

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

Council Chambers @ 7:00 P.M.

Monday, March 4, 2024

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 and Council members Brian Housh, and Carmen Brown. Village Manager Johnnie Burns and Solicitor Amy Blankenship were also present. Trish Gustafson was absent due to a family matter.

Stokes MOVED and DeVore Leonard SECONDED a MOTION TO EXCUSE GUSTAFSON. The MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

SWEARING IN

Mayor Pam Conine ceremonially swore in Johnnie Burns as Village Manager.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Housh announced that Len Kramer has offered to present a report-out on the recent Village Café event.

Housh noted the “Family Rental Round Table” hosted by Home, Inc. coming up on Tuesday. He offered to attend as a Council representative.

Housh announced Earth Day activities to be held on April 21st.

Brown announced the revival of Women’s Voices Out Loud to be held/shown at the Herndon Gallery March 9th.

Antonia Dosik, LEAF Project Director, provided an update on Livable, Equitable, Age-Friendly (LEAF) Yellow Springs, including recent grant funding.

Darryl Bohanon, AKA Ms. Demure, noted that he will be leading an effort to organize a Women’s “Purple March” in concert with Pride activities in the village, and urged participation.

Stokes spoke to the importance of voting strategically in the upcoming primary election.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of February 20, 2024 Regular Meeting

Brown MOVED and Housh SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES of February 20, 2024. The MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Housh indicated that he would address the letter he had written with Susan Stiles during the Manager’s Report.

Stokes asked for further information.

Leatherman indicated that Planning Commission had asked for direction from Council regarding Inclusionary Zoning.

Housh stated that this was his impression as well.

Brown expressed that she would like more information regarding IZ to come to Council before she is comfortable making any recommendation.

Leatherman agreed to provide information in the next Council packet.

PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk will receive and file:

Matt Raska re: Housing and Zoning Reform
Housh/Stiles re: Inclusionary Zoning
Rajan Kose re: Thanks to Village Crews
Kim Carlson re: Thanks to Village Crews
Emily Seibel re: Thanks to Village Crews
Cindy Sieck re: Thanks to Village Crews
Chief Burge re: Response to Concerns About Noise Complaints

DeVore Leonard reviewed the letters received.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/LEGISLATION

Reading of Resolution 2024-22 Approving Purchase of Decorative Street Light Poles. Brown MOVED and DeVore Leonard SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Burns explained the request, noting that this is part of an overall effort to increase walkability and improve aesthetics when opportunities arise. Because those poles need to be replaced, this presents an opportunity.

Stokes CALLED THE VOTE, and the MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Reading of Resolution 2024-23 Recognizing the Communities that Provided Mutual Aid Assistance to the Village of Yellow Springs to Restore Electric Service Following the Severe Weather Event of February 28, 2024. Housh MOVED and DeVore Leonard SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Burns provided some information regarding the storm event on February 28th, stating that if the Village had not had access to the resources provided by AMP's Mutual Aid program which sent three vehicles and linemen from three municipalities to assist within minutes of the call-out, power would certainly not have been restored within the same day.

Burns lauded the Village team as well, saying that he plans to thank members of the Village team as well as the many villagers who helped, but wanted more time to craft that appreciation.

Chief Burge stated her thanks to her officers and dispatchers for an outstanding effort.

Burns commented that "we need to find redundancies to our redundancies" given that not only did the power go out, but the backup generator was struck by lightning, compounding the challenges.

DeVore Leonard urged villagers to sign up for Hyper-Reach.

Stokes CALLED THE VOTE, and the MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Reading of Resolution 2024-24 Approving an Agreement with Greene County, Ohio for Inclusion of Village of Yellow Springs Zoning Classifications on the Greene County GIS Mapping System. Brown MOVED and DeVore Leonard SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Leatherman explained that Greene County has requested an executed agreement for inclusion of Village zoning designations on their GIS mapping program. The program is made available to the public and provides valuable property information, in addition to the zoning designation.

Leatherman noted that Greene County has been unofficially adding Village zoning designations to their mapping program for several years. Because this map is a source of information for many, Leatherman recommended passage of the legislation.

Stokes CALLED THE VOTE, and the MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

CITIZEN CONCERNS

Pam Conine expressed her appreciation for Johnnie Burns and the Village teams following the wind event.

Dino Pallotta lauded the Village teams for an “heroic effort”. He also asked whether reports from the person marketing the CBE could be provided as part of the Manager’s Report.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Public Arts and Culture Commission End of Year Report. Brown reviewed PACC’s 2023 activities, noting that the group is hosting Women’s Voices Out Loud on March 9th following a long hiatus.

YSPD: Ohio Collaborative Accreditation Report. Chief Burge introduced Officer Doug Andrus, who is the PD Community Engagement Specialist, Public Relations and Business Engagement Officer, and who undertook the bulk of the responsibility for providing the report to the Ohio Collaborative. The Collaborative was conceived in 2016, she noted, in response to significant challenges facing policing.

Officer Andrus referenced six categories of policing for which agencies are required to meet or exceed standards, commenting that YSPD had likely met most of these at the time the standards were established.

In response to a query from Stokes, Andrus noted that YSPD has robust outreach protocols, listing several of these.

Village Mediation Program Annual Report. Diane Diller, VMP Coordinator, provided the annual report.

Diller responded to a question from Housh regarding a Mediation Response Unit, stating that such a unit would require more available mediators than the program is able to provide.

Burge commented that she has contacts for mediation units and could help facilitate such an undertaking if it was needed.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Burns reported that Spring Meadows development has broken ground on the first home, and that gas lines and transformers are in the works. Power lines will be bored in next week.

Burns stated that nine of the ADA ramps on the multi-modal path failed inspection by ¼ inch and will be replaced.

Burns thanked Marianne MacQueen for sending information regarding the documentary “Water” which features the Village water treatment plant and will be shown at the Little Art Theater.

Burns noted that the water quality report has been submitted to the EPA for approval.

Work on the Gaunt Park ball diamonds is now underway.

The RFP for Tantalus meter installation is out, and a resolution setting a contractor should come to Council at the next meeting.

Burns thanked Ben Guenther, Village social media specialist, for outstanding outreach during the storm event.

Housh asked that CBE marketing information be brought to the Manager’s Report. He asked that the amount of water being produced vs amount being charged be noted in the report as well.

Burns commented that he is staying on top of the EPA for ongoing information related to the Vernay clean up.

Burns thanked Council for voting him in as Village Manager and thanked his wife and family for their support, and his work team for their support. Burns extended special appreciation to his mother.

In response to a question from Stokes, Burns stated that the Wastewater Treatment Plant is releasing information related to influenza and covid.

Burns commented on storm damage, stating that the Village will be contacting ATT to request they change out their bad poles. He urged residents to care for trees on their property.

Brown commented that she will be working with Environmental Commission to educate homeowners regarding tree care.

OLD BUSINESS

Chief Burge re: April 8th Eclipse Preparation. Chief Burge highlighted the concerns, including traffic and access to gasoline, food, water. She noted the collaboration among village leaders to mitigate an expected influx of many people and vehicles. Parking on Dayton Street and Xenia Avenue is likely to be restricted on the day of the eclipse.

Housing Committee Update. DeVore Leonard stated that more time is needed to analyze needs and priorities.

Housh commented that if there were a financial request made, he would like information regarding site preparation, housing mix and available resources before any expenditure is approved.

Burns stated that he can provide this information.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Procedures. Stokes noted the existing ordinance and requested that Council members look through the document for any potential amendments. The document will be brought back to the next meeting for a Council decision regarding amendments and/or the need to bring an amended ordinance to the table.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Housh noted the letter he and Susan Stiles had submitted regarding Inclusionary Zoning, requesting that this be discussed in terms of a request to Planning Commission.

DeVore Leonard suggested extended time to discuss LEAF and other village efforts.

Brown commented that those conversations could be had individually, since relevant information is available.

Stokes suggested that he and DeVore Leonard meet with Toni Dosik.

Housh noted the usefulness of strategic planning to this effort.

- March 18:** Ordinance Supplemental
- Resolution of Appreciation for Mutual Aid
- Home, Inc. Annual Report
- Swearing In Phoenix Fyre; Kay Koeninger; Laura Truitt
- Council Rules and Procedures
- Broadband Update
- Home, Inc. Annual Report
- Village Café Report
- Sunshine Law Primer

April 1: Village Annual Reports 2022 and 2023

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:10pm, DeVore Leonard MOVED TO ADJOURN. Housh SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Signed:-----
Kevin Stokes, Council President

Attest: Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council