

**COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS
JOINT COUNCIL MEETING WITH YSDC**

Council Chambers 4-6pm

Thursday, June 29, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Brian Housh called the meeting to order at 4:01pm.

ROLL CALL

Present were President Housh, Vice President Kevin Stokes and Council members Marianne MacQueen, and Gavin DeVore Leonard. Village Manager Josue Salmeron and Planning and Zoning Administrator Meg Leatherman were also present. Carmen Brown arrived at 4:04.

Representatives from YSDC present were: Lisa Able, Chair, Kevin MacGruder, Don Hollister, Corrie Van Ausdal, Ryan Carpe, Treasurer, Dino Pallotta, Michael Slaughter and Amy Magnus.

DISCUSSION

Topics listed below were discussed by the group.

Meeting Goals & Expectations

What Does “Open for Business” Mean for Yellow Springs?

Why the Village of Yellow Springs?

Vision & Goals for Economic Development / Proposed Projects

Village-YSDC Partnership – Roles & Responsibilities

Next Steps – Collaborative Planning Process, Manage Village-Owned Rental Property, Incentives to Retain & Grow Businesses, etc.

Summary of the discussion: issues of housing availability and cost are present, but were noted by some members of YSDC as outside of their purview.

Economic development was discussed extensively, and included ideas about how to present and market the Village including the importance of and methods to use to engage the community in that process.

Industry in the area, particularly the Honda plant, was discussed as an opportunity—and as a potential source of concern, given the importance of fit with village values for any business that might locate here.

Lisa Able noted that YSDC has put together a package for assessing potential businesses and their fit with the village. She noted that the greatest barrier to development among residents is the fear of “what will I lose”. Able urged that this be addressed comprehensively.

The tension between the “no-growth” and “growth” factions was discussed.

Housh reiterated the four paramount goal areas identified for the Village: economic development; infrastructure; residential development and broadband.

Yellow Springs News reporter Cheryl Durgans commented that the Village leadership and YSDC need to understand current business needs, including housing for employees, and urged that any development discussion include the business community.

The broadband utility was discussed at some length.

Housh commented that given its resources and capacity it makes sense that YSDC assist in promoting and advising around this new effort.

Salmeron stated that he will come to Council regarding next steps once he has secured the necessary 147 customers. He noted that some businesses have declined this service and that he would welcome assistance in marketing to businesses.

Brown opined that the ability of many consumers to “bundle” with Spectrum and other providers creates a disincentive to opt in to local broadband. She advised addressing this meaningfully.

Able pointed out the need for YSDC to “have a seat at the table” in some of the Village’s activities, stating that no YSDC member was included in the series of Dayton Business Journal articles addressing the business environment in Yellow Springs.

Housh suggested a smaller group be formed to look more closely at marketing local broadband.

MacQueen suggested that YSDC have a role in local housing development.

Dino Pallotta commented that a slide deck should be developed to market the village, and this idea was met with enthusiasm.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:01pm, Stokes MOVED TO ADJOURN. MacQueen SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Kevin Stokes, Council Vice President

Attest: Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council