

**Council for the Village of Yellow Springs  
Regular Session Minutes**

**Council Chambers @ 7:00 P.M.**

**Monday, October 16, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President of Council Kevin Stokes called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Present were President Stokes, Vice President Gavin DeVore Leonard (via Zoom) and Council members Brian Housh and Marianne MacQueen. Solicitor Amy Blankenship and Chief Paige Burge were also present. Carmen Brown arrived at 7:02.

**SWEARINGS-IN**

President Stokes swore in Alex Klug to the Environmental Commission.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mark Heise, YS Chamber of Commerce, thanked Village crews and YSPD for a highly successful Street Fair. He announced that the Street Fair had recently placed first in the “Best of Dayton” in the “fairs” category. Heise noted that refillable cups were approved and in use for the event, which represents elimination of a great deal of paper waste.

Housh lauded the strategic planning of the event and thanked the Village team.

Housh announced positive interaction with the Utility office. He noted a good monthly check-in with Burns, himself and MacQueen.

Housh announced the return of monthly free lunch at the Presbyterian Church.

Housh announced that October is breast cancer awareness month.

Housh announced the upcoming Touch-a-Truck and Trunk-or-Treat event at the High School this Saturday.

Beth Rubin, Greene County Job and Family Services Director, spoke to the importance of the services provided by Greene County Children’s Services, noting that issue 20 is a renewal levy and will increase the amount of taxation if it is passed.

Delana Zapata, representing the Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities Renewal Levy identified services that entity provides, noting a 78% increase need for services since 2005 when the levy was first passed.

Stokes noted Candidate Nights to be held at Mills Lawn on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. He also noted Council’s upcoming Budget sessions set for October 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

Stokes referenced a helpful Voter’s Guide which explains ballot issues clearly, urging voters to educate themselves before voting.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Minutes of October 2, 2023 Regular Session
2. Minutes of October 12, 2023 Special Session: Budget
3. Credit Card Statement for September, 2023

MacQueen MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES of October 3, 2023. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

MacQueen MOVED and Housh SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES of October 12, 2023. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Brown MOVED and MacQueen SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE THE CREDIT CARD STATEMENT FOR SEPTEMBER, 2023. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

## **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

There were no changes made.

## **PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS**

The Clerk will receive and file:

Laura Curliss re: Comments Regarding Council President  
John Hempfling re: Comments Regarding Council President  
Mayor's Clerk re: Mayor's Monthly (3)  
Kate Anderson re: Community Meals (2)  
Beth Rubin re: Greene County Children's Services Renewal Levy  
Delana Zapata re: Greene County Department of Disabilities Renewal Levy  
Kevin Stokes re: Council Initiatives Policy

MacQueen reviewed the letters received.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS/LEGISLATION**

**First Reading of Ordinance 2023-35** Amending the Village Income Tax Code. MacQueen MOVED and Brown SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE.

Blankenship explained that Governor DeWine signed Ohio House Bill 33 into law on July 3, 2023. HB 33 included several revisions to municipal income tax provisions that the Village is required to adopt before the end of 2023.

Blankenship noted that the Regional Income Tax Authority provided the draft revisions which are incorporated into Ordinance 2023-35, and that except for the change to filing requirements for RITA filings for minors, none of the revisions impact employees or individuals, but are directed towards business and employment (net profit) filings.

Stokes CALLED THE VOTE, and the MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

**Reading of Resolution 2023-69** Approving a Sponsorship and Grant Policy for the Village of Yellow Springs. Brown MOVED and MacQueen SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE.

The Clerk explained that the policy is an attempt to consider all requests with the same criteria, the same reviewing body, and, it is hoped, at the same time.

There was some disagreement as to whether the Finance Committee should be the reviewing body.

This was discussed, with Council finally agreeing that the document should be amended to indicate that the Finance Committee would review all requests in excess of \$3,000.

DeVore Leonard received information regarding the makeup of the Finance Committee.

Blankenship directed strikethroughs and additions to permit Finance Committee as the reviewing body for applications in excess of \$3,000, prior to their coming to Council.

A discussion was held briefly regarding whether deadlines for receipt of requests should be set.

The Clerk indicated that that part of the process is still in process, and should be worked through prior to the end of 2023.

Housh asked that a date be established, and asked for language to be provided to vendors and amounts related to hard cost for events be determined soon.

Stokes CALLED FOR A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED LANGUAGE TO EXHIBIT A. Brown MOVED and MacQueen SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Stokes then CALLED THE VOTE ON THE AMENDED RESOLUTION. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

**Reading of Resolution 2023-70** Granting a Stipend to Superintendent of Water and Electric Ben Sparks. MacQueen MOVED and Housh SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE.

Burns explained that at the time he was asked to serve as Interim Village Manager, Sparks expressed willingness to perform duties and coverage that had been provided by Burns in order to facilitate the transition.

Stokes CALLED THE VOTE, and the MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

**Reading of Resolution 2023-71** Granting a Stipend to Finance Director Amy Kemper. MacQueen MOVED and Brown SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE.

Burns stated that this is a similar situation, in that Kemper has taken on additional duties to facilitate Burns' transition into the IVM role.

Stokes CALLED THE VOTE, and the MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

#### **CITIZEN CONCERNS**

There were no Citizen Concerns.

#### **SPECIAL REPORTS**

**Power Portfolio Review.** John Courtney, American Municipal Power, presented an overview of the portfolio, detailing each power source.

In response to questions regarding Renewable Energy Credits, Courtney explained that the Village needs about 1,300 additional RECs to be 100% green.

Courtney estimated the current value of Village RECs at about \$522,000. He noted that the Village can purchase additional RECs to make up the 11% of the portfolio that is not green.

Responding to a question from Burns, Courtney stated that it would be a mistake to lock in long-term resources for 100% of the portfolio. He cautioned that a minimum of 10% is needed to allow flexibility.

There was brief debate over the meaning of “green”.

DeVore Leonard disagreed with the practice of claiming “green energy” if the source does not provide RECs, since that is the standard within the power industry.

MacQueen commented that if the energy source is renewable, even if it does not provide the Village with RECs, she considers that source “green” for purpose of claiming a “90% green power portfolio.”

**Youth Center and Pool Operations.** Samantha Stewart, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided a mission statement regarding the goals of the Bryan Youth Center.

Stewart noted the number of meals and snacks provided, tutoring and homework assistance provided, enrichment and community service activities and field trips available through this free resource.

Stewart described the Gaunt Park Pool activities and the “Swimming for All” program.

Stewart noted that there are a number of programs that need funding or support, and that the Youth Center staff regularly engage in fundraisers, but that there are often shortfalls.

Housh expressed that Council needs to look at some of the shortfalls to assure that they are addressed.

## **MANAGER’S REPORT**

Due to time constraints, Burns referenced his written report and asked Superintendent Sparks to speak about the Light up the Navajo Nation initiative, for which Burns is requesting Council support.

Sparks referenced the materials provided regarding the volunteer initiative, noting that AMP will provide reimbursement of up to \$1,500.00 per person for travel, and that food and lodging are covered. Sparks stated that the Village would like to send a crew of five. AMP, he said, will provide coverage for the absent crew members in the event of an emergency or other urgent need.

Council expressed full support, and asked for ongoing information as the project takes shape.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Police Recruit Program Proposal.** Burge commented that there is a very tight market for policing position recruits, such that any agency needs to be progressive and proactive in order to be attractive to candidates.

Burge explained the rationale behind her proposal, stating that the proposed position(s) would allow YSPD to hire candidates who are interested in pursuing a career in Law Enforcement and those already pursuing a career in Law enforcement.

Burge stressed that many candidates may be unable or unwilling to pursue a Law Enforcement career without the financial stability and security that comes with securing a job before pursuing the training and education.

Responding to questions from Council, Burge noted that any candidate would have to pass all aspects of the YSPD hiring process prior to being accepted into the program, and would have to pass all courses and certifications prior to being sworn in.

Burns asked for an indication from Council as to whether Burge can pursue the program.

Council provided their informal support to proceed.

## **BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS**

MacQueen asked for feedback regarding Environmental Commission's request to have the Glass Farm prairie area burned rather than mowed.

Burns asked that the plan receive approval from the current Fire Chief, and MacQueen agreed to facilitate communication with Burns, herself and Chief Powell.

MacQueen reported that Village Mediation had conducted a training.

Housh commented his opinion that commission members should be able to participate in activities as private citizens without being identified as commissioners.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**Oct. 20:** 12-2pm Special Meeting: Budget Session #2

**Oct. 23:** 4-6pm Special Meeting: Budget Session #3

**Nov. 6:** **Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance 2023-35** Amending the Village Income Tax Code

**First Reading of Ordinance 2023-36** Approving the 2024 Budget for the Village of Yellow Springs

Resolution re: Flour and Sugar

**Resolution 2023-69** Authorizing the Interim Village Manager to Enter into a Contract with the City of Xenia for Emergency Dispatch Services

Treasurer Report

Third Quarter Financials

Special Report re: YSPD

**Nov. 20:** **Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance 2023-36** Approving the 2024 Budget for the Village of Yellow Springs

**First Reading of Ordinance 2023-37** Accepting Planning Commission Recommendation to Approve Spring Meadows Final Plat

Housing Committee Update

Announcement of Incoming Council and Orientation Schedule

Special Report re: Planning and Zoning

**Dec. 4:** **Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance** Accepting Planning Commission Recommendation to Approve Spring Meadows Final Plan

Special Reports re: Streets Department

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:20 pm, Housh MOVED TO ADJOURN. MacQueen SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Stokes, Council President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest: Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council