

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Council

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Held March 9, 2026

Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, March 9, 2026
7:00 p.m.

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

The invocation was given by Ken Mann followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

a. February 23, 2026. Nelson moved to approve. Mayor Arnold pointed out a typo in item d under new business. Schumacher moved to amend the minutes, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Nelson moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Citizens Forum

Ron Tisher – 294 Winkler – attended the meeting to address Brightspeed putting cable down his street. It’s a muddy mess, and his house is one of many on his street that does not have storm sewer. Brightspeed crushed his pipe and his sump pump will not drain into the street. It will back up into his house. Does he fix this? Beshara stated she will look into it.

Beth Nelson – 288 N. Metzger - she is concerned because she found out from Jordan at Auble if the city cremates someone the family does not get the ashes back. He said that the only city that does this is Rittman. It was explained that if it is an indigent person, we do not give the family the cremains, they are buried. We do make efforts to reach out to next of kin. Beshara stated that the city pays \$1,000.00 to have the body cremated. Another thing, the railroad tracks aren’t any better since they fixed them. And, the North part of Main Street, I couldn’t figure out why they fixed Sheldon which is hardly used at all, but N. Main Street is used excessively and it’s terrible.

Old Business

a. Ord. No. 8513 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, amending Section 121.03 Order of Business; Rules of Court of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rittman. Second Reading. Ord. No. 8513 was read on second reading. Sweigert moved to place on third, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

b. Ord. No. 8514 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, amending Section 991.10 Charges and Fees of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rittman. Second Reading. Ord. No. 8513 was read on second reading. Shows moved to place on third. upon roll call Sweigert – No, Hayward – Yes, Nelson – Yes, Schumacher – Yes, Shows – Yes, Huff – Yes, roll call and **motion carried.**

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New Business

a. Ord. No. 8515 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, amending the Annual Appropriation Ordinance No. 8492, as amended according to the attached sheet(s) and declaring an emergency. Three Readings. Ord. No. 8515 was read on first reading. Shows moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**. Schumacher moved to adopt. Hayward inquired why we were discontinuing the use of the K-9. Marcum explained that we are not discontinuing use of the K-9, just the fund. Most of the funding came into the K-9 fund from donations and contributions and they now have a 501(c)(3) we are moving that into the police funding, so it is all in the same budget. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**.

b. Res. No. 8516 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. 8516 was read on first reading. Schumacher moved to suspend the rules, upon roll call Hayward – Yes, Huff – Abstain, Nelson – Yes, Schumacher – Yes, Shows – Yes, Sweigert - Yes and **motion carried**. Schumacher moved to adopt. Sweigert inquired what S.A. Debt was. Marcum replied it's our funding for any kind of loan payments or debt payments; it's just a fund that we keep it separated out of. Sweigert inquired what S.A. stood for. Marcum replied she had no idea. Upon roll call Hayward – Yes, Huff – Abstain, Nelson – Yes, Schumacher – Yes, Shows – Yes, Sweigert - Yes and **motion carried**.

c. Res. No. 8517 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, certifying that when a municipal obligation was incurred sums were lawfully appropriated in the funds to satisfy the obligation and sufficient sums currently exist to satisfy the obligation according to the attached sheet(s) and declaring an emergency. Three Readings. Res. No. 8517 was read on first reading. Sweigert moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**. Shows moved to adopt, upon roll call Sweigert – Yes, Nelson – Yes, Schumacher – Yes, Huff – Abstain, Shows – Yes, Hayward - Yes and **motion carried**.

d. Res. No. 8518 A Resolution allowing the City Manager to apply for a Connecting Communities Planning Grant Funds Programmed by the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) to conduct a city-wide active Transportation Plan and declaring an emergency. Three Readings. Res. No. 8518 was read on first reading. Shows moved to suspend the rules, upon roll call Shows – Yes, Schumacher – Yes, Nelson – Yes, Hayward – No, Huff – Yes, Sweigert - Yes and **motion carried**. Shows moved to adopt. Shows inquired what the timeline was. Beshara stated that March 20th is when we have to apply. We already have the \$20,000.00 in our budget. The \$50,000.00 is the actual grant. We will know in June if we got it or not. Huff stated we are going to spend \$20,000.00 for a study to know our downtown needs work. Beshara stated that it is for the community; they are going to start with the downtown area. They will do a feasibility study so they can ask the community members their suggestions and ideas. They would like the schools to be involved with getting kids to school safely from downtown, can the access the parks, and look at the roadway and parking on Main. This is a very good grant to get; as long as we have been involved with AMATS we have never applied. Shows stated that the study is part of the condition of the grant. Beshara said they give you the grant and tell you what you are limited to spend it on. Huff inquired if we spend the \$20,000.00 we still might not get the grant? Beshara clarified that the \$20,000.00 comes after the grant is approved. Further discussion was held regarding the benefits and negatives

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on this grant. Upon roll call Shows – Yes, Schumacher – Yes, Nelson – Yes, Hayward – No, Huff – No, Sweigert - Yes and **motion carried.**

e. **Ord. No. 8519 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and state of Ohio, Enacting a 180-day moratorium on the receipt, processing issuance and approval of any application for a zoning certificate for NAICS 518 – Data Processing, Hosting and related services (Data Centers) under the City’s Planning and Zoning Code; and declaring an emergency. First Reading.** Ord. No. 8519 was read on first reading. Hayward moved to place on second. Shows stated that we have heard from NOPEC the impact it would have on our infrastructure and our power. The moratorium is to look at the zoning; look at making changes. What kind of changes are we looking at. Beshara stated that the data centers right now that they are bringing in at the IX Center was to be a huge center with 10 jobs. It’s things like that I want to protect the city from. Shows inquired if this was preventative. Beshara stated at this time it was. A few months back there was conversation. Matt is going to look into it more. Further discussion was held. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

City Manager’s Remarks

Thank you for the discussion on these items, I appreciate it. Also, we had our Chamber State of the City, and it was really nice, we gave out some great awards to community members and businesses. We gave out a Community Improvement Award to S.O.S. (Success on the Spectrum) and to The Creative Images Flower Shop and Boutique. Officer Hunter and Jesse Robertson who work for us both received Big Heart Awards from the Mayor. Also, the Ruth Ann Leatherman Award and the Humanitarian Award to Scott Marshall and to Lilian Grzybowski at H & R Block. It was a really nice night. I gave my State of the City, and our Mayor did a fantastic job on his State of the City.

Finance Director’s Remarks

You guys did receive your financial packet for the month of February. There was an updated version put in front of you guys because I had an extra zero in the capital and did not spend \$800,000.00, we only spent \$80,000.00. Just as a general overview everything is within expected ranges, so we are stable so early in the year. I don’t have any concerns financially for how we stand now.

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

Council Remarks

Shows – I had the privilege last weekend of going to the Police Department’s year end party. It was a nice gathering held at Nuestra where I estimated about 55 people. It was nice to see hundreds of years of Rittman’s continued service in various ways. We had dispatchers, former officers, some who have moved on to other careers in other departments and brought on with the new guys that were here. It was just a wonderful evening and many of our officers were recognized for their daily tasks as well as going above and beyond in many ways. Sergeant Mascolo was given his tenth Officer of Year Award, his sixth in a row. It was nice to be hosted here in the City using some of our resources here; it was a nice evening. I want to thank everybody for the State of the City and those who attended this evening.

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Huff – I want to thank the Lion's Club; we had a chili cook off a couple of weeks ago. A lot of citizens came out for that. Thanks for everyone who came tonight and hope to see you here in two weeks.

Schumacher – again, I want to thank everybody for showing up tonight. And for everybody who showed up at our soup and chili cookoff. It was well attended and I think everybody enjoyed their time and the soup that they had. The next event that the Lion's have coming up is the Easter Egg Hunt. It will be held at Calvary Baptist Church on March 28. We expect another good turnout for that. We just have to cross our fingers on weather. I also want to congratulate Amanda and the Chamber of Commerce for what they did, the State of the City. It was a very nice evening.

Hayward – I want to thank everybody for coming out and I know the Fire Department's getting ready for their Easter Breakfast, I think on the 28th at 7 – 11.

Nelson – the Chamber Annual Banquet, State of the City, but it was a really good time. It's always great to see everybody in one room that is always helping out in the City and meeting with Commissioners and other State Representatives and people from Wooster. We had the United Way attend. It is good to see everybody. The Beautification Committee is having our purse bingo on March 20. We only have about ten tickets left out of 120, if you are thinking about coming, get your ticket. We also have our annual Easter Basket giveaway coming up March 29. The time will be posted as soon as we have it finalized. We are taking donations for Easter Baskets, toys and candy at So Cal Salon or at Prim and Proper during our normal business hours.

Sweigert – I forgot to ask about some vouchers. The first one is Southeastern Equipment Company for \$30,000.00. Marcum replied that it is the hot box purchase for asphalt. Sweigert – the City of Rittman for \$9,276.29, why are we paying ourselves. Marcum replied that when we receive our payments from RITA for our income tax and we do have to pay fees. When we deposit them, we deposit the entire amount and then the fees are allocated as payment. Sweigert - Anchor Heating Air Conditioning and Plumbing for \$16,697.00. Marcum responded that it was replacing the furnace at the garage at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Sweigert – A and H Equipment Company \$14,646.65. Marcum stated that it was the camera head for the jet and tube for the jet that we use for the water line and sewer line repair. Sweigert – thanks for that, I appreciate you being prepared. Regarding the State of the City, could I suggest that for those of us who weren't able to make it or those who can't afford the \$50.00 to attend in person, would it be possible to have maybe those who gave a speech record it and then the citizens who weren't able to attend they can see what the state of our City is. Then maybe the State of the Chamber or whatever, just so the people that weren't there can see what is going on.

Mayor Arnold – for myself, one of the things that I mentioned at the State of the City was I always take a 100 days of observation before making big changes or decisions. One of the things I mentioned at the State of the City was March 11 will be 100 days since the newly elected folks have been in place. It is my intention to become much more active on social media and those types of things. It was in the best interest of myself and the City to make sure we understood roles and where we fit in and those types of things. I am more than happy to redo that speech but at the same time I plan to be more active and engaging with the community which includes quarterly town halls, things of that nature.

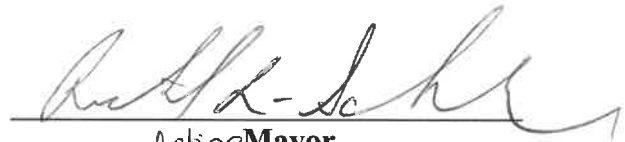
Sweigert – I did attend the Rittman Youth Sports Night at the Races Saturday night. There were at least 100 people there. All to proceeds go back to all the youth sports. It was a good event; there was a lot of money raised.

Mayor Arnold – thank you all, I have a few things briefly to say is one that the State of the City was a great event. That was my first time attending. Like Councilwoman Nelson said quite a few local and State Representatives were there. It may not seem like it, but people are definitely watching and willing to help this community and that leads me into the next part, the amount of folks up here that I see out the community events, it does make a difference. Thank you, I appreciate it. We are definitely moving forward. Everyone being here tonight, it's the same thing. Thank you for coming, next time bring a friend.

Held _____ 20 _____

Beshara – don't forget we have Charter Review and the next one is March 18 at 6:00 p.m. in this room.

Adjourn: 7:53 p.m. Nelson moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**


Acting Mayor


Clerk of Council