

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC. FORM NO. 10148

Held

April 1

20

24

**The Village of Weston
Council Meeting Minutes**

April 1, 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 12, 2024 special council meeting minutes and March 18, 2024 council meeting minutes as written was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Mr. Babcock; Approved unanimously.*

Old Business

A resolution authorizing the Village of Weston to participate in the NatureWorks grant program received a second reading. Mayor added that detailed information about this project was put on social media. Randy Hann raised his arms in the air to signify his lack of awareness of any social media activity, Ms. Klockowski then explained the distinctions between the official Village of Weston Facebook page and those maintained by private citizens.

The previous meeting involved a discussion about disagreement regarding the "opt-out" clause that the Cemetery Board is negotiating concerning the Village Administrator taking on the Cemetery Sexton duties. Currently awaiting a meeting of the cemetery board to review the negotiations regarding the wording of the "opt-out" clause. It was emphasized that if the cemetery board chooses not to utilize the Administrator, they will not receive any assistance from him. There were discussions about the salary, the percentage splits between the funds, and the inclusion of a built-in 3% raise. Mr. Easterwood raised a question about the ordinance, citing \$8,000, while the Mayor consistently refers to \$6,000. The Fiscal Officer clarified that simple math needs to be done by those reading the ordinance to understand that the cap, due to the cemetery salary budget, is \$8,000. At the current recommendation of \$63,000 for the Administrator's salary, the 10% to come from the cemetery fund would amount to approximately \$6,000, as the Mayor keeps referencing.

A deputy from WCSO was in attendance, during which Ken Taylor had asked for clarification on the issue of unlicensed vehicles on private property. The response indicated the WCSO cannot do anything on private property, but if the vehicle is on public property, the vehicle can be towed. Additionally, it was mentioned that if an ordinance exists that would allow the deputy to address the situation accordingly, and dependent on how long the tags have been expired.

Mr. Warner raised a question regarding the revisiting of council rules for the second consecutive year, after they had been previously approved, suggesting that council members may not be thoroughly reviewing the rules. In response, Ms. Susor clarified that the purpose of the review is to assess the necessity for any changes, such as recording policies, communication protocols, adherence to the Sunshine Law, decorum standards, and safety measures. A Committee of the Whole meeting was set on May 7th at 6PM to review and discuss council rules.

Reports

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

Fiscal Officer: On the agenda is an appropriation amendment for first responder pay, typically the budget is only \$2,500. The previous quarter included a lot of first responder assistance which almost depleted the line item, requesting it be increased \$7,500. There are 16 confirmed hometown hero banners that have been submitted to the banner company for processing as well as getting the brackets ordered. PNC Bank account is officially closed.

Administrator/Maintenance: Brush pickup begins next week. Picked up emulsion to begin filling potholes. New speed signs and children at play signs were put up on Washington Street.

Code Enforcement/Zoning: Met with the property owner of 13611 Milton St for an addition which will require a variance. Property owner at the south side of Union, east of Center, will begin erecting a pole barn for a variance from two years ago, contractor will be taking out a permit. Maple Street resident that received a notice plans on getting a trash dumpster to clean up the property in April. Signed a permit for an accessory building on Taylor Street. The property owner on Silver Street near Lawndale wants to place multiple modular homes in an R-1 district. Despite prior instructions to provide a proper plan, concerns about a ditch easement issue and adherence to code remain. Ken refuses to sign off on a permit, deeming the idea too radical for even a variance.

Committee Reports

Community Development & Public Affairs: Had a short discussion about finalizing the maintaining grass, weeds, trees, brush, shrubs ordinance; ordinance to be presented for first reading. The committee decided to refocus efforts to work on subdivision code. The idea was put forth to consider ways to develop platted but unconstructed streets for actual community expansion.

Mr. Myerholtz raised concerns about the focus of the subdivision code, advocating for prioritizing the cleaning of the existing town. Ken Taylor emphasized the need for a subdivision code due to the Village's lack of a policy for developers. The current draft was modeled after Pemberville's subdivision code. Mr. Myerholtz highlighted numerous complaints, particularly regarding inoperable vehicles and junk, which he felt needed addressing. It was noted that there are existing regulations for these complaints. Ken Taylor stated he won't require property owners to prove vehicle operability if they complied with the ordinance's regulations. Mr. Warner concurred, stating it's not the Village's role to mandate proof of vehicle operation. Ms. Susor also noted that the proper process was followed and questioned if the ordinance was thoroughly reviewed in the three readings by the council. Further discussion ensued regarding inoperable vehicles, clarifying that "inoperable" equates to "not street legal." Mr. Myerholtz mentioned his observations of other towns' regulations. The Mayor requested specific addresses for follow-up. Ms. Klockowski asked for information on the regulations of the other Villages Mr. Myerholtz mentioned, and their effectiveness, to which he suggested she conduct her own research.

WSIB: \$3,600 has been received from sponsorships. Proposal of adding pants and socks to uniform expenses was voted down, but agreed to consider it in the future when there was not such a heavy equipment cost. The Sports

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Place will be utilized for uniform expenses. Harold was in attendance to go over maintenance responsibilities, Village handles mowing WSIB handles field prep for games. The mound on the big diamond is being removed due to none of the leagues requiring it, this will allow softball games on the big diamond. Looking at quotes for a movable mound. The adult league will start early this year as long as games do not interfere with the youth league. Approved the purchase of team equipment bags. Field cleanup day is being considered. Opening Day parade ideas include local sports mascots and food trucks, this will take place on the Saturday of the first game. Total of 4 scholarship recipients. Requested utilities to be turned on April 1st.

Upcoming Meetings: Public Works 4/2 at 6PM, WSIB 4/3 at 6:30PM, Cemetery 4/4 at 6PM, Administrative Process 4/8 at 6PM, Ball Program Special Meeting 4/29 at 6PM, Public Works moved from 4/23 to 4/30 at 6PM, Safety meeting was previously Canceled and regular meetings scheduled for the 4th Monday of each month at 6PM, Community Development & Public Affairs regular meetings scheduled for the 3rd Tuesday of each month starting in April at 6PM

New Business

Ordinance 2024-5 received an emergency reading; making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024 to provide for EMS First Responder pay. A motion to suspend the rules for emergency reading of Ordinance 2024-5 was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Mr. Myerholtz; Roll Call Vote: Ms. Klockowski - Yes, Mr. Babcock - Yes, Mr. Warner - Yes, Ms. Susor - Yes, Mr. Myerholtz - Yes, Mr. Easterwood - Yes. A motion for passage of Ordinance 2024-5 was made by Mr. Myerholtz, seconded by Mr. Easterwood; Approved unanimously.

An ordinance amending the Village municipal code as relates to weeds, grass, trees, brush, and shrubs was reviewed and received a first reading. Mayor outlined all the sections including definitions, regulations, brush pickup program, and enforcement. There was some debate and audience demands regarding the definition of native grass, the interpretation of setback, and the boundaries concerning native grass. Mayor pointed out there is still a procedure in place for violation notices. Ms. Klockowski suggested a list of properties participating in native grass boundaries.

Approval of Expenditures

Council reviewed a summary of the bills (\$23,809.62) and outstanding invoices (\$5,058.98). 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.

Miscellaneous Business

Mr. Myerholtz shared that a business individual raised concerns regarding drug dealers and delinquent activity, without offering further specifics. Council agreed to refer this matter to the Safety committee.

Mayor read a Proclamation for the Total Solar Eclipse Day - April 8th.

Wood County Economic Development Commission 29th Annual Dinner is Thursday, April 18th; Mayor and 2 council members requested to RSVP to the event.

Citizens & Visitors

Howard Lashuay, Randy Hann, Shirley Moore, Jigar Patel (virtual), Ron Dallas (virtual), Greg Stevens (virtual)

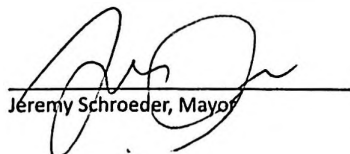
Howard Lashuay raised concerns about the ongoing problem with the property adjacent to his own. He questioned the potential outcomes if no action is taken within the Health Department's 30-day timeframe. The Mayor assured that the Village would assist in addressing the issue through the Health Department. Howard proposed the idea of having the Village erect a fence to shield his view of the property.

Randy Hann mentioned a rumor of a train depot and queried about its funding and purpose. Ms. Klockowski shared it is in talks and noted the depot's historical association with Weston. She emphasized the fair board needs to be addressed first. Randy expressed skepticism, noting the depot's altered appearance and questioning its relevance. Ms. Klockowski stressed the depot's importance in Weston's history and its potential to attract visitors. Mayor added that this initiative could lead to the revival of the Weston Historical Society. Randy further inquired about the cost associated with relocating the depot.

Ron Dallas reflected on the \$135,000 discussed at the special meeting and raised concerns about the Mayor's statement regarding no street work. Mayor pointed out that Ron misunderstood, and what was said was no more streetwork on top of what is already planned, which is Main Street residential and Silver Street. The Mayor explained that despite the Village's application for funding from OPWC for main Street, it was not awarded, reviewing OPWC requirements. This is the reason why the Main Street project has been on hold since its initial approval 2 years ago. Ron further questioned why the funds allocated for the Walking Path weren't redirected to Main Street, and it was explained that the funds for roads had already been allocated.

Greg Stevens proposed making ordinances available online during the three readings. The Mayor confirmed that this initiative is part of the future plan. Greg further voiced worries about native grasses, noting existing practices, and expressing concerns about the awareness of open violations. He also warned that heightened vigilance among everyone, and adopting dual roles in the past have not proven effective.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01PM.


Jeremy Schroeder, Mayor


Stephanie Monts, Fiscal Officer/Clerk