

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Special Council

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Held August 24, 2026

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

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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**.


Acting Mayor


Clerk of Council