

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

Council Chambers @ 7:00 P.M.

Monday, September 18, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Brian Housh called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

ROLL CALL

Present were President Housh, Vice President Kevin Stokes and Council members Carmen Brown and Gavin DeVore Leonard. Interim Village Manager Johnnie Burns, Ben Sparks, Electric and Water Superintendent and Solicitor Amy Blankenship were also present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Housh announced that the most recent scheduled check-in with IVM Burns had been productive.

Housh commented regarding what he viewed as a lack of support for bike parking for the upcoming Street Fair, and expressed concern that local non-profit groups and artisans were not able to participate at a reduced cost. He asked that Stokes attend the next Street Fair planning meeting as the Council liaison to that group.

Housh noted a successful Porchfest event, and announced upcoming performances of World House Choir as part of their 10-year celebration.

September 29: 50th anniversary of Miami Bikeway System; 10/1-10/17: Public Power Week.

DeVore Leonard asked what all is appropriate to include in Announcements, noting that some of the items Housh had covered were not, in fact, announcements but were more commentary.

Housh responded that this was in keeping with the Announcements section of the Agenda.

Mark Heise announced that the TLT sunflower field should be in bloom in the next two weeks, and that the Chamber and TLT will again work to assure traffic safety in that area.

Lisa Abel asked for confirmation that Council directs the Village Manager, and received that confirmation. She then requested that Council direct Burns to attend meetings of the YSDC. That said, she asked that Council consider “comprehensive urban planning” for the downtown area and feeder streets in light of the planned opening of the Comedy Club and Eatery, which, she opined, will increase the traffic burden in those areas.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of September 5, 2023 Regular Session
2. Credit Card Statement for August, 2023

Stokes MOVED and DeVore Leonard SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES of September 5, 2023. The MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

DeVore Leonard MOVED and Stokes SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE THE CREDIT CARD STATEMENT for August, 2023. The MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

There were no changes made.

PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk will receive and file:

Tracy Collier re: Traffic Safety
GCCHD re: Car Fit for Seniors
GCCHD re: FASD Awareness Month
GCCHD re: National Preparedness Month
GCCHD re: Food Safety
Mayor's Clerk re: Monthly Mayor's Report (2)

Stokes reviewed the materials received.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/LEGISLATION

There was no Legislation.

CITIZEN CONCERNS

SPECIAL REPORTS

Electric System Report. Mike Kiser, PE, reported for Encompass. His report identified upcoming needs based upon information provided by the Village regarding expansion of housing (DDC), and the expansion at Cresco. He added a likely increase in electric vehicles and a likely increase in businesses needed to support the projected business and housing expansions.

Kiser noted immediate, mid-range and long-term electric grid needs based upon the above factors.

After describing immediate, five-year and ten-year projects and assigning costs to these, Kiser reported a projected expenditure of three-to-five million over the next ten years to remain current or just ahead of electric demand.

Kiser noted that the study can be remodeled as things evolve, but did comment that the Village will need its own substation in about ten years. He suggested that the current switch station could be converted into a substation.

Responding to a question from DeVore Leonard, Burns stated that cost for projects needed has been factored into rates about five years out, meaning that the projects labeled as "immediate needs" have been covered in the rate projections.

Responding to a question from Burns, Sparks stated that his crew changed out 240 poles in 2014, and have 20 to change out currently.

Municipal Broadband Update. Burns reported that the backbone for the pilot area is now complete; pole-to-pole for the pilot area is now complete, and pole to home is 65% complete for the pilot area. He noted that the contractor hired by MVECA is "in and out" which has impacted the pace of the rollout.

Burns noted that he will be scheduling another meeting with MVECA and the Broadband Advisory Group this week to review the applications and billing modeling.

Burns noted that MVECA had held an unannounced update over the weekend which did affect those in the pilot area.

Housh mentioned “Lit Communities” which may approach the Village with a shared revenue model for implementing the remainder of the broadband buildout. “Once they are fully compensated for costs, he said, the utility is handed over to the community.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Burns noted that Village water won again for “best taste” at the AWWA division competition, and the next competition will be held in DC in February 2024.

Blankenship provided an update regarding the JNT bankruptcy, stating that her firm is now reviewing the claim. She opined that the Village should be covered for the project, with the addenda added at a later point the only real sticking point.

The water tower which was being repainted is complete and back online.

Hydrant flushing starts in one week.

Burns stated that is still identifying contacts for Gas Aggregation.

Burns noted that Burge’s traffic report notes that traffic stops have already surpasses those for all of 2022.

Burns announced Touch and Truck and Truck or Treat set for October 21st; Faith and First Responders for October 4th, and the annual Coats for Kids shopping trip with YSPD for October 3rd or 4th.

DeVore Leonard requested “measures of success” be attached to items reported upon.

Housh noted the value of approaching report-outs with a strategic perspective.

Housh asked whether the Walnut Street building is being re-advertised, and was told that Burns and Kemper will be reconnecting with an entity previously interested.

Burns responded to a question from Housh regarding a traffic safety study, stating that he has reached out to Choice One to determine cost for a Village-wide traffic study. He noted that work to improve traffic safety is ongoing.

Brown advocated for more ticketing for all speeders.

Housh remarked that he is still interested in exploring the possibility of speed cameras.

Housh reiterated his concern that bike parking for Street Fair is not being adequately addressed.

OLD BUSINESS

Shared Dispatch. Burns noted that there has not yet been response from the involved agencies.

Event Fee Budgeting Discussion. Housh noted that the forms are basically correct and that the sponsorship committee membership has been determined and their role vis a vis Council is clear. “This is pretty close to final,” he stated, and asked that the Clerk provide information to stakeholders at this point.

Brown commented that she had noted that this process seems to burden staff for a relatively low income. She noted the likely greater income potential in capturing contractors who work in the Village.

Burns commented that the only form not yet fully ready is the cost calculation sheet for the Police Department that Burge has been working on for some time.

Mark Heise, Chamber President, asked why vendor fees and contractor fees are being conflated, when contractor fees have never been part of the event fee discussion.

Responding to concerns expressed by DeVore Leonard, Burns stressed that all events contact should begin with Samantha Stewart, who will address questions, move forms to the correct entities and will assure that events are shepherded from start to finish.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Lisa Abel, representing YSDC, reported that YSDC had been awarded \$100,000 from the Department of Energy to conduct a feasibility study for community solar. She described the process that will take place to assess interest and feasibility. She noted that YSDC will need to work with the Village in this effort which goes through summer 2024. Should YSDC deem that next steps are warranted, they are eligible to apply for an additional \$200,000 grant.

Housh asked that Abel coordinate with Burns and the Clerk to provide monthly progress reports.

Housh highlighted aspects of several reports provided.

Burns affirmed that he had intended to participate in YSDC meetings, and had missed the first meeting only because it had been his first day as the Interim Village Manager and he had not been informed of the meeting.

Housh asked Stokes to attend the Street Fair planning meeting as a Council representative.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Oct. 2:** Hiring Process Discussion for Permanent VM
Traffic Safety Update
Ordinance Amending Village Income Tax Code
Resolution 2023-69 Authorizing the Interim Village Manager to Enter into a Contract with the City of Xenia for Emergency Dispatch Services
Ordinance 2023-35 Amending the Village Income Tax Code
Ellis Pond Volunteer Effort
- Oct. 12** 9-11am Special Meeting: Budget Session #1
- Oct. 16:** Budget Summary
Infrastructure Update
Power Portfolio Review and Presentation
- Oct. 20:** 12-2pm Special Meeting: Budget Session #2
- Oct. 23:** 4-6pm Special Meeting: Budget Session #3
- Nov. 6:** Treasurer Report
Third Quarter Financials
- Nov. 20:** Final Budget Amendments
First Reading of 2024 Village Budget Ordinance
Housing Committee Update
Announcement of Incoming Council and Orientation Schedule
- Dec. 4:** Second Reading and Public Hearing of 2024 Village Budget

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:45pm, Stokes MOVED TO ADJOURN. Brown SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Brian Housh, Council President

Attest: Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council