

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

In Council Chambers @6:00 P.M.

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Kevin Stokes called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

ROLL CALL

Present were Council President Kevin Stokes, Vice President Gavin DeVore Leonard and Council members Brian Housh and Carmen Brown, Solicitor Amy Blankenship, Finance Director Michelle Robinson and Village Manager Johnnie Burns were also present. Trish Gustafson was absent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Housh noted that he and the mayor had engaged in a chicken coop tour of the village. He stated that the recent Home, Inc. annual meeting had been a successful event.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of August 18, 2025 Regular Meeting
2. Minutes of August 20, 2025 Special Meeting: Work Session on Economic Development Options

Housh MOVED and DeVore Leonard SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES of August 18, 2025. The MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

DeVore Leonard MOVED and Housh SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES of August 20, 2025 Special Meeting. The MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Stokes CALLED FOR A MOTION TO EXCUSE GUSTAFSON's ABSENCE. DeVore Leonard so MOVED and Housh SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

A nomination to PACC was added to New Business.

PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk will receive and file:

Marcia Wallgren re: Objections to Short Street Closure
Titus Brett re: Request for Half Pipe at Skatepark

DeVore Leonard reviewed communications.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/LEGISLATION

Brown MOVED TO READ THE EMERGENCY ORDINANCE IN BY TITLE ONLY. DeVore Leonard SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 4-0 on a voice vote.

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. Brown MOVED and DeVore Leonard SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE.

Brown introduced the legislation. She referenced her memo on the topic and pointed out as key points

that for the last 12 years, the stipend has been set to match the minimum required to earn retirement credit through OPERS. While this ensures that Council service can count towards retirement, she said, it does not meet the higher threshold necessary to qualify for health care credit. By raising the monthly stipend to 1,000 dollars, future Council members (and incumbents if re-elected) can be eligible for both OPERS retirement service credit and health care credit.

Brown emphasized that the change is meant to make Council service more sustainable and accessible to a wider range of residents, and to help ensure that public service does not come at a personal financial loss.

Housh noted that a Council member might benefit from the credit even if they were Medicare eligible, because the OPERS option offers additional coverage for non-covered items or services.

Blankenship noted that because the ordinance is an emergency reading, it requires the affirmative vote from all four members present to pass.

Stokes accepted a friendly amendment from Housh TO ADD A THIRD “WHEREAS” TO READ “This change is being proposed to ensure that serving in local government is accessible and fair, while also providing credit towards long-term benefits to those who dedicate their time to public service.” Stokes CALLED THE VOTE ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT, and the AMENDMENT PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Stokes CALLED THE VOTE ON THE AMENDED ORDINANCE. The VOTE PASSED 4-0 on a ROLL CALL VOTE.

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. DeVore Leonard MOVED and Housh SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Robinson explained that the former first step of having Council approve the Finance Director’s tax budget has been waived by the County Auditor, such that Council is seeing the amounts and rates set by the Budget Commission as a first step, and their vote will certify the amounts to the County Auditor.

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

Reading of Resolution 2025-47 Authorizing the Village Manager to Submit a Grant Application to the Ohio Public Works Commission. Housh MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Burns explained that the grant will assist in necessary replacement of a storm sewer located on Fairfield Pike. He noted that this replacement will eliminate ponding and ice on the roadway. Completion of this work will facilitate installation of new sidewalk along Fairfield Pike for the future, Burns said, since ODOT is more likely to fund a sidewalk project once the needed storm improvements are done.

Burns stated that the grant request is \$452,047, and would require a local match of \$84,075, which is 16% of the total project.

Stokes received confirmation that the entirety of the match will come from the Stormwater Utility Fund.

Housh MADE A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO ADD THE WORDS “safety and welfare of the” to the third “Whereas” prior to the word “community”.

Stokes CALLED THE VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT, and the PROPOSED AMENDMENT PASSED 4-0 on a VOICE VOTE.

Stokes CALLED THE VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED, and the MOTION PASSED 4-0 on a VOICE VOTE.

Reading of Resolution 2025-48 Approving a Title Change for Project Lead to “Assistant Village Manager/Project Lead”. Brown MOVED and Housh SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Burns explained that the individual currently serving in the role of Project Lead is performing many of the same duties as a Village Manager currently, and would be able to represent the Village more effectively with the title of Village Manager, which is more widely understood professionally.

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

Stokes RECUSED HIMSELF for the discussion regarding Resolution 2025-49.

Reading of Resolution 2025-49 Authorizing the Village Manager and Planning and Economic Development Director to Develop a Community Reinvestment Area. Brown MOVED and Housh SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Blankenship noted that following a Work Session on the topic of economic development tools, Council had asked that next steps be taken to develop a CRA. Blankenship stated that one of the first requirements in the process is to conduct a housing survey. This legislation, she explained, enables that step to be undertaken and to then bring back a CRA for Council consideration.

Housh received clarification that Council does not need to discuss the CRA map at this juncture.

Blankenship stated that the details of the CRA will need to be worked out when the CRA comes back to Council for approval.

Housh MOVED TO AMEND THE FIRST “WHEREAS” to add the words “and the Village of Yellow Springs wishes to avail itself of this tool” following the word “development”. Brown SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 3-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

DeVore Leonard CALLED THE VOTE on the AMENDED RESOLUTION, and the MOTION PASSED 3-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

CITIZEN CONCERNS

Marcia Wallgren, Proprietor of Ohio Silver, spoke against the closure of Short Street, citing substantial loss of business during the months of June and July.

DeVore Leonard inquired as to how she was able to discern that the closure was the sole cause of the drop, and Wallgren responded that in her many years as proprietor she has never seen such a marked decrease in sales.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Village Renewal Levy Information. Robinson presented a one-page information piece.

Housh thanked Robinson for the concise information, and asked whether it will be posted on the Village website.

Burns acknowledged that it will, and will also appear in the Village Grapevine.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Burns reported on the following:

Several recent power outages were caused outside of the Village grid.

Tree trimming continues on the south end of town.

Housh commented that he would like to see more local leaders participating in Business First. Burns responded that Business First plans to have their representatives interview Village leaders.

The EPA has hired a contractor to study PFAS in the Village water supply as a representative of small villages, including alternative methods for removal.

Hydrant flushing begins mid-September.

Housh commented that a citizen has offered to pay for removal of invasives from several sections of the bike path.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Special Events and Project Sponsorship Requests for 2026 Budget. Robinson noted a September 22nd deadline for Special Events and Major Project requests. She noted that only requests received by the deadline will be considered during the budget process for 2026 funding.

Phillip O'Rourke asked Council to make the forms widely available.

Council discussed the process briefly.

Short Street Update. Burns presented a slide show highlighting the progress of improvement and innovations, noting that this is a pilot project and that the Village is "learning as we go". Burns stressed that the Village is at least a month from making any final decision, and provided a location for comments and suggestion.

Phillip O'Rourke commented on the project, stating that the space is meant to encourage the connection between business and community. He urged citizens to make design suggestions at "keepitvibrant.com".

Nomination to Public Arts and Culture Commission. Brown NOMINATED Kelly Carpe to the PACC. Housh SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 4-0 on a VOICE VOTE.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Sept. 15: Executive Session

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

Ordinance 2025-X Approving a Supplemental Appropriation for the Third Quarter of 2025 and Declaring an Emergency

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

Resolution 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

Staff Evaluation/Compensation Review Timeline

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: Short Street Discussion

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 7:47pm, DeVore Leonard 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