RITTMAN CITY COUNCIL – AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, September 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

1. **Invocation**

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call**

4. **Approval of Minutes**

   a. **August 10, 2026**

   b. **August 24, 2026 Special Meeting**

5. **Workshop**

   a. **Discussion of the 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan.**

   b. **Discussion of Sign Ordinance.**

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. **Motion to Approve the 5 Year Capital Plan.**

   b. **Ord. No. 8540 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.**

c. **Res. No. 8541 A Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor. Three Readings.**

d. **Res. No. 8542 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, authorizing the Municipal Manager to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and/or Local Transportation Improvement Program(s) and to execute contracts as required and declaring an emergency. Three Readings.**

e. **Ord. No. 8543 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**

11. **Second Citizens Forum**

12. **Council Remarks**

13. **Adjournment**

Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, August 10, 2026
7:13 p.m.

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

The invocation was given by Pastor Brad Carpenter from Life Ministries followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Presentation - Ron Moore Jr. from Austintown and his wife Lisa. Ron has a presentation this evening to the McWilliams family and to Michelle Ries. Mr. Moore stated he has done approximately 470 paintings of people who have passed. Mr. Moore stated he was also diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in 2004.

City Manager Beshara presented Michelle Ries a commemorative pin that she had commissioned.

City Manager Beshara also read a proclamation that was received from the Board of Trustees of Chippewa Township expressing deepest sympathies and honoring the lives of Sergeant Scott Ries, Christine and McKinley McWilliams.

Approval of Minutes

a. **June 8, 2026.** Shows moved to approve, upon roll call Shows – Yes, Huff – Yes, Sweigert – Yes, Schumacher – Abstain, Hayward - Yes and **motion carried.**

b. **July 13, 2026.** Huff moved to approve, upon roll call Shows – Yes, Huff – Yes, Sweigert – Yes, Schumacher – Yes, Hayward - Abstain and **motion carried.**

Citizens Forum

Brenda Stefanica Provchy – 28 Fairmont Avenue - also a member of the Downtown Rittman Beautification Initiative. I'd like to start by thanking everyone for their efforts regarding the function and maintenance of the City of Rittman. Thank you to Amanda Nelson and Mr. Simpson for working on Ordinance 8531. The citizens of Rittman appreciate your consideration, and we move to the third reading. The business areas are the heart of our town, and in my opinion that it is important to create a positive impression to visitors, potential merchants, and investors alike. Ideally, the business locations would return to a place where people gather and shop. I feel it is an attainable goal to enhance and preserve the charm of our city. Some of the things along with the maintenance and care asked of the property owners and the tenants are very small and can be achieved with minimal efforts or funds such as keeping exterior clean and organized, maintaining paint, removal of signage and clutter when a tenant vacates, cleaning or applying approved aesthetically pleasing window covers. The hope is to attract new businesses, volunteerism, and positive community engagement. I'm proud to be a lifelong Rittman resident and can say that as our small group works along Main Street to do what we can do to enhance the aesthetic, many of the residents approach us to share their pride and concerns for our community with us. We thank you for the consideration and encourage you to pass ordinance 8531 to help set a standard for our public areas.

Ron Tisher – 294 Winkler Drive - I see things on social media, and they said, oh, come down and talk. So, I'm going to. It seems some people want an outdoor pool. I grew up at the outdoor pool. I worked at the outdoor pool. The outdoor pool never made any money. So in your consideration of what's out there, it's not building an outdoor pool. It's like owning a boat. You just throw money in the water. So that was kind of it. As wonderful as it sounds, and I wish that they had a removable wall so you'd have an outdoor area so people could get sunburned like they did back in the day. City pools, city park centers rarely make money. They are a public service. They are a benefit you offer to the citizens, and the costs have always been underwritten by the city. And you just have to decide how much of a cost you're going to underwrite and what the fees are. But the last thing I want to see, having a backyard pool is expensive enough, the city does not need to add to the deficit by building another pool. Thank you.

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. Res. No. 8531 was read on third reading. Huff moved to adopt.

Hayward - I talked to a couple of the businesses that are actually downtown, still active. They had no idea. I figured Chamber would have informed businesses what was going on. They had no idea. I did give them a copy of the packet that was online. But there were some other questions that I had like with the windows, they're on back order, you're giving them 30 days to replace a window that gets broken.

Beshara I think it's something we're going to have to talk about and discuss, and certainly we've given people a lot more time to take care of their property maintenance issues. So that would be something that I think we could consider right now. Simpson - Yeah, I would expect that enforcement on this would be just like important than anything else, case-by-case basis, as long as you show that there's a diligent effort to try to remediate whatever the issue was, then, you know, they're going to give you more time.

Hayward - Okay, and then approve displays? It's number five under the windows and doors. It's where a street-facing commercial storefront window shall remain transparent, reasonable, visible, more practical, excessive coverings, spoil, paper coverings, permanent obstructions and conditions intended to obscure the storefront visibility shall be prohibited if set during active renovation, temporary vacancy transitions, approved displays or circumstances authorized by the city.

Simpson - So if somebody wanted to obscure the storefront visibility, they would have to, if they wanted to say some sort of like a Halloween display or like for a parade that was coming by, then they would have to ask the city, we would have to approve whatever the obstruction was going to be before they were allowed to do it. Hayward - so the flower shop, they're still, is it just for the vacant ones?

Simpson - the one on the corner that's, are they still renovating? So I mean, that's covered for in here, the temporary, during active renovation, just to...

Beshara - the flower shop in general they're ok.

Hayward - I'm just asking, and they've got to ask for permission for any of their displays.

Beshara - well, if they're going to put a display that's going to cover everything, then it's a problem.

Simpson - They can put flowers up in the window, they can basically the counter or something, that's fine. They also can't paint the window with flowers.

Huff - now, if the they painted the windows with house paint, then it started chipping off and looked like garbage. I mean, that's more of what they're addressing, not like something that's tasteful and elegant.

Ron Tisher – 294 Winkler Drive - I see things on social media, and they said, oh, come down and talk. So, I'm going to. It seems some people want an outdoor pool. I grew up at the outdoor pool. I worked at the outdoor pool. The outdoor pool never made any money. So in your consideration of what's out there, it's not building an outdoor pool. It's like owning a boat. You just throw money in the water. So that was kind of it. As wonderful as it sounds, and I wish that they had a removable wall so you'd have an outdoor area so people could get sunburned like they did back in the day. City pools, city park centers rarely make money. They are a public service. They are a benefit you offer to the citizens, and the costs have always been underwritten by the city. And you just have to decide how much of a cost you're going to underwrite and what the fees are. But the last thing I want to see, having a backyard pool is expensive enough, the city does not need to add to the deficit by building another pool. Thank you.

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Simpson - and even then, it would only be temporary. We can't have it. We're not going to have anybody covering up the entire glass plate window.

Mayor Arnold - the other thing I think you mentioned was the word active renovation, which hopefully we can maybe define, because if you, for example, the one on the corner potentially has been a renovation, but what is active renovation? You know what I mean? If you continue to say, well, we're renovating, at what point are you not actively renovating? So I think that word in there is helpful.

Hayward - and then you guys are aware of where the businesses are decorating lights on their buildings.

Hayward - 1164.05C. Downtown storefront presentation. Like it's removed, like the way I'm reading it is like the business owners, like how Jerry and the flower shop did the lights on the top. That's taking all that out.

Beshara – I don't think it meant that.

Huff - what lights do you mean? Like to open signs?

Hayward - it says examples that are encouraged door front presentation may include window displays, seasonal decorations, business branding or informational displays, community event participation displays, interior visibility where reasonable and decorative artistic or beautification elements. It's all been removed.

Huff – what did it get changed to?

Hayward – shall maintain a reasonable, active and maintain exterior street presence.

Huff – so, I mean, to me it just pretty much summarizes it to be tasteful, be classy, be beautiful.

Beshara - I mean, the lights on the building, was a great addition, the lights for Christmas. Yeah, it was part of the display. That's fine. Was that the intent? We have some people from the committee here. I don't know if that was the intent or not. I believe it would be.

Marcum - I think that we're kind of at a disservice with this because we've had it on the agenda, but we haven't had like full discussion about what's actually included in it, what the expectation is of this as a whole, what the businesses could expect or should expect from it. So it's kind of hard for people to just read it and understand exactly what the intention was behind it.

Beshara - and Amanda's not here also to explain. Chrystal is on the chamber this year, so I think you all know what the intent was. I mean, you guys can vote on this another time.

Shows - Amanda can put a presentation or something together to give us a clearer picture. Are there visuals or just something.

Beshara – we can ask her when she gets back, table it to the next meeting, put time for questions.

Sweigert - I also talked to many businesses in the downtown area. One was Chris Reed, who owns the AMO store. And he was asking questions, and I said, Chris, honestly, do you drive in Rittman, is that somewhere you want to shop? And you look at your store, use it as a storage unit. And he agreed, he said, well, I'm going to go down and look at the storage units down on Willow Street. I said, that makes sense. All he's doing is using it for storage and shipping. I said, that's not what we want in downtown, and that's what this ordinance is supposed to do. It's supposed to promote the downtown beautification and that overlay. My understanding on the overlay is alleys on the north, almost like right here on the west, Grant Street on the south, and Industrial on the east. I don't want to stop at Medina. I thought it went all the way to down to Industrial, down at the corner. So that's the footprint that this ordinance is going to cover. So all I have to say is I think we need to move forward and I think this is something that's going to help do that. In reading through it, I want to make sure that it's evenly enforced across all parties, that it's not just a pick that person because I don't like that person or that person rubbed me the wrong way. It has to be fairly enforced across all parties. And I like the idea that it's being renovated or as long as somebody's showing the progress. I mean, yeah, the board on the window down at the tattoo place where I go to get my tattoos has been there for quite a while, but I don't know, obviously she's waiting to get a window in. So as long as she can show that delay is appropriate, they're just not dragging their feet, then that would make sense as long as we take that into consideration. The other

thing is that Nick just mentioned to me about that there's a fee. I didn't see, I didn't read this. To clarify, if there's a fee, a permit fee for a special event, then the chamber doesn't have to pay the permit fee. Is there any comment on that? It should be for all non-profits, not just the Chamber.

Shumacher - it's more than just the chamber, because you've got it for the Lions for the parade. So, if you extend that, they haven't charged us.

Mayor Arnold - while they look for that, ma'am, I assume this would be enforced by the city, correct? Do you see any additional burden on the police or anyone?

Beshara - no, I mean, it's something that's been needing to be done. Do we need a property enforcement officer other than a police officer? Absolutely 100% a part-time position would be great because frankly it's hard to enforce it. So I don't think it will be any more of a burden than anything else once people read this, know it, especially in this area because then they'll have those right in front of them. That's my opinion

Huff – this all goes back on the landlord too, correct?

Beshara- absolutely.

Simpson - ultimately, the onus is going to be on the lead property owner. And so they're going to have to enforce against their tenants, but we're going to come after the property owner to say, you own the property, you have to fix it, just like we would any other rental property. If it's owned by somebody, they're the ones responsible for it. And if they have a contract that says somebody else is responsible, they can deal with that person as long as it gets done.

Hayward - so in the contract, if the business is actually responsible for all that, it would be the business replacing them.

Simpson - yes, but we're still going to. The only pressure we can put on is on the landlord is that you have to get this fixed. Ultimately, it comes on them because if there's going to be any sort of enforcement, it's going to be against the landlord. The landlord can then, you know, file a lawsuit or whatever he has to do against his tenant, but we don't have anything to do with that contract. We're not part of that.

Sweigert - Mayor, one more thing, and I know that the next ordinance, 8536, is a sign ordinance. And one of the questions I'm going to have is because there's sign stuff in this one and sign stuff in that one, is that being coordinated at all between the two, so we don't contradict each other?

Beshara - I'd like this to just be moved to the next reading until Matt and I have a chance to look at that.

Simpson - the short answer is I have not done side by side. I didn't draft the ordinance. I reviewed it, but I didn't look. I also didn't expect the sign ordinance to be on the last meeting, so I did not.

Sweigert - I mean, if we pass this one tonight, then we may have to modify the sign ordinance next meeting.

Mayor Arnold - So 8531, any additional discussion for the overlay district? All right. I believe the motion was to adopt?

Simpson - if somebody makes a motion to table until the next meeting, that will take priority over his motion to withdraw. If the motion is postponed until the next meeting, as I understand it, that would be the motion.

Mayor Arnold – Nick's is null?

Simpson - well, it depends. If this motion fails, then his is the next one that's being heard, but this one takes priority over that one.

Mayor Arnold - so there's a motion to table it. Ok, then please call the roll.

Upon roll call Schumacher – Yes, Huff – No, Shows – Yes, Hayward – Yes, Sweigert – No and **motion carries.**

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. Res. No. 8536 was second on first reading. Schumacher moved to place on third.

Hayward - so, with 1535.06, it would be 4 b. Sorry. After the B, there's two, like talking about the exterior wall, being flat, the pole, CMJ sign. You have it in front of you, Matt.

Simpson – I have that in front of me. I'm not familiar with the sign.

Huff - the sign comes off the corner, and it's probably like a thirty-six by thirty-six inch square. Are you talking about that sign? Yeah, it's probably 8 foot tall.

Simpson - so just like something, it would be grandfathered in. If that were to fall off in a storm or something, they couldn't put it back up, but we're not going to go in and make them take it down. We can't make them go and take it down because we've enacted the ordinance. It doesn't immediately apply to everything, but to anything new or anything being rebuilt, then they wouldn't go to that.

Mayor Arnold - If you don't mind, I've had a couple things that I've written down that I have some concerns with. Similar to Sonya, but the first thing was it defines a flag as a banner and then a banner as a sign. And again, we're going back to the American flag thing. Then second, 1325.04 authorizes flags in every district but 1325.06 permits only listed signs in residential districts. Flags aren't on that list. If they are, a standard residential flag is a 3 by 5, which is 15 square feet. We say 1 foot in the ordinance. Third, churches. The chapter allows church one announcement sign at 10 square feet. So no changeable levers or electronic boards and the in the residential areas, which all the churches are. Section 1325.09 puts every sign that doesn't comply on a 10-year clock. So it doesn't, it's not one of those where if it's up, it stays. You have 10 years for it to come down. Right? So it's not, reaches every church sign that's standing today. Four. 1325.03 and 1325.10 say unattended signs on public property may be disposed of without notice and no appeal. We have more than 250 flags flying right now along our streets, which the citizens are very proud of. As written, the ordinance reaches them as well. So I may be wrong, but I don't believe that's the intent of this council. And so I have four questions. One, does the definition of banner to capture the American flag display of a private resident.

Simpson - I would imagine it would, yeah.

Mayor Arnold – may a resident lawfully fly a standard 3 by 5 American flag at their home under this chapter as it's written? No. Does the ten-year amortization provision require our churches to remove existing signs larger than 10 square feet?

Simpson – I'd have to get into that to look at it.

Mayor Arnold - and do the abandoned sign provisions reach the 250th anniversary flags in our right-of-way?

Simpson – I'd have to look at them.

Mayor Arnold - so I'd ask council to consider amending the exempting official government flags and protecting the signs of our churches that are already there. So in addition, it's my opinion that the American flags shouldn't need a permit to be flown in our city.

Simpson - we cannot exempt government flags. You can't, it has to be content neutral. We cannot look at what is displayed on the item and call and say that this sort of thing is.

Mayor Arnold - It's not. There's multiple cities that in their ordinances relate to that, including Richfield Township. So just an FYI. I'm just letting you know that this is one of those where I hope we're representing our citizens when we present these. So I think the motion was moved to third.

Schumacher – I'm in favor of modifying the ordinance on the flag, because the residential American flag is 3 foot by 5 foot. So we have to allow that. And I don't know whether that we have to then change the definition to other flags so that it's content neutral to match, but we have to be able to allow that, was not the intent of pushing or having the sign on this. I'm tired of all bickering and fighting about signs in this town, and we cannot have an ordinance that is unconstitutional, and so we just got to figure out a way to make a constitutional.

Simpson - so if anyone has thoughts, Mayor, I'd appreciate if you send me all of your thoughts in writing so that I can incorporate them into amendments. I'm seeking amendments for this, but I wrote it forward. It's not a proposal of the final Ordinance. That's what we're trying to get input. So these are excellent thoughts and questions. I appreciate them. So this

needs to be crafted for the city. Yes. And thus far, this is the first excellent substantive input that I've gotten. So I will happily make all those changes.

Shows - again, I think we should put it off and do a workshop with some of the audience because I have additional concerns on down the list. I mean, I think this is a good springboard and a lot of good content here, but I think we need to spend a lot more time polishing it, changing some of it, because I have the application fee, there's all kinds of things in here that I have questions about. It refers to the zoning official and property maintenance inspector decision. We don't have one. Those are the kinds of things I think we need to iron out before we move forward.

Simpson - I agree. This was intended to be a springboard. So all the input that you guys can provide, I would absolutely appreciate and incorporate.

Beshara - how about we put it on the workshop for the next meeting? Workshop for the next meeting.

Schumacher - I will modify my move to third to move to delay until the next meeting and have a workshop so that we're not voting on this too soon.

Hayward - I just have one other question. You said with the church signs and, what are the measurements on the school side, the right side, and the police department? I have no idea what those measurements are.

Mayor Arnold - municipal parks, commercial are I believe 50 square feet as it's written. That sounds right. Okay, so that would fall in there. I would assume that's smaller than 5 by 10 now. I would assume it's smaller.

Simpson - but those are excellent questions. If what's written in there is not sufficient to support what we actually already have, change it. Change it to 100 square feet, whatever it needs to be.

Mayor Arnold – the motion is to table. Upon roll call, all Yeas and **motion carried.**

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 according to the attached sheet(s) and declaring an emergency. Three Readings. Res. No. 8537 was read on first reading. Shows moved to suspend the rules.

Sweigert - I have a question, was it just one that was? Okay, and that was... The invoice was May.

Marcum - The invoice date was May 31st and the due date was June 20th.

Sweigert - Okay. The question is, why did we agree to 20-day terms? Everything else is 30-day terms, but I don't know why we agreed to 20-day terms. Do you know, Crystal?

Marcum – I have no idea.

Sweigert – Okay. And then that just list. The last couple of meetings to pay or?

Marcum - I checked with this and I talked to Ohio Billing and they said that the first bill was not paid, but the second bill was. So I checked with Shelley and we looked and we did not have this first bill in hand. So when I looked at the purchase order, the purchase order was put in in June. And that was after our discussion at council for the new rates to go through for the EMS billing. However, the bill date for the Ohio Billing was May 31st, so that is outside of that month for me to put the purchase order in.

Sweigert – Gotcha.

Mayor Arnold – any additional discussion?

Sweigert – if I can continue to ask?

Shows – you have to suspend the rules first and then discussion.

All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Shows moved to adopt.

Sweigert – part of this goes under the finance report that we approve later, but because I saw there is a large bill paid Ohio Billing. In June I think we talked about that we hadn't collected much, I mean like $5,000.00 or $6,000.00 on EMS billing, and we normally collect $180,000.00 to $200,000.00 a year on EMS billing. So has that now that we paid this bill, which is $3,000, and the other bill, which must have been around $4,000, have we collected more money now that they've been collecting for us?

Marcum – hold on, I will tell you the exact figure that we're at. So as of the end of July, we have collected $93,135.97. In June, we collected $59,000, and in July, we collected $27,000. So they bill us per bill that they send out, and they were taking that December 15th-ish number through current to start billing. So yeah, it's going to be a huge bill right off the rim, but it should level out once they get caught up.

All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

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.** Res. No. 8538 was read on first reading. Sweigert 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.**

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.** Res. No. 8539 was read on first reading. Shows moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Huff moved to adopt.

Shows - Crystal, can you explain what some of those are? There's a big long list for that one. Some of that in this separate. If you could just explain a little bit more of that for me.

Marcum - so since we're more than halfway through the year, I took a look at every line in our budget and kind of did a guesstimate on where we might be if we keep spending this way through the end of the year. And do we have enough money in that line? And I actually discussed it with department heads to just see, am I overestimating, underestimating? And these are the areas that I felt that we should put some additional funds in or that we had put a larger amount in and we can take it from there. So I'm just moving things around. The only one that is not me moving anything is the police capital and that is for the potential replacement of the vehicles just that were damaged in the incident that happened in July. I did not want to have it be held up because there wasn't any money in that line. No decision had been made yet. So I put it here so that it was available and up to council as to whether you wanted to go through this way or not. But since it's not a planned capital, it was not in our budget. This is something we couldn't plan for. But I would be, it would be a straight appropriation from our carryover. So I did want to clarify that before this was passed or not.

Shows - you're still working with the insurance because they're going to total those, right? I mean, obviously we're still going to have expenses associated with, but.

Marcum - correct, correct. The insurance claim is still pending. Bobbie and Shelley are handling that. And there are options out there for the replacement of these vehicles, but this is just the amount for one of those options is the highest amount, but I wanted to have the funds available once a decision was made.

All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

City Manager's Remarks

Hickin Road, from Rittman Road to Sterling Avenue, pre-construction meeting takes place on Monday, August 17th. Melway was the lowest and best bidder, and the bid came in under the engineer's estimated cost. This is an Ohio Public Works Grant project.

The train depot will be moved this Wednesday, August 19th to its new location on Erie Street. The city has been involved in assisting the committee and will be on site Wednesday for the move. Erick Shreve is the point person from the Service Department for the move and will work with police and fire, so we are 100% prepared for any issues or emergencies that may occur.

The S. Main waterline replacement construction will begin in the fall of this year. Waugh Construction had the lowest and best bid and came in under the engineer's estimate. This is through an Ohio EPA loan.

I want to thank all the organizations, non-profits, church's, residents and our staff for their involvement and assistance during the last month since the tragedy in Rittman taking the lives of Rittman Police Sgt. Scott Ries and Christy and McKinley McWilliams. Whether it was a phone call, a card or a quick visit, it is truly appreciated. The fundraisers were very well attended and meaningful to the McWilliams and Ries families.

Finance Director's Remarks

Currently in the finance department, we are working on the capital improvement plan. I put it out to our directors in a different form this year. I asked them for more information than we usually do. I asked for the project to be described, what was the need, what's our current, like how is the equipment or your building, how is it currently and what would happen if you don't get this project done? What would be the consequences to the city? So I put that out there and our department heads came through. I'm so proud of the work that they did. Many of them came and sat with me and talked about their projects and tried to figure out is this something that should be capital? Is this something that should just be in the budget? Is this something that even needs to be on the radar? And I want to take this time to commend the rec department and the police department. for taking those questions that I asked and really running away with it. They gave me bullet points. They gave me full descriptions of what projects they wanted to work on and why. So it makes it easier for me to present it to you guys for our budget and it helps us communicate it better to the residents to understand what we're doing and why we're choosing these projects over others. So next meeting will be the capital improvement plan that needs to be approved. So that will be two workshops in one meeting. So you should be getting the packets beforehand so you can see it before you come into the meeting. But I am really excited to be able to show you guys the hard work that went into this. It's going to be a really positive change for the information going out to you and all of the residents.

a. **Approval of Financial Report for May, 2026.** Huff moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Approval of Financial Report for June, 2026.** Shows moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

c. **Approval of Financial Report for July, 2026.** Schumacher moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Second Citizens Forum

None

Council Remarks

Schumacher - thank you all for coming. This has been an emotional month. We had a fantastic parade that the Rittman Lions put on and was supported greatly. I want to add a special thank you to Meredith Craig, who made a donation of ribbons for all of the people that were in the parade to wear. And we had extras left over. It was given out at the class of 1976, she's hiding back there. 50th reunion, we gave out some there. And we also gave the rest to the chicken BBQ fundraiser. So it was a fantastic thing. Meredith Craig was nice enough to say that she's been in a lot of parades and ours was the best planned. So I take that as a compliment of a job well done by the Rittman Lions and my team, the Rittman Lions. So we appreciate it. There are some concerns that I have and I hate to bring it up in public forums but I think it needs to be addressed. There's been a number of, I've been called by a

number of people who have been taken, I took a tour of the William J. Robertson Nature Preserve and it's not looking good. And I'm hoping that the stuff that was put out there, people and that work has been done to upgrade that facility and get it taken care of.

Beshara – may I address it?

Schumacher – yes you may.

Beshara - so I had read about it on Facebook, and it's unfortunate that we don't get phone calls, but they put it out there. And as you all know, during the month of July, there was a lot going on. First of all, our rec director was on vacation that week. He came back, and he and Moose are the two that mow that vast area on both sides. He came back, and then we had the fundraiser on Monday with the food trucks and just catching up on other things. It was mowed last Thursday. I asked him to take me for a ride today to see it. We went down and looked at everything. The lawn is mowed everywhere. What needs to be done next is to push back the weeds that need to be knocked down a little bit and to open up by the water. And that will happen as soon as we get a piece of equipment. Is Erick still there? Yes. So Twig is working on the boom mower, I believe it is. Erick Shreve – Twig is working on the boom mower, the part has been approved to purchase, and he said it should be here next week.

Beshara – the only trail that really needs more work is the natural trail on the north side, which is the Ken Mann Trail. So that'll be taken care of. But I made sure I went out there today to see how it looked. It looked great.

Schumacher - I'm really glad to hear it because the tour that I took, there were benches and all you can see was the Phragmite.

Beshara - We can do more with Phragmite, but it's going to cost a lot more. Phragmite is a really tough one to knock down, as you know, s we certainly can do our best, and that's what the guys do. And again, it's two people that take care of that entire park.

Schumacher – I know. And maybe we should consider volunteers. And I know that everybody immediately says liability, but I am aware that the city has liability insurance for volunteers to help.

Beshara - volunteers can help. The equipment, you could talk to Garrett more about this where I can, but for the weed whacking, etc. Yes, ss far as mowing and being on our equipment, I have a little bit more of a hard time with that, and I think he does as well. The friends group needs to get together and come up with a plan, because that's what they're there for, and there hasn't been a meeting in a while, and I think that's where we need to start, is with the Friends Group.

Schumacher - there needs to be a bridge between the Friends Group and Parks and Recreation. I can tell you that we need to have a bridge.

Beshara - well, then I'll be the bridge.

Schumacher - thank you. Thank you. So, also I know that there's other trails as well that are rustic, like even there's a trail going up to Mount Ritman. Has that been taken care of?

Beshara -yes, we didn't go up it today, but he said it was mowed. Did you go there today, Sonya? Okay, well, it was mowed. Everything was mowed.

Schumacher - That's all I want to know because, I don't utilize that part as much as I would like to.

Beshara – Please contact me when you see something on Facebook like that so that we can discuss it and I can show you what happened.

Schumacher - and I gave you some grace because the city did go through what it went through. And I know what the city was doing and dealing with for the last month. So I was trying to be graceful about it, but it's one of those things where it's starting to develop some energy of its own just like the dreaded potholes, and this year there has been very few complaints about potholes, and we've made it, not that there's always going to be something, I know that, but there's been very few complaints about them.

Beshara - and Moose took what's called a renovator, which again, it's a term I don't know, but he took it and he worked on the parking lots to make it better for parking, because they're all gravel lots. So, Moose did that as well.

Huff - I want to thank the Lions Club for the parade. It was a good parade, long parade. It was nice to see everybody out in the community. I know man did some stuff down at for the sleepwalker at First Street Park. Hopefully next year we can build on that, keep making that better. I want to thank Steve Hunter back there, Officer Hunter, for the first night out. National night out. So I was up there making cotton candy and snow cones and got to see a lot of people, a lot of kids. It was good. I want to thank everyone who's here. It's good to see some new faces and even just the same old faces. It's good to see people here. Thanks for taking your time to do what you do. It is nice when you get a job and see the pots and stuff like that. So thank you for that. And that's all I got.

Hayward - I want to thank everybody for coming out. When we have ordinances passed and the mayor has signed them, can we put those ordinance out?

Clerk Challinor – they are, they are on the website. If you go into ordinances, they're under other ordinance that's not published and they're by date. So they're on there.

Hayward - just to kind of inform some citizens. And then the Orrville North Lions Club. and myself, we have been raising some money to do two memory benches, one for Christine and McKinley McWilliams, and would like to put those at industrial. And I've talked with Landon and he has talked with his grandparents and his uncle Wes that I graduated with. They gave permission for us to do that. I talked with Michelle at Sparky's fundraiser about that. She gave permission for us as well. We would put Ries over at Charlie's puddle.

Beshara - so we'll have to get together so we can talk with Erick and see where exactly they should go. Because we have another event, I believe, that's coming on, and that one's going to go at the police station, I think. There's another one, so we've got to be very mindful. Well, it's the first time I'm hearing about it. Right. So normally you would talk to the director of the department and that would be Garrick. So as a Lions Club member, yeah, I mean, I would always caution to do anything before you talk to the city just to make sure that whatever, for whatever purpose is going to be allowed.

Hayward - I just wanted permission before I went to the city and then we got back with the family without the permission. And then with the nature preserve, I went out last night for a tour. Is there a way we can get them to blow the grass off? Like where people, like that hole where the kayak is, you're supposed to be able to see all that water. You can't see it because everything's built up.

Beshara - if we can do it, we'll get out there. We could have service department go out there and take a look at it and help, because we don't have the service department work on it at all. Again, it's Garrick and Moose, so they only have so many hours in the day, but we'll do the best we can. But we're good today.

Hayward - the educational lab, you can't get around it.

Beshara - So the educational lab has, we talked about that today, Erick and I. He said, I don't know what to do here, are these wildflowers? Because I remember when Jim Trogden was planting some. So all around the building, they look like wildflowers. So that's something that we need to knock down. If people want to go around there and we're not disturbing what was planted, then certainly that could be knocked down as well.

Hayward - I was told one of the volunteers had went out and he was told not to come back with his equipment.

Beshara - well, there's a lot of rumors out there, Sonia. So, as I said, come to me and we can talk about it, okay? And volunteers have to get clearance through the city to go anywhere and work on properties. About liability and knowing who they are and filling out a volunteer form, things like that.

Hayward – who do they go for that?

Beshara - well, they're going to have to go through Garrick. But we have to have like a list for them to do. It's not just go out there and weed wack an area. It's got to be, we're the ones who have to designate this is what we need done. And that's why Friends Group is a good place to start.

Sweigert - we approved an appropriation amendment back in June, May or June, for the city manager's vehicle, and I just want to know what the status of that is.

Marcum - There was no movement. We opted to not go through with that purchase. It's now pending on the capital plan for 2027.

Sweigert – okay, and then is the new fire truck in service yet?

Beshara – it's going to be soon. They are working on the items that still have to be put in there.

Sweigert - on October 3rd, as a Moose member, they'll, I'm sure, send out some more information. This is really preliminary. October 3rd, the Moose Lodge 860 will be hosting a benefit for the victims of our tragedy. It'll be noon to 8 o'clock. It's A Saturday. It's still really being organized, but they've already assembled 20 or 25 baskets. There'll be 50-50. There's going to be live music. There's going to be a DJ all day. There's bouncy houses, face painting. kids' activities throughout the day, and then there'll be a hamburgers and hot dogs, and they stop during the day, and then there's going to be a chicken BBQ, and it starts like 4 or 5 or 4 to 6. We're hoping to get a touch of truck so we can get some fire vehicles and police in front of vehicles there. So, anyhow, that's planned for October 3rd. So it's a month and a half, two months away.

Shows - I thank all that attended tonight, the special presentation was beautiful. The two plaques and other families were able to join us. I know that things are still absolutely flowing in for the families. I've seen some beautiful pieces. I absolutely encourage everybody to step down the police department and look at the slate that Chief Shows got this week. It is gorgeous and the I forget the other company, but they also made one for Michelle and her family. The outpouring and support is still so abundant in this town. It is just absolutely amazing to see. Sad that it takes such a tragedy to bring everybody together, but just knowing that we're here for the families they're reaching out with cards, everything else. The chicken benefit that Kim Sparks from Sparky's Pizza started, she just kind of rolled with it, brought in the police department, fire and EMS. There was literally dozens of volunteers. We were there all day long. The citizens that came out in the support that was there was just absolutely phenomenal. And still seeing repercussions of that. She still has people coming into the stores making donations. We have people going downtown making donations, people calling the police department talking to Donnie and just continuing to offer support. I want to acknowledge the Cambridge Police Department. They came up a week and a half ago and donated a 2019 Ford Explorer. They really showed up and knowing that we were down two and only have six, they dropped one on Chief Shows that morning. All we needed was these, whatever the radio company and put our computer in and it's pretty much ready to go. He's got the wrapping coming and being volunteered. So that will get on there quicker for us, but that was an amazing donation for them to walk up with. The golf outing recently, the restaurant fundraisers that are going on in Don's fundraiser coming up. It has just been absolutely amazing. There's so much good things going on in this community from a tragic event. So I want to thank everybody for continuing to support those in their families. I have not talked to the Steese family in a while, but, Michelle and her girls are just absolutely overwhelmed and it's daily they're getting back to their normal routines, but they're still touch like her coming in tonight right from work. It really means a lot to them and to us. And my final, unfortunately, I have to announce school starts Tuesday, which means the children are going to be out on the loose. But, so watch your speeds and just keep an eye out for them as they start navigating their way back on Tuesday. We're looking forward to it.

Beshara - I just wanted to pass this around to council. I had a pin made in memory of Sergeant Ries. It says end of watch, July 5th, 2026. And what I had put on here was a deer and fish and water and the sunset. And I intend to give these to all the employees and council members and mayor. I needed to do something as a remembrance of Scott. I haven't done what I'm going to do for Christy and McKinley, but I just wanted to make sure I said that she would also, I know a lot of police departments that have reached out to me and they're still coming up with ideas and want to help out. So I forgot to mention that before, but Missy reminded me of that in a way. So thank you.

Mayor Arnold - well, as everyone else has mentioned, thank you all around. One that I'd like to mention was the officer from Hinley. that was injured on July 5th. He and his

brother-in-law donated a check which was really impressive. He came up to the National Night Out to do that. Speaking of National Night Out, thank you to everyone that attended and everything that went into that. Another great community event along with the sleepwalker Festival and the Lions Parade, of course. But really, I appreciate the coming together, everyone coming here, everyone being active on social media, similarly. That's what it takes to move us forward. Same thing when there's disagreements in here, differing ideas, those types of things. Civil discussion is what's going to move us forward. So it's appreciative on my part that when we have differing ideas or opinions that we're able to talk through it and when we leave here we're still one big community working together. So again, thank you. I appreciate everyone and we'll move to adjournment.

Adjourn: 8:23 p.m. Schumacher moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

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Mayor

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Clerk of Council

Rittman City Council Met in a
SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, August 24, 2026
4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Amanda Nelson, Sonya Hayward, Rich Schumacher and Nick Huff
Members Absent: Don Sweigert, Melissa Shows
Presiding: Rich Schumacher, Council President

New Business

a. Motion to go into Executive Session in accordance with ORC 121.22 for Hiring, Firing and Discipline of a public employee and invite the Finance Director, the City Manager, Law Director and Michael Zhelesnik – 4:09 p.m.
Schumacher so moved. Second by Nelson, upon roll call Hayward – Yes, Nelson – Yes, Huff – Yes. Schumacher – Matt, I want to ask you a question before voting. I indicated on an e-mail to you and to Councilman Amanda that I would be voting against executive session because Amanda was not available. And now that Don Sweigert is not available to do that, and I know Missy is not. How does that put us into if I would vote for or yes? I don't like the idea of making a statement for one and not doing it for the other.

Simpson - based on what I know, the two situations, I think the distinguishing factor is going to be that Councilperson Nelson was not involved in the, or perhaps maybe didn't have knowledge of the planning of the last meeting, whereas this one, potential dates, times were circulated. I know that Don didn't, but it wasn't available. I think we offered to have him come in by phone. He's still not available. I mean, there's certainly no issue, I mean, other than if you feel a personal obligation to Councilman Sweigert or something, but you can vote to go into executive session despite the prior comment about not voting when council person Nelson would be here, and there's not a problem, a legal problem.

Huff - So, Matt, you're saying that everyone has to inform before special meetings go? That's what you kind of just said that that's why she opposed it, because we couldn't have a meeting if she wasn't informed.

Simpson - I said that for distinguishing the two situations and why it may be more comfortable in this one is that it was different. It wasn't that somebody wasn't informed the whole way. I mean, either way, there's no legal problem with voting going to executive session if somebody's not here or wasn't. I mean, the ordinances in charter only require that a council person have a direct knowledge of this two hours before the meeting. I mean, we have to let the public know 24 hours, but each council person has to have direct knowledge of it at least two hours prior to the meeting. So as far as the planning stage and somebody not knowing, none of that is actually required outside of those time restrictors. So yeah, everyone has to know, but not to attend until two hours before.

Schumacher – I'm just battling on a fairness thing. I didn't feel that it was fair to be informed and not able to be here.

Nelson - To be clear, the issue was that it was being discussed and decisions were being made without me being privy to any information whatsoever. That is what Matt is saying is the difference between this meeting and the previous alleged meeting that was going to happen.

Schumacher - I still don't like being unfair to anybody. But I guess in the case, from what I understand, that this is something that council needs to be informed about right now. Is there a way that Councilman Sweigert can be updated since he missed this?

Simpson - I can talk to him, and council is bound by the confidentiality and executive session. I mean, were he available to be here, I mean, he would be privy to everything that said in executive session. I'm not going to make a formal report or anything, but I'll talk to him about what we'll say. I'll just go over what we'll talk about, what you all talk about.

Huff - I mean, we have enough people to vote for anything if we would vote, correct.

Simpson – Right, and there is nothing on the agenda.

Huff – This is like a conversation.

Simpson - Right, this is my first conversation about something. There's nothing on the agenda. At some point, I assume that you're going to say that there's going to be no action taken after the executive session except for adjournment. So we don't, I mean, we have

enough people. We have a quorum. You guys could vote on something, but there's nothing on the agenda that will not be voting on anything.

Beshara - Right now, Rich's vote yea or nay isn't going to affect the vote because we've got four people, so we've got a majority, correct?

Simpson - No, we've got three right now.

Schumacher - All right, so based upon that, and the fact that you can give Councilman Sweigert an update, Matt, then I will vote yes for executive session and that there will not be any vote taken afterwards anyway. And **motion carried.**

b. **Motion to Come Out of Executive Session – 4:43 pm** Nelson so moved, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Adjourn: 4:44 p.m. Huff moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

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Mayor

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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

RECORD OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 8531 Passed: _____, 2026

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.

RECORD OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 8531 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.

(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.

(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.

(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.

(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;

(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

(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

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 or Designee.

(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.

(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.

(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;

(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, 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~~ 50.00fee.

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 's 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.

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 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.

(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.

RECORD OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 8536 Passed: _____, 2026

Passed: _____, 2026

_____
Mayor

Attest:

_____
Clerk of Council

RECORD OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 8540 Passed: _____, 2026

ORDINANCE NO. 8540

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. 8540 Passed: _____, 2026

Passed: _____, 2026

_____
Mayor

Attest:

_____
Clerk of Council

2026 Budget

	FUND	2026 Budget Revenues	2026 Budgeted Expenses
100	General Fund	3,439,814	3,753,413.65
101	Budget Stabilization	0	0
205	Safety Services	1,252,910	978,840
210	Emergency Med. Serv.	669,268	770,958
220	Street Maint. & Repair	410,548	409,452
225	State Highway	33,484	30,000
228	American Rescue Plan Act	0	2,026
230	Permissive Tax	50,000	50,000
235	Permissive Tax II	53,584	95,000
240	Police Pension	46,700	45,821
250	Law Enforcement & Educ.	200	0
251	Law Enforcement	7,801	17,000
252	OneOhio Opioid	500	0
256	Cont Professional Training	5,845	0
257	K-9	1,498	500
270	Educ. & Recreation Assist.	0	0
271	Baseball Field Maintenance	0	0
280	SAFER Grant	0	0
400	Capital Improvements	648,807	1,530,974
410	Fire Dept. Capital Impr.	201,700	279,728
500	Debt Retirement	157,852	167,861
600	Water	1,512,000	1,530,783
603	Water Bond Retirement	0	0
650	Sewer	7,323,744	4,467,335
655	Sewer Surplus	0	294,929
656	Sewer Revenue Bond Ret.	0	0
657	Sewer Revenue Bond Reserve	0	0
680	Solid Waste	604,068	605,048
681	Storm Sewer	184,508	203,964
700	Cemetery	9,000	25,000
710	Recreation Trust	5,750	0
801	Returnable Bonds	0	14,219
802	DARE	0	2,500
803	Police Association	0	1,000
		$16,619,581	**$15,276,350**

		Personal Services	Other Expenses	Total
General Fund				
Safety Service	**Police**	1,029,608	202,249	1,231,858
Safety Service	**St. Lighting**	0	44,152	44,152
Public Health & Welfare	**Cemetery**	108,440	22,998	131,438
Public Health & Welfare	**County Health**	0	22,502	22,502
Public Health & Welfare	**Public Health**	3,465	0	3,465
Public Health & Welfare	**Pest & Animal Control**	300	13,146	13,446
Leisure Time	**Parks**	77,881	49,345	127,226
Leisure Time	**Recreation Center**	276,029	219,272	495,301
Leisure Time	**Nature Preserve**	72,623	20,100	92,723
Transportation	**Street Maint. & Repair**	174,187	11,789	185,976
Transportation	**Veh. Maint.**	0	0	0
General Govt	**City Council & Mayor**	45,258	0	45,258
General Govt	**Administration**	158,358	774,396	932,754
General Govt	**Finance & Income Tax**	185,342	107,911	293,253
General Govt	**Lands & Buildings**	0	12,392	12,392
General Govt	**Law**	42,456	45,217	87,673
General Govt	**Other General**	4,000	29,996	33,996
	Other Uses			0
Total General Fund		2,177,948	1,575,466	3,753,414
Other Funds				
101	**Budget Stabilization**	0	0	0
205	**Safety Services**	978,840	0	978,840
210	**EMS**	472,095	298,863	770,958
220	**Street Maint. & Repair**	329,495	79,957	409,452
225	**State Highway**	0	30,000	30,000
228	**American Rescue Plan Act**	0	2,026	2,026
230	**Permissive Tax**	0	50,000	50,000
235	**Permissive Tax II**	0	95,000	95,000
240	**Police Pension**	45,000	821	45,821
250	**Law Enforcement & Educ.**	0	0	0
251	**Law Enforcement**	17,000	0	17,000
252	**OneOhio Opioid**	0	0	0
255	**Law Enforcement Assist. Grant**	0	0	0
256	**Cont Professional Training'**	0	0	0
257	**K-9**	0	500	500
270	**Educ. & Recreation Assist.**	0	0	0
271	**Baseball Field Maintenance**	0	0	0
280	**SAFER Grant**	0	0	0
400	**Capital Improvements**	0	1,530,974	1,530,974
410	**Fire Dept. Capital Impr.**	168,259	111,469	279,728
500	**Debt Retirement**	0	167,861	167,861
600	**Water**	541,309	989,474	1,530,783
650	**Sewer**	588,401	3,878,934	4,467,335
655	**Sewer Surplus**	0	294,929	294,929
680	**Solid Waste**	84,888	520,160	605,048
681	**Storm Sewer**	64,160	139,805	203,964
700	**Cemetery**	0	25,000	25,000
710	**Recreation Trust**	0	0	0

2026 APPROPRIATIONS AMENDMENT #8

Fund	Department	Amount	Description
General	Police	$ 13,000.00	Personal Services - Police Pension
General	Patrolmen	$ 10,000.00	Personal Services - Salary and Overtime
Cemetery	Capital	$ 20,000.00	Capital Outlay
General	Cemetery	$ (5,000.00)	Reallocation - Contractual Services
General	Nature Preserve	$ (5,000.00)	Reallocation - Contractual Services
General	Administration	$ (10,000.00)	Reallocation - Personal Services
General	Police	$ (3,000.00)	Reallocation - Contractual Services

2026 ESTIMATED RESOURCES AMENDMENT #1

Fund	Department	Amount	Description

8541

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR

(CITY COUNCIL)

Revised Code, Secs. 5705.34 & 5705.35

The Council of the City of ***RITTMAN*** *, Wayne County, Ohio, met in regular session on the* 14 *day of* September *, 20*26*, at the office of the* Rittman City Council *with the following members present:*

Rich Schumacher

Melissa Shows

Amanda Nelson

Nick Huff

Sonya Hayward

Don Sweigert

moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, This Council in accordance with the provisions of law has previously adopted a Tax Budget for the next succeeding fiscal year commencing January 1st, 2027; and

WHEREAS, The Budget Commission of Wayne County, Ohio, has certified its action thereon to this Council together with an estimate by the County Auditor of the rate of each tax necessary to be levied by this Council, and what part thereof is without, and what part within, the ten mill tax limitation; therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the Council of the City of **RITTMAN** *, Wayne County, Ohio, that the amounts and rates, as determined by the Budget Commission in its certification, be and the same are hereby accepted; and be it further*

RESOLVED, That there be and is hereby levied on the tax duplicate of said City the rate of each tax necessary to be levied within and without the ten mill limitation as follows:

SCHEDULE A

SUMMARY OF AMOUNTS REQUIRED FROM GENERAL PROPERTY TAX APPROVED BY BUDGET COMMISSION, AND COUNTY AUDITOR'S ESTIMATED TAX RATES

FUND	Amount to Be Derived from Levies Outside 10 Mill Limitation	Amount Approved by Budget Commission Inside 10 Mill Limitation	County Auditor's Estimate of Tax Rate to Be Levied	
			Inside 10 Mill Limit	Outside 10 Mill Limit
	Column II	Column IV	V	VI
GENERAL		388,100	2.70	
GENERAL		100,700	0.70	
POLICE PENSION		43,100	0.30	
FIRE	96,300			1.00
AMBULANCE & E.M.S.	221,600			2.30
TOTAL	317,900	531,900	3.70	3.30

SCHEDULE B

LEVIES OUTSIDE 10 MILL LIMITATION, EXCLUSIVE OF DEBT LEVIES

FUND	Maximum Rate Authorized to Be Levied	County Auditor's Estimate of Yield of Levy Carry to Schedule A Column II
GENERAL FUND		
FIRE FUND: levy authorized by voters on 2025 MAY for not to exceed 5 years	1.00	
AMBULANCE & E.M.S. FUND: levy authorized by voters on 2024 NOV for not to exceed 5 years	2.30	
	3.30	

RITTMAN

and by it futher

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of this Council be and they are hereby directed to certifiy a copy of this Resolution to the County Auditor of said County.

_____ *seconded the Resolution and the roll being called upon its adoption the vote resulted as follows:*

Rich Schumacher,	_____ *yes*	_____ *no*
Melissa Shows,	_____ *yes*	_____ *no*
Amanda Nelson,	_____ *yes*	_____ *no*
Nick Huff,	_____ *yes*	_____ *no*
Sonya Hayward,	_____ *yes*	_____ *no*
Don Sweigert,	_____ *yes*	_____ *no*
_____,	_____ *yes*	_____ *no*

Adopted the _____ *day of* _____ *, 20*____

_____
President of Council

Attest:

_____
Fiscal Officer

RECORD OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 8542 Passed: _____, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 8542

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RITTMAN, WAYNE AND MEDINA COUNTIES AND STATE OF OHIO, AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND / OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the State Capital Improvement Program and the Local Transportation Improvement Program both provide financial assistance to political subdivisions for capital improvements to public infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the City of Rittman is planning to make capital improvements to the traffic lights and controllers at the intersections of Main Street and Ohio Avenue and Main Street and Sunset Drive in 2027; and

WHEREAS, the infrastructure improvement herein above described is considered to be a priority need for the community and is a qualified project under the OPWC programs.

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 Municipal Manager is hereby authorized to apply to the OPWC for funds as described above.

RECORD OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 8542 Passed: _____, 2026

SECTION TWO.

The Municipal Manager is authorized to enter into any agreements as may be necessary and appropriate for obtaining this financial assistance.

SECTION THREE.

That because of the immediate need to meet the deadline for submittal, this Resolution is hereby declared and emergency measure necessary measure necessary for the public peach, health and safety and shall go into immediate force and effect upon its passage.

Passed: _____, 2026

_____
Mayor

Attest:

_____
Clerk of Council

RECORD OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 8543 Passed: _____, 2026

ORDINANCE NO. 8543

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. 8543 Passed: _____, 2026

Passed: _____, 2026

_____
Mayor

Attest:

_____
Clerk of Council

9/14/2026

2026 APPROPRIATIONS AMENDMENT #9.1

Fund	Department	Amount	Description
Capital	Police	$ (76,429.86)	Agreement Canceled

2026 ESTIMATED RESOURCES AMENDMENT #1

Fund	Department	Amount	Description

2026 Budget

	FUND	2026 Budget Revenues	2026 Budgeted Expenses
100	General Fund	3,439,814	3,753,413.65
101	Budget Stabilization	0	0
205	Safety Services	1,252,910	978,840
210	Emergency Med. Serv.	669,268	770,958
220	Street Maint. & Repair	410,548	409,452
225	State Highway	33,484	30,000
228	American Rescue Plan Act	0	2,026
230	Permissive Tax	50,000	50,000
235	Permissive Tax II	53,584	95,000
240	Police Pension	46,700	45,821
250	Law Enforcement & Educ.	200	0
251	Law Enforcement	7,801	17,000
252	OneOhio Opioid	500	0
256	Cont Professional Training	5,845	0
257	K-9	1,498	500
270	Educ. & Recreation Assist.	0	0
271	Baseball Field Maintenance	0	0
280	SAFER Grant	0	0
400	Capital Improvements	648,807	1,454,725
410	Fire Dept. Capital Impr.	201,700	279,728
500	Debt Retirement	157,852	167,861
600	Water	1,512,000	1,530,783
603	Water Bond Retirement	0	0
650	Sewer	7,323,744	4,467,335
655	Sewer Surplus	0	294,929
656	Sewer Revenue Bond Ret.	0	0
657	Sewer Revenue Bond Reserve	0	0
680	Solid Waste	604,068	605,048
681	Storm Sewer	184,508	203,964
700	Cemetery	9,000	25,000
710	Recreation Trust	5,750	0
801	Returnable Bonds	0	14,219
802	DARE	0	2,500
803	Police Association	0	1,000
		$16,619,581	**$15,200,100**

		Personal Services	Other Expenses	Total
General Fund				
Safety Service	**Police**	1,029,608	202,249	1,231,858
Safety Service	**St. Lighting**	0	44,152	44,152
Public Health & Welfare	**Cemetery**	108,440	22,998	131,438
Public Health & Welfare	**County Health**	0	22,502	22,502
Public Health & Welfare	**Public Health**	3,465	0	3,465
Public Health & Welfare	**Pest & Animal Control**	300	13,146	13,446
Leisure Time	**Parks**	77,881	49,345	127,226
Leisure Time	**Recreation Center**	276,029	219,272	495,301
Leisure Time	**Nature Preserve**	72,623	20,100	92,723
Transportation	**Street Maint. & Repair**	174,187	11,789	185,976
Transportation	**Veh. Maint.**	0	0	0
General Govt	**City Council & Mayor**	45,258	0	45,258
General Govt	**Administration**	158,358	774,396	932,754
General Govt	**Finance & Income Tax**	185,342	107,911	293,253
General Govt	**Lands & Buildings**	0	12,392	12,392
General Govt	**Law**	42,456	45,217	87,673
General Govt	**Other General**	4,000	29,996	33,996
	Other Uses			0
Total General Fund		2,177,948	1,575,466	3,753,414
Other Funds				
101	**Budget Stabilization**	0	0	0
205	**Safety Services**	978,840	0	978,840
210	**EMS**	472,095	298,863	770,958
220	**Street Maint. & Repair**	329,495	79,957	409,452
225	**State Highway**	0	30,000	30,000
228	**American Rescue Plan Act**	0	2,026	2,026
230	**Permissive Tax**	0	50,000	50,000
235	**Permissive Tax II**	0	95,000	95,000
240	**Police Pension**	45,000	821	45,821
250	**Law Enforcement & Educ.**	0	0	0
251	**Law Enforcement**	17,000	0	17,000
252	**OneOhio Opioid**	0	0	0
255	**Law Enforcement Assist. Grant**	0	0	0
256	**Cont Professional Training'**	0	0	0
257	**K-9**	0	500	500
270	**Educ. & Recreation Assist.**	0	0	0
271	**Baseball Field Maintenance**	0	0	0
280	**SAFER Grant**	0	0	0
400	**Capital Improvements**	0	1,454,725	1,454,725
410	**Fire Dept. Capital Impr.**	168,259	111,469	279,728
500	**Debt Retirement**	0	167,861	167,861
600	**Water**	541,309	989,474	1,530,783
650	**Sewer**	588,401	3,878,934	4,467,335
655	**Sewer Surplus**	0	294,929	294,929
680	**Solid Waste**	84,888	520,160	605,048
681	**Storm Sewer**	64,160	139,805	203,964
700	**Cemetery**	0	25,000	25,000
710	**Recreation Trust**	0	0	0

9/14/2026

2026 APPROPRIATIONS AMENDMENT #9.2

Fund	Department	Amount	Description
Capital	Police	$ (25,377.86)	Change in fleet plan

2026 ESTIMATED RESOURCES AMENDMENT #1

Fund	Department	Amount	Description

2026 Budget

	FUND	2026 Budget Revenues	2026 Budgeted Expenses
100	General Fund	3,439,814	3,753,413.65
101	Budget Stabilization	0	0
205	Safety Services	1,252,910	978,840
210	Emergency Med. Serv.	669,268	770,958
220	Street Maint. & Repair	410,548	409,452
225	State Highway	33,484	30,000
228	American Rescue Plan Act	0	2,026
230	Permissive Tax	50,000	50,000
235	Permissive Tax II	53,584	95,000
240	Police Pension	46,700	45,821
250	Law Enforcement & Educ.	200	0
251	Law Enforcement	7,801	17,000
252	OneOhio Opioid	500	0
256	Cont Professional Training	5,845	0
257	K-9	1,498	500
270	Educ. & Recreation Assist.	0	0
271	Baseball Field Maintenance	0	0
280	SAFER Grant	0	0
400	Capital Improvements	648,807	1,505,597
410	Fire Dept. Capital Impr.	201,700	279,728
500	Debt Retirement	157,852	167,861
600	Water	1,512,000	1,530,783
603	Water Bond Retirement	0	0
650	Sewer	7,323,744	4,467,335
655	Sewer Surplus	0	294,929
656	Sewer Revenue Bond Ret.	0	0
657	Sewer Revenue Bond Reserve	0	0
680	Solid Waste	604,068	605,048
681	Storm Sewer	184,508	203,964
700	Cemetery	9,000	25,000
710	Recreation Trust	5,750	0
801	Returnable Bonds	0	14,219
802	DARE	0	2,500
803	Police Association	0	1,000
		$16,619,581	**$15,250,972**

		Personal Services	Other Expenses	Total
General Fund				
Safety Service	**Police**	1,029,608	202,249	1,231,858
Safety Service	**St. Lighting**	0	44,152	44,152
Public Health & Welfare	**Cemetery**	108,440	22,998	131,438
Public Health & Welfare	**County Health**	0	22,502	22,502
Public Health & Welfare	**Public Health**	3,465	0	3,465
Public Health & Welfare	**Pest & Animal Control**	300	13,146	13,446
Leisure Time	**Parks**	77,881	49,345	127,226
Leisure Time	**Recreation Center**	276,029	219,272	495,301
Leisure Time	**Nature Preserve**	72,623	20,100	92,723
Transportation	**Street Maint. & Repair**	174,187	11,789	185,976
Transportation	**Veh. Maint.**	0	0	0
General Govt	**City Council & Mayor**	45,258	0	45,258
General Govt	**Administration**	158,358	774,396	932,754
General Govt	**Finance & Income Tax**	185,342	107,911	293,253
General Govt	**Lands & Buildings**	0	12,392	12,392
General Govt	**Law**	42,456	45,217	87,673
General Govt	**Other General**	4,000	29,996	33,996
	Other Uses			0
Total General Fund		2,177,948	1,575,466	3,753,414
Other Funds				
101	**Budget Stabilization**	0	0	0
205	**Safety Services**	978,840	0	978,840
210	**EMS**	472,095	298,863	770,958
220	**Street Maint. & Repair**	329,495	79,957	409,452
225	**State Highway**	0	30,000	30,000
228	**American Rescue Plan Act**	0	2,026	2,026
230	**Permissive Tax**	0	50,000	50,000
235	**Permissive Tax II**	0	95,000	95,000
240	**Police Pension**	45,000	821	45,821
250	**Law Enforcement & Educ.**	0	0	0
251	**Law Enforcement**	17,000	0	17,000
252	**OneOhio Opioid**	0	0	0
255	**Law Enforcement Assist. Grant**	0	0	0
256	**Cont Professional Training'**	0	0	0
257	**K-9**	0	500	500
270	**Educ. & Recreation Assist.**	0	0	0
271	**Baseball Field Maintenance**	0	0	0
280	**SAFER Grant**	0	0	0
400	**Capital Improvements**	0	1,505,597	1,505,597
410	**Fire Dept. Capital Impr.**	168,259	111,469	279,728
500	**Debt Retirement**	0	167,861	167,861
600	**Water**	541,309	989,474	1,530,783
650	**Sewer**	588,401	3,878,934	4,467,335
655	**Sewer Surplus**	0	294,929	294,929
680	**Solid Waste**	84,888	520,160	605,048
681	**Storm Sewer**	64,160	139,805	203,964
700	**Cemetery**	0	25,000	25,000
710	**Recreation Trust**	0	0	0

9/14/2026

2026 APPROPRIATIONS AMENDMENT #9.3

Fund	Department	Amount	Description
Capital	Police	$ 15,358.14	Change in fleet plan

2026 ESTIMATED RESOURCES AMENDMENT #1

Fund	Department	Amount	Description

2026 Budget

	FUND	2026 Budget Revenues	2026 Budgeted Expenses
100	General Fund	3,439,814	3,753,413.65
101	Budget Stabilization	0	0
205	Safety Services	1,252,910	978,840
210	Emergency Med. Serv.	669,268	770,958
220	Street Maint. & Repair	410,548	409,452
225	State Highway	33,484	30,000
228	American Rescue Plan Act	0	2,026
230	Permissive Tax	50,000	50,000
235	Permissive Tax II	53,584	95,000
240	Police Pension	46,700	45,821
250	Law Enforcement & Educ.	200	0
251	Law Enforcement	7,801	17,000
252	OneOhio Opioid	500	0
256	Cont Professional Training	5,845	0
257	K-9	1,498	500
270	Educ. & Recreation Assist.	0	0
271	Baseball Field Maintenance	0	0
280	SAFER Grant	0	0
400	Capital Improvements	648,807	1,546,333
410	Fire Dept. Capital Impr.	201,700	279,728
500	Debt Retirement	157,852	167,861
600	Water	1,512,000	1,530,783
603	Water Bond Retirement	0	0
650	Sewer	7,323,744	4,467,335
655	Sewer Surplus	0	294,929
656	Sewer Revenue Bond Ret.	0	0
657	Sewer Revenue Bond Reserve	0	0
680	Solid Waste	604,068	605,048
681	Storm Sewer	184,508	203,964
700	Cemetery	9,000	25,000
710	Recreation Trust	5,750	0
801	Returnable Bonds	0	14,219
802	DARE	0	2,500
803	Police Association	0	1,000
		$16,619,581	**$15,291,708**

		Personal Services	Other Expenses	Total
General Fund				
Safety Service	**Police**	1,029,608	202,249	1,231,858
Safety Service	**St. Lighting**	0	44,152	44,152
Public Health & Welfare	**Cemetery**	108,440	22,998	131,438
Public Health & Welfare	**County Health**	0	22,502	22,502
Public Health & Welfare	**Public Health**	3,465	0	3,465
Public Health & Welfare	**Pest & Animal Control**	300	13,146	13,446
Leisure Time	**Parks**	77,881	49,345	127,226
Leisure Time	**Recreation Center**	276,029	219,272	495,301
Leisure Time	**Nature Preserve**	72,623	20,100	92,723
Transportation	**Street Maint. & Repair**	174,187	11,789	185,976
Transportation	**Veh. Maint.**	0	0	0
General Govt	**City Council & Mayor**	45,258	0	45,258
General Govt	**Administration**	158,358	774,396	932,754
General Govt	**Finance & Income Tax**	185,342	107,911	293,253
General Govt	**Lands & Buildings**	0	12,392	12,392
General Govt	**Law**	42,456	45,217	87,673
General Govt	**Other General**	4,000	29,996	33,996
	Other Uses			0
Total General Fund		2,177,948	1,575,466	3,753,414
Other Funds				
101	**Budget Stabilization**	0	0	0
205	**Safety Services**	978,840	0	978,840
210	**EMS**	472,095	298,863	770,958
220	**Street Maint. & Repair**	329,495	79,957	409,452
225	**State Highway**	0	30,000	30,000
228	**American Rescue Plan Act**	0	2,026	2,026
230	**Permissive Tax**	0	50,000	50,000
235	**Permissive Tax II**	0	95,000	95,000
240	**Police Pension**	45,000	821	45,821
250	**Law Enforcement & Educ.**	0	0	0
251	**Law Enforcement**	17,000	0	17,000
252	**OneOhio Opioid**	0	0	0
255	**Law Enforcement Assist. Grant**	0	0	0
256	**Cont Professional Training'**	0	0	0
257	**K-9**	0	500	500
270	**Educ. & Recreation Assist.**	0	0	0
271	**Baseball Field Maintenance**	0	0	0
280	**SAFER Grant**	0	0	0
400	**Capital Improvements**	0	1,546,333	1,546,333
410	**Fire Dept. Capital Impr.**	168,259	111,469	279,728
500	**Debt Retirement**	0	167,861	167,861
600	**Water**	541,309	989,474	1,530,783
650	**Sewer**	588,401	3,878,934	4,467,335
655	**Sewer Surplus**	0	294,929	294,929
680	**Solid Waste**	84,888	520,160	605,048
681	**Storm Sewer**	64,160	139,805	203,964
700	**Cemetery**	0	25,000	25,000
710	**Recreation Trust**	0	0	0