

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Council

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Held July 13, 20 26

RITTMAN CITY COUNCIL – AGENDA
Monday, July 13, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

2027 Tax Budget Hearing

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

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

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

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

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

Approval of Minutes

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

Citizens Forum

None

Old Business

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

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

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

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

New Business

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

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

c. **Ord. No. 8533 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio amending the annual Appropriation Ordinance No. 8492, as amended according to the attached sheet(s) and declaring an emergency.** **Three Readings.** Res. No. 8529 was read on first reading. Shows moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**. Schumacher moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**.

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

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

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

f. **Ord. No. 8536 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, amending Chapter 1325 Sign Regulation of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rittman.** First Reading. Res. No. 8536 was read on first reading. Huff moved to place on second. Schumacher stated that this has been long time coming and there are still possible amendments/changes that will be made. Sweigert stated that he doesn’t feel that it is fair to them that when they walk in at 6:30, they have additional agenda items on the desk. They don’t know what changes need to be made, if they had on Friday, they could have looked at it prior to looking at the current ordinance and what the changes are. Sweigert requested a redline copy of the previous ordinance. Simpson stated that this is a brand-new ordinance, so much of the old one was unconstitutional as written. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

City Manager’s Remarks

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

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

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

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

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

Finance Director’s Remarks

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Second Citizens Forum

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

Council Remarks

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Mayor

Clerk of Council