

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Held

December 2

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## The Village of Weston Council Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2024

Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Jeremy Schroeder at 6:00PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and presentation of the agenda. A roll call was taken: Mr. Craig Warner, Mr. Rob Myerholtz, Ms. Jessica Susor, Mr. Rick Easterwood, Ms. Brittney Klockowski. *A motion to approve November 18, 2024 council meeting minutes as written was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Approved unanimously.*

### Appointments

*A motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Dean Babcock was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Ms. Susor; Approved unanimously.* The open council seat, with a term ending December 31, 2027, will be advertised as soon as possible to fill the vacancy within the 30-day deadline.

### Public Presentation

Bob Desmond from Kleinfelder presented details about a new sidewalk program offered by ODOT, which provides 100% funding for design, construction, and related costs, meaning the village would not need to contribute any matching funds. He explained that the application deadline is January 1, but due to the holiday schedule, estimates need to be finalized and submitted within the next two weeks to stay on track. Bob asked the council for input on which sidewalk projects to prioritize so that he could move forward promptly with preparing the necessary estimates. The Public Works Committee had already discussed potential projects, identifying several key areas for improvement. The primary focus was on creating sidewalk connections that enhance accessibility and connectivity. The proposed projects included constructing sidewalks to link Milton Street to Taylor, Merrill Park, and the village limits. Additionally, they suggested repairing and updating sidewalks on Main Street to meet ADA standards and adding ADA-compliant approaches on Oak Street. Bob noted that the state currently has \$48 million available for sidewalk grants and recommended keeping the project budget between \$500,000 and \$750,000. He explained that projects within this range are more likely to receive funding compared to larger, more expensive proposals. To provide a rough estimate, Bob is using a cost of \$200 per linear foot, which includes engineering and construction expenses. If the cost estimate exceeds \$750,000, he advised scaling back by deferring some work on Main Street, which already has sidewalks on both sides, though some sections are degraded. The discussion also highlighted the importance of prioritizing connections to key locations such as parks and schools rather than isolated neighborhood sidewalks. Bob emphasized that this program is a rare opportunity to fund sidewalk-specific projects and urged the council to act quickly. He plans to prepare and circulate the estimates by December 16, allowing for final adjustments before the application deadline on December 20. *A motion to move forward with this proposal and focus on high-priority connections and make adjustments necessary to stay within budget was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Approved unanimously.*

Joe Schroeder expressed excitement that Weston Cemetery is participating in Wreaths Across America this year. He explained that the program began in 1997 when a wreath maker donated extra wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery, and it has since grown to include over 4,000 cemeteries nationwide. For Weston's first year, 388 of 535 wreaths have been sponsored, surpassing 70% of the goal. The sponsorship deadline is approaching, with wreaths costing \$17 each, and individuals can sponsor wreaths for specific veterans or general placements. The wreath-laying event will take place on December 14th, beginning at 10:00 AM with a short service at Sonlight Church, where volunteers will gather. The service will honor each branch of the military and provide instructions on laying the wreaths. A procession, led by EMS, the fire department, and the cemetery board, will travel from the church through the village to the cemetery, passing by the Hometown Hero banners. Joe shared his personal connection to the program, inspired by his great-uncle buried at Arlington and his son joining the Army in 2020. He thanked the community, local organizations, and businesses for their support and encouraged further participation, either by sponsoring a wreath or attending the event. He also mentioned the possibility of bringing Wreaths Across America's traveling exhibit to Weston in the future and hopes for an even larger partnership next year.

### Old Business

Harold provided an update regarding the storm damage to the bus garage, noting that the estimate has been received. He is awaiting a council decision on how to proceed before submitting the claim to the insurance company.

The ongoing grant writing process was discussed, with committees asked to propose grant ideas to present to the full council. The Community Development Committee has some actionable items related to grants in their report. Kristi was contacted regarding the consolidated list of grants. She reported having approximately 85 hours left to work on submissions and expects to complete most, if not all, of them. Stephanie clarified that there had been a misunderstanding regarding the State Farm grant's approval status. She noted that Kristi had already prepared the State Farm grant application for speed radars, and it was ready for submission. *Mr. Warner made a motion to submit the State farm grant application for Speed Radars, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Approved unanimously.*

*A motion to approve the PEP insurance renewal was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Ms. Susor; Approved unanimously.*

### Reports

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Attendance: Stephanie Monts (Fiscal Officer), Harold Boggs (Village Administrator)

**Mayor:** The Mayor thanked Horns and Halos for organizing a fundraising night to support the Wreaths Across America program, noting their generosity as a new business. The local churches were also recognized for their contributions to the Christmas tree lighting ceremony, where all three churches participated by singing carols, making it a nice little event.

**Fiscal Officer:** The Village has received \$1,000 from PEP for Village Hall security cameras and \$1,476 from Suburban Natural Gas, as approved at the last meeting. Additionally, the ODNR has conditionally awarded the basketball court upgrade project, pending final approval from the State of Ohio Controlling Board. The project requires a 25% match, which amounts to approximately \$8,000. The 2025 meeting and holiday calendar has been prepared, and unless there are any concerns, it will serve as the official calendar for the year. The Fiscal Officer will be unavailable on December 9th from 8AM to 4PM due to UAN training. The cut-off date for credit card expenditures is December 13, 2024.

**Administrator/Maintenance:** The OPWC second chance meeting indicated that funding for the Main Street and Taylor Street project will be awarded, though the exact amount won't be confirmed until March. Once finalized, an email will be sent with the official amount. Leaf pickup is nearly complete, and with the equipment borrowed from Haskins, the remaining work should be finished this week.

**Code Enforcement/Zoning:** Not in attendance.

### Committee Reports

**Community Development & Public Affairs:** Members of the Grand Rapids Legion attended to discuss plans for a Memorial Day ceremony, which is tentatively scheduled for 3PM on Memorial Day. They also planned to meet with the cemetery board to address other event details. Two project options were discussed for the USDA Rural Business Development Grant: first, resurfacing the village parking lot behind the library to create additional public parking; and second, installing a sound barrier near the tracks. Another option considered was the creation of two parklets—one in front of Horns & Halos and the other in front of Porkys—along with downtown beautification efforts, including new planters. *Mr. Warner made a motion to pave and mark the public parking lot (behind the library), including a natural sound barrier, for the USDA Rural Business Development grant, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Approved unanimously.* For the T-Mobile Hometown Grant, two projects were proposed: developing basketball and pickleball courts (should the NatureWorks grant not be awarded) and restrooms or upgrading the bus garage. Mr. Myerholtz expressed concerns that the \$50,000 award might not be enough to fully fund a restroom project, so the decision was sent back to the Community Development Committee for further consideration. The Ohio Department of Development's Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Program was discussed with questions about whether the program could be opened to the public and if property ownership is required. Kristi (the grant writer) provided feedback in a previous email, explaining that the county planning department oversees this funding. To participate, the village creates a list of properties in need of demolition, along with owner information (the village does not need to own the properties). This list is submitted to the county planning department, which incorporates it into their annual demolition projects. The Ohio Humanities Spark Grant was proposed for downtown art murals, with a maximum award of \$5,000. *Mr. Warner made a motion to submit an application for this grant, which was seconded by Ms. Klockowski and approved unanimously.* The ODNR Step Outside Grant was considered for a volunteer appreciation event or a community cleanup initiative. While the community cleanup was noted to have low past participation, the council discussed the possibility of combining both efforts in one event, as the grant requires a focus on outdoor activities. Further discussion on this grant will continue in committee.

*The Firehouse Subs grant was added, and Mr. Myerholtz made a motion to submit the grant application for a Lifepak, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Approved unanimously.* Safety equipment and the Workman's Comp Safety Grant still under review.

**WSIB:** The financial report was reviewed, and Toledo Edison reported a mischarge on a previous electric bill, with a refund to be sent. The board voted to renew the Costco membership for an additional year and place a standing purchase order for the auto-renewal of the membership. The Sports Initiative Board (WSIB) is awaiting Otsego Town Ball (OTB) approval before starting ball sign-ups and coach communications for 2025. The concession stand has been cleaned out, winterized, and utilities turned off for the season, with all ball equipment moved to the village maintenance building for winter storage. Updates on the 501c3 transfer were provided, with stipulations sent to Village Legal Counsel for drafting into official documents for council and board review. WSIB will also seek separate legal counsel to review the bylaws and file official 501c3 documents. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday at 6 p.m. at the library. *Ms. Susor made a motion to approve the renewal of the Costco membership, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Approved unanimously.*

**Safety:** 326 runs YTD. Reviewed the Medicount meeting, discussing requirements for changes, unpaid runs, and potential mileage and billing increases, with further discussion planned for the next meeting. An ordinance for increased pay-per-run for personnel was presented and approved by all committee members. The next meeting is

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scheduled for December 19. Stephanie shared that Paul Skaff reviewed the ordinance and recommended setting it up as an emergency reading with an effective date of January 1, rather than going through three readings and backdating it.

**Public Works:** Bob Desmond attended the meeting to discuss the ODOT grant opportunity for sidewalks, expressing confidence that the community has a strong chance of securing the grant. Initially, the committee had planned to use their funds to fix some sidewalk approaches, but after further discussion, they decided to prioritize a new sidewalk connecting downtown to Merrill Park. The proposed sidewalk would run from Milton Street to Taylor Street, and along one side of Main Street up to the last house before the city limits. There is a TAP grant opportunity for sidewalks, through TMACOG, which would cover most of the costs, except for engineering. The sidewalk project would involve the north side of Oak Street, including a farm field driveway with 8" concrete, providing access to the Dollar General. It was suggested to keep this project on the Public Works agenda and amend appropriations for sidewalk engineering in 2025, engineering related to the TAP grant would not be until 2026. The new quote for the Sycamore stormwater project is \$28,265.70 for the scope of work. The materials would be purchased based on recommendations from Harold and Jeremy. There will be a \$1,300 charge for anyone requesting a new tap. The village would cover the cost of existing taps, while homeowners would be responsible for new taps. Harold confirmed that Main Street is officially completed according to the scope of work. Regarding the bus garage, several ideas were discussed, with the primary goal being to secure the necessary funding. Suggestions included using storage containers to lock up equipment, though the property is not zoned for such use. Ron Dallas inquired if the garage floor was salvageable, and Harold confirmed that it is. A more detailed plan is needed for the garage. The demolition cost is estimated at \$5,800. *Mr. Easterwood made a motion to officially submit the claim for the bus garage to the insurance company to begin the payout process, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Approved unanimously.* Leaf pickup will resume on December 2, and crack sealing will continue as weather permits. The leaf machine will be brought to the maintenance building for an insurance adjuster's inspection. Bob Desmond is also trying to get a better understanding of the USDA SEARCH grant for scope of work. He suggested involving a civil engineering intern from a college program, who may need to be added to the payroll. *Mr. Easterwood made a motion to redirect ARPA funds originally intended for sidewalk improvements to put toward the Main Street project invoice, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Approved unanimously.*

**Upcoming Meetings:** Planning Commission Variance Hearing 12/4 at 6PM, WSIB 12/5 at 6PM (at the library), Cemetery 12/5 at 6PM, Administrative Process 12/9 at 6PM, Special Ball Committee 12/10 at 6PM, Parks & Rec 12/11 at 6:30PM, Community Development & Public Affairs 12/17 at 6PM, Safety 12/19 at 6PM

## New Business

Ordinance 2024-22 received an emergency reading: Ordinance establishing compensation for Weston EMS personnel. The Mayor read sections 1-5, outlining the pay for the EMS Chief, Assistant Chief, Captain, Clerk, and honorariums. It was also noted that the pay frequency for all positions has changed from quarterly to monthly, and this ordinance would take effect January 1. *A motion to suspend the rules for Ordinance 2024-22 was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Mr. Myerholtz; Roll Call Vote: Mr. Warner - Yes, Mr. Myerholtz - Yes, Ms. Susor - Yes, Mr. Easterwood - Yes, Ms. Klockowski - Yes. A motion for passage of Ordinance 2024-22 was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Approved unanimously.*

Resolution 2024-22 received an emergency reading: Resolution to approve the Wood County Budget Commission's local government fund distribution plan. The State of Ohio distributes Local Government Funds (LGF) to counties based on population, and each county's Budget Commission determines how to allocate these funds to local jurisdictions. In Wood County, the current distribution model, unchanged since 1988, lacks objective criteria. Due to recent legal changes, local jurisdictions must review and approve any alternative distribution formula. The Budget Commission's new proposal phases in changes over three years and introduces a population-based model starting in 2027. The proposal reduces the county's share to 32% by 2027. *A motion to suspend the rules for Resolution 2024-22 was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Mr. Myerholtz; Roll Call Vote: Mr. Warner - Yes, Mr. Myerholtz - Yes, Ms. Susor - Yes, Mr. Easterwood - Yes, Ms. Klockowski - Yes. A motion for passage of Resolution 2024-22 was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Approved unanimously.*

## Approval of Expenditures

Council reviewed a summary of the bills (\$9,823.59) and outstanding invoices (\$130,663.08). A motion to approve the summary of the bills and payment of outstanding invoices was made by Mr. Warner, seconded by Mr. Easterwood; Approved unanimously.

## Citizens & Visitors

Ashton Coleman, Joe Schroeder, Julia Schroeder, Doug Marion, Ron Dallas, Erica Rupp, Howard Lashuay, Randy Hann, Bob Desmond (Kleinfelder), Ashley Patel (Virtual), Jigar Patel (Virtual), Josh Tschappat (Virtual)

Erica Rupp submitted her name for the open council seat, highlighting her family roots in the community. She mentioned staying informed by following minutes, agendas, meetings, and discussions, and noted her volunteer experience.

Ron Dallas, Doug Marion, Ashley Patel, and Howard Lashuay have expressed interest in the open seat(s) on Parks &

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## Rec Board.

Bob Desmond raised the topic of the Search Grant, asking whether additional discussion was needed. It was noted that the grant provides \$30,000, which could be used for identifying and documenting the existing stormwater infrastructure system. The discussion included the possibility of hiring a civil engineering intern to perform exploratory work, such as locating and measuring manholes, with the grant covering payroll and the potential purchase of a GPS unit. This approach could optimize costs compared to hiring professional engineers. The GPS unit would also be useful for future projects, allowing data to be integrated into a GIS system. *A motion was made by Mr. Warner to approve the potential funding from the Search Grant for the purchase of a GPS unit and payroll for hiring someone to conduct the stormwater analysis, seconded by Mr. Easterwood; Approved unanimously.* This plan will be sent to Kristi (the grant writer) for feedback and review before submission.

## Executive Session

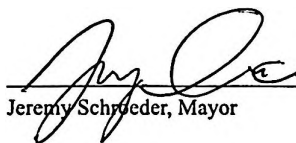
A motion to suspend the rules, allowing for the extension of the meeting to a 9:00PM end time, was made by Ms. Susor, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Roll Call: Mr. Warner - Yes, Mr. Myerholtz - Yes, Ms. Susor - Yes, Mr. Easterwood - Yes, Ms. Klockowski - Yes.


Mr. Warner made a motion to enter an executive session at 7:24PM to discuss personnel matters (continued from the previous council meeting). It was requested for Harold and Stephanie to stay, seconded by Mr. Easterwood; Approved unanimously.

Mr. Warner made a motion to exit the executive session at 8:50PM, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Approved unanimously. To conclude the meeting, the Mayor invoked Rule Three of Council Rules to appoint Ms. Susor to act as chair.

Ms. Susor explained that in executive session the council cannot make decisions or vote. During the session, the Parks and Recreation Facebook page was discussed. At the last council meeting, council requested that the Parks and Recreation Facebook page change its name because it is not an official site. The Village of Weston, OH Facebook page was deemed as the official government page for official communication. An admin, who was also a council member, was removed from the Parks and Recreation page, and the requested name change did not happen. Ms. Klockowski suggested that she may be able to explain the reasoning behind the request to encourage compliance. Council considered suggestions such as amending the social media policy, reaching out to Paul Skaff for legal advice, and speaking with the remaining members of the Parks and Rec Board. The council also discussed email requests and public responses regarding Mr. Myerholtz. Ms. Susor noted that the council previously addressed these matters in an executive session, sought advice from legal counsel and the Wood County Sheriff's Office, and decided no further action was necessary based on the information available. Ms. Susor opened the floor for the council to reconsider the matter, knowing it had already been discussed. There is a pending investigation through the State Ethics Board related to a potential conflict of interest with EMS coats, but the status of this investigation is unknown. Mr. Warner suggested holding off on any decisions until the ethics investigation is complete. Ms. Klockowski mentioned that she was previously unaware of an ORC violation pointed out in an email and felt this new information should be considered. Ms. Klockowski motioned to remove Mr. Myerholtz from council, but the motion did not receive a second, and no further comments were made. Ms. Susor concluded that after reviewing the evidence and material, while the conduct may have been unprofessional, it was not illegal and should be addressed by voters during the election. Ms. Susor stated that council members are committed to work together, show mutual respect, and uphold decorum, keeping these principles at the forefront of their minds.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02PM

  
Jeremy Schroeder, Mayor

  
Stephanie Monts, Fiscal Officer/Clerk