

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC. FORM NO. 10148

Held

January 16

20 24

The Village of Weston Council Meeting Minutes

January 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: Ms. Brittney Klockowski, Mr. Dean Babcock, Mr. Craig Warner, Ms. Jessica Susor, Mr. Rob Myerholtz, and Mr. Rick Easterwood. *A motion to approve January 2, 2024 council meeting minutes as written was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Mr. Babcock; Approved unanimously.*

Old Business

No changes were made to council rules, besides the year beginning date. *A motion to approve council rules was made by Mr. Babcock, seconded by Ms. Susor; Approved unanimously.*

Committee assignments were presented:

Administrative Process- Craig, Jessica, Dean; Chairperson: Craig

Public Works- Rick, Brittney, Craig; Chairperson: Rick

Safety- Rob, Brittney, Rick; Chairperson: Rob

Community Development & Public Affairs- Dean, Craig, Jessica; Chairperson: Dean

Mr. Myerholtz shared that he would have liked to be appointed to another committee besides the same that was done last year. Mayor expressed that Safety has a ton of work to be done and felt confident that Mr. Myerholtz could see that through. Mr. Myerholtz indicated that there is nothing to change. Mr. Easterwood pointed out that he has not had a chance to serve on Finance/Administrative Process. Mayor also pointed out that he specifically asked about committee preferences and did not get any specific feedback.

Ms. Susor made a motion to nominate Mr. Easterwood as the councilmember on Planning Commission, seconded by Mr. Babcock; Approved unanimously. Mr. Warner made a motion to accept committee chairperson assignments, seconded by Mr. Babcock; Approved unanimously.

Paul Skaff was in attendance and gave an update on the 13316 Main Street nuisance. The property has been abandoned and assumed vacant since 2021, when the titled wife died, the titled owner died in 2019. There are 14 surviving children, 26 grandchildren, 77 great grandchildren, and 13 great-great grandchildren scattered all over the country. No estate has been probated for either decedent. The issue in this case is that there is no probate estate administrator to name as a defendant in the nuisance complaint. Until someone applies to open the estate and to become the estate's administrator, the Village had no one to name as a defendant; and besides, who would volunteer to be sued. Since the owner's wife died after the owner, two estates must be opened - the first to transfer the property from the owner's estate to the surviving spouse's estate, and the second for the surviving spouse's estate to receive the property and transfer it to the children; and all the children must be notified of the estates and be given an opportunity to apply or object to their administration, only 9 of the 14 children were able to be tracked down. To recap- unless one of the children is willing to open two estates and administer them both to conclusion, the Village is powerless to abate the nuisance, absent an emergency. The county could come in and begin foreclosure proceedings, but in Paul Skaff's experience the county prosecutor is very selective in its pursuit of back taxes on abandoned properties or against nuisance properties in a municipality. Mr. Easterwood asked how can the Village move forward with this information knowing someone is living in the home and get complaints from citizens. Paul Skaff said get the county involved, but the taxes are too low to foreclose. It was asked if a citation can be filed against the tenant, Paul Skaff shared lease agreements are private. Paul Skaff indicated you could knock on the door and get written consent from the tenant to clean up the nuisance at the Village's expense, which also opens dialog and notifies them of the ordinances in place. Howard Lashuay was in attendance to share the condition of the property and also shared that the interior is not liveable, and unsure how people are living in the home. Howard shared names of individuals in relation to the property, who did receive notices but no response. It was recommended by Mr. Myerholtz and Mr. Easterwood to share information with the Health Department, and start with a complaint through them and use Howard Lashuay as a witness. Stephanie reminded council that the Health Department has not been very responsive on issues within the Village, and used the Russ Street property with the holes in the roof and raccoons crawling in and out as an example. Council would like the first step to be contacting the Health Department.

Reports

Attendance: Stephanie Monts (Fiscal Officer), Harold Boggs (Village Administrator)

Mayor: Read a Proclamation for Ralph E. "Hoot" DeWitt, who recently passed. He served as a council member and Mayor.

Mayor also provided a detailed overview of the Village's finances: end of year indicates a strong position for growth and opportunity. Each of the funds have revenues equal to or exceeding a 6 year average, except the Baseball/Softball Program fund. Expenditures are pretty average going across the board, with increases in streets and general fund. The cash balance has been higher than it has been in 6 years past. General Fund revenue increased, with expenditures close to the 6 year average. Mr. Myerholtz shared he has a lot of comments about this, and would like to clarify this report has a number of asterisks and that he only reads the reports that Stephanie provides from UAN.

Fiscal Officer: WCSO increased their rates again, this will be added to the Safety agenda to discuss, if needed. Will need to amend appropriations. Working on putting together an updated flier for the Hometown Heroes

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banner program with the cost. The charge will be \$110. Brackets are \$74/ea before shipping. Council had no issue moving forward on the program and covering the cost of the brackets. Manager at Lawndale shared they will have a setup for dog license registration on January 30th from 1:30-3:30PM at the senior side clubhouse. W2s are finished.

Administrator/Maintenance: Received a quote from D&D Landscaping to re-seed (hydroseed) the reservoir, approx. \$2,300. Plan to look for another quote. Mr. Easterwood requested noting other areas that could use seeding, such as the walking path when that is finished, and outfield at the ball diamonds. Recommended getting them on the books in the fall to do all at the same time.

Committee Reports

WSIB: PO was requested for \$5,000 to be used for equipment, an inventory is going to be taken before the next meeting. Online registration is being arranged collaboratively with OTB via Angie Shidler. Additionally, fliers and social media posts are being arranged to be distributed in the coming week with a social assistance program. The social assistance program will be 100% paid for those that can show proof of family federal assistance. Discussed paying to get more in depth background checks for coaches and umpires either through Greg Johns or the Sheriff's department. Portage is also trying to form a board to start a league, and Jeanettie is going to reach out to see what their goals are and to make sure we are in a league with them. Discussed adding an additional bracket for the sponsorship letter that would potentially include a business logo on shirts as a team sponsorship. Genoa league zoom meeting is January 29th at 7PM. OTB league meeting is January 16th at 6:30PM. Decided in person Village signups will be from 1-3PM on February 17th and 18th at the Village Hall. Photos will be by Ginger Caris, and potentially scheduling a field cleanup date with used equipment/uniform trading. Potentially revisiting the opening day events. All team coaches are planning to return from last year. Jerrod Parsell was sworn in to cover the Facilities and Logistics board position. Next meeting is January 24th at 7PM.

Rec Board: Brittney's resignation was accepted (due to joining council) and Shelby McClellan was sworn into the board. Discussed possibly moving the meeting date, no change at this time. Samantha presented doing monthly or weekly programs during the day. Discussed calling it Weston S.E.E.S. Program (Summer or Seasonal Educational Event Series). Events most likely to return are the Color Run, Glow Party, and Block Party. Kristyne presented a Community Field Day idea. Stephanie gave an update on the soup swap. People seem to be discouraged from registering, so the event will be promoted more as a soup swap (registration optional) and people that want to participate just drop their soup between 2-3PM. Stephanie also presented upcoming events including Earth Day on Sunday, April 21st with a budget of \$300, Game Night Saturday, March 2nd with a budget of \$100; both events had unanimous approval. Stephanie is also planning on putting together an ongoing Scavenger Hunt at the parks and starting a couple fairy garden themed geocaches. Stephanie requested approval to purchase solar eclipse glasses; Mr. Myerholtz shared that the library purchased glasses already. Lastly, Stephanie shared a space night program idea, it would be around the time of the Persied meteor shower, aiming for August 10th from 10PM-midnight.

Upcoming Meetings: Community Development & Public Affairs 1/18 at 5PM, Public Works 1/23 at 6PM, Safety 1/25 at 5:30PM, Administrative Process 1/29 at 6PM, Cemetery 2/8 at 6PM, Special Ball Committee was scheduled for 2/13 at 6PM

New Business

A resolution authorizing the sale of Village property by internet auction received a first reading. Most often a resolution is passed when there is a decision to sell but statute allows council to pass a resolution annually so it is in place during the year once a decision is made.

Approval of Expenditures

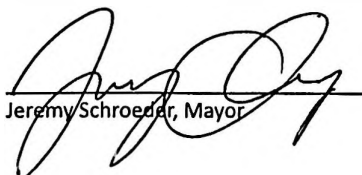
Council reviewed a summary of the bills (\$26,530.25) and outstanding invoices (\$2,717.48). Mr. Easterwood asked about the Liberty Township and Landfill bill. Harold explained Liberty Township was contracted to fix the shoulder from where there was damage from semis to the grain elevator. Junk debris behind the salt building was being cleaned up and took what was accepted to the landfill and also a heavy roll off dumpster was utilized for the remaining clean up. A motion to approve the summary of the bills and payment of outstanding invoices was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Mr. Myerholtz; Approved unanimously.

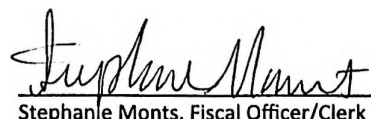
Citizens & Visitors

Paul Skaff, Shirley Moore, Howard Lashuay, Ron Dallas (virtual)

Nothing to report from Visitors.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42PM.


Jeremy Schroeder, Mayor


Stephanie Monts, Fiscal Officer/Clerk