

**MINUTES
COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING: BUDGET SESSION TWO**

Council Chambers: 4-6pm.

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present were Council President Kevin Stokes, Vice President Gavin DeVore Leonard and Council members Brian Housh, Trish Gustafson and Carmen Brown. Village Manager Johnnie Burns was present, as were Finance Director Michelle Robinson, Consultant Tiffany Hiser (Shared Resources), Assistant Village Manager/Project Lead Elyse Giardullo and Planning and Economic Development Director Meg Leatherman.

AGENDA REVIEW

Blankenship reported regarding efforts to find a consultant to conduct a review of payroll practices. She stated that the Village Manager, working with designated Council members, Gustafson and Housh, had identified that Shared Resources, which is currently under contract with the Village, has the capacity as well as experience to conduct such a review.

Housh MOVED TO REMOVE RESOLUTION 2025-54 FROM THE AGENDA. Stokes SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

LEGISLATION

Reading of Resolution 2025-54 Authorizing the Village Manager to Enter into an Agreement with XXX to Conduct a Review of Payroll Practices. This item was removed from consideration.

BUDGET UPDATE

Finance Director Michelle Robinson and consultant Tiffany Hiser provided an overview of the current budget, not inclusive of Council requests.

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

DeVore Leonard provided perspective from his position as a member of the Finance Committee, noting that staff have made several rounds of cuts to their budget requests as part of the regular process of bringing the leanest budget possible before Council. He agreed with the need expressed by Robinson for fiscal caution, stating that careful oversight and belt-tightening where possible will help to assure movement towards a balanced budget.

Brown asked a number of questions related to the YSPD request for a new vehicle in 2026, stating that she sees excellent communication and tools for communication as a first priority, and suggesting more aggressive maintenance of YSPD vehicles to extend their use.

Burns answered several of Brown's questions, assuring her that communications equipment is maintained as it should be and that the replacement vehicle is indeed a necessity due to the condition of the vehicle up for replacement.

COUNCIL SPONSORED INITIATIVES: MAKING THE CASE

Council sponsors were asked to address each budget request in their purview and to address the following: What is the minimum required by this requestor and What is the value proposition of this

initiative given the Village's financial constraints? Requests were addressed in ascending order of the requested amount.

HS Banner: Stokes asked for the full \$1000.

Burns noted that the Village provides in-kind services in that staff hang and remove banners.

DeVore Leonard stressed the need to trim the budget.

Brown asked whether Stokes had reached out to the HS Alumni Association. Stokes indicated that he had not, but would be willing to do so.

Housh suggested fundraising and if that were to fail the group could return with an ask.

Stokes MOVED TO APPROVE \$500 FOR A REUNION BANNER. CALLED FOR A VOTE ON THE REQUEST FOR \$500. Brown SECONDED. The MOTION FAILED 2-2 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE, with DeVore Leonard and Housh voting against.

Fireworks: DeVore Leonard removed the request from consideration.

America 250: Brown noted that the Village agreed to provide "12 months of monthly educational events". She broke down the request in terms of what funds were allocated to what types of events, characterizing the events as a way of building community.

Burns noted the in-kind services always provided by the Village for major events.

Housh MOVED TO APPROVE \$19,999.99 for America 250 programming. Stokes SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 3-1, with DeVore Leonard voting against.

YS Senior Center: Housh made the case for the reduced ask of \$32,000, pointing out the population served, services provided, etc. by the Senior Center and the grants attained by the Center or in working with them.

Hiser asked how funds could be directed to the Senior Center.

Blankenship stated that there is a policy in existence that permits direct support of a particular organization.

Housh MOVED TO APPROVE \$32,000 for the Senior Center. Brown SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 3-1 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE, with DeVore Leonard voting against.

YSHI Home Repair: Stokes made the case for the ask of \$32,100.

Emily Seibel, YS Home, Inc. addressed a question from Housh regarding inclusion of the Vale community in the request.

Gustafson joined the meeting at 4:50pm. She declined to vote on the Home Repair Initiative request, having not been present for that discussion.

Stokes MOVED and Brown SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE \$32,100 to the Home, Inc. Home Repair Initiative. The MOTION FAILED 2-2 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Housh MOVED TO APPROVE \$20,000 TO THE HOME, INC. HOME REPAIR INITIATIVE TO BE DIRECTED TO VILLAGE RESIDENTS ONLY. Stokes SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 3-1 with DeVore Leonard voting against.

YSHI Cascades: Stokes made the case for support of Cascades Phase 2 as affordable senior housing.

Stokes stated that the ask was initially was for \$108,000 and 8 tap fee waivers.

Burns stated that this is an ask of over \$50,000 in tap fees.

Burns commented that the initial ask was \$10,000 per unit for a total of \$60,000 and inquired as to why this amount had been increased.

Seibel responded that OHFA has now reduced the amount per unit available in funding in explaining the increase.

Burns commented that staff are acutely aware of price increases affecting cost, since this affects Village projects as well.

Stokes MOVED TO APPROVE \$108,000, INCLUSIVE OF 8 TAP FEES, TO THE YSHI CASCADES PHASE 2 PROJECT. Housh SECONDED AND THE MOTION FAILED 2-3, with Gustafson, Brown and DeVore Leonard voting against.

Housh MOVED TO SUPPORT THE WAIVER OF 8 TAP FEES FOR THE CASCADES PHASE 2 PROJECT. Stokes SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 4-1 with Gustafson voting against.

WRAP UP/QUESTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Hiser summarized that a total of \$132,000 in Council Initiatives was passed. She noted that the deficit began at \$512,000. Following passage of the approved Council initiatives, the deficit is now at \$624,000.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:26, DeVore Leonard MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO ADJOURN. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.