

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

0289

Minutes of

OAK HARBOR COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Held \_\_\_\_\_ March 26, \_\_\_\_\_ 20 12 \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor Conley called the special meeting of Council to order at 7:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was requested with the following members present: Don Douglas, Bill Eberle, Jon Fickert, Angela Petersen, Jim Seaman and Donna Wendt-Elliott.

The purpose of the meeting is to have discussion on the 5-year Downtown Revitalization Plan and to have the first reading of Ordinance No. 03-2012.

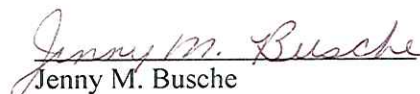
Aaron Domini, Bird Houk, gave a presentation to full Council on the 5-year plan. The focus for the plan was two tier. The first was to understand the community and this was achieved through a survey, interviews at the Apple Festival and downtown business owners and students through the DECA program. The second tier was to identify possible projects such as potential redevelopment sites, streetscape elements and character and branding. The Village is fortunate to still have civic use in the downtown area. The post office, library and municipal buildings are all in the downtown area. The river is a great asset to the Village and we need to connect Water and Main Streets down to it. Church Street is important to focus on for the number one public space. It is easier to do streetscape improvements there and should probably be the main focus for future investment as it leads straight to the river and is the site for various special events. Mayor Conley feels the plan addresses his three main concerns and that is integrating the downtown, parks and river. It is important that we have the 5-year plan in place because it is usually required to apply-qualify for funding. Mr. Eberle wanted to know if the downtown people are on board with this and Mr. Domini advised he spoke with the Chamber and downtown merchant's midway through the project and that they were appreciative that he spoke with them and they feel in order to attract private sector investment there needs to be public sector investment. Chuck Stolz, steering committee member, added that things are happening already. There have been improvements at Denny & Bills, work is being done on the Mercantile building and the hardware store has improvements scheduled. He feels the perception is positive. Mayor Conley asked for comments from Barry Reau and Randy Genzman who were in attendance. Mr. Reau stated the overall plan has some good ideas in it and Mr. Genzman stated in 1995 when the first plan was done the business owners main concern was who was going to clean the sidewalks, wash building fronts and collect leaves. The riverfront portion of the program is a quality idea but we need to take into consideration ice flows and flooding. Mayor Conley added that only the things that the community is behind will happen. Nothing will happen without community support. Mr. Domini stressed that the plan is conceptual. The elements listed in the plan may not happen. Mrs. Wendt-Elliott wanted to know if the plan would have to be done again in five years if nothing is done with this plan and Mr. Domini explained that some grants require a current 5 year plan to qualify for funding. You don't have to update it unless you are going for certain pots of funding. Mrs. Petersen stated that with the last downtown grant the business owners felt there were more rules put on them and wanted to know if those rules would apply again. Mr. Domini responded that this plan does not add another layer of regulation. Ms. Busche added she felt Mrs. Petersen was referring to the Tier II program we did and the businesses felt there were more hoops to jump through to get the money. Mr. Domini agreed there are certain pots of money that that have certain requirements but that is not where we are yet.

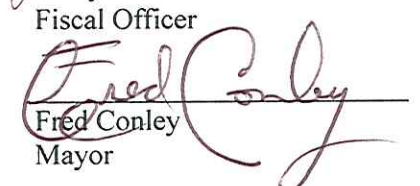
## **Business of the Meeting:**

### **First Reading of Ordinance and Resolutions:**

**Ordinance No. 03-2012**, an ordinance approving and adopting the Downtown Oak Harbor Revitalization Plan and declaring an emergency was read for the first time.

Mrs. Petersen moved, seconded by Mrs. Wendt-Elliott, to adjourn. With all members of Council present answering in the affirmative, meeting adjourned 7:38 p.m.

  
Jenny M. Busche  
Fiscal Officer

  
Fred Conley  
Mayor