

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC. FORM NO. 10148

Held

March 4

20

24

The Village of Weston
Council Meeting Minutes

March 4, 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: Ms. Brittney Klockowski, Mr. Dean Babcock, Mr. Craig Warner, Ms. Jessica Susor, and Mr. Rick Easterwood. A motion to excuse Mr. Rob Myerholtz was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Mr. Babcock; Approved unanimously. A motion to approve February 20, 2024 council meeting minutes as written was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Mr. Babcock; Approved unanimously.

Old Business

An ordinance (ORD 2024-4) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024 received a final reading. This ordinance amends appropriations for the Wood County Sheriff's Office contract to provide for rate increases, the contracted hours are the same. A motion to approve Ordinance 2024-4 was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Mr. Babcock; Approved unanimously.

Reports

Attendance: Stephanie Monts (Fiscal Officer), Harold Boggs (Village Administrator), Ken Taylor (Zoning/Code Enforcement)

Mayor: Shared he is a TMACOG trustee and had a recent meeting which discussed various municipal matters and how TMACOG is working to help municipalities get grants. Their next meeting is March 8th. Mayor also shared he will be on the BG Morning Show.

Fiscal Officer: Nothing to report.

Administrator/Maintenance: Getting ready for spring, brush pickup is April 8-12. Getting updated quotes for road paving projects for the next Public Works meeting. Ms. Susor asked Harold if he keeps logs of what needs fixed, he indicated they work on repairs on an as needed basis.

Code Enforcement/Zoning: Letter went out for a mattress in the boulevard on Main Street. The Waste Management dumpster in the boulevard still has not moved, the owner is indicating he cannot make contact with Waste Management to get it moved. Responded to an appraiser for possible uses of a property on Maple Street. Followed up with a property owner on Maple Street that received a notice to remedy letter. Letter was sent to a Center Street property for mud in the roadway, and received a message from the property owner indicating she will talk to her renters about the issue. Gave a property owner on Taylor Street information/requirements for an accessory structure and a need for a permit. Also reported was that the Church of Christ is planning an entryway on the Elm Street side and there may be an issue with how close the church is to the right of way and will probably need a variance, plan to meet with them to go over this. Also received a call from the owner of Silver Street property by the trailer park wanting to put in 20 mobile homes on the east side, which is not possible because it is zoned R1, could probably only fit 3 units and they cannot be mobile homes, the property owner will be sending over plans. Taylor Street junk in the right of way was picked up and will be billed to the property owner.

Committee Reports

Safety: 55 runs to date. Classes are going very well and contracts signed by participating class members. Would like to find out from the billing company about non transport and refused run issues and amount for consideration of addressing possible contract increases. Proposed the Safety Committee send a letter concerning street conditions at Lawndale and expressing concerns with sending Village vehicles in there that could do damage to wheels, tires, and other mechanicals. It was also requested to have them update their signs and lighting. New pagers are needed for the new EMTs. Mayor added, due to not being reported in the Safety notes, that the committee also addressed safety at the Village Hall.

Public Works: The committee spent some time discussing State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) information and determined they would like to go for the SIB option for Taylor Street and downtown Main Street. Main Street residential paving would go from the Cherry Street intersection to the bid threshold amount, which is expected to get to about Russ Street. Plan to also pave Silver Street with the Township proposal from last year. Do not plan to move forward with the Van Tassel widening. Discussed working with Toledo Edison to upgrade the streetlights that were missed, such as the Eileen area and new lights in the Sycamore Street and Poplar area. Accepted the public lot proposal. Would like to have an overlay for projects such as storm sewer catch basins and jetting, crack sealing, etc. Actionable items include: getting with Kleinfelder for engineering of downtown Main Street and Taylor Street, move forward with Main Street residential and Silver Street with Morlock. Also discussed moving forward with a half door for the clerk's office, and possible security camera system.

Ken Taylor asked council to consider weight limits since the Village does not have weight limits established, and shared that township criteria could be incorporated. It was requested to add weight limit discussion to Public Works. There was some discussion on the Taylor Street truck traffic and if it is all for the grain elevator, it was requested to start some dialog with the grain elevator.

Upcoming Meetings: WSIB 3/5 at 5:30PM, Cemetery 3/7 at 6PM, Administrative Process 3/11 at 6PM, Rec Board 3/13 at 6:30PM, Community Development & Public Affairs for 3/21 is Postponed, Public Works 3/26 at 6PM, Safety 3/28 at 5:30PM

New Business

No new business at this time.

Approval of Expenditures

Council reviewed a summary of the bills (\$11,136.52) and outstanding invoices (\$16,471.93). Mr. Easterwood asked about the invoice for EconoSigns and Dog Waste Depot. Harold shared that new brackets were needed for street signs which were ordered through Econo Signs, and pointed out some areas of town that need Dog Waste Stations which

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were ordered through Dog Waste Depot. Also questioned was the need for a roller and aerator, Harold shared that the roller in possession is old and broken, and an aerator is needed to be able to plant and fertilize grass in needed areas. A motion to approve the summary of the bills and payment of outstanding invoices was made by Mr. Babcock, seconded by Mr. Easterwood; Approved unanimously.

Miscellaneous Business

Council reviewed a request for 4H goats from 20380 Taylor Street. Currently the code does not allow livestock/farm animals in the Village, but has a clause for 4H projects and chickens. These projects must be approved by council and backed by a 4H advisor. A motion to approve the goats for Samuel Head's 4H project was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Mr. Warner; Approved unanimously.

Citizens & Visitors

More than half of the citizens/visitors in attendance refused to sign in on the sign-in sheet. But, due to knowledge of names those in attendance included: Ron Dallas, Shirley Moore, Teresa DeGasto, Randy Hann, Shelby McClellan, Samantha Wick, Greg Stevens, Howard Lashuay, Jigar Patel, Sgt. Reynolds (WCSO), Logan Wick (virtual), Erica Rupp (virtual)

Ron Dallas presented a petition of 102 signatures and welcomed council to view it; which was to stop the construction of the walking path at Alumni Park. He argues that the project doesn't make any sense and there are plenty of sidewalks. He added that the money could be allocated for better uses. Mayor asked for specific ideas, and it was responded with "there are many of them". It was suggested that the project should be suspended until more input is gathered from the community. Ron pointed out that nobody was even aware the path was going to be 3/8th of a mile in the shape of Ohio. It was also pointed out that the Village doesn't have a grant writer and how the Village can apply for grants, Mr. Warner added the Village has applied without a grant writer. Throughout the discussion, as the Mayor tried to explain uses for ARPA, there was debate amongst the visitors. During this section, Mr. Rob Myerholtz (council member) arrives at 6:52PM. The funds for the path are from leftover ARPA money from the Taylor Street culvert project; ARPA has specific stipulations, including promotion of health in relation to the pandemic. The reporting requirement for ARPA was discussed, although dates were unknown, the reporting requires projects to be in contract and not just an idea. Mayor pointed out that this walking path has been talked about for a long time. Again, some of the visitors became out of order, including the Village Administrator who left the building. Mayor pointed out the Village could always do a better job communicating but tries very hard. He reminded everyone that the Village has a website, sends out mailed and digital newsletters, uses social media, and has implemented a Reach Alert system. Mayor also shared that himself and some other council members have gone door to door to get information out over the years. Mayor reiterated that this walking path is not a brand new surprise, the plan has been in place for over a year as the Village applied for a grant for it. Although it was not awarded, it was a chance to get some incredible feedback. Mayor pointed out that the path has come to a committee, talked about in multiple committees, all of which are open to the public, and was brought back to council and voted on, which was a 6-0 unanimous vote. Teresa DeGasto felt gaslighted on what is going on because of the way the Mayor listed ways of communication. Ms. Susor added that it is a two-way street, we can publish/publicize but the citizens have to partake as well. Mayor added that if you came to the meetings or read the minutes you would have known about it. Ms. Klockowski added that council is working on having committee meeting minutes posted online as an extra step of transparency. She also added that certain council members don't think that should happen because they don't want people to see what's going on because they don't want the discussion. Mr. Myerholtz expressed that is not true, and wrong to say. He added that he didn't want people to be confused between what happens in committee vs. council. Mr. Babcock added if it confuses people they should be able to be a responsible citizen and ask questions. Randy Hahn expressed he was unable to view the minutes from the previous meeting on the website. Mr. Warner expressed the minutes need to be approved. It was clarified the drafts can be requested. Mayor expressed wanting to see more information accessible, and feels that committees aren't reflecting well enough on record. Mayor reiterated that finding a solution for better communication is being worked on.

Randy Hann reversed back to the walking path and expressed he does not know the emotional connection in the shape of Ohio. He suggested a more standard shape and measurement that is used by many sports, to encourage youth to participate and elders get out to use the track. Mayor said the shape was a coincidence and the longest path we could get out of the space. Mr. Babcock added Cross Country doesn't have a "standard" course. The idea is for it to be a multi-use path, and use the existing sidewalk infrastructure (it is a loop). Clerk expressed that the photo of the path has been in the digital newsletter. Mr. Easterwood asked about all the different phases (1, 2, 3, etc), and the cost for paving and the other features. Phase 1: Excavate and Stone + Trees. Phase 2: would be paving and sought out via a grant, it was questioned what if we don't get the grant. Mayor expressed that Phase 2 is not set and stone, Phase 1 is an attempt to set us up for additional funding in that area, because feedback from ODNR indicates if initiative has already been taken they would more likely fund something that already had work put into it. Ms. Susor had a question for Ron Dallas after examining the petition, which coincided with the discussion at hand. She asked how he explains the allocation of funds when discussing the petition with others, specifically questioning whether he presents it as utilizing \$22,000 in grant money approved by the Village, along with an additional \$24,000 in unsecured funds, which might imply a necessity to obtain this money from taxpayers. Ms. Susor expressed if that is the case, she can see why signatures were so easy to obtain. It was pointed out that the Village does not have to go for Phase 2, especially if a grant is unsuccessful. There was a debate between Jigar Patel and the Mayor over the phases and difference between discussion, ideas, and what is actually planned. Mayor reiterated phase one is planned, the other phases are ideas.

Teresa DeGasto asked why we need a walking path, and expressed she has dogs chase after her and her dogs when she is walking and we don't need that happening on a walking trail. She also expressed concern for maintenance. She reiterated she doesn't understand because people can walk the town and who wants to walk on stone. Shelby McClellan expressed having a safe place for children to run is important and feels that the path would be beneficial for both people with kids and without. Mayor expressed that not much has been done with the land since the Village has owned it from when the school left, and ultimately, the Village is just trying to provide things for the citizens to do. Ron Dallas expressed he would rather see the path paved versus left as stone.

Jigar Patel expressed putting meeting videos online. Mayor shared that he wants everyone to be comfortable with

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that. He shared that people come in with sensitive topics and sometimes minors are in attendance. There were multiple people speaking over each other expressing it's a public meeting, and didn't care if there were sensitive topics. Mayor expressed if there are issues to speak to the council members who have the vote. Mayor shared his duties which is to run the meetings, make sure committees are moving forward, and that the citizens get a chance to talk.

Shelby McClellan expressed confusion regarding public meetings, and being live. The meeting is accessible virtually through live feed. Mr. Warner added that there is an account, not associated with the Village, that has been sharing every council meeting from this year. Shelby also asked how to get ahold of the owners of the Lutheran church building to inquire about the status of getting a survey done and the fence.

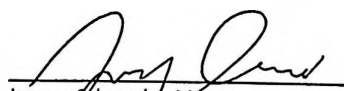
Samantha Wick brought up the Walking Path again and expressed it was a good/cool idea. She believes the genuine concern is not the path, and thinks it's more about communication. Ron Dallas added just using the old gym track, but the Mayor pointed out the walking path is meant to be a multi-use path. There was some argument and poking fun/laughing at the actual size of the path, but it was pointed out that overall size when everything is connected will be 1/2 mile. Mayor expressed that connecting places is a great opportunity for grants. Mr. Easterwood also pointed out most grants require a match. Mayor pointed out another project being discussed is making the Dollar General accessible (with a sidewalk), and pointed out that that the project would be much more than \$22,000. Mayor shared that \$30,000 was allocated this year to cover matches for grants, which still requires council approval to be assigned to a project.

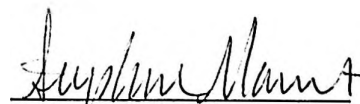
Jigar Patel asked what the other ideas were for the ARPA money. Mayor shared that no other committees brought forward ideas. Mr. Easterwood added there was a vision to connect sidewalks to roads, and it was pointed out there is already a budget set aside for that this year. Mr. Myerholtz added that part of the sheriff's charges could be paid, and some other towns are donating to the local food banks. Mayor said the project was already approved and is moving forward; and it was a 6-0 vote. Mayor shared protocol allows anyone to have something be added to an agenda.

Greg Stevens acknowledged his own personal biases, and being a monster fiscal conservative, and sees this (the walking path) as frivolous spending. He pointed out that when he was on council they were discussing a 75+ year old tile system that was failing that needed to be replaced, and believed every taxpayer would benefit from this. He shared that people are tired of living in this "Biden-inflation", and pointed out the 25% increase in property taxes. He also expressed that this (local government) should be able to have control and stop the frivolous spending. Greg also suggested getting the sidewalk deal off the table, just repeal the resolutions. Mayor added that council is working on the sidewalk issue. Mayor expressed he hears everyone, and that feedback does get talked about. Mayor pointed out that Greg talked about stormwater, and shared the Village had done more on stormwater than when he was on council prior. Greg pointed out that the people are here communicating and feel ignored. Mayor reiterated he hears what everyone is saying, but it is also not the opinion of everyone. Greg pointed out this is a council meeting not a Mayors meeting, and not seeing much from council. Greg also wants council to seriously consider a better way to spend the remaining ARPA money that benefits the taxpayer. Ron Dallas added that there is no handicap accessibility to the reservoir.

Howard Lashuay believes the walking path would end up being a go-cart track because of the stone. Mayor and multiple council members pointed out that isn't allowed and that is why there is a Sheriff's department. Mr. Myerholtz pointed out concern and history of maintenance when things are put in, and questioned the shape of Ohio. Mayor pointed out we have a Village Administrator that has passion for the Village. Mr. Babcock pointed out everything requires maintenance. Ms. Klockowski pointed out that the phase of asphaltting is open to other possibilities. Howard also pointed out that during discussion there were two council members rolling their eyes, and that they don't care about anything except for what the Mayor wants done. Mr. Easterwood asked if there is something we need to do because of the petition, add more discussion. Ms. Klockowski pointed out that there needs to be some things cleared up that were in the petition. Mr. Easterwood made a motion to table the project until there is an updated vision on the project that it can be put out to the people that were misinformed. Mr. Myerholtz provided some input on using the ARPA money for the Sheriff's contract. Ms. Klockowski believes people that signed the petition were misled, and that the Village should hold a special public meeting to let the people know what exactly was approved and what the plan is. Mr. Babcock, Mr. Warner, and Ms. Susor would like to see a special meeting for the public. Mayor asked Mr. Easterwood to say his motion again, which was: "to take consideration of the patrons that signed the petition and not move forward until we get more clarification", seconded by Mr. Myerholtz. Mr. Warner and Ms. Klocowski abstained, members of the audience expressed they couldn't abstain to avoid a vote, as it needs to be a personal conflict. Mayor pointed out that if they are abstaining because they want a special meeting they would have to strike down the current motion and make a new motion. The vote stands for the current motion as: Yes - Mr. Easterwood, Mr. Myerholtz, Ms. Susor and No- Ms. Klockowski, Mr. Babcock, Mr. Warner. Ms. Susor wanted to clarify she is a nay because she is in support of the walking path, but is voting yes on the motion, and added that she is okay with holding the project but not canceling the project to hear the people. Mayor broke the tie vote with a Yes. Mayor called a special meeting for March 12, 2024 at 6PM, location pending approval at the Fire Station. The special meeting will be "discussion on ARPA". Ms. Susor requested ideas be emailed by Thursday and the Clerk will research timelines for ARPA.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58PM.


Jeremy Schroeder, Mayor


Stephanie Monts, Fiscal Officer/Clerk