

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of
Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC. FORM NO. 10148

Held
20
25

The Village of Weston
Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 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. Mr. Myerholtz requested adding Sheriff's Department coverage for the DORA under New Business, no objections. 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 June 16, 2025 council meeting minutes as written was made by Mr. Myerholtz, seconded by Mr. Warner; Approved unanimously.

Public Presentation

Benjamin Black of Kleinfelder and Bob Desmond of DGL attended the meeting to provide an overview of available pedestrian infrastructure funding opportunities and clarify the current grant application process. The main programs discussed were the TMACOG-administered TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) and CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) grants, which both support pedestrian and multi-use trail projects. These grants provide 80% funding for construction, while the local share includes 20% of construction costs plus all design and engineering costs. The programs operate on a two-year cycle, and projects submitted during this round would typically be scheduled for construction in Spring 2029, unless advanced to mid-2028 based on state fiscal year considerations. If no application is submitted this cycle, communities must wait until these programs come around again in two years. A previously submitted ODOT ADA sidewalk application was referenced as potentially reusable for CMAQ or safety program consideration. Specific project ideas were discussed, including a sidewalk connection to the park, and the Oak Street safety corridor from Broadway to the Dollar General. Preliminary estimates for the Oak Street corridor near the park were noted as \$80,000-\$100,000, though concerns were raised about accessibility for farm equipment and the location of the sidewalk alignment (north vs. south side). In addition to TAP and CMAQ, several ODOT Safety funding programs were discussed in depth. The most accessible option, Abbreviated Safety, has a quarterly application cycle (next due Sept. 30), is relatively noncompetitive, and supports smaller-scale pedestrian safety projects with a 90/10 funding split for both engineering and construction. Its project cap is \$500,000, and ODOT has previously allowed phased applications submitted across multiple quarters if the local match is available. Larger-scale safety grants, including Systemic Safety and Formal Corridor Safety, offer more funding (e.g., Systemic has up to \$2 million for pedestrian improvements), but are more competitive and often require a formal safety study in advance. Safety study grants may be available, but eligibility varies. Ben and Bob confirmed that Kleinfelder would handle grant writing and communication with ODOT, while DGL would assist with project ideas and technical background. It was noted that DGL does not typically manage grants, which is why Kleinfelder was brought in to assist. They will also work together to verify whether the previous TMACOG application for sidewalks was actually submitted. A list of current grant options will be provided to assist with planning. Council was encouraged to identify priority projects soon, especially if pursuing TAP or CMAQ this cycle, as applications are due by the end of the month and no council resolution is needed to begin the process.

Old Business

A resolution authorizing the Village of Weston to participate in the Wood County Park District parks grant program received a second reading.

Reports

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

Mayor: Nothing to report.

Fiscal Officer: Stephanie confirmed the DORA cups have arrived and are available for viewing after the meeting. Distribution to participating businesses still needs to be determined. She also submitted the DORA application and received an auto-reply indicating it was successfully received. Additional feedback from the state may take a few weeks. Stephanie announced the village was awarded the full OPWC funding match of \$242,086, meaning the Village is responsible for covering the other half. With this funding confirmed, she emphasized the need to move forward with the SIB (State Infrastructure Bank) loan application, which she described as extensive and beyond her personal capacity to complete without assistance. She reached out to the village's grant writer to determine whether the application falls within her contractual scope and requested council approval to allow her to proceed. Mrs. Patel made a motion to proceed with having the grant writer prepare the SIB application, seconded by Ms. Rupp; Approved unanimously. Stephanie also relayed an update from Kathy regarding an EMS grant award of \$7,589.63. Stephanie is currently preparing assessment ordinances, with the streetlight ordinance ready for three readings before the deadline, while the mowing ordinance will be timed closer to the deadline to allow for accurate property listings. Regarding 13505 Main Street, which council recently declared a nuisance, Stephanie contacted the county prosecutor's office and learned the property is already in foreclosure with a sheriff's sale anticipated soon (likely in the fall). As a result, Paul Skaff recommended not filing a nuisance complaint, since the sale would address the issue. He also advised against submitting mowing assessments to the auditor, as they may interfere with foreclosure proceedings. Stephanie asked for guidance on whether the Village would continue mowing the property without reimbursement. After discussion, council agreed it's important for public safety and community appearance to continue mowing, even if it cannot be

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assessed. Ms. Susor made a motion to continue mowing (13505 Main St) but forgo billing, seconded by Mr. Warner; Approved unanimously. Ms. Klockowski submitted a request to attend TMACOG Summer General Assembly. Ms. Susor made a motion to approve the \$20 registration fee for Ms. Klockowski to attend the TMACOG Summer Assembly, seconded by Mr. Warner; Approved unanimously.

Administrator/Maintenance: Harold reported that he completed brush cleanup throughout the Village and at the cemetery, where a large tree was removed to restore access. Mr. Myerholtz asked whether a storm brush pickup had been officially announced. In response, Harold explained that while a formal announcement was not made, he has been handling brush pickup as needed. He intentionally avoided publicizing a storm pickup due to past issues where announcements led to residents cutting down excessive brush unrelated to storm damage.

Code Enforcement/Zoning: Ken reported that on June 27th, he received a call from the resident at 13375 Silver Street regarding the replacement of a lean-to that had been down for several years and inquiring whether the Village assists in locating property lines. He advised that a zoning permit would be required for the lean-to, and that the Village does not get involved in locating property boundaries for private property owners. On July 7th, Ken submitted several zoning enforcement addresses to Stephanie: five for grass letters (13345 Silver, 20305 Oak, 20250 Maple, 20240 Maple, and 20815 Main), four for branches in the boulevard (20205 Locust, 20845 Sycamore, 20780 Main, and 20431 Brook), and one for a car on jacks (20750 Taylor). Ken explained that most spots had only minor brush debris, with the exception of one location on North Main where a fallen tree had been cut into 12-inch sections. Harold noted that brush cleanup is not yet complete and one more round is planned, including cemetery debris. No public notice was issued for storm brush pickup to avoid widespread abuse; instead, residents have been calling the office to arrange pickup with Harold directly.

Committee Reports

Community Development & Public Affairs: Mindy and Michael Hugaboom attended to express interest in joining the Tree Commission. The Committee explained that the goal is to invite interested members to the October meeting, when Stephanie from Urban Forestry will be in attendance. Equipment and potential safety course needs for the Tree Commission were briefly discussed. Regarding DORA signage, various materials were considered, including laminated paper and coroplast. 12"x16" aluminum signs were purchased, with 3G Printing donating the printing. A member of the gallery, in regards to Weston Thrive and Revive, expressed concern that enforcing penalties on businesses within the Village, especially in the business district, could discourage both current and prospective businesses, given the already difficult climate for small business operations. Suggestions for the Humanities Spark Grant included placing informational plaques at historic village sites and inviting Otsego art students to create a historical mural on the Post Office building. The subdivision code will be addressed in the next meeting, as Ken will attend to provide guidance. Brittney is reaching out to Zeb Albert, stewardship coordinator, regarding the stalled pocket prairie project. While the initial understanding was that donations had already been made, Stephanie clarified that no funds have actually been received, and the project technically does not have full council approval without those contributions. Several actionable items include: asking Kristi to explore grant opportunities to support more affordable and visible advertising for local businesses and to ask Paul to outline the legal process for formally designating a Downtown business district to potentially access additional funding. A motion to authorize Kristi to compile a list of grant opportunities for local businesses was made by Mrs. Patel, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Approved unanimously.

Stephanie provided additional comments on specific topics within the report.: To clarify, no donations have been received at this time for the prairie. While certain entities did express a commitment to contribute, nothing has actually come through. Council's vote to move forward with the project was based on the proposal, which included those anticipated donations. Kristi believes there are several grants the Village could pursue to provide pass-through funding to local businesses. One example is the Rural Business Development Grant, which was submitted in February, but Kristi is willing to search for additional opportunities. She recommended holding a meeting with business owners. Kristi also asked if council would be open to her reaching out to the Wood County Economic Development Commission to better understand the barriers to effective partnership. The Administrative Process Committee will be reviewing Kristi's full scope of services to see if we can use other services if there aren't many grants to pursue at the moment. Stephanie brought the question of labeling the Downtown Business District question to Kristi, as it seems more aligned with her expertise than Paul Skaff's. Paul would likely be involved only in outlining the formal process for establishing the district. Kristi believes the designation could be beneficial, potentially opening up additional grant opportunities, and feels it would be most effective to make that decision after meeting with local businesses to discuss collaborative economic development strategies. Community Development confirmed they would still like to get the process of labeling a Downtown Business District from Paul.

Safety: There have been 174 EMS runs so far this year. Council members and Township Trustee Randy Tolles discussed how to fairly divide the utilities for the Safety Building and agreed to revisit the topic at the next meeting after reviewing specific utility cost details. Milton Center has not yet returned their 2025 EMS contract. Jackson Township is considering other EMS service options. EMS contracts for 2026 are expected to be ready by the end of the year. Stephanie proposed pursuing the Walmart Spark Grant to fund a Weston-specific Safety Town. This one-day event would incorporate topics such as CPR (non-certification), active response training, rail crossing safety, bike safety, and other community-based safety efforts. A full proposal and outline are available in the Safety Committee folder from the

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6/23 meeting. The Sheriff's contract increased, but remains within the current budget. A compliance draft for EMS workers, required by Medicount, is in progress. *Mrs. Patel made a motion for Kristi to apply to the Walmart Spark Grant to fund Safety Town, seconded by Mr. Warner; Approved unanimously.*

Public Works: Reviewed the current storm water budget and discussed how to proceed for the rest of the year. The committee agreed not to move forward with any new storm water projects that are not already scheduled. Discussed possible catch basin issues on Main Street, and how to proceed. The committee also discussed the need to have Washington Street jetted to assess drainage concerns and agreed that paving on Washington Street would not proceed until those issues are addressed. Drainage conditions in other areas, including Brown Lane, were also briefly mentioned as potential areas to monitor. Harold will obtain quotes for building inspections and contact Toledo Edison regarding the installation of additional lighting in the Beech Street and Sycamore area, along with completing the ongoing LED replacement project. He is also moving forward with ordering the necessary supplies to complete the bleacher railings. Briefly discussed the TAP Grant project for a proposed safety corridor to Dollar General and mentioned the possibility of tying the project into a future State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) application for funding.

Stephanie inquired about the discussion of the storm water budget and jetting concerns, specifically asking if all invoices had been received, whether CamTech had completed all scheduled work, and for a clearer breakdown of costs. She noted inconsistencies between expected and actual billing, emphasized the need to confirm CamTech's current rates, and questioned whether charges for Ash and Center Street were both included in the \$800 invoice. More clarity is needed and Harold will be reaching out to CamTech and other vendors for more accurate quotes and service information. Mayor Easterwood also asked about the bus garage demolition, raising the question of whether there would be adequate storage space once the structure is removed. It was determined that if the barn at the cemetery can be utilized, there will be sufficient room for storage.

Parks & Rec: Doug Marion reported that the Parks & Rec met and discussed several items, with the primary topic being the upcoming DORA program. The committee voted to approve the purchase of DORA cups, with Parks & Rec covering the full cost, including delivery. Red was notified of the purchase, and it was noted that any additional orders would require several weeks for processing. Doug also shared that he had been in contact with Toledo Edison regarding the electric meter at Merrill Park, and that negotiations are still ongoing for a potential new meter installation at Old Schoolhouse Park. Mayor Easterwood asked that the committee include discussion of potential Wood County Park District grant opportunities on their next agenda. A question was raised by Doug regarding the new walking trail and specifically whether Parks & Rec is responsible for its maintenance. He noted reports that the trail is already in poor condition, with weeds growing through the stone base and visible washouts. It was clarified that while Parks & Rec is not responsible for routine maintenance, they are encouraged to make formal suggestions to Council for improvements or future projects. Current maintenance, such as weed removal, will be addressed by Harold, who already has plans to take care of the overgrowth along the trail.

Doug raised questions about the proposed pocket prairie, asking if it would be similar in nature to other projects and expressing concern about the increasing maintenance burden on one person. He emphasized that Harold already has a significant workload, and adding more responsibilities without support could be problematic. Ms. Klockowski spoke about the stewardship program that could assist with maintaining the prairie. Mr. Myerholtz shared that he had heard a suggestion to place the prairie at the reservoir instead of in the middle of a sports-focused area like Alumni Park; Doug agreed and added that he had brief conversations with the school board about potential soccer field use in that space. Ms. Susor clarified that the pocket prairie project falls under Community Development and encouraged everyone to review the previous votes. Stephanie inquired about the donation letters related to the project, and Ms. Klockowski confirmed she had located them.

Parks & Rec also discussed street closures for the upcoming Weston Fun Days event, proposing to close Main Street from the library to the Village Hall, including Mill, Cherry, and Locust Streets, while keeping access open for EMS at the Village Hall. *Mr. Myerholtz made a motion to approve the street closure for three event dates (July 19, August 23, September 20), seconded by Mrs. Patel; Approved unanimously.* Mayor Easterwood will coordinate with CSX regarding train traffic during the event.

Cemetery: Mrs. Patel reported that a tree had fallen during a recent storm and currently waiting on the insurance process to move forward with cleanup. There was also an issue with a scheduled foundation pour, although the forecast showed zero chance of rain, it rained anyway, causing some damage to the freshly poured concrete. That damage is also being submitted to insurance. Some of the concrete spilled onto nearby monuments; Harold took care of it by carefully cleaning it off using a grinder, wire wheel, and putty knife. The board also discussed the Spoerl monument, which was previously flagged for not meeting cemetery specifications. A letter has been sent to Jane Spoerl, but no response has been received. Removal of the monument would have to be pursued through the court system.

The grant writer held off on moving forward with the cemetery grant without council approval, but Stephanie clarified that the decision actually fell under the Cemetery Board's authority. Ms. Susor responded by pointing out that boards operate differently from committees, especially in cases like the Cemetery Board, which functions with its own levy funding. She emphasized the need to clarify where decision-making authority lies, particularly when it comes to grant

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applications, expenditures, and operational matters. *Ms. Susor made a motion for the Administrative Process Committee to review all boards and define their scope, responsibilities, and how they interact with council and staff, seconded by Ms. Klockowski; Approved unanimously.*

Upcoming Meetings: Community Development & Public Affairs 7/9 at 5:30PM, Administrative Process 7/14 at 6PM, Planning Commission Hearing 7/16 at 6PM, Public Works 7/22 at 6PM, Safety 7/28 at 6PM

A recommendation was made to record the upcoming Planning Commission hearing. Stephanie emphasized the importance of having a clear record, noting anyone can record and offering a device if needed. She clarified the meeting can't be held virtually since it wasn't advertised in advance.

New Business

An ordinance to provide for the cost and expense of the lighting of the streets, alleyways, and other public places in the Village of Weston, Ohio, and confirming inclusion therein of new and/or improved lighting projects received a first reading. Stephanie noted the \$22,000 assessment, slightly above last year's \$21,000, accounts for possible new or upgraded lighting projects.

Stephanie noted the cemetery board is pursuing a grant of up to \$2,500 to help cover the cost of refurbishing steps to elevated sections of the cemetery. Although they don't yet have updated quotes, the project is expected to be similar to a past proposal from 2023, with the main difference likely being updated labor costs. *Ms. Klockowski made a motion to approve submitting the cemetery grant application, seconded by Mrs. Patel; Approved unanimously.*

Mr. Myerholtz opened the discussion about law enforcement coverage for the upcoming DORA events. He shared that the Sheriff's Office provided two options: hiring deputies on overtime or deferring contracted patrol time. Deferring is possible but comes with the caveat that deputies may be pulled away for emergencies. Parks and Rec supported deferring time and said they could step in to monitor if needed. Ron Dallas questioned whether volunteers were truly qualified to "patrol," but noted it could be a positive opportunity for the Sheriff's Office to engage with the public. *Mr. Myerholtz made a motion to defer the contracted patrol hours for the events, seconded by Ms. Susor; Approved - 5, Opposed - 1, Mrs. Patel.*

Approval of Expenditures

Council reviewed a summary of the bills (\$59,412.54) and outstanding invoices (\$17,524.18). A motion to approve the summary of the bills and payment of outstanding invoices was made by Mr. Myerholtz, seconded by Ms. Rupp; Approved unanimously.

Miscellaneous Business

Stephanie provided an update regarding the new leaf vacuum purchase. The vendor, based in Indiana, offered two options: towed delivery with on-site training for \$750, which would add mileage to the wheels, or freight delivery without training for \$900. *Council agreed that training was important, and Mrs. Patel made a motion for the \$750 delivery, seconded by Ms. Rupp; Approved unanimously.*


Council discussed disposal of the old leaf vac. Since it holds no significant value (less than \$1,000), a resolution isn't required. One idea was to offer the equipment to the Village of Haskins for parts, as they own the same model and have struggled to source replacements. If Haskins is not interested, the alternative would be to scrap the unit. *Ms. Susor made a motion to declare the old leaf vac unfit for municipal use, seconded by Mrs. Patel; Approved unanimously.*

Citizens & Visitors

Benjamin Black (Kleinfelder), Bob Desmond, WC Deputy, Shirley Moore, Ron Dallas (Virtual), Douglas Marion (Virtual), Jigar Patel (Virtual), Josh Tschappat (Virtual)

No comments.

A motion to adjourn at 7:56PM was made by Mr. Myerholtz, seconded by Mrs. Patel; Approved unanimously.



Rick Easterwood, Mayor



Stephanie Monts, Fiscal Officer/Clerk