

**COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING: RETREAT
AGENDA**

In Person Meeting 2-6pm

Thursday, January 26, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

President Housh called the meeting to order at 2:04pm.

ROLL CALL

Present were President Housh, Vice President Kevin Stokes and Council members Marianne MacQueen, Gavin DeVore Leonard and Carmen Brown. Staff members present were Denise Swinger, Johnnie Burns, Chief Paige Burge, Amy Kemper and Solicitor Amy Blankenship.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

2-4pm Discussion re: Village Goals.

Housh opened the Retreat by asking each participant to identify one goal for the group moving forward, and one priority goal.

This was done, with many identifying open communication, clear policies and collaboration as key to overall success.

Kemper noted her goals early on, identifying several areas related to Finance that she has target for immediate action. She cited the need for increased efficiency and a focus on maximizing revenue. She stated that she is working to reconcile accounts from 2022, and once that is completed, Council can expect regular quarterly financial reports for their approval.

Burns delineated his 2022 priority projects (camera-ing and relining of sewers; ODOT/ATP project; multi-modal path; installing updated water meters; pole replacement, etc., noting that several of these are dependent upon grant funding, which can affect scope and timing.

Burge briefly outlined PD goals, stressing the mantra of “recruit, reward, retain” as key to maintain a high quality, community-responsive department. She reiterated her commitment to improved data gathering, to working to find funding from outside sources for as many initiatives as possible, to maintaining staffing at not less than its present minimum, and to participation in the effort to pilot a CRB.

MacQueen referenced her written goals, further noting that she would like to see the Manager’s Housing Task Force revitalized; would like to see a pro forma for Lawson Place as well as for Municipal Broadband, and would like to see senior staff more involved with the Finance Committee. MacQueen stated that she does not see plans for a CRB proceeding as envisioned by the 365 recommendation, and asked that this be addressed.

Brown responded to the latter observation, commenting that creation of a CRB is “not an either/or scenario,” implying that she is continuing to work on the initiative as the situation evolves. Brown noted her ongoing commitment to getting a volunteer policy and the needed waiver(s) in place for 2023.

DeVore Leonard reiterated his commitment to formation of a committee to determine needs and opportunities for change within the YSPD. He spoke in favor of increasing utility rates as necessary, and stated his commitment to achievement of a structurally balanced budget for 2024.

DeVore Leonard noted an interest in discussing Village growth; solar capacity and opportunity and potential sale of Renewable Energy Credits based upon a sound policy.

Housh expressed confidence in use of the action steps approach to projects and ideas as a way to jump start these and to identify key participants early on. He referenced his paid parking action plan as a way to showcase this approach and pointed out the need to find revenue sources.

Stokes stressed Broadband as a potential revenue source and reiterated his belief that primary foci should be housing and infrastructure.

4-6pm Council Capacity Building.

Stokes and MacQueen presented results of the Council/Staff survey done to assess Council efficacy.

DeVore Leonard left the meeting at 4:50pm.

The discussion was broadly focused, with all participants agreeing that any agenda item that is added at Council table and does not have complete accompanying information should be entertained for a maximum of three minutes before being disposed of or moved to a subsequent agenda.

All participants agreed that shorter, more focused and information-driven meetings would provide motivation.

MacQueen asked Brown if she would be willing to take the Liaison role on Environmental Commission.

Brown stated that she would consider the request.

Council members were asked to identify any changes they may want to make in their liaison assignments for the next regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:53pm, Stokes MOVED TO ADJOURN. MacQueen SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.