

RITTMAN CITY COUNCIL – AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, August 10, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

- 1. Invocation**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Roll Call**
- 5. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. June 8, 2026**
 - b. July 13, 2026**
- 6. Citizens Forum**
- 7. Old Business**
 - a. Res. No. 8531 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, to enact the Downtown Main Street Overlay District (“DMSOD”) which is to preserve and enhance the safety, visual character, economic vitality, pedestrian experience, and overall appearance of the traditional downtown commercial corridor of the City of Rittman and declaring an emergency. Third Reading.**
 - b. 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. Second Reading.**
- 8. New Business**
 - a. Res. No. 8537 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, certifying that when a Municipal obligation was incurred sums were lawfully appropriated in the funds to satisfy the obligation and sufficient sums currently exist to satisfy this obligation according to the attached sheet(s) and declaring an emergency. Three Readings.**
 - b. Res. No. 8538 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.**
 - c. Ord. No. 8539 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.**

- 9. City Manager's Remarks**
- 10. Finance Director's Remarks**
 - a. Approval of Financial Report for May, 2026.**
 - b. Approval of Financial Report for June, 2026.**
 - c. Approval of Financial Report for July, 2026.**
- 11. Second Citizens Forum**
- 12. Council Remarks**
- 13. Adjournment**

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DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 16148

Held June 8, 2026

Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, June 8, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Sonya Hayward, Amanda Nelson, Melissa Shows, Don Sweigert and Nick Huff
Members Absent: Rich Schumacher
Presiding: Mayor Rudy Arnold

The invocation was given by Pastor Alex Barnes followed by the pledge of allegiance.

a. Motion to Go Into Executive Session to Discuss Employee Compensation and Invite the Mayor – 7:03 p.m. Shows so moved. Second by Nelson, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried.

b. Motion to Come Out of Executive Session – 7:10 p.m. Huff so moved, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried.

Workshop

a. **Committees of Council** Marcum stated that she gave a handout that is a proposal for establishing Council Committees. She thinks that we could utilize our knowledge and the collaboration phase of our Council Members and administration to be able to move things forward in the City. “It helps us make decisions and make informed decisions as opposed only having these conversations in Council has a whole. I am recommending that we bring forward a Finance Committee and this would utilize for us to discuss different things, like our revenues and expenditures; any kind of large purchases that we might want to consider. It could also include personnel hiring if we were going to add positions to the City. We would also be able to go over our Capital Improvement Plans to make sure that City is going along the lines of what Council is wanting as well. I also think that it would be good for us to talk about financial policies that we could have in place for the City. I also think that we should have a rules and ordinance review committee. This one we could have it be a temporary committee; it wouldn’t have to be there all the time. I think that having a committee together to work on rules as a Council would be extremely beneficial. I did give you an example from the City of Orrville; theirs are very thorough. I looked at other communities and they were very simple. We could tailor it to whatever you guys felt was appropriate. I think having this established would be very helpful.”

Beshara stated that we have been talking about this with Rich for a couple of years now. “I think that what Chrystal says makes sense. Other communities do have finance committees and because we only have six members, you could have two people on it with Chrystal and I and the Mayor could be on that same committee. You could have department heads at the meetings. I think it is a good start.”

Marcum stated that these committees would give us those opportunities to really discuss topics. You guys would create the committees; the committees would meet and make recommendations to be brought forward to Council in the meetings.

Shows stated that it is great idea. She would be happy to serve on any of them.

Sweigert says bite size chunks. There is nothing in the Charter to prevent us from appointing a finance committee right now. Sometimes we make things so complicated. Beshara stated that it should be part of the rules of Council.

Citizens Forum

Sandi Trogon – 468 Overlook Drive. Stated that she is also a member of the Downtown Rittman Beautification Initiative. We are here to put our backing towards Resolution No. 8531. It is the Resolution to preserve and enhance the safety, visual

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character, economic vitality, pedestrian experience and overall appearance of the traditional downtown commercial corridor. Right now, we oversee the flower pots, we have done the Christmas decorations and we do the fall decorations. As we are down there and look around, we're thinking there is so much more that we could do. We would really like to thank Councilwoman Nelson for bringing this resolution forward. It is going to give us a little bit of meat behind. I have called one of the building owners four times and he has not returned my call. This is the Depth Building. In the window he still has all the stuff from Depth, it's bad. Please consider this, we'd love to see it move on to second reading.

Kris Fetter – 379 Cardinal Drive. I just want to say, Depth right now says epth. Is that we want to say, welcome to Rittman, epth.

Bill Crawford – 22 N. Main Street. Spoke regarding the flags. We started in the spring to have 250 flags flying on our streets and continue the route on to the National Cemetery. As of Saturday we have 250 plus flags fly on our streets. I ask each of you to drive and see all of the flags. There were times where we were restricted on where we could put some of the flags.

Old Business

a. **Res No. 8523 A Resolution of the council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, authorizing the Finance Director to issue Blanket Certificates for purchases not to exceed the unencumbered balance in the expenditure account and declaring an emergency. Second Reading.** Res. No. 8523 was read on second reading. Sweigert moved to place on third, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Res. No. 8524 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, to provide a general election to amend the Charter of the City of Rittman by repeal of Article 9.05 and amending or adding Sections 3.01, 3.03, 3.06, 3.07, 3.09, 4.01, 4.03, 4.05, 5.01, 6.02, 6.05, 7.01, 7.02, 9.01, 9.02, 9.03, 9.04, 11.01, 12.02, 12.03, 12.06, 13.01, 13.04 and 16.01. Second Reading.** Res. No. 8524 was read on second reading. Shows moved to place on third, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

New Business

a. **Res. No. 8525 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, declaring certain personal property of the city surplus property no longer needed for public use and authorizing the City to sell said property on GovDeals.com and declaring an emergency. Three Readings.** Res. No. 8525 was read on first reading. Huff moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Sweigert moved to adopt. Hayward inquired if this was old equipment. Beshara stated that all have already been replaced. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Ord No. 8526 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, authorizing the municipal manager to solicit bids for street improvement of Hickin Avenue from Rittman Road to Sterling Avenue and declaring an emergency. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8526 was read on first reading. Shows moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Huff moved to adopt. Hayward inquired where was this advertised? Beshara stated that the engineers put them on a couple of websites and we advertise in the Daily Record. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

c. **Ord. No. 8527 An Ordinance of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties, and State of Ohio, amending the provisions of the municipal income tax ordinance to provide for a permanent increase in the amount of one percent (1.0%) in**

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the income tax rate effective January 1, 2027, for the purposes of infrastructure of the City of Rittman to be allocated to an infrastructure fund and implementing a one and one-half percent (1.5%) reciprocity tax credit and declaring an emergency. First Reading. Ord. No. 8527 was read on first reading. Sweigert stated he wanted to propose this thinking that it would benefit all of the citizens who live in the city. "What I found out is if this passes, the citizens who work in the city, it will only benefit the citizens who work outside the city, anyone who works in town and works in town will pay the full 2.5%. That was not my initial goal was, my initial goal was to give all the citizens that discount back and put the burden on the employees that are coming into town to work. I would like to withdraw this legislation."

Sweigert made a motion to remove Ord. No. 8527 from the agenda. Upon roll call, Shows – Yes, Nelson – No, Hayward – Yes, Sweigert – Yes, Huff – Yes and **motion carried.**

d. Ord. No. 8528 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, amending Section 993.01 Rates; of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rittman and declaring an emergency. Three Readings. Ord. No. 8528 was read on first reading. Huff moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Huff moved to adopt. Chief McDonald stated that we have to approve the rates when we change them for EMS billing. The verbiage in it now will allow us to change the rates without having to come the Council every time. The reason for that is Medicare and Medicaid change their rates annually and there is different negotiated rates with insurance companies. This will allow us to change the billing rates as Medicare and Medicaid change theirs. We also incorporated fire and rescue into the billing process which we have never done before. With that we have costs in there to recoup from such as a pair of turn out gear gets damaged. With those costs going up every year, we would have to come back every year to Council to change those rates as they go up. Marcum stated that this Ordinance only states EMS in Section One. Beshara stated that we can amend. Huff stated we are just bringing up to industry standards. Beshara stated that the last paragraph states that the rates billed and received by Fire and EMS Department. If we want to amend Section One we can do that. Marcum stated that she was concerned because it has the Section One 993.01 and if we have never billed fire if the language isn't in here I wouldn't be opposed to having it go through with just the EMS and we could bring fire forward. Sweigert stated that Chrystal is right, 993.01 is only EMS. How much have we collected in revenue for say 2026 so far. McDonald stated 2026 is down because we were switching companies for billing. The transition did not go through as thought. The new company is now generating billing. Marcum stated that we have collected this year to date \$5,491.22 for present year charges and last year at this time we were at \$71,000.00. Sweigert stated that we were usually generating about \$180,000.00 to \$200,000.00 in revenue billing. And we only got \$5,000.00? McDonald replied that is because of the billing change. Beshara stated that we also have Matt Simpson involved because our contract stated that we had to do was give a notice, which we did. McDonald stated we gave a notice so they stopped EMS billing and the new company didn't take over. McDonald stated that he has been trying to correct this error for six months. Marcum's recommendation would be to take the word Fire out. If we continue to wait, we are going to lose more money. Shows moved to adopt with the modification of removing fire from the last paragraph. Upon roll call Huff – Yes, Shows – Yes, Hayward – Yes, Sweigert – No, Nelson - Yes and **motion carried.**

e. Res. No. 8529 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, authorizing an amendment to the employment contract of the Finance Director and declaring an emergency. Three Readings. Res. No. 8529 was read on first reading. Shows moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Hayward moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

f. Ord. No. 8530 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

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emergency. Three Readings. Ord. No. 8530 was read on first reading. Shows moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Hayward moved to adopt all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

g. **Res. No. 8531 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, to enact the Downtown Main Street Overlay District (“DMSOD”) which is to preserve and enhance the safety, visual character, economic vitality, pedestrian experience, and overall appearance of the traditional downtown commercial corridor of the City of Rittman and declaring an emergency.**
First Reading. Res. No. 8531 was read on first reading. Shows moved to place on second. Shows thanked everyone for putting this forward. Nelson inquired if everyone got the red lined copy from Matt? Most of the red line is suggestive or encouragement language. All of that is going to be removed and put into an appendix that is going to be attached to this ordinance. We are trying to not make this a burden on the downtown businesses: it’s more of a we encourage you to make your stuff look better. So, please do this, not do this or else. Upon roll call Huff – Yes, Shows – Yes, Hayward – Yes, Nelson – Abstain, Sweigert - Yes and **motion carried.**

City Manager’s Remarks

ODOD Grant - The city was informed that we will receive a grant for demolition of old city hall. The cost, including asbestos removal, is approximately \$100,000. We are grateful to the ODOD (Ohio Department of Development) and Jenn Kiper of the Wayne County Planning Department for assisting with submitting this grant. We will have one year to demo the building but will first look to auction items, discard what is surplus and bring in the Historical Society to see what they would like to keep for their museum.

State Grant through Rep. Merdith Craig/Senator AL Landis - The city applied for and received a grant for \$65,000 to put in a basketball court and playground at State Street Park (Morton Salt Park). \$25,000 came from Rep. Craig’s office, while the remainder came from Senator Al Landis’s office. The additional \$40,000 was previously granted to the city in 2020 from Senator Christina Roegner’s office, which Senator Landis graciously agreed to allocate these funds for our playground.

S. Main Waterline improvement bid - The city opened bids for the S Main waterline improvement project. This line will be replaced from Erie Street to Ohio Avenue. Sidewalks will also be replaced where work will be completed on the east side of Ohio. We also are going to improve the west side sidewalks in the downtown area. The lowest and best bid came in at \$539,722. The engineer’s estimate was \$620,000. The engineer will not make a recommendation until the company with the lowest bid is thoroughly vetted.

Hickin Street resurfacing project - We will be going out to bid for the Hickin Street resurfacing project between Sterling Avenue and Rittman Road. We received an OPWC grant for this project.

GLO (Get the Lead Out) - Mike Brown, Todd Hardgrove, Tyler Boreman and I met with representatives from GLO who work in conjunction with the USEPA in their initiative to replace all lead water lines by 2037. The meeting was insightful and helpful in how we can engage our residents in providing much needed information to identify what types of lines they have to their homes/businesses. GLO will also help the city with technical assistance. The GLO initiative will help water systems nationwide address barriers to lead pipe removal by providing tools and resources that share best practices. Thank you to Tyler for reaching out to GLO. In the days, weeks and year ahead, GLO reps will be at city events to start engaging with the residents on the importance of Getting the Lead out and identifying lead lines. There is no cost to the city. GLO will provide all marketing materials to assist the city.

AMATS Connecting Communities Grant meeting - Representatives from the city, business community and I met for our kickoff meeting for our downtown mobility study on Friday, June 5th at 2 pm.

Sgt. Mike Mascolo - Again, congratulations to Sgt. Mike Mascolo on 31 years of amazing service to the citizenry of Rittman. Mike has been an exemplary police officer over

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the years and respected by his peers as he has been honored as officer of the year on more than one occasion. Mike will be missed but will also become an auxiliary police officer so you will see him in town and for that, we are very grateful. The best to Sgt. Mascolo in his well-deserved retirement.

Finance Director’s Remarks

I want to say thank you for approving my contract: I really appreciate that. I also gave you some financial documents. I wanted to give you comparisons as we navigate where we were last year. This goes line by line, so you can see each expense line, each revenue line and see how we compared to last year. The only areas that I saw that were anything notable were the Rec Center is down in their rentals. That fluctuates, that number is not a concern of mine at all because it can come and go throughout the year. The EMS revenue that we discussed earlier. The expenditures, you can see where we are as opposed to where we were last year. In a lot of areas we have not spent as much as we did last year. I also gave you the fund-type details so you can see where we were, our actual revenue vs. actual expense, this will give a good overview on where we are at. As far as our regular financial paperwork, I have not finished balancing, so I will not be able to give that to you at this meeting. I will be bringing May and June to the next meeting. The last thing I have for you is the Tax Budget which must be presented and approved next month. I am hoping that I can have as many of you as possible so that we will be able to vote on that to get it to the County.

Second Citizens Forum

Martin Schuster – 216 Louise Street. Wanted to thank Councilmember Shows and whoever else was involved in the recording of the meetings.

Council Remarks

Sweigert – I have nothing to say. I want to thank Keely and Dave Dreher for the new sign at the park, go past Grandview and Hillcrest, E. J. Young Park has a nice new sign that Dave Dreher did in his garage. It’s beautiful.

Shows – I want to start by congratulating Sergeant Mascolo who retired from our Police Department last Friday with 31 years of service. I had the pleasure of serving with him for 10 years. Chief Shows had a small reception for him. We had officers current and past that showed up. We also got to see the new floors in the police department, they look amazing. Everything has been painted. It really came out nice. I want to thank Sandi Trogdon, Kris and Bill Crawford for coming in and talking with us this evening. Thank you, Kyle and Don, for the firetruck that is coming on Friday. And last, I want to wish Bobbie a happy birthday tomorrow.

Huff – thank you for coming out. Mr. Crawford, the flags are beautiful and thanks for doing that.

Hayward – I want to thank everybody for coming out. It’s great to hear questions about things. Mr. Crawford, thank you for your service and helping out with those flags that were put up.

Nelson – I want to thank Council for moving that ordinance to second, I appreciate that. I really think that it will be beneficial for downtown in especially getting more businesses down here. Take out Tuesdays is going really well. We had our third one this last Tuesday. I’ve gotten good feedback and all of the main food trucks have been selling out. I’ve been asked several times from new food trucks and how do they get in. We are working on the Parks & Rec for the Ohio 250. Garrick is working on getting recreational equipment to put in boxes in all the parks. We are hopefully going to get those next week. July is homecoming and picnics. We are going to try and somehow tie that into Sleepwalker. We do have some ideas; we met today to talk about that. Sleepwalker, we are working on that, that’s coming along really well. We have a lot more things coming this year. I’m not going to talk about it too much yet. It’s going to be good. I saw in the notes about the Health

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Department Grant. I did want to touch on that. The Health Department gets a grant, Creating Healthy Communities Grant. Each year the Health Department has to work with a city in Wayne County to promote a healthy community. Last year it was Orrville and they helped them start a Farmer’s Market. This year is Rittman and the met with Garrick and I and some citizens and other people in Rittman to see what the citizens wanted in Rittman. They decided on a pickleball court and a community garden. The pickleball court has been delivered, and it will be put up in Fritz Park. Garrick and Moose have been working on that, hopefully it will be up soon. The community garden has been delivered, we designed that and that will be at the Rec Center, right outside the pool area. We will figure out how to run it and who gets plots and all the good stuff.

Mayor Arnold – a lot of thank yous tonight which is great. I’ll through in a couple. Mr. Crawford, thank you for the Memorial Day Parade for putting that on. I was really happy with the turnout to support for Memorial Day. The flags, like everyone else has said, look great. I passed the Ramsier family unwrapping the flags standing up on a Kubota and ladders. I am sure there are other community members doing the same thing. I just want to reiterate how important it is for all of us to come together and I think what we have going on is really a good time in Rittman, the moving of the train station taking place. Not only the flags for the 250th but the behind the scenes work going on with the 250th. Again, too many thank yous to do individually.

Adjourn: 8:17 p.m. Shows moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Mayor

Clerk of Council

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RITTMAN CITY COUNCIL – AGENDA
Monday, July 13, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

2027 Tax Budget Hearing

Marcum presented the 2027 tax budget. She stated that it was a shell budget for next year that needs to be submitted to the County Commissioners for approval and in most of the funds she is running a tight ship and trying to keep it where we are not spending more than we are bringing in. There only area that might need to be looked at are the Safety Services Area and the Sewer Fund. Overall Marcum stated that overall we are looking good.

Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, July 13, 2026
7:13 p.m.

Members Present: Rich Schumacher, Amanda Nelson, Melissa Shows, Don Sweigert and Nick Huff
Members Absent: Sonya Hayward
Presiding: Mayor Rudy Arnold

The invocation was given by Pastor Tim Fath followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Oath of Office – William Mairer - as a full-time Firefighter/Medic. Mayor Arnold administered the Oath of Office.

Approval of Minutes

a. May 11, 2026. Shows moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried.

Citizens Forum

None

Old Business

a. Res No. 8523 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, authorizing the Finance Director to issue Blanket Certificates for purchases not to exceed the unencumbered balance in the expenditure account and declaring an emergency. Second Reading. Res. No. 8523 was read on second reading. Sweigert moved to place on third, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried.

b. Res. No. 8524 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, to provide a general election to amend the Charter of the City of Rittman by repeal of Article 9.05 and amending or adding Sections 3.01, 3.03, 3.06, 3.07, 3.09, 4.01, 4.03, 4.05, 5.01, 6.02, 6.05, 7.01, 7.02, 9.01, 9.02, 9.03, 9.04, 11.01, 12.02, 12.03, 12.06, 13.01, 13.04 and 16.01. Third Reading. Res. No. 8524 was read on third reading. Nelson moved to adopt. Shows inquired about section 12.06 for the finance director and there is also one comparable for the city manager, where it states one month salary removed. That doesn't match what is currently in their contracts. Simpson stated that the contracts reflect more than that, we can't do less than that. Shows

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stated that she didn't want any grey areas. Schumacher state 5.01 deals with reviewing of the city manager and finance director annually; that is also in conflict with the contracts and believes that should be removed. Simpson stated that if the wish is to remove, it can certainly be done. Simpson stated that you can't contract for what is less in the Charter, so we couldn't do fewer than one annually. Schumacher made the motion to amend 5.01. After further conversation. Schumacher moved to withdraw his motion. All Yeas on roll call and the original motion carried.

c. **Res. No. 8531 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, to enact the Downtown Main Street Overlay District ("DMSOD") which is to preserve and enhance the safety, visual character, economic vitality, pedestrian experience, and overall appearance of the traditional downtown commercial corridor of the City of Rittman and declaring an emergency.** Second Reading. Res. No. 8531 was read on f reading. Shows moved to place on third. Amanda stated that she hoped everyone reviewed the red lined ordinance that was handed out at the last meeting and if anyone has questions, reach out to her. All Yea roll and motion carried.

New Business

a. **Motion to Approve the 2027 Tax Budget.** Schumacher moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried.

b. **Res. No. 8532 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, certifying that when a Municipal obligation was incurred sums were lawfully appropriated in the funds to satisfy the obligation according to the attached sheet(s) and declaring an emergency.** Three Readings. Res. No. 8529 was read on first reading. Shows moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried. Schumacher moved to adopt. Sweigert inquired that one of the invoices was from last September, how did this not get paid. Marcum stated that she has been working with this vendor, Stryker, to have them update their contact information. They were sending them to you (Sweigert), your old email. Marcum stated that there were multiple attempts to get them to remedy the situation. Sweigert also inquired about Nextera Energy. Marcum replied it was the same issue. We have set up a finance department email; it goes to both Shelley and I. All Yeas on roll call and motion carried.

c. **Ord. No. 8533 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. Res. No. 8529 was read on first reading. Shows moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried. Schumacher moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried.

d. **Ord. No. 8534 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, amending Section 993.01 Rates; of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rittman and declaring an emergency.** Three Readings. Res. No. 8529 was read on first reading. Nelson moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried. Nelson moved to adopt. Shows inquired if this is a change in rates? Simpson responded that it was his understanding that we were not charging for these previously. A whole new section, 993.02, was created to address the rates. All Yeas on roll call and motion carried.

e. **Res. No. 8535 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio to provide benefits to the late Sgt. Scott Ries and though he had retired from the Rittman Police Department and declaring an emergency.** Three Readings. Res. No. 8529 was read on first reading. Shows moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried. Shows moved to adopt. Beshara

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stated they have been working on the payout for Scott’s family. This is the minimum that Council can approve. Discussion was held with Chrystal regarding Scott’s sick time payout. It’s more that what is authorized in this legislation. If Council looks at this and would like it changed in the future, it can be done. For now this is what we have. When somebody retires they get only up to 800 hours of sick time. We are treating this as a retirement, but certainly Council can payout more. This needs to get moving for the family. Simpson stated that the reason this isn’t automatically happening is because in the current Union Contract it doesn’t account for this. In order to make the Auditor happy when paying out money we need to have affirmative action from Council saying it is going to be done like this. Beshara stated that this is going to be discussed in the contract negotiations coming up. Marcum stated that she has had conversations with other municipalities and they have ordinances in place for is somebody was to pass while on the job. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

f. **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. First Reading.** Res. No. 8536 was read on first reading. Huff moved to place on second. Schumacher stated that this has been long time coming and there are still possible amendments/changes that will be made. Sweigert stated that he doesn’t feel that it is fair to them that when they walk in at 6:30, they have additional agenda items on the desk. They don’t know what changes need to be made, if they had on Friday, they could have looked at it prior to looking at the current ordinance and what the changes are. Sweigert requested a redline copy of the previous ordinance. Simpson stated that this is a brand-new ordinance, so much of the old one was unconstitutional as written. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

City Manager’s Remarks

I want to take a moment to acknowledge the heartbreaking tragedy that has deeply affected our community.

The murder of Police Sergeant Scott Ries, Christy McWilliams, and McKinley McWilliams has left us grieving. On behalf of the city, I extend our deepest condolences to their families, friends, loved ones, and to every member of our Police Department and first responder community who has been impacted by this tremendous loss.

I want to thank our Police Department, Fire/EMS department, dispatchers, the Wayne County Sheriff’s Office, the Medina County Sheriff’s Office, the Ohio State Highway Patrol, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, our neighboring law enforcement agencies, hospital staff, counselors, clergy, and all those who responded with professionalism and compassion during this incredibly difficult time.

I also want to thank our City employees and our residents for the overwhelming support shown over the past several days. I know that I truly tested my office staff, Shelley, Chrystal, Chuck and Erick, so thank you sincerely for your support. The prayers, kind words, meals, donations, and countless acts of generosity have been a source of comfort and strength for so many.

While our community continues to grieve, we will also continue to stand together. Please keep the Ries and McWilliams families, our Police Department, and all those affected by this tragedy in your thoughts as we move forward.

Finance Director’s Remarks

Before I begin, I want to acknowledge the tragedy our community experienced this past week. The loss of Officer Ries is heartbreaking, and my thoughts remain with his family, his brothers and sisters in law enforcement who lost one of their own, and with the firefighters, EMS personnel, dispatchers, and everyone who responded that night and continue to carry the weight of what they experienced.

Throughout his life, Officer Ries demonstrated what leadership truly looks like. He didn’t lead because of a title. He led through courage, sacrifice, compassion, and an unwavering

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commitment to protecting others. That example should challenge every one of us who serves this community.

In times like these, we are reminded of what leadership truly means. Leadership is not defined by the office you hold or the title before your name. Leadership is defined by how you serve others, especially when they need you most.

It is checking on your employees when you don't know what to say. It is showing up before you're asked. It is standing beside people instead of standing above them. It is understanding that, in moments of crisis, it isn't about your position or your image—it is about the people depending on you.

And leadership doesn't end when the immediate crisis has passed. It continues long after the cameras are gone, after the headlines have faded, and after everyone else has returned to their daily lives. That is when people often need their leaders the most. The continuation of care is where leadership is proven—not in a single moment, but through consistent support. Care, compassion, and support are not extra responsibilities of leadership—they are among its greatest responsibilities.

A crisis doesn't create leadership—it reveals it. It reveals our priorities, our character, and whether we truly put the people we serve ahead of ourselves.

Those of us entrusted with serving others - myself included - should ask ourselves: If I were one of the people looking to me for guidance and support, would I have wanted the leadership response I gave?

Leadership is not about never falling short—it is about having the humility to learn and the courage to improve.

The greatest way we can honor Officer Ries's example is not simply by remembering his sacrifice. It is by raising the standard for our own leadership—every day, in every department, and in every decision we make.

None of us can change what happened. None of us can take away the grief this community is carrying. But every one of us can choose how we move forward. We can choose to support one another. We can choose to be present. We can choose compassion. We can choose to lead better tomorrow than we did yesterday.

If there is one thing I hope comes from this tragedy, it is that every employee of this city, every first responder, and every resident knows they are not alone. While none of us can fix what has happened, we can stand beside one another as we heal. That is the kind of community we should strive to be, and that is the kind of leadership we should strive to provide.

a. **Approval of Financial Report for May and June, 2026.** Marcum stated that she sent an email out to postpone the approval of reports.

Second Citizens Forum

Ken Park – 348 DeCoursey Road - Stated so many things have happened last week, he wasn't in town, he was watching from afar. He wanted to tell everyone, everyone in this room, every employee in the City of Rittman, every citizen, that he is so thankful for every one of you. Unbelievable support last week, an unbelievable show of respect and love for the people that are trying to protect us. Ken thanked everyone for making him proud to say that he lived in the City of Rittman for the last 25 years.

Council Remarks

Sweigert – I think that leadership showed up. I appreciate everybody who had to deal with that, Bobbie and the Mayor. There is nothing I can say that hasn't already been said. Chrystal mentioned that after the cameras are gone, after the smoke goes away, that's when the loneliness kicks in. Make sure you check on those people who are affected 3, 6,

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9, 12 months from now. That’s when the loneliness kicks in. People need to say hi, people need say are you ok, people need to check on everybody. Thank you everybody and check on everybody.

Shows - Our city has suffered an unimaginable tragedy with the loss of Sgt. Scott Ries, Christine McWilliams, and McKinley McWilliams on that horrible night.

I stepped back into a role at the Police Department to help our city honor them in the best ways possible. What I witnessed over the past week was nothing short of amazing. The outpouring of love, support, and compassion has been truly indescribable.

As a city, we are recovering from an immense trauma, especially the members of our Police, Fire, and EMS departments. We have received an overwhelming amount of support-not only from our community but from countless agencies across the region. I can not even begin to name them all, but there are several I had the privilege of working closely with throughout the week that I would like to recognize.

Our own Rittman Fire/EMS personnel were incredibly supportive and willing to help in any way we needed. A heartfelt thank you to:

- Wayne County Sheriff Tom Ballinger and his entire department
- Medina County Sheriff Terry Grice and his department
- Doylestown Police Department, Chief Tester, Lt. Milburn, and Officer Jason Waddell
- Wooster Police Department
- Orrville Police Department
- The Ohio State Highway Patrol including Sgt. Rob Gable

A very special thank you goes to Medway Director Josh Hunt and his staff. They were absolutely amazing and became an invaluable resource as we navigated this process. We simply could not have honored Sgt. Ries the way we did without their guidance and support.

I also want to recognize the many other departments that not only came to honor the victims and their families but also stepped in to serve our city-keeping Rittman safe and protected while allowing our officers, firefighters, EMS personnel, and staff the time they needed to grieve and support one another.

Thank you to Mayor Arnold and City Manager Beshara for their leadership, strength, and unwavering support during our city's darkest hours.

To the thousands of first responders and citizens who attended Sgt. Ries' services and procession, and to those who stood beside the McWilliams family in their time of unimaginable loss-thank you. While we cannot thank each of you individually, please know that you were seen, your presence mattered, and your prayers and support were deeply felt.

To everyone who has reached out to me and my family personally over the past week, thank you. Your kindness, encouragement, and support have been appreciated more than words can express.

Our community still has a long road of healing ahead, but I know we will continue to recover together. It is because of the compassion, generosity, and unwavering support of the citizens of Rittman and so many others beyond our city limits that we will find our way forward.

We are, and always will be, **Rittman Strong.**

Huff – I do appreciate the citizens more than anything. I see them out there when bringing people back into town, it was just heartbreaking. Being there that night and seeing our Mayor call up and support our fire and EMS, knowing that Bobbie was within minutes of getting that call was on her way to the hospital. I don’t know if she has gone home this last week. That means a lot. Amanda, today was great. Everyone in this town has stepped up. I really appreciate it. When I ran for this position, I said that the City was a family and anyone who doubted that over the last week could see that we are family. We gained another brother today; I am so happy that he is here.

Schumacher – this week has been one of the most difficult weeks that any of us have ever had to experience. I have been overwhelmed and touched by the outpouring of love and concern by everyone. Especially in our own community, but also from outsiders. Just

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touched by the number of cars in the processions. Coming back in the procession in pouring rain, people are standing in the rain outside of their cars. Then to see the same thing here in Rittman, I have been totally touched. The amount of people who have shown up for the initial prayer service at the police station. Followed by the prayer service at Milton Presbyterian Church; other churches as well. What Amanda and the Chamber did was just beyond unbelievable. The amount of people that showed up today; they sold out almost every truck. I thank everybody for their thoughts and prayers and I do encourage you to continue to reach out to those people, the neighbors for where it occurred are deeply affected. Obviously the first responders, their families are deeply affected. We need to remember to continue to reach out. I want to thank the Mayor and the City Manager for their leadership, the way they handled the situation; the media. The media was extremely gracious throughout this process and they did almost everything we asked.

Nelson – I’m not going to have much to say, I’m emotionally drained from the last couple of days. Everybody is grieving and everybody is coming out, and we are a small town with a big heart.

Mayor Arnold – Councilwoman Hayward was not able to be here but she did ask that I thank the community for coming together, supporting one another and to thank all of the departments, the police, fire and EMS and all of those who responded to the call. She thanks you all, you are in her thoughts and prayers. Please continue to pray for the Ries family, the McWilliams family and the Steese family.

I would like to say that what everybody else has already said, is exactly my thoughts. President Schumacher brought up the media, I know some in the community have certain thoughts about the media. I would like to say that sometimes we need to bring them in, to make sure that we get the appropriate message out. I agree with Mr. Schumacher all that I have communicated with have been very respectful to our community, to the families. I will say more than one cameraman, anchor has made a comment, I never knew where Rittman was, but you have an amazing City. This is really a great place. If we can take this tragedy and build upon it, I think that is what needs to be done. With that being said, I’ve also heard the word love throughout the community. I used it during my eulogy and sometimes love can also mean holding people accountable for things of that nature. Sometimes it comes from a place of love where we need to make ourselves better or find opportunities for improvement and I know in talking to City Manager Beshara we’re committed to that as well. It is a time for Rittman to come together; it is a place of love. With that like I said, we found ideas and opportunities to make us stronger. We will grow from this, we will come out stronger. Some have said we’ll get through it over time, however, we will have this as a part of Rittman forever. Again, we need to lean into that and when people ask this is still our home, it’s still a small town with a big heart and anyone who comes here will know that. So, again I have a lot of thank yous and we will get them out over time but the one thank you I want you to know is to the citizens, thank you for calling this home.

Adjourn: 8:08 p.m. Nelson moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Mayor

Clerk of Council

RECORD OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 8531

Passed: _____, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 8531

RES. NO. 8531 A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RITTMAN, WAYNE AND MEDINA COUNTIES AND STATE OF OHIO, TO ENACT THE DOWNTOWN MAIN STREET OVERLAY DISTRICT (“DMSOD”) WHICH IS TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE SAFETY, VISUAL CHARACTER, ECONOMIC VITALITY, PEDESTRIAN EXPERIENCE, AND OVERALL APPEARANCE OF THE TRADITIONAL DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR OF THE CITY OF RITTMAN AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the downtown commercial corridor serves as the historic, cultural, civic, and economic center of the City of Rittman; and

WHEREAS, the Council further finds that preserving and enhancing the traditional character, appearance, and functionality of the downtown area promotes the general health, safety, and welfare of the residents, businesses, and visitors of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Council recognizes the importance of encouraging quality development, redevelopment, and property maintenance standards that are consistent with the established character of the downtown district while supporting continued economic investment and growth; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Downtown Main Street Overlay District will provide additional zoning and design standards intended to improve pedestrian safety, strengthen the visual identity of the downtown corridor, enhance property values, and promote a vibrant business environment; and

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WHEREAS, the Council has determined that the adoption of the Downtown Main Street Overlay District is in the best interests of the City and is consistent with the City's planning and development objectives;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties, Ohio:

SECTION ONE.

That the City Council hereby enacts the Downtown Main Street Overlay District ("DMSOD"), as set forth in the City of Rittman Codified Ordinances and accompanying zoning regulations, for the purpose of preserving and enhancing the safety, visual character, economic vitality, pedestrian experience, and overall appearance of the traditional downtown commercial corridor. The DMSOD shall apply to those properties identified within the official zoning map and accompanying district regulations adopted by the City.

SECTION TWO.

That the purpose of the Downtown Main Street Overlay District shall be to supplement existing zoning requirements by establishing standards and guidelines relating to building design, site development, signage, streetscape improvements, pedestrian-oriented development, property maintenance, and other features deemed necessary to promote a cohesive and attractive downtown environment while encouraging continued economic development and reinvestment.

SECTION THREE.

This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the public peace health and safety and shall go into immediate force and effect upon its passage.

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Passed: _____, 2026

Passed: _____, 2026

Mayor

Attest:

Clerk of Council

RECORD OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 8536

Passed: _____, 2026

ORDINANCE NO. 8536

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RITTMAN, WAYNE AND MEDINA COUNTIES AND STATE OF OHIO, AMENDING CHAPTER 1325 SIGN REGULATIONS OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RITTMAN.

WHEREAS, certain provisions of Chapter 1325 of the codified ordinances of the City of Rittman are outdated or unenforceable; and,

WHEREAS, rather an amending or omitting each individual item desired to be changed, the entire chapter 1325 shall be rewritten.

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Council of the City of Rittman, Counties of Wayne and Medina and State of Ohio, two-thirds of all members elected and appointed thereto concurring:

SECTION ONE.

Section 1325 shall be amended and restated in its entirety as follows:

1325.01 SIGN CODE DEFINITIONS.

(a) For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

(b) DEFINITIONS:

- (1) A-FRAME SIGN: See SANDWICH BOARD SIGN
- (2) ABANDONED SIGN: A sign that is Deteriorated (as defined in herein), or is not adequately maintained, repaired, or removed within the specified time as ordered by this chapter.
- (3) ADDRESS SIGN: Any street location identifier.
- (4) ANIMATED SIGN: Any sign that uses movement or change of artificial or natural lighting, within the sign face area, or uses smell, or noise.

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- (5) **BANDIT SIGNS:** A sign constructed, in whole or substantial part, of paper, cloth, canvas, plastic sheet, cardboard, wallboard, plywood, or other like materials that is not protected from exposure to the natural elements, but is made of weather-resistant materials that last for more than 7 days but less than 60 days without significant loss through exposure to the elements or wear and tear.
- (6) **BANNER: (FLAG)** A non-freestanding, nonrigid cloth, plastic, paper, or canvas with a design, picture, or writing on it, or a Streamer.
- (7) **BILLBOARD:** An outdoor sign where the Sign Face Area exceeds 60 square feet in area.
- (8) **BLADE SIGN.** See PROJECTING SIGN
- (9) **BUILDING MOUNTED SIGN: (ROOF SIGN, WALL SIGN)** Any sign attached to, mounted, engraved, or erected against the outside wall of a building or structure, with the exposed display surface of the sign in a plane parallel to the building facade. Wall signs include painted murals, messages, graphics and other designs painted along with any letters or numerals mounted directly on buildings and any extensions thereon.
- (10) **CHANGEABLE COPY SIGN (MANUAL):** A sign or portion thereof with characters, letters, or illustrations that can be changed or rearranged by manual means without altering the face or surface of the sign.
- (11) **CHANGEABLE COPY SIGN (MECHANICAL/ELECTRICAL):** A sign or portion thereof with characters, letters, or illustrations that can be changed or rearranged by mechanical, or electronic means without altering the face or surface of the sign, but is not an Electronic Sign.
- (12) **COMMERCIAL SIGN:** Any sign or banner that contains text and/or graphics designed proposing or promoting a commercial transaction or directing attention to a business, commodity or service.
- (13) **DETERIORATED:** Showing signs of weathering, rust, corrosion, exposed wiring, chipped paint or faces, cracked, broken, torn, or missing faces, or loose materials, or other evidence of disrepair
- (14) **ELECTRONIC SIGN:** Any sign, or portion of a sign, that displays an electronic image or video, which may or may not include text. This definition includes television screens, plasma screens, digital screens, LED screens, video boards, holographic displays, and other similar media.
- (15) **FLAG:** see BANNER.
- (16) **FREE-STANDING SIGN: (GROUND SIGN, MONUMENT SIGN)** A sign supported by or suspended from posts, pillars, columns, or other structures which are not a building or portion thereof.
- (17) **FRONTAGE (LOT):** The liner measurement of the border of a Lot that directly abuts a public right of way.

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- (18) **GAS-INFLATABLE SIGN/DEVICE:** Any device which is capable of being expanded by any gas and used on a permanent or temporary basis.
This definition includes both hot and cold-air balloons tethered or otherwise anchored to the ground.
- (19) **GROUND SIGN:** See **FREE-STANDING SIGN**.
- (20) **HEIGHT (SIGN STRUCTURE):** The maximum vertical distance between the highest point of the sign structure and the finished grade directly below it. Sign height may not be artificially increased by the use of mounding.
- (21) **HUMAN SIGN (OR HUMAN BILLBOARD):** A sign that is held or worn by a person, including but not limited to a human directional, sign walkers/wavers/twirlers, and “sandwich persons.” Human Sign does not include text or images that are displayed on a traditional article of clothing such as a jacket, shirt, pants, or hat.
- (22) **ILLUMINATION, EXTERNAL:** A constant (non-flashing) source of light directed towards signs so that the beam falls upon the exterior surface of the sign and so arranged that no direct rays of light project from such artificial source into residences or streets.
- (23) **ILLUMINATION, INTERNAL:** Means a source of illumination enclosed entirely within the sign and not directly visible from outside the sign.
- (24) **LOT: (PARCEL)** a platted parcel or other tract of land separately identified with a unique parcel identification in the County Auditor’s Records.
- (25) **MESSAGE AREA: (SIGN FACE AREA)** Means the area within a continuous perimeter that surrounds, but is not limited to, each word, graphic, symbol, number, and illustration.
- (26) **MONUMENT SIGN:** See **FREE-STANDING SIGN**.
- (27) **MOTION SIGN:** Means any sign or portion of a sign which moves, other than a banner.
- (28) **MURAL:** Means a hand-painted, hand-tiled, or other similarly created or digitally printed image on the exterior wall of a building.
- (29) **NONCONFORMING SIGN:** A pre-existing legal sign which does not conform to the standards set forth in this chapter.
- (30) **PARCEL:** See **LOT**
- (31) **PERMANENT SIGN:** A sign for which a permit has been granted as a permanent sign, and is a sign constructed of materials to be protected from exposure to the natural elements for more than one year or is made of materials that are weather-resistant for multiple years without significant deterioration from exposure to the elements or wear and tear. 33. **POLE SIGN:** See **GROUND SIGN**.
- (32) **PORTABLE SIGN:** A sign constructed of metal, wood, nylon, or other weather-resistant materials designed to withstand exposure from the natural elements for more than 60 days without significant loss through exposure to the elements or wear and tear, and for which a permanent sign permit has not been obtained.

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- (33) PROJECTED IMAGE: An image projected onto a building, structure, or sign, or on the ground.
- (34) PROJECTING SIGN: (BLADE SIGN) A sign that is wholly or partly dependent upon a building for support or suspended from a pole attached to a building. Such signs must be perpendicular to the building face upon which they are attached. OPTION: A sign projecting from the face of the building that is oriented so the sign face is perpendicular to the building facade.
- (35) REFACING: Any alteration to the face of a sign involving the replacement of materials or pans. Refacing does not refer to replacing the entire sign structure or the removal of the sign.
- (36) ROOF SIGN: see BUILDING MOUNTED SIGN.
- (37) SANDWICH BOARD SIGN (A-FRAME SIGN, SIDEWALK SIGN). A sign with two hinged boards or faces which can be placed on the ground, or a rigid sign that is worn on the front and back of a person, that is used on a temporary basis.
- (38) SIDEWALK SIGN: See SANDWICH BOARD SIGN
- (39) SIGN: Text, illustrations, or shapes which are affixed to, portrayed, or depicted directly or indirectly upon any surface for outdoor public view. This definition includes all signs visible from any public right-of-way or adjacent property.
- (40) SIGN FACE AREA: See MESSAGE AREA
- (41) SIGN STRUCTURE: The supporting unit of a sign face, including but not limited to frames, braces and poles. If the Sign Structure has a communicative element to it, the Sign Structure is included in the Message Area.
- (42) SNIPE SIGN: A sign that, in whole or substantial part, is not made of weather-resistant material and not adequately protected from the natural elements.
- (43) STREAMER: means any lightweight plastic, fabric or other material, whether or not containing a message of any kind, usually suspended in series. A streamer may have pennants and/or banners attached.
- (44) TEMPORARY SIGN: A SNIPE SIGN, BANDIT SIGN, or TEMPORARY SIGN.
- (45) TRAILER SIGN: Any sign which is attached to, supported by, or part of a structure, where the structure's primary purpose is the display of such sign, and where the structure is designed to move on trailer wheels, skids, or other similar devices, or transported, pushed, or pulled by a motor vehicle, whether or not such trailer is parked or being towed.
- (46) VARIANCE (SIGN): a variance may be granted allowing deviations from regulations established by this chapter for: height and width of the sign area, height and width of the message area, setback, lighting, or time, place, and manner restrictions, where practical difficulties unique to the property in question prevent full compliance with such provisions.
- (47) VEHICLE SIGN: A sign placed in or attached to a motor vehicle, trailer, railroad car, or light rail car that covers more than 60% of the visible surface of the vehicle.

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(48) WALL SIGN: See BUILDING MOUNTED SIGN.

(49) WIDTH (SIGN STRUCTURE): The maximum horizontal or semi-horizontal distance between the two points of a sign structure.

(50) WINDOW SIGN: Any signs, posters, symbols and other types of identification, directly attached to the window of a building or erected on the inside of the building and visible from any public right-of-way or adjacent property.

(51) ZONING OFFICIAL: The individual appointed by the City Manager to perform any task related to zoning inspection or enforcement.

1325.02 PURPOSE.

(a) Signs obstruct views, distract motorists, displace alternative uses for land, and pose other problems that legitimately call for regulation. In addition to causing distractions and obstructions that may contribute to traffic and pedestrian accidents, signs are as much subject to control as noise, odors, debris and like characteristics of a use that, if not controlled and regulated, may become a nuisance to adjacent properties or the community in general.

(b) The purpose of this article is to regulate the size, color, illumination, movement, materials, location, height, and condition of all signs for exterior observation for the following reasons:

- (1) preserve the noncommercial character of residential neighborhoods, and to provide reasonable, yet appropriate, conditions for identifying businesses and services rendered in commercial districts;
- (2) reduce traffic and pedestrian hazards by restricting signs, including signs with lights and/or motion, which exceed the viewers' capacity to receive information or which increase the probability of accidents created by distracting attention or obstructing vision;
- (3) promote expeditious and safe navigation and wayfinding for pedestrian and vehicular traffic through legible and appropriate signs;
- (4) preserve order, attractiveness, and cleanliness, maintain open spaces, avoid the appearance of clutter, and prevent nuisances and invitations to vandalism;
- (5) require _____ signs _____ are constructed and maintained in a structurally sound and attractive condition;
- (6) maintain property values and ensure compatibility with surrounding landscape and architecture including, but not limited to, areas of historical significance;
- (7) encourage aesthetic quality in the design, location, and size of all signs;

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- (8) protect the public peace, general health, safety and welfare, convenience, and comfort, and to protect and encourage a more attractive economic, business, and overall physical appearance of the community.

(c) This article must be interpreted in a manner consistent with the First Amendment guarantee of free speech. If any provision of this article is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such finding must not affect the validity of other provisions of this article which can be given effect without the invalid provision.

1325.03 PROHIBITED SIGNS.

(a) Signs are prohibited in all districts unless constructed in compliance with the codified ordinances of the City of Rittman and any other applicable regulations, or a variance granted pursuant to Section 1151.08.

(b) Any sign requiring a permit in accordance with this Chapter and not having said permit shall be prohibited.

(c) Abandoned Signs are prohibited in all districts.

(d) Unattended signs on public property, including but not limited to parks and rights-of-way, shall be considered abandoned signs. These abandoned signs may be disposed of or destroyed without notice. Such disposal or destruction is not subject to appeal.

1325.04 AUTHORIZED SIGNS.

(a) The following signs are authorized in every district subject to the size and location restrictions contained in this chapter:

(1) Signs erected and maintained by the Federal government or the State of Ohio.

(2) Any sign required to be posted by the Federal government, the State of Ohio, or a court of competent jurisdiction.

(3) Signs erected and maintained by this municipality.

(4) Signs required to be posted by this municipality.

(5) Traffic control devices on private or public property erected and maintained to comply with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices adopted by the Federal Highway Administration.

(6) Address Signs

(7) Animated Signs

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- (8) Bandit Signs
- (9) Banner (Flag)
- (10) Billboard
- (11) Changeable Copy Sign (Manual) / (Mechanical/Electrical)
- (12) Commercial Sign
- (13) Electronic Sign
- (14) Free-Standing Sign (Ground Sign/Monument Sign)
- (15) Gas Inflatable Sign/Device
- (16) Human Sign
- (17) Motion Sign
- (18) Mural
- (19) Portable Sign
- (20) Projected Images
- (21) Projecting Signs
- (22) Sandwich Board Sign (A-Frame Sign, Sidewalk Sign)
- (23) Snipe Sign
- (24) Streamer
- (25) Temporary Sign (collectively Snipe, Bandit and Portable signs) Trailer Sign
- (26) Vehicle Sign
- (27) Wall Sign
- (28) Window Sign

DRAFTER'S NOTE: If any of the above are not desired to be permitted, they should be either prohibited (See Section 1325.03 above), regulated within the districts (See Section 1325.06), or removed from the definitions (See Section 1325.02)

1325.05 CITY-WIDE CATEGORICAL RESTRICTIONS

(a) Measurement.

- (1) With regards to any existing or proposed sign, the Zoning Official or Property Maintenance Inspector shall be authorized to determine each of the following:
 - A. The type of sign (included type of Temporary Sign) within the definitions contained in Subsection 1325.01 above; or
 - B. whether a Sign Structure has a communicative element to it (and is therefore part of the Message Area); or

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- C. the Height, Width, or other measurable characteristics of a Sign or component thereof; and
 - D. whether a sign is Abandoned or Deteriorated as defined herein.
- (2) For signs with Internal Illumination, the entire lighted surface shall be considered the Message Area.
- (3) For spherical Sign Structures or portion thereof, the sphere shall be dissected by an imaginary line through the center of the sphere and the surface area of the half sphere shall be counted as the sign face. For cubical Sign Structures or portion thereof, the area of all display faces (all faces that are not parallel to the ground) shall be included in determining the area of the sign. The Zoning Official or Property Maintenance Inspector shall have discretion to use a similar methods of calculation for Sign Structures that are not flat, but have non-cubical or non-spherical shapes.
- (4) Where a sign has two or more display faces, the area of all faces of the sign shall be included in determining the area of the sign unless two display faces join back to back, are parallel to each other and not more than 24 inches apart, or form a V-angle of less than 45 degrees.

1325.06 DISTRICT REGULATIONS

(a) Residential Districts. Only the following signs are permitted in the R-E, R-1, R-2 and R-3 Districts:

- (1) One (1) name plate not exceeding one (1) square foot in area shall be permitted for each dwelling.
- (2) A church, school, community center or other public or institutional building or quasi-public building for its own use may erect one (1) announcement sign or bulletin board not over ten (10) square feet in area.
- (3) Signs incident to legal process and necessary to the public safety and welfare, as required by law or provided or approved by the City Manager.
- (4) One (1) identification sign indicating the name and address of multifamily apartment developments. Such signs shall not exceed ten (10) square feet in area and shall not be located closer than six (6) feet to the street right-of-way nor closer to any side lot line than ten (10) feet.

RECORD OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 8536

Passed: _____, 2026

(b) Commercial Districts. The following signs are permitted in C-1 and C-2 Districts provided no business sign shall be located closer than thirty-five (35) feet to any lot in any R District, and except as provided elsewhere in these regulations:

- (1) All signs as permitted in subsection (a) hereof.
- (2) One (1) exterior wall sign may be erected except that a building on a corner lot or at the end of a block of buildings may have one (1) sign for each of two (2) building sides. Such sign may be affixed flat against the wall of buildings with the face of the sign no more than one (1) foot from the surface of the wall. No wall sign shall extend beyond the surfaces of the building. No sign shall exceed fifty (50) square feet in area or fifteen (15) percent of the area of the front surface of the building on which the sign is located, whichever sign area is the lesser; or
- (3) One (1) pole sign provided such sign shall not have an area of more than twenty (20) square feet per side. A pole type business sign shall be set back no less than half the required setback, and shall be no more than twenty (20) feet in height or the height of the addressed building, whichever is the lesser.

(c) C-2 Districts. The following signs are permitted in C-2 Districts only:

- (1) All signs as permitted in subsection (a) hereof.
- (2) If designed as an integral part of the facade of the building, the one (1) exterior wall sign permitted may have an area devoted to signing or other types of identification of one hundred (100) square feet or fifteen (15) percent of the area of the surface of the building on which the sign is located, whichever sign area is the lesser.
- (3) If located no closer than twenty (20) feet to any street right-of-way line and fifty (50) feet to any other property line, the one (1) pole type business sign permitted may have an area of one hundred (100) square feet per side. Such signs shall not exceed twenty-five (25) feet in height.

(d) Industrial Districts. The following signs are permitted in the M Districts provided no sign shall be located closer than thirty-five (35) feet to any lot located in any R District:

- (1) All signs as permitted in subsection (a) hereof.

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Ordinance No. 8536

Passed: _____, 2026

- (2) One (1) exterior wall sign may be erected. Such sign shall be affixed flat against the wall of the building. No sign shall extend beyond the face of the building to which it is attached. No sign shall exceed one hundred (100) square feet in area or fifteen (15) percent of the area of the front surface of the building on which the sign is located, whichever sign area is the lesser or one (1) pole sign which advertises an industrial activity conducted upon the premises and/or advertises products, merchandise or commodities produced on the premises may be permitted. Such sign shall not have an area of more than twenty (20) square feet per side. Such sign shall be set back no less than one-half the required yard depth and shall not exceed twenty (20) feet in height or the height of the addressed building whichever is the lesser.

(e) Illumination:

- (1) External Illumination. External Illumination of a sign shall be permitted. Light fixtures shall be screened from view by site grading or evergreen shrubs. No exposed light sources are permitted.
- (2) Internal Illumination. Internal Illumination of a sign shall be permitted. No additional background lighting or illuminated borders or outlines shall be permitted.
- (3) The level of illumination emitted or reflected from a sign shall not be of intensity sufficient to constitute a demonstrable hazard to vehicular traffic on any right-of-way or parking lot from which the sign may be viewed.

(f) Time Limits for display of Temporary Signs

- a. Snipe Signs shall be displayed for no more than 7 days.
- b. Bandit Signs shall be displayed for no more than 60 days.
- c. Temporary Signs shall be displayed for no more than 90 days.

1325.07 VARIANCE.

- (a) Standards for approval of a sign variance: The following factors shall be found by the Board of Zoning Appeals in determining practical difficulty or hardship:

- (1) That the variance will not impair any of the regulatory purposes provided within this chapter;

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- (2) That special conditions and circumstances exist which are peculiar to the land or structure involved and which are not applicable generally to other lands or structures in the same zoning districts. Examples of such special conditions or circumstances are: exceptional irregularity, narrowness, shallowness, or steepness of the lot, or adjacency to nonconforming and inharmonious uses, structures, or conditions;
 - (3) That the variance is the minimum necessary to resolve the practical difficulties prompting the variance request;
 - (4) That the essential character of the neighborhood would not be substantially altered
 - (5) That adjoining properties will not suffer substantial detriment as a result of the variance;
 - (6) That the variance would not adversely affect the delivery of governmental services such as public safety services response, or water, sewer, or trash pickup; and
 - (7) That the special conditions or circumstances on the property were not caused by the current owner who is requesting the variance.
- (b) Variances shall not be granted where the special conditions and circumstances are the result of actions by the current owner of the property.
- (c) Variance process: Authority to consider variance(s) from the terms of this title is granted to the Board of Zoning Appeals according to its procedures.
- (1) Temporary Sign while review pending: The applicant may erect a Temporary Sign while the sign variance application is pending before the Board of Zoning Appeals. The Temporary Sign must conform to all other provisions of this title.
 - (2) No Modification. There shall be no modification of variances except by further consideration of the Board of Zoning Appeals.
 - (3) Expiration of the variance: If for any reason construction of a sign has not commenced, the variance shall expire 2 months from the date on which it was granted. Extension of variances, without modification, may be applied for prior to the date of expiration. Extensions, up to an additional six (6) months, may be granted by the Board of Zoning Appeals if it finds that the requested extension is consistent with the purpose, policies, and intent of this chapter. Requests for renewal of expired variances shall be considered to be new variance applications.

1325.08 PERMITTING PROCESS

(a) Application.

An application shall contain such information as the City Manager or their designee deems reasonably necessary for a determination of compliance, or noncompliance with the Sign Regulations,

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Ordinance No. 8536

Passed: _____, 2026

and to assist enforcement thereafter. The applicant shall sign the Application and each copy thereof, attesting to the truth and exactness of the information supplied.

(b) Application/Procedure, Appeal.

Applications shall be filed in such form and in such manner as the regulations require. There shall be \$25.00 fee.

Any applicant may appeal the failure of the City Manager to grant a Sign Permit, or to recommend it to be granted upon terms and conditions acceptable to the applicant, to the Board of Zoning Appeals. In order to perfect such appeal, the applicant shall file, within twenty (20) days of the City Manager's determination, or recommendation, or within sixty (60) days of the filing of the Application, if the City Manager has taken no action, an appeal to the Board of Zoning Appeals. The Board of Zoning Appeals shall then review the matter after affording the applicant an opportunity to be heard either in person, or in writing, and render a final determination within thirty (30) days of the filing of the appeal, unless such period is waived by the applicant, or extended by the Board of Zoning Appeals. Except to the extent otherwise appealable by law, the Board of Zoning Appeals' decision shall be final.

1325.09 NONCONFORMING SIGNS

(a) For purposes of amortization, nonconforming signs may be continued from the effective date of this Code for a period not to exceed:

- (1) ten (10) years from the effective date of this Code; or
- (2) the amortization period provided under a previous regulation, whichever is less.

(b) Any sign that is altered, relocated, or replaced must be brought into compliance with all provisions of this Code within fifteen (15) days.

(c) The repainting of existing nonconforming signs shall not be considered an alteration within the meaning of this section. Refacing an existing nonconforming sign shall not be considered an alteration as long as the refacing constitutes an exact replica of the existing sign face. The design, color scheme, translucency, graphics, and text must exactly match those existing. If any portion of the replacement face(s) is not an exact replica of the original sign face, the replacement face(s) must be brought into compliance with this subchapter in so far as practicable.

(d) A nonconforming sign shall be brought into compliance if it is determined that 50% or more of the market value of the sign has been destroyed or taken down. Nonconforming signs that are damaged, but that are not required to be brought into compliance pursuant to this subsection, shall be repaired within 60 days.

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Passed: _____, 2026

1325.10 PROHIBITIONS/PENALTIES

- (a) Repetition Prohibited. Where this chapter specifies that a sign may be displayed only for a limited time, the owner of a property is prohibited from displaying the same or substantially similar sign on the property for a period of 1 calendar year from the date the sign is required to be removed from the lot.
- (b) Notice and Removal of Signs on Private Property.
 - (1) Signs placed or maintained on private property in violation of this chapter are prohibited. The Zoning Official or Property Maintenance Inspector is responsible for enforcing the provisions of this chapter. In addition to criminal penalties provided herein, the Zoning Official or Property Maintenance Inspector may pursue civil and administrative remedies, including but not limited to injunctive action in a court of competent jurisdiction.
 - (2) When a sign has been placed or maintained on private property in violation of this section, the Zoning Official or Property Maintenance Inspector shall order that the prohibited sign be removed or brought into compliance with this chapter by sending a notice of violation to the owner of the property. A period of not more than ten (10) calendar days from service of the notice of violation shall be permitted to remove or bring the sign into compliance. The notice of violation shall be considered served upon placement in regular U.S. mail or posting on the front entry door of the property.
 - (3) The property owner may appeal the notice of violation to the Board of Zoning Appeals by filing a written notice of appeal with the city clerk stating the grounds for the appeal. The notice of appeal must be filed with clerk before expiration of the ten (10) calendar day period allowed for the property owner to remove or bring the sign into compliance. The Board of Zoning Appeals shall hear the appeal at its next regular meeting occurring not less than ten (10) calendar days from the clerk's receipt of the notice of appeal. The Board of Zoning Appeals shall either enter its findings and decision on the appeal during the hearing or may take the matter under advisement and issue a decision not more than thirty (30) calendar days following the hearing.
 - (4) The Zoning Official or Property Maintenance Inspector's decision to file a criminal or civil complaint with a court of competent jurisdiction shall not be subject to this administrative appeal process.
 - (5) Upon failure of the owner or agent of the owner to remove or bring the sign into compliance as directed in the notice of violation, any duly authorized employee of the City

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Passed: _____, 2026

shall be authorized to enter the property in violation and remove the sign to abate the violation. The costs of abatement shall be charged to the property owner. Unpaid costs shall be collected pursuant to the procedures currently in place by the City of Rittman and Wayne or Medina County.

- (c) Removal of Signs on Public Property. Unattended signs on public property, including but not limited to parks and rights-of-way, that have not been placed by the city, shall be considered abandoned signs. These abandoned signs may be disposed of or destroyed without notice or compensation. Such disposal or destruction is not subject to appeal.
- (d) Penalty. Any person, firm, corporation, partnership, or association violating any provision of this chapter or failing to obey any lawful order or failing to obey any lawful order issued pursuant to its terms shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor. Each day during which such violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense.
- (e) Organizational Penalty. An organization may be convicted of a violation of a provision of this chapter under any of the following circumstances:
 - (1) The offense is a minor misdemeanor committed by an officer, agent or employee of the organization acting in its behalf and within the scope of his office or employment, except that if the section defining the offense designates the officers, agents or employees for whose conduct the organization is accountable or the circumstances under which it is accountable, such provision shall apply.
 - (2) A purpose to impose organizational liability plainly appears in the section defining the offense, and the offense is committed by an officer, agent or employee of the organization acting in its behalf and within the scope of his office or employment, except that if the section defining the offense designates the officers, agents or employees for whose conduct the organization is accountable or the circumstances under which it is accountable, such provisions shall apply.
 - (3) The offense consists of an omission to discharge a specific duty imposed by law on the organization.
 - (4) If, acting with the kind of culpability otherwise required for the commission of the offense, its commission was authorized, requested, commanded, tolerated or performed by the board of directors, trustees, partners or by a high managerial officer, agent or employee acting on behalf of the organization and within the scope of his office or employment.

RECORD OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 8536

Passed: _____, 2026

(5) Regardless of the penalties provided above, an organization convicted of a violation or a provision of this chapter shall be fined, which fine shall be fixed by the court as follows: \$100 per day the violation continues to exist.

Passed: _____, 2026

Mayor

Attest:

Clerk of Council

RECORD OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 8537

Passed: _____, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 8537

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RITTMAN, WAYNE AND MEDINA COUNTIES AND STATE OF OHIO, CERTIFYING THAT WHEN A MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION WAS INCURRED SUMS WERE LAWFULLY APPROPRIATED IN THE FUNDS TO SATISFY THE OBLIGATION AND SUFFICIENT SUMS CURRENTLY EXIST TO SATISFY THIS OBLIGATION ACCORDING TO THE ATTACHED SHEET(S) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, certain certifications are necessary for the continued operations of Municipal Services; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution will provide for the efficient and lawful certifications to provide Municipal Services; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Council of the City of Rittman, Counties of Wayne and Medina and State of Ohio, two-thirds of all members elected and appointed thereto concurring:

SECTION ONE.

The Finance Director is authorized to draw warrants for the payment of Municipal expenses pursuant to the attached Exhibit "A" which is incorporated herein.

SECTION TWO.

That because of the immediate need for the certification and payment of said obligations, this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the public peace, health and safety and shall go into immediate force and effect upon its passage.

RECORD OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 8537

Passed: _____, 2026

Passed: _____, 2026

Mayor

Attest:

Clerk of Council

INVOICE

Ohio Billing, Inc
PO Box 515
Bolivar, OH 44612-0515

gferguson@ohiobilling.com
+1 (330) 874-1140
www.ohiobilling.com

Ohio Billing
EMS & FIRE BILLING SOLUTIONS

Bill to
City of Rittman
30 N Main Street
Rittman, OH 44270

Invoice details

Invoice no.: 30451
Terms: Net 20 days
Invoice date: 05/31/2026
Due date: 06/20/2026

Product or service	Description	Qty	Rate	Amount
IR	Incident Reports Processed	86	\$35.00	\$3,010.00
Monthly Report Package	Charge-Credit-Adjustment-Aging-Year to Date-Summary Recon	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Newsletter	Newsletter with Industry Updates	1	\$0.00	\$0.00

Total \$3,010.00

Overdue 06/20/2026

ACCT. # 210.300.53712
P.O. # 2026-00536
DUE DATE 6/20/2026
APPROVED cm

RECORD OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 8538

Passed: _____, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 8538

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.

WHEREAS, certain advances and/or transfers are necessary for the continued and efficient operation of Municipal Services; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution will provide for the proper and lawful advances and/or transfers to and from the appropriate accounts in order to fund Municipal Services.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Council of the City of Rittman, Counties of Wayne and Medina and State of Ohio, two-thirds of all members elected and appointed thereto concurring:

SECTION ONE.

The Finance Director is authorized to make advances and/or transfers to or from the appropriate accounts pursuant to the attached Exhibit "A" which is incorporated herein.

SECTION TWO.

That because of the immediate need for the appropriation or advancement of said funds, this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the public peace, health and safety and shall go into immediate force and effect upon its passage.

RECORD OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 8538

Passed: _____, 2026

Passed: _____, 2026

Mayor

Attest:

Clerk of Council

2026 TRANSFERS

FROM FUND	TO FUND	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
General	EMS	175,000	Operations
General	Fire	100,000	Operations

RECORD OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 8539

Passed: _____, 2026

ORDINANCE NO. 8539

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.

WHEREAS, certain appropriations are necessary for the continued operations of Municipal Services; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance will provide for the efficient and lawful appropriations to fund Municipal Services; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Council of the city of Rittman, Counties of Wayne and Medina and State of Ohio, two-thirds of all members elected and appointed thereto concurring:

SECTION ONE.

That the annual Appropriation Ordinance is amended pursuant to the attached Exhibit.

SECTION TWO.

That a certified copy of this Ordinance be delivered to the Wayne County Auditor.

SECTION THREE.

That because of the immediate need for the appropriation of said funds, this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the public peace, health and safety and shall go into immediate force and effect upon its passage.

RECORD OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 8539

Passed: _____, 2026

Passed: _____, 2026

Mayor

Attest:

Clerk of Council