

**Council for the Village of Yellow Springs**  
**Special Meeting Minutes: Retreat**

**In Council Chambers @ 9-4pm**

**Friday, January 23, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President of Council Gavin DeVore Leonard called the meeting to order at 9am.

**ROLL CALL**

Present were Council President DeVore Leonard, Vice President Angie Hsu and Council members Carmen Brown, Senay Semere and Stephanie Pearce. Solicitor Amy Blankenship, AVM/Project Lead Elyse Giardullo and Village Manager Johnnie Burns were also present.

**COUNCIL BUSINESS**

DeVore Leonard chaired the retreat. Facilitated discussion was held on a variety of topics, primarily as reflected below, with all topics returning to regular Council meetings for further discussion or final determinations.

Council/Staff/Community interactions: Who directs whom; How best to communicate ideas, decisions and concerns within this framework.

Stop/Start Continue List: General discussion related to extent of Village's responsibilities and need to prioritize any projects outside of provision of essential services.

- list of current projects
- list of proposed projects

Process for introducing new projects or initiatives.

Work Sessions: How frequent; hold regularly or as needed.

Commissions/Boards: Overview, scope, history, and conversation regarding level of interest in continuing a particular commission, adding a commission and/or serving as liaison. Final determinations set for 2/2.

Council Rules: Overview and timeline as to when/how these come to Council  
--discussion of meeting protocol and use of Robert's Rules

Village Values/Village Goals: Overview and timeline as to when/how these come to Council /how to effectively use strategy screen as a vetting tool.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:09pm DeVore Leonard MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO ADJOURN. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gavin DeVore Leonard, Council President

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council