

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Held

October 6

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The Village of Weston Council Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2025

Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Rick Easterwood at 6:00PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and presentation of the agenda. A roll call was taken: Mr. Craig Warner, Ms. Erica Rupp, Mr. Rob Myerholtz, Ms. Jessica Susor, Mrs. Ashley Patel, and Ms. Brittney Klockowski. *A motion to approve September 15, 2025 council meeting minutes as written was made by Mrs. Patel, seconded by Ms. Rupp; Approved unanimously.*

Old Business

Resolution 2025-13 authorizing the fiscal officer to process payment for routine, ordinary, and contractual expenses without prior council approval, subject to reporting requirements, received a final reading. *A motion to approve Resolution 2025-13 was made by Mr. Myerholtz, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Approved unanimously.*

Resolution 2025-14 establishing the Downtown Business District received a final reading. *A motion to approve Resolution 2025-14 was made by Ms. Susor, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Approved unanimously.*

Resolution 2025-15 authorizing the sale or transfer of Village property not needed for public use was presented and received a final reading. *A motion to approve Resolution 2025-15 was made by Ms. Susor, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Approved unanimously.*

A resolution approving and authorizing the Mayor to execute Emergency Medical Services contracts received a second reading. Ms. Klockowski proposed implementing a reduced rate for the first year, followed by the full rate in the second and third years. The proposed rates included \$7,000 for Weston Township and Milton Township in the first year, with Milton Center and Custar remaining at their current rates. Jackson Township would be set at \$10,000, and Liberty Township would be reduced to \$10,000. Ms. Klockowski made a motion to adopt this rate schedule; however, no second was made. Discussion on the matter will continue at the next council meeting.

A resolution authorizing the use of Public Entities Pool (PEP) Employee Dishonesty and Faithful Performance of Duty coverage in lieu of individual surety bonds for officers, employees, and appointees pursuant to ORC 3.061, received a second reading.

Reports

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

Mayor: Mayor Easterwood stated that he did not have any specific updates to report, noting that he has been very busy with personal matters. He added that he will make an effort to attend all of the committee meetings.

Fiscal Officer: Stephanie reported that OHM would like to schedule a kickoff meeting for the OPWC road project to review the proposed plans and ensure they align with the Village's expectations. She noted that she had sent an email to gauge interest and availability from those who may wish to attend so the meeting can be scheduled. She also reported receiving a \$200 donation from the Merrill family for a new Merrill Park sign and stated that Council would need to accept or decline the donation. All other items she had to report on were listed elsewhere on the agenda.

Administrator/Maintenance: Harold reported that the Sycamore Street drainage project is scheduled to begin on October 13. He also contacted Tim Loman regarding the crack sealer, who explained that they are short-staffed and waiting on parts for the machine, causing delays. Harold noted that the wood chipper is back at Vermeer for repairs; it had previously been sent there for not running properly. Although it was fixed, it began blowing white smoke and shutting off when returned. After discovering and replacing a bad pickup tube, the drum then failed to roll in reverse to feed material into the machine, requiring another return to the shop. Harold mentioned that additional funds, around \$1,000, may need to be reallocated to cover the repair costs. Ms. Susor asked whether this issue could be submitted to insurance for coverage. Additionally, Mr. Warner brought up that a citizen requested the "No Trucks" sign at Cherry and Willow be moved so it's not positioned under a tree or at an angle. Harold said he could either move the sign or trim the tree, and Mayor Easterwood suggested relocating it closer to the intersection for better visibility.

Code Enforcement/Zoning: Ken reported on September 17, he wrote a letter regarding an ongoing issue and sent it to Paul for review. On September 18, he sent a letter to the property owner of 0 Oak Street concerning the use of their property. The following day, September 19, he returned a call from a resident about a neighbor's property use, but no follow-up was needed. On September 24, attended the Village Planning Commission meeting, and received a call from the property owner at 13496 Center Street in response to his earlier letter about a fence; the

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owner stated he would be taking it down. On October 1, Ken received an email from a council member who had been contacted by a citizen about another resident's property use, which turned out to be an unfounded complaint. On October 3, a surveyor contacted Ken regarding a lot split on North Main Street and indicated he would send the survey and legal description. Ken received that information on October 6 and called the property owner to discuss whether they would extend sewer and water service or install a septic system; the owner plans to install a grinder pump to connect to the existing west-end sewer line. Ken also reported to Stephanie a new shed on Clark Street, a vehicle being moved from the right-of-way on Locust and Broadway, and a desk located in the boulevard. Mr. Warner later confirmed the complaint about grass and weeds and reported that he did not observe any issue.

Committee Reports

Community Development & Public Affairs: The edited subdivision code will be addressed during the Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, September 24 at 6PM. The committee reviewed the Downtown Business District map, confirmed its accuracy, and agreed it can be attached to the Downtown Business District resolution. The committee decided to wait until after the district is officially established before revisiting the Weston Thrive & Revive program, which aims to reward business owners for positive practices and encourage local growth. The next Community Development & Public Affairs meeting is scheduled for October 21 at 5:30PM, with Stephanie Miller attending to discuss creating an ordinance tailored to the village and establishing a Tree Board. Interested participants, including Mindy Hugaboom, will be contacted. Suggestions are being gathered from Parks and Rec for the T-Mobile Hometown Grant, and it was proposed to use the Suburban Natural Gas Community Development Fund to purchase materials for a mural on the post office. This idea replaces the Humanities Spark Grant, which was postponed due to funding cuts, and could involve Mrs. Rank's art class for Otsego Serves Day if that event continues. Actionable items include removing the Penny Taylor proposal from the agenda until further notice and ordering 100 logo tote bags for the volunteer appreciation table.

Safety: There have been 273 EMS runs year to date. The crew requested permission to take an ambulance (915) to the Applebutter Fest. A discussion was held on a new intubation device costing \$6,750, which can be fully covered through a grant. The committee also reviewed the Medicount visit from September 17 and discussed best practices; Medicount will be sending updated billing rate change language for future review. It was noted that Milton Center had not initially returned their signed 2025 contract or payment, and the committee discussed sending a certified letter to their mayor requesting both, while noting that service to their residents had not been interrupted. Since the meeting, Milton Center has submitted their signed contract and payment, resolving the issue. Jackson Township is cleared for their contract to be sent, and the Safety Town Grant is awaiting a required IRS form. *Mr. Warner made a motion for 915 to go to the Applebutter Fest, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; approved unanimously.*

Planning Commission: Northwest Water Sewer District (NWWSD) serves as the village's provider for water and sewer, and all new connections must go through NWWSD. The commission discussed establishing contact information or direct options for applicants and possibly creating a process for stormwater hookups, including a potential fee. Unclear language regarding decks was reviewed, and definitions in the code need to be refined. There is currently no code or definition for solar panels. The village issues building and electric permits but requires county approval after village review, with follow-up inspections after completion. Storage units are only permitted in Industrial 1 or 2 districts, while existing downtown units are grandfathered. Chicken permits were discussed, including adjacent owner permission, annual inspections, and enforcement procedures with higher penalty fees. Property owners would assume all legal and court costs associated with violations. Permit fees are \$10 for fences, \$15 for chickens, \$20 for projects under \$15,000, \$2 per thousand over \$15,000, and \$30 for variance applications, with a need to align fees with similarly sized entities. Commercial zoning setbacks, including front, back, and side yards, and parking requirements, also need to be clearly defined. These items are preliminary discussions with no decisions made during the meeting. Updates and recommendations will be brought to council for approval. The commission may meet again on a recurring basis the third Wednesday of each month to continue addressing these items.

Cemetery: Mrs. Patel read the September 4, 2025 Cemetery minutes. The cemetery board also held a special meeting on October 6, 2025, at 4:30PM (prior to the council meeting). Roll call included Diane, Robin, and Dawn, with Jodie absent. Guests in attendance were Brittney Klockowski and Ashley Patel. The purpose of the special meeting was for the board to vote on legal action regarding a metal sculpture placed on Jane Spoel's cemetery plot, which does not comply with cemetery rules concerning monument composition. All board members, Dawn, Robin, and Diane, voted in favor of pursuing legal action. Dawn confirmed that Mimi Yoon would be representing the board, and Diane confirmed that any associated costs would come from the village council's budget. Diane made the motion to proceed, Dawn seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Parks & Rec: Ron Dallas noted that all actionable items from the Parks & Rec meetings had already been included on the council meeting agenda.

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Public Works: The meeting included discussion of flooding on Washington Street. Bob Desmond proposed installing catch basins in each affected yard, with property owners responsible for connecting to the storm drainage system. The plan involves trenching into the road and installing a 12-inch pipe that would connect to the existing storm line using a "blind T" connection, along with parallel 8-inch lines on each side of the road tied into each manhole. Harold will obtain pricing from Palmer Excavating for installing catch basins and running pipe to the main storm line. Mr. Warner reached out to Delta Institute, which is working with GLCAP on GIS mapping for the area, expected to begin around October 21. The area will be surveyed to determine elevation changes, locate drainage problem spots, and assess slopes from yard low points to the road to ensure proper drainage. RLCAP is offering a grant to fund approximately 80 hours of inspection work on the stormwater system, assessing the strength and health of pipes and assets and reviewing overall code compliance. A contract will be presented to council to outline work covered at no cost and the rates for any additional hours beyond the grant-funded 80. Still awaiting Toledo Edison to finish electrical work before demolishing the old bus garage, which Harold notes should occur this week. Extra stone from other projects will be used to fill potholes on the Ash Street Extension. At the pickleball courts, concrete overflow near the groundsleeves will be inspected by Harold, who suggests staining it to match the surrounding asphalt. OPWC and associated engineering work were discussed, clarifying that the village is working with OHM, though it appears that DGL/Bob Desmond could complete some of the work. A quote for chip sealing third-tier roads was reviewed and will be added to the Public Works 2026 wishlist. The actionable item is to submit a CDBG grant for ADA sidewalk compliance. *Mr. Warner made the motion to submit for ADA compliance for sidewalks, seconded by Ms. Rupp; Approved unanimously.* Mr. Warner also volunteered to serve as the point of contact for the grant writer.

Upcoming Meetings: Administrative Process 10/13 at 6PM, Community Development & Public Affairs 10/21 at 5:30PM, Safety 10/27 at 6PM, Public Works 10/28 at 6PM, Planning Commission has set continuous meetings for the 3rd Wednesday of each month

New Business

The discussion focused on an offer to purchase a right-of-way property near Beaver Creek, outside of town at Custar and Sand Ridge Road. Paul Skaff is handling communication with the interested party and may have reached out to their legal counsel. The original offer included a confidentiality provision, but Paul suggested modifying it because, as a political subdivision, the village is subject to public records laws. Once the other party accepts the modification, Paul will present the agreement back to the village with accompanying legislation. It was noted that three readings would be required, and any claim of an emergency measure would require justification. The property in question is currently assumed to be related to a substation or transmission lines, though the specific project is unknown and questions will be directed to Paul, who has managed communications to date. The village does not currently use the property, although part of it previously contained an old pump house. According to the auditor's site, the land is primarily grassland, and ownership boundaries may require verification through a survey. It was suggested that the village contact the surrounding property owner to confirm details, as the village has no significant stake in the property and its financial value is minimal. Since council is waiting on a response and the proper documents from the purchasing party, no action will be taken at this time.

The village's previous prosecutor, Nick Wainright, had been appointed via voice vote a few years ago, and the contract had lapsed over time. The current prosecutor rate is \$150 per hour. Mimi Yoon, who currently serves as BG's prosecutor, has agreed to take on the village's legal matters, including cases that have already been handled and potentially the cemetery case, depending on the cemetery board's decision. Although a formal contract vote is not strictly required, doing so would officially document Mimi as the village prosecutor. It was noted that the village did not have a formal prosecutor contract for the past few years. Legal matters handled by the prosecutor would cover all village business, both past and future, under the terms of the contract once it is established. The village's legal counsel (Paul Skaff) continues to provide advice to council members and staff. *Ms. Klockowski made a motion to accept Mimi Yoon as the village prosecutor, seconded by Ms. Rupp; Approved unanimously.*

Approval of Expenditures

Council reviewed a summary of the bills (\$36,819.57) and outstanding invoices (\$19,300.48). A motion to approve the summary of the bills and payment of outstanding invoices was made by Mr. Warner, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Approved unanimously.

The September bank reconciliation was presented and reviewed. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Warner, seconded by Ms. Rupp; Approved unanimously.

Miscellaneous Business

The Fall Fest road closure and DORA request on October 18th was reviewed. Mr. Warner noted that the Methodist Church typically held a bake sale at vendor markets, but this year it did not occur due to alcohol being served, raising concerns about potentially excluding some participants. Mrs. Patel clarified that the village is not selling alcohol, and Mayor Easterwood suggested sectioning off an area to keep part of the event alcohol-free. Ron Dallas confirmed that Sonlight will be participating and noted that the sidewalk by the Village Hall will be out of bounds, with the green space remaining a no-alcohol area. Mr. Warner recommended that someone from

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Parks & Rec reach out to the Methodist Church, and Shirley Moore volunteered to communicate with them as well. Shirley also mentioned that she had scheduled the date without realizing it conflicted with the Fall Fest. Mrs. Patel shared that a downtown business owner had expressed concern about not receiving notification of road closures, which required rerouting customers. Council suggested that in the future to provide advance notice to downtown businesses and suggested sharing a full list of future closure dates so business owners can plan accordingly. *A motion to close Main Street (Locust Street to Cherry Street) and approve DORA for the Fall Fest (October 18) was made by Mrs. Patel, seconded by Mr. Myerholtz; Approved - 5, Opposed - 1, Mr. Warner.*

Ms. Klockowski made a motion to accept a \$200 donation for the Merrill Park sign, seconded by Ms. Rupp; Approved unanimously.

Council discussed the USDA grant for the parking lot behind the library. The original request in February was for \$90,000, but the USDA has offered \$80,000, and the council must decide whether to accept or decline. If accepted, the grant would be used to pave the area, mark parking spaces, and improve access and circulation for downtown businesses, as well as provide potential outdoor space for patrons. Since the grant was submitted, Ms. Susor noted multiple concerns have been raised regarding the area. Complaints include insufficient lighting, patrons walking through mud behind the businesses, potholes, and issues with recycling bin placement. She noted that while the grant amount may be reduced, the project's purpose of addressing accessibility, parking, and circulation should remain intact, possibly by focusing improvements on the areas generating the most complaints. It was suggested to remove concrete barriers and tree plantings to reduce costs and stay within the \$80,000 award, as the grant is a non-match grant and would not require village funds. Bob Desmond noted that the asphalt must be designed to withstand heavy vehicles, including garbage trucks. Mr. Myerholtz expressed concern regarding drainage and grade levels to ensure proper runoff and prevent future water issues. Council discussed the feasibility of shrinking the project area and having an engineer provide a cost estimate to confirm that the reduced scope would still meet the grant's intent and budget. Questions will be forwarded to the USDA to clarify if a reduced scope is acceptable, and the project will be revisited under old business once responses are received.

Citizens & Visitors

Logan Wick, Samantha Wick, Sophia De La Cruz, Bob Desmond, Jane Spoerl, Shirley Moore, Jeremy Schroeder, Sara Keith, Kellee Downard, Alyssa M (Virtual), Ron Dallas (Virtual), Jigar Patel (Virtual), Travis Ackerman (Virtual), Laurie Layne (Virtual), Josh Tschappat (Virtual), Citizen (Virtual), Ken Kart (Virtual), Scott Domer (Virtual), Jodie Domer (Virtual)

Samantha Wick addressed issues she has with certain council members and posed questions to the Mayor regarding a prior incident involving Council Member Rob. She asked Rick if his opinion had changed about how Rob spoke to her outside, noting that he yelled and wagged his finger at her. Samantha inquired whether he would have handled the situation differently. Mayor Easterwood responded that he might have acted differently if there had been more aggression. It was clarified that when Rob exited, a comment was made about "what's up with the t-shirts," which Samantha stated she did not make. The Mayor noted that Rob had cited his freedom of speech, but emphasized that council members' demeanor is held to a standard in meetings and arguably should be held to similar standards outside council meetings. Ms. Susor noted that the council had gone into executive session regarding the matter, and Mr. Warner added that had he seen the video of the incident, he likely would have handled it differently. Samantha emphasized that only she, Rick, and Rob truly knew what was said since there was no audio recording, and reiterated that she had not provoked the confrontation.

A deputy from the Wood County Sheriff's Office was present and addressed during the meeting. Kellee Downard reported that Waste Management routinely runs the stop sign at Oak Street and Broadway. A question was raised regarding enforcement of the rule prohibiting vehicles from blocking sidewalks. The deputy asked if the Village has an ordinance, and Ms. Klockowski confirmed that vehicles are not allowed to block sidewalks and that this is enforceable under the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), which the Village adopts. Shirley Moore inquired about her driveway and two-car garage, which crosses the sidewalk, asking if she is permitted to park there. It was clarified that vehicles cannot block sidewalks, even in that situation.

Samantha Wick continued by reiterating her concerns about the prior incident with Rob yelling and wagging his finger at her outside had been inappropriate, noting that this type of behavior was not new. She then shifted to Parks and Rec, asking whether Rick's position on using the Parks and Rec budget exclusively for events and programs had changed. Rick explained that he would support initiatives that bring good to the village, but personally, he still believes the budget should not be spent on events alone. He noted that in the past, Parks and Rec used funds for items like mulch, and his view on proper use of the budget remains the same. Samantha also asked Rick's opinion on Parks and Rec's decision to vote off their liaison. Rick explained that the issue had been brought to council, but not everyone voted; some boards chose to maintain a liaison and some did not, leaving the decision up to the boards. He does not know why Parks and Rec specifically chose to remove their liaison. Ms. Susor clarified that council voted to let boards decide whether or not to have a liaison.

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Bob Desmond presented a proposal from DGL Consulting Engineers for professional design services.

Jeremy Schroeder praised the value of attending committee meetings. He questioned the decision to lower Liberty Township's contract, noting that costs are not decreasing, and it was explained that the Safety committee's focus was to standardize contributions so all entities are on the same level. Jeremy also raised concerns about committee liaisons, noting that committee meeting minutes are not readily available. When reports are shared during council meetings, the information is immediately accessible, but some reports, such as the Parks and Rec report, provide no substantive information. Jeremy emphasized that committee activities should be reported in a meaningful way. He also pointed out that committee reports are not posted on the Village website, so the public cannot access them; the last available Parks and Rec minutes are from July. The public records request process was explained by Stephanie. Ms. Klockowski noted that she recorded a Parks and Rec meeting where Mr. Myerholtz acted as a liaison, communicating with board members beforehand and directing the meeting. Ron stated that Parks and Rec members felt capable of reporting minutes themselves and denied any discussion on chickens, though Mr. Warner cited notes from the meeting about chicken-related penalties. Jeremy concluded that there is no downside to having a council liaison, especially for Parks and Rec, whose members may not be familiar with council or government procedures. He emphasized that increased collaboration benefits both the board and council and ensures that boards are properly informed.

Kellee Downard expressed her concern about the village using tax dollars to contest a cemetery monument, noting her curiosity about the monument and mentioning that she didn't know the family personally, though one family member was present. Mayor Easterwood replied that the matter is beyond the council's scope because it falls under the cemetery. It was explained that all cemeteries have rules. Kellee questioned the need for such strict enforcement in a small village, suggesting that disinterment seemed extreme. She asked if the law allowed for exceptions. Kellee pressed further, noting that while the Mayor said it wasn't a village issue, it was being discussed at the village council meeting. Mayor Easterwood reiterated that it is a cemetery issue and declined to answer further. When the Mayor asked if Kellee had any other questions, she had no more questions.

Jane Spoerl addressed the cemetery issue, expressing that she would prefer to resolve the matter without going to court, but felt the board was not giving her that option. She referenced the Ohio Revised Code and her understanding that the cemetery committee brings suggestions to the council and mayor, and then the council and mayor make decisions regarding monuments. However, she was corrected that this was not accurate and that the council's role is limited to the fiscal portion, as the cemetery is funded by a levy. Jane explained that when she attended the September cemetery board meeting, the rules requiring monuments to be made of granite or marble were discussed, primarily for longevity. She obtained an affidavit from the sculptor confirming the monument's longevity and sent it to the mayor, who then forwarded it to the board. Jane also asked about the process for disinterment, associated costs, and whether the cemetery would repurchase her four parcels. She emphasized that she could not rely solely on verbal assurances and requested that any responses be provided in writing. Jane suggested that the cemetery provide a clear listing of rules to anyone purchasing a lot, stating that there is no need for a brochure or flashy materials, just clear guidance.

Alyssa M. asked Mr. Myerholtz why he is running for council and what his platform is. Mr. Myerholtz clarified that the council meeting is not the appropriate forum for candidate questions and suggested Alyssa send an email for a written response.

Ron Dallas expressed support for Ms. Susor's parking lot proposal, emphasizing keeping it simple, safe, and ensuring that semis are kept off the lot. He described it as a great idea.

A motion to adjourn at 7:38PM was made by Mr. Warner, seconded by Ms. Rupp; Approved unanimously.

Stephanie Monts, Fiscal Officer/Clerk

Rick Easterwood, Mayor