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Former deputy auditor of Nelsonville pleads guilty to theft in office

Prosecution to seek more than \$200K in restitution, lengthy prison sentence

ATHENS, Ohio – Stephanie Wilson, 47, of Stewart, appeared in Athens County Common Pleas Court Thursday and pleaded guilty to theft-related charges during her time as the City of Nelsonville’s deputy auditor.

Wilson appeared in front of Judge George McCarthy with her attorney Jo Kiser. The prosecution and defense came to an agreement on the charges but a hearing will take place on Feb. 17 at 9:30 a.m. to determine sentencing and restitution. The charges hold a maximum prison sentence of nine years with a \$30,000 fine and the state asserts that restitution is more than \$200,000. The defense will argue for a lower restitution amount and punishment.

Wilson pleaded guilty to:

- Tampering with Records (F4)
- Forgery (F4)
- Telecommunications Fraud (F3)
- Theft in Office (F3)

Wilson was employed with the City of Nelsonville from 2012 until her resignation in February. She is accused of manipulating payroll as means of defrauding the city. In addition to the funds stolen, restitution could also include costs to investigate the case as determined by the State Auditor. A conviction on the theft in office charge means Wilson may need to forfeit her Ohio Public Employees Retirement System funds.

“I’m grateful to the investigators for the work they’ve put into gathering the evidence that has led to these findings of guilt,” said Athens County Prosecutor Keller Blackburn. “I also appreciate the work of

the State Auditor and look forward to arguing for a lengthy prison sentence and presenting a case for recovery of more than \$200,000 Stephanie Wilson has taken from the city of Nelsonville.”