

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

Council Chambers: 5-7pm.

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Kevin Stokes called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

ROLL CALL

Present were Council President Kevin Stokes, Vice President Gavin DeVore Leonard and Council members Brian Housh, Trish Gustafson and Carmen Brown. Also present were Finance Director Michelle Robinson, Police Chief Paige Burge, Planning and Economic Development Director Meg Leatherman, Water and Wastewater Superintendent Brad Ault, Electric and Water Superintendent Ben Sparks, Streets Parks and Sewer Foreman Tanner Bussey, and Parks and Recreation Supervisor Samantha Stewart and Village Manager Johnnie Burns were also present.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Finance Director Michelle Robinson and Tiffany Hiser offered an overview of the budget, cautioning that this is a deficit budget. Robinson noted that the Finance Committee continues work on decreasing the deficit moving forward, but urged fiscal restraint.

FINANCE COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

DeVore Leonard summarized Finance Committee work on the 2026 budget.

CAPITAL INITIATIVES PRESENTATION BY DEPARTMENT

Department heads presented their top two capital needs for 2026 in the context of their overall budgets.

COUNCIL-SPECIFIC BUDGET (6:10)

Events: Robinson noted that all regular Council-sponsored events have amounts loaded into the budget.

Commissions: Robinson stated that the requests for Environmental Commission and Public Arts and Culture Commission (\$4,500 each) have been set aside in the budget.

Council Sponsored Projects:

Brown requested \$20,000 for participation in the America 250 Project. Housh SECONDED.

Brown MOVED \$12,000 be added to the Parks budget for cleanup of Ellis Park Pond. Housh SECONDED.

Brown MOVED \$15,000 be added to the Parks budget for completion of cleanup and preparation of the Corry Street gardens. Housh SECONDED.

Brown withdrew her support for a request from Nadia Malarkey for funds to maintain the Wheeling Gaunt statue area at the Train Station.

Stokes MOVED \$1,000 for repurpose-able High School reunion banner. Brown SECONDED.

Stokes MOVED \$100,000 for completion of fiber to the home. NO SECOND.

Stokes offered to cut YS Home Inc's requests in half to move them forward.

Burns noted that the "waiver of tap fees" in the request was not accompanied by a dollar figure and that those are had cost to the Village in the amount of \$45,655, which he requested be added as part of that request. That addition increases the Home, Inc request for Cascades Phase 2 to \$153,868.

Stokes MOVED a REQUEST for \$153,868 for Cascades Phase 2. Housh SECONDED.

DeVore Leonard requested further information regarding the viability of project overall given concerns raised in 2024.

Stokes MOVED a request for Home Repair subsidy from Home, Inc. at \$32,100. Housh SECONDED.

Housh reduced the Senior Center request for \$60,000 to \$32,000. Stokes SECONDED.

DeVore Leonard MOVED a request for \$11,000 from the Chamber for fireworks. Housh SECONDED.

Robinson stated that all seconded requests will be factored into the 2026 budget for the purpose of final discussion and vote on October 15th.

ADJOURNMENT

DeVore Leonard MOVED and Housh SECONDED a MOTION TO ADJOURN. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 on a VOICE VOTE.