing of the annual budget.

This ordinance catches Council up on the transfers authorized in the annual budget, Robinson explained. She added that the budget process this year will incorporate a Transfer Ordinance immediately following passage of the 2026 budget.

Stokes CALLED THE VOTE, and the MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Reading of Resolution 2025-44 Authorizing the Village Manager to Contract with Standard Insurance Company for Employee Life Insurance Benefits. Brown MOVED and Gustafson SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE.

Robinson introduced the legislation. She explained that during recent Health Insurance renewal, the Village's insurance broker identified a lower-cost, higher benefit provider for voluntary life insurance.

Burns added that employees can opt into purchased policies should they so choose.

DeVore Leonard asked whether Council members could purchase the life insurance and was informed that only those employees covered under the employee health benefit plan have that option.

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

Reading of Resolution 2025-45 Authorizing the Village Manager to Apply to Greene County for a Community Improvement Grant. Brown MOVED and Gustafson SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE.

Burns introduced the legislation. He asked that reference to any dollar amount be removed, since he does not yet have hard cost for the proposed project. He noted that the Village has applied for the Community Improvement Grant (CIG) through Greene County in the past. He stated that this year's application is to fund a permanent restroom facility for the south end of the downtown area in the Short Street area.

Burns added that the Short Street area is the most logical location since there is infrastructure to support the facility in that location.

Responding to a question from Housh, Burns stated that the cost would be in the neighborhood of about \$250,000 for new build.

Housh MOVED TO ADD THE WORDS “many of whom are Greene County residents” after the word “visitors” in the second “Whereas”, and TO REPLACE the number “\$250,000” in the title with the words “Community Investment”. Stokes SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

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

CITIZEN CONCERNS

There were no Citizen Concerns.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Quarterly Financials. Robinson presented the second quarter financials. Housh MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE THE SECOND QUARTER FINANCIALS. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Treasurer Report. The Clerk presented the second quarter Treasurer’s report.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Burns thanked staff for working with the State Auditors.

Burns thanked Council for supporting Light Up Navajo Nation involvement and described the experience.

Short Street provided the location for a successful Little Art Marquee Opening event.

Burns noted Village mention in Ohio Magazine, and a successful Touch-a-Truck event.

Burns responded to a question from Housh, noting that legislation requiring a charge for opting out of water and electric meter change-outs needs to come to Council in the near future.

Housh suggested more art-sidewalks as highly visible and artistic.

Housh asked Planning Commission to consider requiring more cool roof technology.

Burns pointed out a memo with information the PJM market has raised Electric Capacity rates statewide. He offered to bring John Courtney in to explain the increase. Burns added that there are no PJM charges for village-produced power, which gives villagers a small break in cost to this increase. Burns suggested that when AMP presents their yearly report that this be addressed.

Stokes recused to permit questions regarding the Windsor projects.

Burns related that President Fernandez has not responded as yet regarding the opening of East North College.

Stokes returned to the dias.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of Agenda for August 20th Work Session. Stokes briefly reviewed the agenda for Council's Wednesday work session on TIF and CRA development options.

Stokes recused and left the meeting.

Housh noted several questions he would like addressed during the Work Session.

DeVore Leonard requested a meeting with Brown and Burns to discuss growth issues that could bear on the CRA discussion.

Stokes returned to the meeting.

Discussion Regarding Council Stipend. Stokes commented that he had wanted a stipend increase for only the President, to be introduced as he was exiting Council. He added that there are four levies on the November ballot and questioned whether this was an opportune time to bring a stipend increase request.

Stokes stressed that no seated Council members would be eligible for the increase.

Brown explained that she is forwarding the idea so that Council members could be eligible for both retirement and medical benefits upon retirement as a way to make service on Council more attractive to more villagers.

Housh noted that Councilperson Hempfling had proposed keeping Council stipend eligible for PERS in 2013. He commented on the importance of such measures to encourage diversity on Council.

DeVore Leonard roughly calculated that the measure would increase Council's budget to about \$15,000 annually once all Council members were eligible to receive the increase.

Council members asked that legislation be brought to the September 2nd meeting for their consideration.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

DeVore Leonard noted the upcoming annual budget process as a time for annual Commission fund requests.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Council briefly discussed the timeline for both special events and project sponsorship. Robinson responded that she would clarify this during the next meeting.

Sept. 2: Council Special Events Budget Requests Due
Emergency Reading of Ordinance 2025-15 Repealing and Replacing Ordinance 252.02(b) Setting the Minimum Rate of Pay for Elected Officials at the Rate Determined by State Law to provide a Year of Service Credit to OPERS for Every Year Served and Meet the OPERS Minimum to Qualify for Health Care Eligibility
Reading of Resolution 2025-46 Accepting Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Auditor
Reading of Resolution 2025-47 Authorizing the Village Manager to Submit a Grant Application to the Ohio Public Works Administration
Resolution re: Job Description Change for AVM
Staff Evaluation Timeline

olution

- Sept. 15: **First Reading of Ordinance 2025-16** Accepting Annexation from Miami Township to the Village of Yellow Springs of 28.211 Acres of Property Located East of East Enon Road and North of Dayton Street
 Resolution 2025-xx Certifying Delinquent Water, Sewer, Trash, and Electric Bills to the Auditor of Greene County, State of Ohio, for Placement on the Greene County Tax Duplicate
 2025-xx Authorizing the Removal of Defunct and Uncollectible Utility Account Balances from the Utility Billing System of the Village of Yellow Springs for the Years 2023 and 2024
- Oct. 1: Council Work Session: Budget-1
- Oct. 6: **Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance 2025-16** Accepting Annexation from Miami Township to the Village of Yellow Springs of 28.211 Acres of Property Located East of East Enon Road and North of Dayton Street
- Oct. 15: Council Work Session: Budget-2
- Oct. 20:
- Oct. 22: Council Work Session: Budget-3
- Nov. 3: 2026 Budget Ordinance and Council Motions for Amendment
- Nov. 17: Second Reading of 2026 Budget Ordinance

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:48pm, DeVore Leonard MOVED TO ADJOURN. Housh SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Signed: _____
 Kevin Stokes, Council President

Attest: -----
 Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council