

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

**In Council Chambers @ 6 P.M.**

**Tuesday January 20, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President of Council Gavin DeVore Leonard called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Present were Council President Gavin DeVore Leonard, Council 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.

**SWEARING IN**

President DeVore Leonard swore in Manager Burns as Deputy Clerk.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Brown read a statement regarding police limitations and role in situations involving Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. She urged citizens to inform themselves as to their rights and the role of local law enforcement in any ICE interaction.

Burns announced that Wastewater and Water Treatment Supervisor Brad Ault and his wife have welcomed a new son.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Minutes of January 5, 2026 Regular Meeting
2. Credit Card Statement for December

DeVore Leonard MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE ALL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**

There were no changes made.

**PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS**

The Clerk will receive and file:

Mayor's Clerk re: Mayor's Quarterly Report  
Mayor's Clerk re: Mayor's Monthly (2)  
Mitzie Miller re: McKee Group Event Flier  
Judith Hempfling re: Citizen Comment

Hsu reviewed communications.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/LEGISLATION**

Hsu MOVED and DeVore Leonard SECONDED a MOTION TO READ IN ALL EMERGENCY LEGISLATION BY TITLE ONLY. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

**Emergency Reading of Ordinance 2026-01** Authorizing the Annual Transfer of Funds and Declaring an Emergency. Brown MOVED and Hsu SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Robinson noted that this moves money into the areas in which expenditures for 2026 have been approved through the budget process.

DeVore Leonard OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING. There being no comment, DeVore Leonard CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING AND CALLED THE VOTE. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

**Emergency Reading of Ordinance 2026-02** Approving a First Quarter Supplemental Appropriation and Declaring an Emergency.

Robinson explained that the HVAC unit in the Village-owned building went out and must be replaced, and the Village received its Aid to Construction reimbursement from Cresco, comprising the total of the supplemental.

DeVore Leonard OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING. There being no comment, DeVore Leonard CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING AND CALLED THE VOTE. Council voted 5-0 by roll call to pass the measure.\*

\*Although a vote was called and taken, because there was no motion made to approve, the legislation is invalid and must be brought back..

**Reading of Resolution 2026-03** Approving Dues for Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission for 2026. DeVore Leonard MOVED and Hsu SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Following discussion, DeVore Leonard CALLED THE VOTE and the MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

## **CITIZEN CONCERNS**

Mitzie Miller announced a forum regarding Short Street for Tuesday. She requested that villagers have input as to uses for Short Street if the street is closed. She asked for a traffic study for the Short Street area.

Caroline Mullin, Senior Center Director, asked that the traffic study provided by Windsor for the PUD projects include the future Senior Center in terms of variables. She asked the Village to consider partnering with the Center on a grant application.

Amy Bailey, YS School Board, stated that she has been appointed School Board liaison to Council, and expressed her enthusiasm for working with the new Council.

## **SPECIAL REPORTS**

**Village End of Year Report.** Burns presented highlights of the Village's work over the course of 2025.

Burns fielded a question regarding use of contractors.

Reilly Dixon, YS News, asked why new taps were listed as a "challenge".

Burns noted a significant increase in the number of taps, thus adding pressure to Public Works.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Burns commented that the Manager's Report will now be given once a month with a shorter update provided at the intervening meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion of Need to Schedule Meeting(s) with Other Taxing Entities.** DeVore Leonard introduced the idea, asking whether Council is open to the idea of scheduling such a meeting for early Fall.

**ODOT SRTS Grant Discussion.** Burns stated that the grant application is due in March, so legislation will come to the next meeting.

Burns asked for a \$119,667 match for a one-million dollar grant. He noted that this is a 2026 submission for an award addressing 2029 design and installation. He confirmed that the design will include bump-outs and signage.

Responding to a question from Semere, Burns stated that the Village does solicit input from the schools regarding such projects.

Hsu asked for more information regarding the connection on East Enon in terms of how much it is used for school travel.

Pearce asked how certain it is that the match will not increase.

Burns stated that if the million dollars is not awarded, it will likely not be awarded at all.

DeVore Leonard asked whether the project could be reduced so that the million would cover the entirety of the project.

Burns stated in the affirmative, but stressed that a match improves the scoring for the project.

**EPA Sewer Capacity Study Update.** Burns explained that prior Council approved the Village to secure a zero-interest loan of up to \$59,000 for planning and design to upgrade Wastewater Treatment infrastructure. While that amount may be sufficient, he stated, it is a better strategy to secure a higher loan amount in the event that costs exceed the originally approved amount. He asked for approval of \$100,000 for the loan total.

Hsu asked what the initial estimate had been based upon.

Burns responded that the extent of the upgrade needed was underestimated and has been revised upwards as more has been learned.

Responding to a question from DeVore Leonard, Burns stated that if no further action is taken, the loan will need to begin repayment in three years. If funds are needed to rebuild, the loan can be rolled into the build phase of the project. The loan term is either a 20 or a 30-year loan.

Burns stated that a resolution will be brought to the next meeting, at which time a decision will need to be made.

## **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Brown reported on current PACC activities, primarily involving work on a speaker series for the Village's America 250 affiliation.

Brown reported that EC is now able to meet and plans to focus on core deliverables such as: sustainable building practices; conservation development; community gardens and watershed protection. She noted several projects now under discussion, including sessions with entities now engaged in the listed projects.

Semere reported that YSDC has acquired the former hardware store and that this will involve a tremendous amount of effort in the coming months.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Jan. 23: Council Retreat (9-4pm)

Feb. 2: **Resolution 2026-03** Authorizing the Village Manager to Apply for Grant Funding from Ohio Department of Transportation

**Resolution 2026-04** Adopting 2025 Greene County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

Short Street Presentation

Quarterly Financials

End of Year Report: Finance

Treasurer End of Year Report

Board and Commission Seats

Draft Village Values/Village Goals

Retreat Follow-up

Draft Work Session Agenda

Feb. 17: 5pm Work Session (Village Values/Goals)

6pm Regular Meeting

**Reading of Resolution 2026-XX** Designating Judy Kintner as Village Council's Designee to Receive Public Records Training on Behalf of Each of the Elected Officials Pursuant to and in Accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 109.43(B) and 149.43(E) (1)

March 2: Prioritization of Projects/Requests

Special Reports Topic Discussion

March 16: Solicitor Evaluation

Annual Calendar Update

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:57pm Hsu MOVED and Semere SECONDED a MOTION TO ADJOURN. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Gavin DeVore Leonard, Council President

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Johnnie Burns, Deputy Clerk