

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Held December 15, 2025

Rittman City Council Met in a
SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, December 15, 2025
5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Don Sweigert, Sonya Hayward. Amanda Nelson, Rich Schumacher, Melissa Shows and Nick Huff
Members Absent: None
Presiding: Mayor Charles Rudy Arnold

Mayor Arnold stated that the procedure to call special meetings going forward under Section 121.02 Code of Ordinances, Special Meetings can only be called in one of three ways. A vote of Council at a regular or special meeting, written request by the Mayor or written request by three members of Council. Additionally, the agenda must be provided at the time of notice and no other business shall be conducted without a waiver by Council. So going forward any special meetings will require and the proper authorization before the clerk will send out the notice and that notice will include the agenda. Second, now that we have our first meeting as Council behind us, I just wanted to share a couple of things quick as we work together moving forward. Every person at the table was elected for a reason. Each of us brings a unique background and set of experiences and that’s not by accident. Different thoughts and ideas are not obstacles, they are essential. When we debate, disagree or challenge each other’s assumptions, that’s healthy and how we make better decisions for our community. When we come into Chambers let’s leave any personal grievances or vendettas at the door and focus on what we are elected to do.

Old Business

- a. Motion to Appoint Matthew D. Simpson as Law Director – One Year Term.
Nelson moved to approve. Beshara stated that she feels that continuity is important at this point and we should seriously consider having Matt come back on as he has done all that we have asked him to do; he has been a really good law director. When we went through all the income tax issues, plus Covid, he really helped us and got us through a lot of things. I appreciate all that he does as a law director. He is not going to do everything as a law director and that is why we employ additional lawyers at times, just like with engineering, just like with anything else. Matt has done a great job in the six years I’ve worked with him.
Huff inquired if anyone foresees Matt at any point in the next year taking time off from work? I’m not talking about a week or two, I’m saying a month or two or three months’ work off. I’ve heard that he has made the comment that he may have to take some time off work. With that being said he is a salaried employee. If he did take three months off work, he would get paid for that. But we would also have to be paying additional legal services.
Beshara stated that she doesn’t want to get into it about his reasoning why he would take time off, but he is planning on having his laptop with him. He had to get through the first two weeks of what’s going on personally, but he is back to work. I have been able to communicate with him on a couple of items. I don’t see anything like that. If something like that were to happen, I’m sure he would inform us. I don’t anticipate that. I don’t want to talk too much about his personal life.
Huff stated that when things come up and you have to been off work, being a salaried employee and taking a quarter of a year off.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Special Council Meeting

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Held December 15,

20 25

Marcum stated that she has not heard anything that says he is going to do that or not do that. But I would stress that any law director that we would have in his position should they have any type of situation where they would need time off we would still be in the same boat. Huff stated right now we are not in the same boat. Marcum responded but he is not taking time off. We are just kind of hypothetically speaking and if we did have any other law director and they had some sort of financial or family or some other emergency, we would be in the same situation that we would have to bring it back to Council to have a conversation. But I wouldn't want us to make a huge change in the city as we rely on Matt and he is familiar with anything that is going on in the city, just on an assumption that he may or may not take time off.

Huff stated that he is not saying right now, I'm saying if you have an open role as a police officer and you know in the next fifteen days he has to take three months off of work. Beshara stated that Matt has not indicated to her that he is taking time off. Huff stated that he does not know these things, I'd like to get the facts. Beshara stated she will always give you the facts. He has not indicated that at all, in fact he said that his law firm has been great and they are going to set him up with his work computer and he is going to be working from wherever he is going to be living for the next month or two. He has been very approachable. Huff inquired if Matt was involved in the lawsuits that we have going on. Beshara stated, yes.

Sweigert inquired about how many hours does Matt provide every month. Beshara stated that she doesn't have an answer to that. We email him or talk to him weekly. Each week varies. Sweigert stated that after Covid that you requested him to come in every Tuesday and every Tuesday he was in for a couple of hours. Beshara stated she changed it to an as needed basis. We were moving and trying to get settled in here and that was when the change occurred. I don't know how much time Chrystal contacts him or Joan does because the three of us seem to contact him the most. Bob will if there is something going on. Shows stated that when he has contacted him he has made himself available normally within two to three days. He has made himself completely available.

Sweigert inquired if Matt has met all of the expectations. Beshara stated that he has; I have no issues with Matt. Sweigert asked if he was involved in or knows about all legal matters going on. Beshara stated absolutely, she keeps him informed on everything. As a matter of fact when we went to court recently for the class action suit against the city, he sat with the Roetzel attorneys. I inform him of everything. Even if there is an employee issue that I know is coming up, I let him know that I might have to have a meeting with him. I have a really good relationship with Matt. I think everyone does here.

Hayward stated that we don't have a contract with him; do we have a job description as to what we expect. Beshara stated that she doesn't have a written job description but I know what I expect of law directors and those expectations are to help with all public matters, lawsuits when they come up, so I don't have that and there has never been a contract, and I don't know if that is something that we need to do. In fact it would protect Matt or any law director that you have, but it is an annual appointment and maybe when the Charter Review comes up we can look at that and see what we want this to look like in the future. Hayward also inquired if we can do this public meeting since the public was not informed. Beshara stated they were informed. It is on the board out front. Hayward stated that it was not on the sign out front on Friday or Saturday. Marcum stated she also saw it on the sign. It was also posted on the City website.

Mayor Arnold stated that talking to a few of the Council folks it will be important to quantify those metrics as the expectations of the law director. Any additional discussion?

Schumacher stated that coming on as President of Council he has had to deal with him on a couple of issues that have come up and he has been very responsive and very helpful in helping guide me on some of the directions that we have had to

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

HeldDecember 15,2025

take. I just wanted to throw that out there. Upon roll call Schumacher – Yes, Huff – Yes, Shows – Yes, Nelson – Yes, Sweigert – Yes, Hayward – No and **motion carried.**

New Business

- a. **Ord. No. 8502 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending the Annual Appropriation Ordinance No. 8436, as Amended According to the Attached Sheet(s) and Declaring an Emergency.** Three Readings. Ord. No. 8502 was read on first reading. Nelson moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Sweigert moved to adopt. Huff stated he sees the police has \$60,000.00 is that payroll. Marcum stated that with the police she wanted to make sure that there is enough money as we hired in the new police officer plus there was overtime, all of those things to cover being short, the smaller numbers are the cushion so I can make sure I am hitting my budget and have enough in each line. As far as the rec center, that is the heat and I am appropriating to make sure that I have enough to cover it so I can get that purchase order in now, even if I don't know if \$20,000.00 is the right number. EMS is also from when we went from part time to full time; it is going to get worse before it gets better while we adjust out. There was other conversation between Marcum and Council Members regarding appropriations. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**
- b. **Motion to Approve Financial Report for October, 2025.** Schumacher moved to approve, upon roll call Schumacher – Yes, Huff – Yes, Shows – Yes, Hayward – Yes, Sweigert – Yes, Nelson – Abstain and **motion carried.**

Adjourn: 5:32 p.m. Sweigert moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**


Mayor


Clerk of Council