

**Council of the Village of Yellow Springs
Retreat Minutes**

Bryan Center Rooms A&B: 8:30am-1pm

Friday, May 27, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Brian Housh called the meeting to order at 8:35am.

ROLL CALL

Present were President Housh, Vice President Kevin Stokes and Council members Marianne MacQueen, Gavin DeVore Leonard and Carmen Brown. Also present were Village Manager Josue Salmeron and Finance Director Matt Dillon. Team members Denise Swinger, Johnnie Burns and Chief Burge joined the meeting at 10:30.

EVENT BUDGETING

This topic was discussed at length, with Council members identifying first all major Village events, all of which are supported through Public Works and Public Safety, and then those events considered “Signature Events” that are funded in part by Council. Clarity re: processes for encumbering these funds for events and boards & commissions was also requested by Council given that this had not been provided and that practices have been different with prior Finance Directors.

Council agreed that an upper limit should be identified for each Signature Event so that funding is more consistent, and that this will be part of the budgeting process along with similar considerations for boards & commissions. Council also emphasized the importance of supporting these events to maintain a healthy, thriving community, which includes supporting our local businesses.

JUNETEENTH REQUEST

Council considered the request, asking Dillon to weigh in on the appropriateness of the portion of the request that asked for funds to purchase gift cards for volunteers. Dillon stated that he would follow up with the Auditor’s office regarding this aspect of the request. Housh highlighted that we should follow past practices to fund facilities, speakers and other needs and avoid items such as food, gift cards, etc.

After acknowledging that they had previously allocated \$500.00 to the event, Council voted unanimously to fund an additional \$1,500.00 as follows:

Stokes MOVED and Housh SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE AN ADDITIONAL \$1,500 to 365 Project for the Juneteenth public walk and program. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Discussion was held regarding ways to streamline and simplify the request process while fulfilling audit requirements.

Housh asked that the Finance Committee follow up on these suggestions.

COUNCIL GOALS

MacQueen read in a goals statement from Strong Towns that she believes can serve as a model for the Village.

Council members discussed their interest in and responsibility to the goals listed.

VILLAGE GOALS

In the context of priorities for 2022-2023, each team member expressed their feelings regarding the process of goal prioritization and frustration with some of the aspects of that process.

Burns stressed his frustration that infrastructure priorities have been only partially funded over the past several years, and warned that some of these needs are becoming critical. He specifically noted an unfunded mandate from the state to identify all lead and galvanized pipes connected to homes by 2024, which we do not currently have the capacity or funds to accomplish. Burns emphasized the need to focus on the basics because our current infrastructure cannot handle infill, as opposed to the Oberer development, which would have brought new infrastructure at no cost to the Village.

Burge expressed her hope that Council can begin to “trust the experts” when recommendations are made by staff. She also highlighted that the hard work of the Village Team does not seem to be valued by Council given the placement of the Village Manager’s report at the end of the meeting.

Swinger echoed this and added that staff follows recommendations made by consultants and by Villagers who participate in sessions held by consultants in making their (staff) recommendations. She noted the frustration and negative impact on team members of the votes by two Council members with regard to the Oberer development, which means great losses for the Village in terms of needed tax revenues and utility users.

DeVore Leonard left the meeting at 1:05pm.

Housh acknowledged staff comments and stated that he wants to assure that these perspectives are meaningfully incorporated into the budget process as well as the goal setting process for 2023. Housh also asked that Council discuss moving the Manager's Report to earlier in the meeting, which will require an adjustment to Council Rules & Procedures.

ADJOURNMENT

At 1:18 Housh MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO ADJOURN. The MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Please note: These notes are not verbatim. Meetings are available through the

Brian Housh, Council President

Attest: _____
Judy Kintner, Council Clerk