

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Council

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC. FORM NO. 10148

Held September 28, 2026

Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, September 28, 2026
7:00 P.M.

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

The invocation was given by Pastor Clark Genet followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

a. September 14, 2026. Nelson moved to approve. Council discussed whether minutes should identify individual members who ask questions during workshop sessions. It was noted that detailed discussion attribution is not required, although a specific amendment to the minutes could be requested. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Citizens Forum

Teresa McAvinew – 80 Bellevue Street – Reported a large sunken hole between 251 and 255 Industrial and requested that vegetation along the creek be cut.

Old Business

a. Ord. No. 8536 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, amending Chapter 1325 Sign Regulation of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rittman. Third Reading. Ord. No. 8536 was read on third reading. Council reviewed newly circulated revisions to the sign regulations, including a proposed 25-square-foot sign limit, treatment of existing larger signs, flags and flagpoles, projected holiday images, signs in public rights-of-way, and nonconforming signs and billboards. It was reported that content-based provisions of the current ordinance were not being enforced and that enforcement was limited to sign size and location. Council requested feedback by Friday so that a revised draft could be circulated and made available for public review before the next meeting. Councilwoman Nelson amended the pending motion to table the ordinance until the next meeting, All Yeas on roll call, and **motion carried.**

New Business

a. Ord. No. 8544 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Extending a Moratorium on the receipt, processing, issuance and approval of any application for a zoning certificate for NICS 518-Data processing, hosting and related services (Data Centers) under the City’s Planning and Zoning Code for an additional 180 days; and declaring an emergency. Three Readings. Ord. No. 8544 was read on first reading. Nelson moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Huff moved to adopt. Council discussed the additional review period, available land, possible future data-center development, limited employment, water and sewer capacity, and potential conditions or revenue associated with a project. Huff moved to extend the moratorium to 540 days. Upon roll call Schumacher - No, Huff – Yes, Shows – No, Nelson – No, Sweigert – No, Hayward – No and **motion fails.** Huff moved to adopt the 180-day extension, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

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b. **Ord. No. 8545 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio amending the Annual Appropriation Ordinance No. 8492, as amended according to the attached sheet(s) and declaring an emergency. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8545 was read on first reading. Huff moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**. Schumacher moved to adopt. The Finance Director explained that the appropriations included returnable-bond contractual services associated with a house fire, fire-department salary and pension funding for the remainder of the year, a \$100,000 general-fund transfer to the fire levy fund, and related estimated resources. All Yes on roll call, and **motion carried**.

c. **Res. No. 8546 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, authorizing the Finance Director to make advances and/or transfers to or from appropriate accounts and declaring an emergency. Three Readings.** Res. No. 8546 was read on first reading. Schumacher moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call, and **motion carried**. Hayward moved to adopt. The Finance Director stated that the resolution would allow transfers of the remaining \$100,000 budgeted for fire and EMS and the additional \$100,000 approved for fire. All Yeas on roll call, and **motion carried**.

d. **Motion to Approve Arshan LLC, IGA of 220 N. Main Street, formerly Rittman IGA, for a Liquor License.** Schumacher moved to approve. Council confirmed that the existing liquor license would remain the same and that the request concerned a name change. All Yeas on roll call, and **motion carried**.

City Manager's Remarks

The City Manager reported that Main Street water-line work was progressing and that Hicken Road resurfacing had begun earlier than expected because Melway had an opening in its schedule. The City Manager also reported that IGA was considering a pharmacy and may seek financing through CRA or CIC programs.

Finance Director's Remarks

The Finance Director reported that budget preparation was underway. Meetings with directors and chiefs were planned for the following week, and the budget was expected to be presented at the second meeting in October because of the scheduled workshop.

a. **Approval of Financial Report for August, 2026.** Huff move to approve. Council reviewed a \$33,921 Duke's Root Control invoice for sewer-collection root removal; American Express charges, including approximately \$40,000 for Kimble trash services; the employee-assistance program renewal; \$17,798 in sewer maintenance parts from Control Associates; and a \$107,000 collection-and-distribution building project. Council also discussed permissive-tax fund requests, encumbrances and remaining-budget estimates, and streetlight expenditures. The Finance Director stated that streetlight expenditure information would be provided to the requesting council member. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**.

Second Citizens Forum

Jerry Conley – 66 Grant Street – Asked about how the proposed sign ordinance would apply to American flags, garden flags, projected holiday displays, bunting, and residential signs. Council stated that the ordinance remained under review, with proposed restrictions focused on size and location, and encouraged public review and comment on the revised draft before the next meeting.

Bill Robertson – 100 Liberty Street – Reported that Council had previously reviewed the practice of preparing detailed verbatim minutes and stated that roll-call votes constitute the legal record of Council's action.

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Council Remarks

Nelson – Reported on the Downtown Rittman Beautification Initiative, including the forthcoming fall flower-pot contest, downtown planter maintenance, volunteer opportunities, and future downtown beautification and holiday activities.

Sweigert – Noted the reported Industrial Street hole and requested an update on implementation of the downtown design grant. It was reported that AMATS would issue a request for qualifications for the design work; the City received a \$50,000 grant with no city match, and the study would address downtown mobility, including possible bicycle and sidewalk improvements. He also inquired about the City Manager's contract, and it was stated that the term runs through 2030. He asked if there was a separation clause and it is a 6 months contract payment of salary/benefits, if without cause.

Hayward – Requested the original grant restrictions for the nature preserve in response to questions about activities there. It was stated that the available grant materials would be forwarded. She also noted the upcoming Ries Ride and her planned volunteer participation.

Shows – Thanked attendees and invited residents to contact Council members with questions or input on the proposed sign ordinance.

Schumacher – Noted that event organizers may be required to provide a certificate of insurance. He read a thank-you card from Michelle, Abby, and Maddie Ries for Council's support of the dinner following Scott Ries's funeral. He announced Boo at the School on October 31 at 7:30 p.m. and the Lions reverse raffle and comedy night on November 14.

Huff – Thanked attendees and invited residents to contact him with concerns.

a. Motion to Go Into Executive Session to discuss the hiring, firing or discipline of a city employee and Invite the Mayor and Law Director – 8:19 p.m. Huff so moved. Second by Hayward, upon roll call Huff – Yes, Nelson – No, Shows – Yes, Schumacher – Yes, Sweigert – Yes, Hayward - Yes and **motion carried.**

b. Motion to Come Out of Executive Session – 9:34 p.m. Huff so moved, all Yeas on roll

Adjourn: 9:35 p.m. Sweigert moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**



Mayor



Clerk of Council