

**Council of the Village of Yellow Springs  
Special Meeting Minutes**

**Virtual Meeting @6:00pm**

**Wednesday, August 19, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President of Council Brian Housh called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Present via Zoom were President Housh, Vice President Marianne MacQueen and Council members Kevin Stokes and Laura Curliss. Also present were Village Manager Josue Salmeron, and Village Solicitor Breanne Parcels.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:01, Curliss MOVED to ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF POTENTIAL LITIGATION. Stokes SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 4-0 on a ROLL CALL VOTE. The Solicitor and Clerk were present in the session. Council was joined by Attorneys Rick Brunner and Pat Quinn.

At 6:44, Stokes MOVED and Curliss SECONDED a MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION. The MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

**DISCUSSION**

Possible legal defense of Charter Amendment re: Non-US Citizen Resident Voting Rights.

Parcels provided an overview of the Executive Session, stating that Council had been given topics to consider regarding legal strategy in defense of the charter amendment. She suggested that another Executive Session be held on September 8 so that Council can confer on that subject in order to then discuss and vote on Resolution 2020-36 during that meeting.

Housh noted that after conferring with legal counsel, provided pro bono, that he believes the Village has a strong case. He stated his awareness of the need to be prudent with taxpayer money, but noted also the importance of protecting human rights, the right of Home Rule, and voter interests. Housh commented that he is especially averse to “being bullied for political gain.”

MacQueen stated that she is opposed to spending money to defend the charter amendment, particularly given that it was not citizens who brought the initiative to the ballot.

Stokes commented that that Council owes it to their constituents to “do the right thing”. He noted that LaRose could stay in office another six years, so that waiting for a more favorable Secretary of State to try to enact the Charter amendment is not practical. Stokes opined that Council can move forward without spending a great deal of money.

Curliss commented that she is averse to the expense, which could be “a five-figure sum if it goes to court”, though she stated that she agrees with the principle. She stated that she would like to see a donor or donors come forward who could fund the defense. She asked that Council wait to see whether such an entity might come forward in the next 30-60 days, and called for “fifteen to twenty thousand”.

Housh commented that Council does have a little time to deal with the decision, and noted that the Village has been receiving support in the form of pro bono consultation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:54pm, MacQueen MOVED and Curliss SECONDED a MOTION TO ADJOURN. The MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

*Please note: These notes are not verbatim. Video of the meeting is available for viewing on YouTube, accessible from the Village website at: [www.yso.com](http://www.yso.com). Minutes are available upon request from the Clerk of Council or, once approved, from the Village website.*

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Brian Housh, Council President

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Attest: Judy Kintner, Council Clerk