

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

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

**Monday, March 18, 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, Carmen Brown and Trish Gustafson. Village Manager Johnnie Burns and Solicitor Amy Blankenship were also present.

**SWEARINGS IN**

President Stokes swore in Kay Koeninger and Laura Truitt to Public Arts and Culture Commission.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Stokes opened by reading a prepared statement regarding the events of March 14 and 17, and offering condolences to all those impacted.

Stokes urged all residents to sign up for the hyperreach system, providing information on how to do so.

Housh added that the press conference was a positive step in providing information, noting that when it is permitted, further information will be released, and that care was being taken to preserve the integrity of the ongoing investigation.

Gustafson conveyed her condolences to those impacted.

Stokes urged all to vote in the Primary, suggesting a strategic approach.

Housh noted the passing of former Councilmember Kineta Sanford's father, Greg Sanford, and expressed sympathies.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Minutes of March 4, 2024 Regular Meeting
2. Credit Card Statement for February, 2024

DeVore Leonard MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES of March 4, 2024. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Brown MOVED and DeVore Leonard SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY CREDIT CARD STATEMENT. 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:

- Mayor's Clerk re: Monthly Report (2)
- Water Documentary Flyer

DeVore Leonard reviewed the communications received.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS/LEGISLATION**

**Reading of Resolution 2024-25** Authorizing Payment of Invoices with a Then and Now Certificate for the First Quarter of 2024. Gustafson MOVED and DeVore Leonard SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

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

**Reading of Resolution 2024-26** Approving Check Signing Privileges for WesBanco Bank/General Checking & Guaranteed Deposits. Brown MOVED and Gustafson SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

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

**Reading of Resolution 2024-27** Approving the Final Plan for Greene County Countywide 9-1-1 System. DeVore Leonard MOVED and Housh SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

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

## **CITIZEN CONCERNS**

Jeff “Pan” Reich asserted that Chief Burge had failed in her judgement regarding the lack of information provided to the community. He opined that it would not have hindered the investigation to have issued a “gunman at large” alert. He repeatedly requested that Burge issue an apology.

Villager Art Boulet seconded Reich’s comments, stating that he has lost all trust and that Burge and YSPD had “failed utterly”.

Former resident Jeff Campbell characterized the response as “inept” and alleged that YSPD “probably knew who it was” on Thursday but failed to warn or apprehend until Sunday. He opined that the officer on scene should not have called a signal 99, then stated that the department is unsafely understaffed and that Council needs to more fully fund the department.

Dino Pallotta, business owner and resident, noted that the Ohio BCI is and has been in charge of the investigation. He referenced a double homicide in the Village several years ago, stating that it had taken 10 days to identify the suspects in that case and no warnings had been issued. He stated that in the case of the killing of a local man two years ago it had taken over three months to identify a suspect. In none of those cases, he pointed out, was YSPD identified as irresponsible or inept. Pallotta added that BCI is in control of communication and investigation in this case.

Resident Scott Osterholm commented that “mistakes were made,” noting the three-hour delay in issuing a BOLO on Sunday evening.

DeVore Leonard commented that Council is listening. He stated that the situation would be reviewed.

## **SPECIAL REPORTS**

**Home, Inc. Annual Report.** Emily Seibel, YSHI Director, shared 2023 accomplishments, and offered a look at future goals and projects.

Seibel reported out on the Housing Preservation grant the organization had received, and made note of grants received and applied-for in 2023-2024.

Seibel stated that YSHI is beginning fundraising for the second phase of the Cascades Project.

Stokes asked for more information regarding Peer Consulting, and Seibel noted YSHI's consulting and presentation activities.

Housh noted consistent robust Village support for YSHI projects over the years. He asked for ongoing information on the LIHTC (Low Income Housing Tax Credit) initiative.

**Village Café Report Out.** Len Kramer, member of the LEAF (Livable, Equitable, Age-Friendly) project, reported on the group's most recent effort to build connections and dialogue regarding village values.

Kramer characterized the effort as successful, and there are plans to hold future events.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Burns reported that the Phase Two storm drains are underway at Spring Meadows.

Burns asked that downtown restaurants "get grease traps in order" because the crew is finding copious amounts of grease in the sanitary system in that area.

The new Youth Center kitchen is nearly complete and is already seeing use.

Gaunt Park ball fields are being readied for Spring use.

Gaunt Park pool inspection is scheduled to facilitate an on-time opening.

The HB 168 water line replacement initiative began today, on Center College Street.

901 Tantalus meters are installed: 1173 are left to install.

Traffic to the Village website and Facebook has been steadily increasing.

Housh suggested a "soft lunch" for the new VYS website, noting that he knows of frequent users who might be willing to assist in this.

In response to a question from DeVore Leonard, Burns stated that plans for a Newsletter are still in the works, but have gotten a bit delayed due to recent events.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**There was no Old Business.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Sunshine Law Review for Council.** Blankenship provided a review of Sunshine Law as it relates to Public Meetings.

**America 250 Proposal.** Brown introduced the proposal as follows: The state of Ohio and the Ohio Municipal League are inviting municipalities across the state to join in celebrating the 250th anniversary of the U.S. by becoming an official "AM250 community". This opportunity will allow Village leadership to network, partner, and exchange information with the state commission team.

Yellow Springs, with its rich history of supporting people from marginalized groups, notably formerly enslaved Africans, dating back some 160 years, holds a unique place in our nation's history.

Brown noted that Public Arts and Culture Commission wishes to partner with other community groups, including Antioch College, The 365 Project, and others on this initiative.

Should Council agree to move forward, a resolution committing to engage in educational and celebratory activities related to the above, as described above, will come to the table at Council’s next meeting.

Housh MOVED and Gustafson SECONDED a MOTION TO BRING A RESOLUTION. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 on a voice vote.

**BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS**

Housh noted that Environmental Commission will have two booths at this year’s street fair.

Housh noted a grant received by the Chamber of Commerce for Zero Waste activities in the amount of \$43,600. The funds will support waste reduction at this year’s street fairs.

Brown noted that PACC had hosted the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Women’s Voices Out Loud with creative writing pieces presented and an art display of original work in Herndon Gallery. The artwork will be up until March 24<sup>th</sup>.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- April 1:**           **Emergency Reading of Ordinance 2024-03** Approving a Second Supplemental Appropriation for the First Quarter of 2024  
                           Village Annual Reports 2022 and 2023  
                           Village Goals Discussion  
                           Council Rules  
                           Home, Inc. Tap Fee Waiver Request  
                           Resolution America 250  
                           Resolution Tantalus Meters
- April 15:**        Consideration of Inclusionary Zoning  
                           Ordinance Amending Zoning Code: Bicycle Parking
- May 6:**
- May 20:**
- June 3:**         Swearing In: Alex Croasmun
- June 17:**
- July 1:**

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:52pm, Housh MOVED TO ADJOURN. Brown SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
           Kevin Stokes, Council President

Attest: -----  
           Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council