

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Held June 8, 20 26

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 Trogdon – 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