

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Council

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Held December 1, 2025

Rittman City Council Met in a
ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
Monday, December 1, 2025
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 Rudy Zollinger, grandfather of Mayor Rudy Arnold followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Oath of Office

- a. Charles Rudy Arnold – Mayor – Term Expires 12-03-2029
The Oath was administered by Council President Rich Schumacher

Oaths of Office

- a. Sonya Hayward – Council Member – Term Expires 12-03-2029
- b. Nick Huff – Council Member – Term Expires 12-03-2029
- c. Don Sweigert – Council Member – Term Expires 12-03-2029
- d. Thomas J. Holmes – Police Officer
The Oaths were administered by Mayor Rudy Arnold

Motion to Appoint Matthew D. Simpson as Law Director – One Year Term

Shows so moved. Sweigert stated that as 50% new council, we really don't know if we should approve him for an entire year. Would it be beneficial for us to go to a three month period of time to evaluate so we have a chance to evaluate and make sure that's who we want in that position? Nelson stated that the charter states annual; that would be going against our charter. Shows stated in past precedence we have always done the annual. Upon roll call, Schumacher – Yes, Huff – No, Shows – Yes, Nelson – Yes, Sweigert – No, Hayward – No and motion is tied. Mayor Arnold stated that under the charter he has the authority to break a tie. However, he is not prepared to exercise that authority on this appointment. He has not had adequate time to evaluate the nominee and there is also a legitimate legal question about whether the mayoral tie breaker satisfies Section 6.5 of our charter. Section 6.5 states the law director provision requires the concurrence of a majority of the members elected to Council. I was elected to Mayor. I think this needs an independent legal opinion, I do not want to put Mr. Simpson in that position. The motion will fail three - three for a lack of a majority, and under Section 6.5 Council will have 60 days or three meetings to revisit this appointment. Mr. Simpson will continue to serve under Section 17.07 of the Charter until a successor is appointed and qualified. Beshara stated that she is the one who would be making the appointment, again, to Council at the next meeting. Marcum inquired who and where the payment will be coming from for the independent legal decision. We would need a purchase order and need to have them as a vendor if the City is paying for this legal opinion.

Motion to Appoint Joan M. Challinor as Clerk of Council – One Year Term

Sweigert so moved, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried.

Oaths of Office

- a. Joan M. Challinor – Clerk of Council – One Year Term
The Oath was administered by Mayor Rudy Arnold

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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Council

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20 25

Approval of Minutes – November 10, 2025

Shows moved to approve, upon roll call Schumacher – Yes, Sweigert – Abstain, Shows – Yes, Hayward – Yes, Huff – Yes, Nelson – Yes and **motion carried**.

Citizens Forum

Ken Park – 348 Decourcey – Thank you, for all the new guys coming and doing what you are doing. I'm glad to see everybody is getting along well. Just one quick question on the law director issue. He had a one-year term that has expired, does he need to be sworn in for the two-month period that you stated. Beshara stated that 17.07 states an appointed or elected official will remain in that role until they are replaced.

Old Business

None

New Business

a. Motion to Appoint a President of Council. Shows nominated Schumacher. Huff made a motion to nominate Hayward. Upon roll call for Schumacher Hayward – No, Shows – Yes, Sweigert – No, Nelson – Yes, Huff – No, Schumacher – Yes. Mayor Arnold broke the tie and the **motion carried** to appoint Schumacher.

b. Ord. No. 8500 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending the Annual Appropriation Ordinance No. 8436, as Amended According to the Attached Sheet(s) and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings. Ord. No. 8500 was read on first reading. Sweigert moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**. Shows moved to adopt. Sweigert inquired if all the personal services salary corrections? Marcum stated that they are salary and Medicare, PERS, health insurance. Sweigert also inquired if there was an increase in the purchase of whatever capital improvement that we purchased. Marcum replied yes. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**.

c. Res. No. 8501 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 this Obligation According to the Attached Sheet(s) and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings. Ord. No. 8501 was read on first reading. Schumacher moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**. Shows moved to adopt. Shows asked for an explanation. Marcum replied that we have an Ohio Water Development Authority Fund and we send a disbursement request and the payee was listed to the construction company, so the check wouldn't have come from us it would have come from OWDA. However, they sent the money to the City, so I have to cut the check. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**.

d. Motion to Appoint a Council Representative to the Recreation Center Board of Directors – Josh Carey Currently Serves. Sweigert nominated Huff. Schumacher made a motion to nominate Shows. Upon roll call for Huff, Sweigert – Yes, Nelson – No, Schumacher – No, Huff – Yes, Shows – No, Hayward – Yes. Mayor Arnold broke the tie and the **motion carried** to appoint Huff.

e. Motion to Re-Appoint Alan Emerson to the Planning Commission. Nelson so moved, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Council

Meeting

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f. Motion to Accept the Resignation of Don Steiner from the Planning Commission. Schumacher so moved, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried.

g. Motion to Appoint Reid Beery to the Planning Commission for a 3 Year Term. Shows so moved, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried.

h. Motion to Appoint a Council Representative to the Planning Commission – Rich Schumacher Currently Serves. Huff moved to appoint Sweigert, upon roll call Sweigert – Abstain, Hayward – Yes, Nelson – Yes, Schumacher – Yes, Shows – Yes, Huff - Yes and motion carried.

i. Motion to Appoint Ken Mann, Joel Landis and Larry Boggs to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a 3-Year Term. Hayward so moved, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried.

j. Motion to Accept the Resignation of Lindsey Millan from the Civil Service Commission and to Appoint Alex Barnes for the Unexpired Term of Linsey Millan. Nelson so moved, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried.

k. Motion to Appoint Dave Dreher and Jonathon Johnson to the Utilities & Refuse Rate Board of Review for Another 3-Year Term. Hayward so moved, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried.

l. Motion to Appoint a Council Representative to the Utilities & Refuse Rate Board of Review – Josh Carey Currently Serves. Sweigert moved to appoint Schumacher, all Yeas upon roll call and motion carried.

m. Motion to Appoint Two Council Representatives to the Firemen's Indemnity Board – Josh Carey and Chuck Wyatt Currently Serve. Sweigert moved to appoint Shows and Huff moved to appoint Sweigert, upon roll call, Sweigert – Yes, Hayward – Yes, Nelson – No, Schumacher – Yes, Shows – Yes, Huff - Yes and motion carried.

n. Motion to Appoint Jennifer Cottrell, Ron Woodward and Tim Anderson to the Firemen's Indemnity Board as a Fire Department Board Member for a 1-Year Term. Nelson so moved, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried.

o. Motion to Appoint Two Council Representatives to the Rittman Community Improvement Corporation – Amanda Nelson and Melissa Shows Currently Serve. Huff moved to appoint Sweigert and Shows moved to appoint Nelson, all Yeas upon roll call and motion carried.

p. Motion to Appoint a Council Representative to the Shade Tree Commission – Ken Park Currently Serves. Sweigert moved to appoint Hayward, all Yeas upon roll call and motion carried.

q. Motion to Appoint a Council Representative to the Community Reinvestment Area Committee – Rich Schumacher Currently Serves. Sweigert moved to appoint Schumacher, all Yeas upon roll call and motion carried.

s. Motion to Appoint a Council Representative to the Board of Nuisance Abatement – Ken Park Currently Serves. Shows moved to appoint Hayward, all Yeas upon roll call and motion carried.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Held

December 1,

20 25

City Manager’s Remarks

Welcome to our new council and new mayor. In front of you please find an orientation packet and copy of our charter. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Congratulations to our new full-time Police Officer, Tom Holmes. Tom previously worked 20 years for the Wayne County Sheriff’s Department. We are very happy that Tom has decided to join our Rittman Police Department.

Our Service Department has been hard at work picking up leaves, preparing for Christmas, cleaning storm sewers, fixing potholes and drag paving. They have done an exemplary job and deserve to be commended.

Kudos to all of our departments who work tirelessly every day to provide for our community.

Fire Chief McDonald and I are looking forward to our continued process of hiring 3 new full-time Fire/medics. We know that this has been a long time coming and feel it is best for the citizens and businesses of Rittman. These jobs were posted last Monday with a closing date of December 26th. We are using the National Testing Network to initially test candidates for these positions. We will interview qualified candidates in January. Also, thank you to our Civil Service Commission for their approval of the process.

Congratulations to our Parks and Recreation Director, Garrick DiSalvo, on obtaining a grant from the Wayne County Community Foundation for a new Kubota, side-by-side UTV. This vehicle will support a wide range of city operations, including: park maintenance, Main Street flower watering & beautification, care and upkeep of the William J. Robertson Nature Preserve, year-round support for projects across the city, Thank you so much to WCCF for this grant.

Mayor Arnold and I will be attending the Northeast Ohio Mayors and City Managers newly elected mayor’s forum on Thursday, December 4th where we will be joined with newly elected mayors to hear Tim Cosgrove’s legislative updates (which will include a federal update as well). Tim is our liaison to State government and does a great job of informing our association of what is currently being considered in in the house and senate. This is a full day forum where you will hear a Property Tax review and update, collective bargaining, pensions and other public employment issues, municipal financing, Ohio Ethics Law and Public meetings and open records discussions. Also, as Vice Chair of this association, I will be sitting on a panel with two mayors from Northeast Ohio in a question-and-answer format.

Thank you to Council, Mayor Robertson, our Law Director, staff and board members for your dedication to Rittman in 2025. Looking forward to another great year in 2026 with our new mayor and council. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to all.

Finance Director’s Remarks

As we close out the year, we are finalizing getting the budget put in for next year. I want to thank everybody for getting the budget approved. It has been sent to the County for their finalization. We are also looking for grants and trying to find additional revenue. I met with a friend who works for Ohio History, and they are going to help us find additional revenue for our parks and our nature preserve. Other than that, I don’t have a lot. I’m here for you guys if you need anything. I’m available for questions.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

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20

25

Council Remarks

Sweigert - thank you Mayor and thank you City Manager for your report and Finance Director, I appreciate that. The citizens of the City of Rittman elected three new Council Members and a Mayor. They had to elect new people because the old folks didn't run again. I'd like to thank the old folks for running not old folks in the term of old, previous Council people, Mayor and Ken, I apologize. I'd like to thank the previous Council members who are here and the Mayor for all of their service and what they did. That Council and the three that are still up here went through a really, really tough time. That was something and I appreciate what you went through. I know Josh told me some stories about seeing people at IGA and they are yelling at him in front of his wife and kid. That's not what it should be. The citizens elected three of us and a new Mayor. We answer directly to those citizens. We told them that we would provide transparency, transparency is essential, accountability and not only are we supposed to be transparent and accountable, but we also have to hold the unelected people transparent and accountable too. Our citizens expect that from us. In the next 90 days, I would like to introduce a few things. City Manager Beshara mentioned a couple months ago about adding at the end of the Agenda a time for Citizens Forum so they could comment on what was happening during that meeting so they didn't have to wait until the next meeting. I think you mentioned that it had to be in the Charter Review. I don't know if the Agenda is in the Charter. I think that Agenda has varied over the last 20 years that I have been coming. If we could add that maybe or look at it adding that time for a citizen that just heard us all talk to be able to give their three minutes of comments during that meeting, I'd like to introduce that. I'd like to ask the City Manager to establish one smart goal for 2026 from each department head. Maybe that should come from the Mayor. Those goals would directly affect the community in 2026. I'd like to see, we don't money, I'm sure, to live stream this Council meeting and any other public meetings. To be able to come up with a way that the citizens that are homebound or who can't make it down are able to see what is being conducted. I know there were other municipalities that did this during Covid, but they still continue to do it. That way it gives a chance for those that can't come down and sit with us to be able to review what is going on. Again, thank you. Citizens expect us to make things better. Beshara inquired what did he mean by making things better. Sweigert responded it was mentioned when Josh Carey left about the relationships between the schools and the city. I don't know if we have a swimming team in Rittman, but someone said that there was a swim team that was at the rec center practicing yesterday. That was really good. Really anything that improves the citizens' lives and transparency is a better thing. Not that we weren't transparent before, but the perception of our citizens was that Council wasn't transparent. Whether we were or not that was the perception. We need to sell that a little bit better and show them that there is transparency and accountability.

Shows – I want to thank everybody for coming out this evening. Welcome to the new Council members, look forward to working on the things we can accomplish over the next year. Congratulations Rudy, you are doing fine. We all mess it up the first time. This weekend is again our Cops with Kids. Chief Shows and his officers have been raising money with the raffle to help the kids. This year's goal is to take 15 kids with us on Saturday to breakfast and shopping and that will also involve other safety services as well. If you have the ability or want to donate or sponsor a child I strongly suggest you reach out to me and I can put you in touch with Ericka Galvin our school social worker who is trying to get as many kids and family covered as possible.

Huff – I want to thank everyone for coming out tonight. Chrystal, thank you for getting back with me. I appreciate you. Bobbie, thank you, you do so much and I don't think people realize how much work you do. I'm happy to be up here.

Schumacher – I want to thank everybody who came tonight. It's nice to see an audience here. I want to congratulate the winners of the last election, and I hope to be able to work together to get things done and make things better. There are a couple things coming up, one is the Community Christmas Basket Program that the Methodist Church does. This week and next week they are taking names for those who need assistance. Another is if you enjoy Christmas music, there is a men's group called Sonnenberg Station who will be singing on December 13th at Milton Presbyterian Church. We have a 19 member men's choir, it

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will be an hour – an hour and a half concert at the church. The Historical Society is having a Christmas singalong at Knupp Church on December 7th at 3:00 p.m.

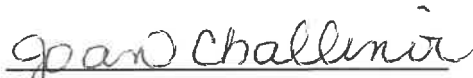
Hayward – I want to thank everybody for coming out. The fire department will be starting to collect the canned foods and toys on Saturday. I'll be there from 8 – 2. They are also doing some weeknights this year. And also, Anchor has their toy give away Sunday from 2 – 4.

Nelson – this weekend is a Very Merry Rittman Christmas event that we have every year. From 9 – 12 we do Christmas Around the World; we have ten businesses and organizations participating this year. Kids can collect passports and get stamps and they will get entered to win a prize which is either an American Girl Doll or an E-bike. Passports get turned in at the Rec. Center when we start our Candyland Christmas. There will be game, crafts and we have an inflatable obstacle course, a human sized snow globe, Santa Claus will be there along with hot cocoa and cookie decorating from 5 – 7. We are doing a Santa Delivery Program with the fire department. You can register your children to get gifts from Santa on the fire truck. The parents supply the gifts to us with their addresses and the fire department delivers them with Santa directly to the children's houses. We also have the Rittman Interludes, the acapella choir from the high school signing at the 5 – 7 event. I want to make note of our Beautification Committee's success over the last couple of weeks. They successfully collected donations for lights on all of the trees but also all of the pine and for the snowflakes in the pots.

Adjourn: 8:05 p.m. Schumacher moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**



Mayor


Clerk of Council