

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

Held September 21 20 26

**The Village of Weston
Council Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2026**

Meeting Commencement

The meeting began with some technical difficulties, including issues with video and audio. After resolving these issues, the meeting was called to order by Mayor Rick Easterwood at 6:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll call: Craig Warner, Travis Ackerman, Erica Rupp, Jessica Susor, Brittney Klockowski and Ashley Patel

Agenda/Minutes

The agenda was then reviewed for any additions or modifications. Ms. Susor requested to add the possible ordinance for commercial use under new business. Judge Joel Kuhlman, a common pleas court judge for Wood County, was added as a speaker. The minutes of September 8, 2026, Council Meeting were presented for review. *A motion was made to accept the minutes by Mr. Warner; Seconded by Ms. Rupp; Roll Call: passed 5-1; Mrs. Patel abstained.*

Public Presentation

Guest Speaker: Judge Joel Kuhlman

Judge Joel Kuhlman introduced himself as a common pleas court judge for Wood County, handling felony-level criminal cases and serving as the administrative judge responsible for joint court operations and the budget. He explained that the court is investing heavily in mental health, rehabilitation, counseling, drug addiction awareness, and job training for individuals involved in the criminal justice system, both before and after conviction. The goal is to break the cycle of criminality and prevent future generations from entering the system. Judge Kuhlman highlighted the success of these programs, citing examples of individuals who have benefited from job training through partnerships with Carpenters union and companies like Owens and Penn Commercial Driver's License programs, leading to stable employment and improved lives. Judge Joel Kuhlman cited instances where defendants chose to remain in custody briefly to complete training, subsequently securing employment at the Meta site on routes 25 and 582 with wages increasing from \$13 to over \$20 per hour plus benefits. Council Member Ms. Klockowski inquired about the number of individuals from the village who have participated in these programs. Judge Kuhlman indicated that while he was summarizing all programs, Weston specifically has a significant number of individuals with drug addiction issues, often linked to mental health problems. He confirmed that these programs are benefiting Weston and that the court is working collaboratively with entities like Health Trust to provide mental health and drug addiction outreach. Judge Coleman emphasized that even a small percentage of success in breaking the cycle of criminality has a significant positive impact on individuals, their children, and the community, particularly in improving high school graduation rates. He stressed the importance of basic life skills and structure for many individuals in the court system.

Old Business

Final Reading ORD 2026-13 to Amend Wage Schedule: The final reading of an ordinance amending the employee pay wage schedule to a range for part-time workers- was presented. Final reading of ordinance 2026-13, which amends the employee wage schedule. *After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Klockowski; Seconded by Ms. Rupp to accept the ordinance. Roll Call: Approved unanimously.*

Wood County Park District Grant and Project Selection: Council reviewed the Wood County Park District Grant application deadline of Friday, October 16, 2026, managed by fiscal officer Stephanie Monts. The challenge involved finalizing a project submission in advance to avoid last-minute preparation issues. Council discussed submitting a project for mulch and fine stone for the walking path to control weeds and fill low areas. Harold committed to obtaining pricing for the fine stone and tailgating application, and council confirmed that Ms. Monts would be notified of this prior decision. Consensus: Council agreed to proceed with the mulch and fine stone project for the grant application.

Park Playground Barriers and Equipment Maintenance: Council discussed damaged playground barriers and fall injury prevention across village parks, noting containment issues at the old schoolhouse park. Pricing from Playground Outfitters was reviewed, with 12-inch pieces costing \$28.99 and 8-inch pieces costing \$25.99 per unit. Council debated whether to replace barriers immediately or budget them for 2027 appropriations. *A motion was made by Ms. Susor; Seconded by Mr. Warner to direct mulch barriers to community development with other park equipment. Roll Call: Approved unanimously*

Reports

Mayor: Fire Department Halloween Costume Contest and Chicken Barbecue: Mayor Easterwood announced that the fire department discussed hosting a trick-or-treat costume contest with prizes at the fire station, as no other local organization currently provides one. The event coincides with the department's chicken barbecue scheduled from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM (or until food runs out). The fire department planned to distribute a flyer and indicated they would cancel or scale back their event if other community groups organize similar activities to avoid conflicting attendance.

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Fiscal Officer/Clerk: Mayor Easterwood presented the fiscal officer report. Stephanie Monts, the fiscal officer, is scheduled to attend fiscal officer training in Perrysburg, costing \$141, which will provide her with six hours of continuing education. A resolution for the state tax reimbursement policy was also presented and will be discussed further

Administrative/Maintenance: Administrator Harold Boggs presented the report:

- **Cemetery Truck:** Mr. Boggs discussed the cemetery truck, mentioning that the cemetery board requested approval to proceed with fixing the S10 truck. He noted the potential purchase of a new truck, which would allow the current vehicle to be transferred to the cemetery department and the S10 to be retired; he is currently awaiting further information regarding this matter.
- **Streetlights and Reimbursement:** Regarding street lighting, Harold counted 92 lights, while Ms. Monts purchase order recorded 97, accounting for missing lights on the east side of Taylor Street. Victor has committed to sending information back to engineering for new lights and will review the original invoice to ensure that if the village paid for 97 lights and received funds for 97, he would install 97 lights free of charge if covered under the grant, though responses were still pending. The council expressed hope that this would be the case, as they have already covered their portion.

Code Enforcement: Zoning report was read by Ken Taylor:

- **Zoning Report: Property Violations and Concerns:** Ken presented the zoning report. On September 9th notices were sent to owners, one at zero Silver Street regarding grass needs and at 13767 regarding trash and boulevard issues.
- **Boarding Up of 20524 Russ Street Property:** On September 15th, Mr. Taylor emailed Paul regarding the status of the vacant property at 20524 Russ Street, noting that court records from Artificial Intelligence research indicated a default judgment, leaving village intervention at village expense without tax recovery options. Council discussed liability concerns, previous financial losses with similar nuisance properties, and whether to demolish the house or board it up. Potential partnerships with Habitat for Humanity were considered to build a new house on the site. The problem of property owner non-responsiveness and potential repair costs was debated. *Mr. Warner made a motion to board up the property to secure it at an estimated material cost of approximately \$1000, Seconded by Ms. Rupp; Roll Call: Approved unanimously*
- **Property at 20270 Locust Street:** A property owner at 20270 Locust Street requested to replace her front porch with a deck, but a deck is not currently included in the zoning code. The owner was informed that a variance procedure would be necessary as the proposed deck would encroach on the front yard setback. A Planning Commission meeting was scheduled to discuss it further.
- **Cleaning Services:** An email was received from a cleaning company inquiring about cleaning village buildings. The request was forwarded to the appropriate person, but there has been no further communication.
- **Mobile Home on Sycamore Street:** Mr. Taylor provided an update on the mobile home on Sycamore Street, noting that siding removal had slowed down, and is sitting on a trailer prompting him to take new photographs for Paul Skaff to review. He plans to follow up with Paul to assess the situation further

Committee Reports

Tree Commission: Mayor Easterwood presented the Tree Commission report from September 9, attended by Logan Wick, Dean Babcock, and Brittney Klockowski.

City Delegation and Maintenance Ordinance: An email was sent inviting the village and commission to apply for the official Tree City delegation. Mr. Wick was tasked with creating an account on the portal and applying if it was free, otherwise, the information would be brought to council for approval. Paul Skaff had sent comments on the tree maintenance ordinance, and the commission was working on gaining access to the documents for review. Mr. Wick would check with Harold regarding trees to be removed, specifically if it would be done during or before brush pickup. Mr. Wick would also invite Stephanie Miller to upcoming meetings for a re-tree risk assessment while the leaves were down. Ms. Klockowski recommended that the commission research certified arborists in the area for future reference, which Mr. Wick agreed to do.

Tree City Application and Ordinance Review: Council Member Mr. Warner inquired if Mr. Wick had applied to be a Tree City. They also mentioned receiving a document from Paul Skaff, which was sent by accident but arrived too late. Ms. Klockowski could review it at the next meeting. There was a discussion about whether the information was provided to Mr. Boggs and if the trees at the Old Schoolhouse Park, Michael Merrill Park and Alumni Park were being recorded. Ms. Klockowski suggested it would be easiest for Mr. Boggs to handle this process.

Administrative Process: The Administrative Process meeting report from 9/14 was presented by Mr. Warner. Attendees included the Council Member, Jessica Susor, Erica Rupp, and Arron Sherman from EK Computers.

Cyber Security: Mr. Sherman presented information regarding computer, technology, and cybersecurity services. The committee reviewed several quotes and discussed obtaining additional comparable quotes, including one from a company used by the Village of Haskins, which was more expensive even after separating necessary services. Mr. Skaff recommended an additional company for consideration, and Mr. Warner suggested contacting McClure to

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determine which provider they use. The committee agreed that more research was needed before making a decision, particularly to determine which services are required for compliance and whether any portions of the proposed packages could be eliminated. Members expressed concerns about the approximately \$20,000 annual cost, the need to justify the expenditure to taxpayers, and whether the requirements are appropriate for a village of Weston's size and limited infrastructure compared with larger municipalities. Mayor Easterwood acknowledged the financial burden but explained that cybersecurity compliance is a state requirement and that the services would also assist the Village with digitizing records, transitioning to a .gov domain, addressing IT needs, and updating outdated equipment. The committee also discussed the implementation deadline and the need to allow sufficient time for the selected provider to bring the Village into compliance. It was agreed that the cybersecurity matter would remain under review, with additional quotes and information to be gathered, and that the Council would revisit the issue at the second Council meeting in October before making a final decision.

Community Development and Public Affairs: The Community Development and Public Affairs report from the meeting on 9/15 was presented by Ms. Rupp. Ms. Rupp and Jessica Ball, Travis Ackerman in attendance.

Mural Project: The committee discussed the proposed garage door mural by Jessica Ball, who was willing to enter into a contract and requested 50% upfront for materials. The project would be funded through the \$1,545 beautification grant. Jessica was willing to consider Council's preferences for the design and door usage and offered to complete two designs on two doors, although doing so would significantly reduce her profit. The committee discussed the Main Street and Locust Street garage doors, with the Main Street doors preferred for visibility because more traffic passes through Main Street; however, the Main Street doors are smaller, estimated at approximately 10 feet wide by 12 feet high, and are separated by approximately 10 feet rather than being directly side-by-side. The Locust Street door is double-wide and better suited for the larger train station/silo design, and members agreed they did not want to "squish" that design onto the smaller Main Street doors. Several design concepts were discussed, including the train station and sidewalks, silo, Otsego Knights, a western-themed design, "Welcome to Weston," "Weston Established," Weston colors, and an "O" with a sash, with members favoring cohesive colors and lettering across the Main Street doors. Ms. Susor suggested that if two Main Street doors were used, the Village could potentially supplement Jessica's compensation by approximately \$500-800 to ensure she was fairly paid, while Ms. Rupp emphasized being fair to Jessica, who was enthusiastic about the project. The committee ultimately favored the Main Street doors for visibility and discussed using complementary designs and colors, with Ms. Susor requesting a graphic from Jessica showing the proposed "O" design. Mayor Easterwood confirmed the project would remain within the grant amount. Ms. Klockowski clarified that the Locust Street concept without the Weston wall would primarily consist of blue clouds, and the Mayor noted that a single location needed to be selected rather than attempting to use all of the doors. The committee agreed to present the information and design options to Council and remain in contact with Jessica. Separately, the committee discussed removing portions of the animal control officer ordinance concerning financial responsibilities for legal actions and replacing mulch barriers to help prevent fall injuries before new park equipment is installed. Ms. Monts will handle the mural contract and purchase order, with 50% of the payment provided upfront for materials. *Ms. Klockowski made a motion to pay 50% upfront, Seconded by Ms. Rupp. The motion passed with a roll call vote. Roll Call: Approved unanimously*

Upcoming Meetings:

Admin Process 10/12 @6:00PM; Tree Commission 10/13 6PM; Council Meeting 10/9 @6PM; Community Development 10/20 @5:30 PM; Public Safety 10/26 @6PM; Public Works 10/27 @6PM

New Business:

Emergency Resolution 2026-12: The emergency reading of Resolution 2026-12, establishing a policy for sales tax reimbursement and declaring an emergency, was presented by Mayor Easterwood, from the Fiscal Officer's report which indicated that Paul Skaff provided a bulletin regarding sales tax reimbursement and prepared a policy and resolution for council's consideration. The policy clarifies when the village's tax-exempt status can be used and establishes procedures for reimbursing officials or employees who use personal funds for authorized village purchases and pay sales tax. Ms. Monts will review other policies for consistency and provide necessary revisions.

Sales Tax Reimbursement Policy and Vote

A motion to suspend the rules for the emergency resolution was made by Mr. Warner; Seconded by Ms. Susor Roll Call: Approved unanimously. A motion to accept Resolution 2026-12, establishing a policy for reimbursement of sales tax paid by village officials and employees, and declaring an emergency, was then made by Ms. Susor; Seconded by Ms. Klockowski. Roll Call: Approved unanimously.

Planning Commission Recommendation and Zoning Ordinance Amendment: The mayor presented a planning recommendation from a 5:30 meeting regarding a commercial district redefinition and zoning ordinance amendment. This would involve amending the zoning ordinance, specifically section 5; D1-C, Commercial District, which currently follows as C Commercial District, I is R2, and the downtown district. *A motion to approve adding the planning commission's recommendation to the agenda and mark it for the first reading was made by Mrs. Patel; Seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Roll call: Approved 5-1; Mr. Ackerman abstained..*

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Approval of Expenditures

Council reviewed a summary of the bills (35,498.47) and outstanding invoices (6,749.93). A motion to approve the summary of bills and payment of outstanding invoices was made by Mrs. Patel; Seconded by Ms. Susor; Roll call: Approved unanimously

Miscellaneous Business:

Personal Development Request: Fiscal Office Training

A personal development request was presented for Mrs. Monts' fiscal office training in Perrysburg costing \$141, which provides six hours of training. A motion was made by Ms. Susor; Seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Roll call: Approved unanimously to pay for the training.

Park Grant and Walking Path Materials

Ms. Klockowski inquired about the park Grant and the use of materials for the walking path, referencing meeting minutes from August 17th. They stated that only mulch for park grant was voted on, and not stone. Council would need to amend the motion and add stone. Mayor Easterwood recalled a conversation about Harold providing a quote for a dividing structure for mulch at the parks, which was very expensive. Harold also provided a rendering of materials for himself and the village, but this was unlikely to be covered by the grant and would likely require an outside source. A motion to amend the settlement was needed. The official motion approved by roll call included stone. Park equipment, swings, and other miscellaneous programs for committee consideration were tabled. A motion to amend and add the stone portion for the park grant was made by Ms. Klockowski; Seconded by Ms. Susor; Roll call: Approved unanimously

Citizens & Visitors

In Attendance: Keith Leady, Shad Kendall, Tom Spoor, Joel Kuhlman, Jerry Mohler **Online:** Unattended

Jerry inquired about the new Parks & Recs Advisory Board, specifically as to how many members were currently on board, noting that he saw a sign indicating zero members. He also inquired about the duties of the board members. The mayor explained that the board would work with the village administrator to update park equipment, research grants, and potentially develop a plan for upgrading to an ADA compliance park. They would also be involved in securing funding and researching grant opportunities. The board would also have a section for events and hosting activities, potentially collaborating with Otsego and the library, or hosting their own events.

Adjournment

Mayor Easterwood called for adjournment at 7:20 PM **Motion:** Mr. Warner; **Second:** Mrs. Patel; **Roll Call:** Motion carried.


Rick Easterwood, Mayor


Anette Davis, Clerk