

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC. FORM NO. 10148

Held

March 18

20 24

**The Village of Weston
Council Meeting Minutes**

March 18, 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, Mr. Rob Myerholtz, and Mr. Rick Easterwood. *A motion to approve March 4, 2024 council meeting minutes as written was made by Mr. Babcock, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Approved unanimously.*

Reports

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

Mayor: Mayor informed everyone that he had sent an email as a follow-up to the special meeting, outlining the next steps for the contractor. He also mentioned incorporating ideas from previous meetings into the relevant committee agendas.

Mr. Myerholtz raised concerns about advancing the project without a formal vote. Mayor clarified that the initial motion was to pause the project pending further discussion, which led to the scheduling of the special meeting. He emphasized that ample discussion occurred during the special meeting, fulfilling the motion's intent, and reminded everyone of the existing contractual agreement. Mayor noted the possibility of repercussions for withdrawing from the contract but suggested that legal action from the contractor was unlikely. Questions arose regarding the bidding process and posting bids on the website, to which the Mayor explained the existence of thresholds and the limited number of contractors available in the area. *Ms. Klockowski made a motion to move forward with the walking path project, seconded by Mr. Babcock; Roll Call Vote: Ms. Klockowski - Yes, Mr. Babcock - Yes, Mr. Warner - Yes, Ms. Susor - Yes, Mr. Myerholtz - No, Mr. Easterwood - No. Motion passed.*

Fiscal Officer: The newsletter draft was available to view, and will be sent out for print and mailing through The Copy Shop by the end of the week. Have 10 confirmed Hometown Hero banners, with 3 more pending.

Administrator/Maintenance: Plans to begin durapatching next week. Mr. Easterwood asked about the lighting project, which will be decorative lights strung down the south side of Main Street about 20' up.

Code Enforcement/Zoning: Ken processed an accessory building permit for Ohio St. Additionally, he received a call from a contractor seeking information on Village plumbing licenses. He provided Stephanie with details regarding 13250 Maple Street, urging council to consider designating it as a nuisance property. Moreover, he addressed a call from the owner of a property on Center St regarding a previous letter regarding tracking mud into the roadway. Furthermore, he responded to an email from a property owner on Elm Street regarding a notice to remedy letter. He reported trash accumulation in the rear yard of a property on Sycamore Street and took photographs of the Maple Street property highlighting nuisance issues. There are ongoing issues with Rumpke; as of 2:15 PM, there are 10 houses on Locust Street, 7 houses on Silver Street, and 1 house on Oak Street with trash accumulated since last Wednesday. Ken observed someone picking up trash on both Silver and Locust Streets but noticed more trash left behind than collected. He inquired about the Village's ability to compel Rumpke to fulfill their duties, considering existing ordinances and Rumpke's instruction for residents to put trash out 48 hours in advance. Concerns were raised about noise disturbances if Rumpke operates during quiet hours. Furthermore, there have been previous discussions regarding the possibility of unifying trash service, and the Mayor suggested forming a special trash committee. Mr. Warner expressed reservations about unifying trash service due to the satisfaction of many residents with their current providers.

Mr. Easterwood made a motion to declare 13250 Maple Street a nuisance, seconded by Mr. Myerholtz; Approved unanimously.

Ken also expressed concern for NWWSD wasting money with the current project. He was told that the EPA mandated this, but Ken expressed he is aware of multiple houses that have had water lines work recently and wondered if NWWSD keeps record of this.

Committee Reports

Administrative Process: Reviewed information on Sunshine Laws and information regarding council members attending committee meetings and discussions after meetings, Ms. Susor plans to review further and put an email of information together to send out. Mr. Myerholtz requested the Mayor's certification of Sunshine Law Training. Reviewed budget vs actuals for 2024 and cash flow summaries for 2023. Cemetery board is in favor of approving Harold as sexton but are requesting an option to opt out if sexton/administrator does not work or Harold would leave the position. Stephanie broke down the salary between general fund (45%), streets (45%), and the allotted money from the cemetery sexton position (10%). Sexton and Administrator would still have separate job descriptions. Proposed to set Administrator/Sexton salary at \$63,000. Reviewed Northwood Door quote for the dutch door for the fiscal office. Mayor made a suggestion to provide name plates for board members including Cemetery Board, WSIB, Planning Commission, and Parks & Rec. The name plates are \$10/ea at The Copy Shop.

Rec Board: April meeting was moved to April 17th. Reviewed Leprechaun Hunt, clues will be posted by 10AM Saturday morning (3/16) and Parks & Rec will be at the Village Hall Sunday (3/17) from 2-4PM for the Leprechaun hunters to bring their clue codes to unlock the treasure. Was approached by the fire department to help with the Easter Egg hunt, will set up at the concession stand and provide snacks/drinks and basket giveaways; approved a budget of \$180. Plan to begin promoting the W.I.L.D. program after the Leprechaun Hunt, plan to put together some kind of basic registration, and make sure people understand this program will not be a drop-off. Plan to discuss what help is needed for Earth Day at the next meeting. Color Run is scheduled for 5/11. Reviewed a catalog of playground equipment, specifically the section on outdoor fitness equipment/adult playground items. Board would like to apply the basketball court resurface/redesign to NatureWorks, this was previously submitted to Wood County Park District and denied due to not specifying an amount for accepting a partial award. The project includes: resurfacing, redesign to 1 full basketball court, 1 half basketball court, and 2 pickleball courts with net systems and new basketball hoops.

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NatureWorks requires a 25% match, which equals to a little under \$10,000. Total project cost: \$30,518 (\$18,320 Rutter & Dudley, \$12,198 SportsScape).

Upcoming Meetings: Community Development & Public Affairs 3/20 at Maintenance Building at 5PM, WSIB 3/20 at 6PM, Public Works 3/26 at 6PM, Safety moved to 4/4 at 5:30PM

New Business

A resolution authorizing the Village of Weston to participate in the NatureWorks grant program received a first reading. This grant would require a match of less than \$10,000, and is for the basketball court resurfacing and redesign. Mayor requested working on getting communication out for the project scope and applying to NatureWorks. He also asked Mr. Myerholtz if his grant writer contact would be able to write for this grant; there was not a clear response. Mayor explained that Capital Outlay, which has a \$35,000 budget, is set up for grant matches and small projects.

Council examined and deliberated on the proposal for the Administrator to assume the responsibilities of the Cemetery Sexton. Mr. Easterwood expressed dissatisfaction with the inclusion of an "opt-out clause," insisting that the sexton's duties should be integrated into the Administrator's role. He argued that since the Administrator is already present during the sexton's tasks, they should fall within the same scope of responsibility. Additionally, Mr. Easterwood criticized what he perceived as the cemetery board's tendency to appease certain individuals. Ms. Susor, acting as the liaison to the cemetery board, conveyed their concern that the council might be overstepping its authority. The Mayor provided a historical overview of the sexton's duties, including the division of responsibilities between sexton and lawn maintenance, as well as salary considerations. It was agreed that the board would need to reassess the negotiation. Mr. Easterwood emphasized that if the Administrator cannot assume these duties, then the board should not involve him at all. He also suggested that the board should be able to bring concerns about the Administrator to the council for resolution.

Approval of Expenditures

Council reviewed a summary of the bills (\$32,063.17) and outstanding invoices (\$5,744.71). A motion to approve the summary of the bills and payment of outstanding invoices was made by Mr. Myerholtz, seconded by Mr. Easterwood; Approved unanimously.

A motion to approve the quote from Northwood Door quote for \$2,365, to proceed with the fiscal office dutch door, was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Mr. Warner; Approved unanimously.

Miscellaneous Business

Several miscellaneous business matters were reviewed for referral to appropriate committees for further detailed discussions. It was highlighted that a review of council rules is essential to address recording procedures, assuming responsibility for decorum and discipline. Additionally, there was a need for discussion regarding communication, with a recommendation that the staff work on developing and presenting a policy. Mr. Myerholtz proposed the idea of convening the committee as a whole and raised questions about the disciplinary update. Ms. Susor clarified that the intention behind it was to underscore the existence of consequences, suggesting that perhaps "disciplinary update" was not the most accurate term for the agenda. The Mayor then requested that everyone submit their suggestions for the agenda two meetings ahead, after which a date could be scheduled.

Citizens & Visitors

Howard Lashuay, Samantha Wick, Randy Hann, Ron Dallas, Jigar Patel

Jigar Patel expressed gratitude for the council's intention to revisit council rules and return to fundamental principles, emphasizing that governance should not resemble a dictatorship. He also urged the council to take into account the concerns of residents regarding unified trash services, cautioning that there may be discontent among certain individuals. Additionally, Jigar highlighted the importance of having job descriptions for every role.

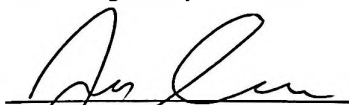
Ron Dallas emphasized the importance of initiating communication ideas, noting the effectiveness of videos in reaching people. He raised concerns about the size of the council meeting room, expressing worries regarding compliance with occupancy codes. Ron also requested Reach Alert notifications for meeting reminders. Additionally, he pointed out that the Village Hall sign lacks the meeting date, prompting clarification from the Clerk that the date and time of the meetings (1st and 3rd Mondays at 6PM) are permanently displayed on the sign, a confirmation provided by another attendee who looked out the window. Ron further suggested the posting of QR codes for accessing the virtual meeting link.

Howard Lashuay voiced frustration regarding the premature removal of grave blankets. Ms. Susor explained that this action was taken due to the warm weather causing the grass underneath to yellow. She mentioned that the cemetery board is considering revising the dates for removing grave blankets in light of this issue.

Randy Hann brought attention to the forthcoming Solar Eclipse scheduled for April 8th, emphasizing that it will be a unique experience unlikely to recur in our lifetime. He expressed the desire to disseminate some form of communication to the community, promoting the peaceful enjoyment of the eclipse. Mr. Easterwood echoed concerns about safety, particularly regarding the potential influx of people to the area.

Samantha Wick was in attendance to share that she would like to help with marking out the walking path.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02PM.


Jeremy Schroeder, Mayor


Stephanie Monts, Fiscal Officer/Clerk