

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Held

December 16

20 24

**The Village of Weston  
Council Meeting Minutes**

**December 16, 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 December 2, 2024 council meeting minutes as written was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Approved unanimously.*

**Old Business**

Grant writer/grant updates will be provided in the committee reports sections.

**Reports**

Attendance: Stephanie Monts (Fiscal Officer), Ken Taylor (Code Enforcement/Zoning)

**Mayor:** The recent Wreaths Across America event was a success, with around 40 people attending and showing tremendous support. Originally, it was expected that placing the wreaths would take two to three hours, but with so many volunteers, it was completed in just 30 minutes. The event is a fundraiser to honor veterans by placing wreaths on their graves. Weston Cemetery has over 535 veterans' graves, and this year, wreaths were placed on more than 400 of them. It's worth visiting the cemetery to see the display.

**Fiscal Officer:** The Village has been awarded the Wood County Park District Grant for mulch in the full amount of \$11,340. Grant funds are expected to be issued in May 2025.

**Administrator/Maintenance:** Not in attendance.

**Code Enforcement/Zoning:** A permit for an accessory structure at 20325 Walnut was issued following the results of the Planning Commission meeting. An email discussion with Paul Skaff took place to ensure alignment on an ongoing nuisance process.

**Committee Reports**

**Planning Commission:** The Mayor talked briefly about the conditions of being granted a variance, explaining that the request had to prove that either the property was peculiar in a way that made it hard to comply with the zoning code, or that other properties were of a similar situation which made it unfair to deny the request, noting that in either situation the actions of the property owner must not have enabled either scenario. He also read a letter from Ken Taylor that explained that the request to build a garage would put the property owner over the allowed square footage for all structures on the property—25%. Cathy DuBois explained to the board that the request was for a new garage that would allow them to keep their vehicles parked inside. It would also include a concrete driveway. She explained that the plan would cause her to go over the amount of allowed square footage by about 30 sq/ft. Mr. Easterwood asked about the setback of the building, noting that the variance, if granted, would not allow the property owner to encroach on the alley easement. It was determined that it would not, and it would be within the allowed setbacks. It would later be stipulated that the building must adhere to standard setbacks on the variance, and the size of the building proposed could not be changed without seeking additional approval. Howard Lashuay, as a visitor, was given an opportunity to speak. He noted that this plan constituted an improvement to the property, something which should be taken into consideration. The Mayor concurred with the opinion, noting that the rule in general should be looked at and possibly revised to avoid further variances. Shirley Moore was able to speak to the old shed that was originally in place, noting that it was moved and no longer needed to be calculated into the total square footage. The variance passed.

**WSIB:** Mark Tolles met with the board to discuss the intricacies of them moving from a government entity to a 501c3. Board hired Mr. Tolles to file the 501c3 paperwork and supporting documents. Decided to keep the January 15th, 2025 meeting and keep it at 5:30PM to discuss in-person sign-ups.

**Cemetery:** The Sexton reported two burials in the past month. Jodie will research current and competitive rates and gather quotes for upcoming projects, including a computer, trees, and structural maintenance, to seek potential grant funding. Updates were shared from a meeting with Grand Rapids Legion representatives about the 2025 Memorial Day event, discussing a possible parade, engaging groups for involvement, and contacting Bob Clark for assistance with flag holder replacement and mapping. Harold agreed to assess the electric capabilities for a sound system and podium placement. The American 250 grant was introduced to the board for ideas, and decided to use the funds to complete the next phase of the

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Memorial Garden. The next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2025, due to the New Year holiday. Actionable items include forwarding the American 250 grant idea to the grant writer. The Fiscal Officer noted that the community must register by December 31, 2024, to be eligible.

*A motion for the grant writer to proceed with the America 250 grant was made by Ms. Susor, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Approved unanimously.*

**Administrative Process:** The ODOT Sidewalk Project faces issues with the Right of Way (ROW) to the village, raised in an email from Bob Desmond expressing concerns about potential problems with property owners. Stephanie will consult with Paul Skaff, and Ms. Klockowski will follow up with the county recorder's or engineers' office to check for any records of ROW dedication. Paul Skaff has provided feedback, suggesting the hiring of a title examiner. Regarding grants, the CSX grant is awaiting a quote for the path across the tracks on Walnut St, which Harold later emailed a quote for \$16,900 which has been forwarded to Kristi. The BWC Safety Intervention Grant and all other BWC Safety Grants are temporarily closed as of November 1, 2024, due to a strong response. Ms. Klockowski is still waiting to hear back from the department of development regarding a stormwater analysis, and the Mayor and Ms. Susor were tasked with following up with GLCAP about the stormwater project grant on Sycamore. Mr. Warner shared that he ended up reaching out. The extension of Kristi Galarza's grant writing contract was discussed, with plans to invite her to the next meeting. Mr. Myerholtz updated that the Safety Committee is working with other townships and municipalities regarding contracts. On the PEP Faithful Performance Program, Stephanie and the Mayor have proposed replacing the current position bonds with a Faithful Performance Program through PEP. The committee will review the proposal further to determine appropriate bond amounts, and the Fiscal Officer will secure quotes for higher bond amounts to be discussed in January. There was also discussion about increasing the insurance deductible to save on premiums, and the Fiscal Officer will request a quote for a \$2,500 deductible compared to the current \$500. The Fiscal Officer is also working on a 3-5 year budget plan. Ms. Klockowski suggested phasing large projects to make budgeting and funding easier for the village. Actionable items include returning the TMobile grant to Community Development for further discussion, referring the ODNR Step Outside grant to Parks and Rec for a possible summer event (like a fishing derby), and directing the Brightening Communities Grant to Public Works for potential ball diamond lights.

**Upcoming Meetings:** Community Development & Public Affairs 12/17 at 6PM, Parks & Rec 12/18 at 6:30PM, Safety & Public Works Meetings have been cancelled for December, Cemetery 1/9 at 6PM, WSIB 1/15 at 5:30PM

Mr. Myerholtz asked about the status of the Parks and Rec board, confirming that no formal board is currently in place. He pointed out that the upcoming meeting was announced as a public Parks & Rec board meeting. The Mayor clarified that the meeting is more of an opportunity for interested individuals to speak with him and the remaining board member, and acknowledged the technicality.

### New Business

Resolution 2024-23 received an emergency reading: Resolution approving and authorizing the Mayor to execute Emergency Medical Services contracts. This will extend the contracts with Liberty Township, Milton Township, Weston Township, and the villages of Custar and Milton Center. *A motion to suspend the rules for Resolution 2024-23 was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Ms. Susor; Roll Call Vote: Mr. Warner - Yes, Mr. Myerholtz - Yes, Ms. Susor - Yes, Mr. Easterwood - Yes, Ms. Klockowski - Yes. A motion for passage of Resolution 2024-23 was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Approved unanimously.*

### Approval of Expenditures

Council reviewed a summary of the bills (\$184,287.65) and outstanding invoices (\$2,395.29). A motion to approve the summary of the bills and payment of outstanding invoices was made by Mr. Warner, seconded by Ms. Susor; Approved unanimously.

### Miscellaneous Business

The TMACOG General Assembly requires a voting representative and an alternate representative. Mr. Warner made a motion to appoint the Mayor as the voting representative and Ms. Klockowski as the alternate, seconded by Ms. Susor; Approved unanimously.

### Citizens & Visitors

Howard Lashuay, JR Fletcher, Keeghan Hutton, Adolfo Mtz, Doug Marion, Denny Ebka, Greg Stevens,

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Ollie Schroeder, Kendall Maushund, Ron Dallas, Erica Rupp, WCSO Deputy, K. Long (virtual), Ashley Patel (virtual), Randy Hann (virtual)

Denny Ebka expressed concern about the possibility of the Mayor stepping down, emphasizing that such a decision would hurt two-thirds of the village that had voted for him. He mentioned that he has been a resident since 1965 and has seen many challenges in the village, often involving misinformation and gossip. Denny criticized those who spread only part of the story, noting that he has personally done research to uncover the full truth. He stressed the importance of unity within the council, arguing that bickering and gossiping only harm the community. Denny shared personal experiences, including being falsely accused of threatening behavior, which led him to visit the sheriff's department for clarification. He emphasized that his actions were never intended to threaten but to guide the youth in the village. He also expressed deep concern for Weston, urging the council not to let negativity drive the Mayor to step down. He stated that no one in the room could garner two-thirds of the vote for Mayor and encouraged everyone to support each other in improving the village. Denny concluded by acknowledging the efforts of various volunteers in the village, and reiterated that he would stand up against anyone who attacks others, whether in business or leadership. He stressed that his remarks were made with good intentions and hoped his message was understood, despite his direct approach.

JR Fletcher asked for an update on the ditch alongside his house, wondering if any action would be taken soon. He was told that the ditches were on a list. Greg Stevens then inquired if the ditch behind his house had been addressed, to which the response was that all the ditches were still being discussed. JR mentioned that his driveway was continuing to shrink.

The Mayor provided an opportunity for individuals interested in the open council seat to speak, but no additional comments were made.

### Executive Session

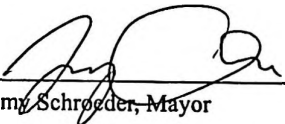
Mr. Warner made a motion to enter an executive session at 6:36PM to discuss candidates for the open council seat, requesting Stephanie to stay, seconded by Mr. Myerholtz; Roll Call: Mr. Warner - Yes, Mr. Myerholtz - Yes, Ms. Susor - Yes, Mr. Easterwood - Yes, Ms. Klockowski - Yes.

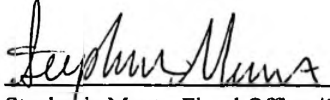
Mr. Easterwood made a motion to exit the executive session at 6:51PM, seconded by Mr. Myerholtz; Approved unanimously. The Mayor explained that during the executive session, there was a discussion about the candidates.

Mr. Easterwood made a motion to open nominations, seconded by Mr. Warner; Approved unanimously. Mr. Myerholtz nominated Erica Rupp, and Ms. Klockowski nominated JR Fletcher. Mr. Easterwood made a motion to close nominations, seconded by Mr. Myerholtz; Approved unanimously. A roll call vote was conducted as follows: Mr. Warner - Erica, Mr. Myerholtz - Erica, Ms. Susor - Erica, Mr. Easterwood - Erica, Ms. Klockowski - Erica.

Erica Rupp was sworn in by the Mayor to fill Dean Babcock's council seat, with a term ending on December 31, 2027.

A motion to adjourn at 6:56PM was made by Ms. Rupp, seconded by Mr. Easterwood; Approved unanimously.

  
Jeremy Schroeder, Mayor

  
Stephanie Monts, Fiscal Officer/Clerk