

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

**Council Chambers 5pm.**

**Tuesday, January 20, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President of Council Gavin DeVore Leonard called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

**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, Solicitor Amy Blankenship and Village Manager Johnnie Burns were also present.

**WORK SESSION**

**Short Street Information, Expectations and Discussion.** Burns introduced the topic, stating that the purpose of the session is to gather specifics regarding what further information Council is seeking in order to render a decision regarding the future of the Short Street project.

Hsu: Vision and financials.

Brown: Mock-ups/drawings; financial feasibility.

Semere: Timelines; traffic studies (impact of closure on schools and village as a whole).

Pearce: Financials; Expenditure to this point including hours spent on all aspects; projection of cost to provide ongoing upkeep; targeted feedback from businesses in downtown area; what has been added to date.

Semere asked for information regarding how the Short Street Project was decided upon initially.

DeVore Leonard: Programming plans and cost associated; business engagement (has there been robust outreach).

Hsu: Parking (number of spaces lost and how compensated).

**Topics and Parameters for Work Sessions.** Burns introduced the concept, relating an experience from a Managers' training session. He stressed the idea of more conversational discussion as well as the ability to look farther ahead on projects and upcoming agenda items.

The group discussed the tenor of the proposed sessions, with the idea of more content being addressed as well as the ability to converse rather than report/respond as in a traditional meeting.

The matter of public comment was raised and discussed briefly.

Town Halls were discussed as a method of gathering public input.

DeVore Leonard forwarded the idea of a three-minute option for Council members to share ideas or thoughts. The idea will be vetted during the Council retreat.

The idea of a checklist of information to be provided on topics was discussed, with the following ideas suggested: History/context; guided questions; pros/cons; budget impacts, including solicitor or contractors; relevant research/available data; who to involve in conversation.

DeVore Leonard noted that the time suggested for the work sessions conflicts with the regular Township meeting and asked for feedback. There were no objections to the time as selected.

DeVore Leonard stressed the need to get items on the Future Agenda list for those things to be on Council radar.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 5:48pm, DeVore Leonard MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO ADJOURN. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

The Village of Yellow Springs is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities. Any person requiring a disability accommodation should contact the Village, Clerk of Council's Office at 767-9126 or via e-mail at [clerk@yso.com](mailto:clerk@yso.com) for more information.