



City of Willowick
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, April 01, 2025 at 6:30 PM
City Council Chambers

ADA NOTICE

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) during this meeting should notify the City of Willowick at 440-585-3700 at least three working days before the meeting.

MINUTES

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of March 18, 2025.

MOTION: Mr. Malta motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of March 18, 2025. Mr. McFarland second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

Motion carried. Minutes approved.

APPOINTMENTS, SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

2. Motion to approve the mayoral appointment of Tom Robinson to the Willowick Civil Service Commission.

Mayor Vanni says Bill, who has been involved for over 20 years, has moved to Willoughby. Tom Robinson just retired from Gates Mills Fire Chief. He lives in Willowick.

Mr. Robinson is present today if anyone has any questions. No questions.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motioned to approve the Mayoral Appointment. Mr. Malta second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

Motion carried. Motion approved.

3. Proclamation designating April 2025 as Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month. ***Please note, this item was done prior to item #2 (Tom Robinson appointment).**

Mayor Vanni mentions that they are keeping the Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month going in Chris Morgan's memory, the Council Clerk who passed away last year. This was very near and dear to her heart.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS**REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR**

Mayor Vanni thanks Tom Robinson for coming and also for stepping up. Mayor Vanni says Justin from Major Waste Disposal is here.

Justin says he believes we are off to a good start in the City. They are pulling about 24 tons of garbage per day. He has not received many complaints and is hopeful Council has not either. He has spoken to Councilman Malta already a few times. He expresses his gratitude for the opportunity to serve the City.

Mr. Malta says he is doing a marvelous job and he has been prompt in handling any situations. He thanks him.

Mr. Mohorcic says the number 1 compliment he has received is how great Major has been so far.

Mr. Malta says thanks for saying that Patrick. He recently wrote in his column about how it was a snowy day recently and there was a woman trying to push her garbage cart to her tree lawn. A Major truck stopped and got out and helped her. Those are the type of drivers they have and it is wonderful.

Mayor Vanni continues his report. He thanks Justin for coming out. First, we had a garage fire on E 324th roughly a week or two ago. He acknowledges the fire department. He can't figure out how they managed to save the house next door from catching on fire. May 6 is the primary in the State. There are two issues on the ballot that will directly impact Willowick. The first is Issue 3, a Willowick Charter Amendment. It is asking residents to take the Fire Chief out of Civil Service. There is a part time fire department. They do not really have a hierarchy there when they need to replace a Chief. This gives the option to have some flexibility to keep the stability that has been built in the Fire Department the past two years. Please reach out to Council or the Mayor for any questions.

He says there is State Issue 2 also that deals with OPWC. Every 10 years they put this on the ballot. It is not a tax increase; it is funded by debt bonding by the State. This program is what they use to grant cities infrastructure funding. This is the 5th time it is going to the ballot. They are going for 2.5 billion over 10 years. To show how important this is to the City, over the past 40 years we have done 27 projects and have received a little over 9.2 million in grants and a little over 2.3 million in zero percent loans. This is important to Willowick and many other municipalities.

Switching gears to some grants, they applied for a federal grant. There were two projects they were looking at. They decided to submit just for the culvert as it is a bigger project. He feels that we have other opportunities to get grants for the parking lot which they will be working on later this week. Hopefully they will hear back soon. Last week they met with the County Engineer. He is well aware of the lights and the garbage. He told him that the lights might be a controller problem that is affecting the whole system. The plan is to go section by section. Probably won't be in that quick of fashion. They are going to try to isolate the problem. He did tell them that sometimes they work and sometimes they do not. The City Engineer was also at Mayors and Managers meeting recently. He is well aware. In fairness, they are still in winter mode with plows on trucks. Hopefully soon they will pull the plows and then it'll be about a 3 week period to go through the County. He is recently elected but was very receptive to the questions.

Fireworks on July 3. He will get letters out to businesses next Monday hopefully. He acknowledges Be Smoothie and Dino's for both being nominated for best of the Westside for best smoothie and best family dining. Should know next week where they finish up. Two great businesses that are doing well here.

Lastly, he passes along from the Recreation Director that Sunday April 13 egg hunt 8:30-12, tickets online, as well as breakfast with the Bunny.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE MAYOR'S REPORT

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS – Directors & Officials

Service Director – Todd Shannon

Service Director Shannon says now that weather is breaking they are continuing to get things ready for summer events. Asphalt plants might be opening next week. Councilwoman Bisbee had asked about the crosswalk at Willowick Drive and they will be getting that going.

Mr. Malta says that he got a phone call the other day about Hillcrest and they said the plows had been leaving cold patch on the treelawns in big clumps.

Mr. Shannon says they will handle that.

Recreation Director – Julie Kless

City Engineer – Tim McLaughlin

City Engineer McLaughlin says E 305 Sewer project is still going. There was a delay on some lines but should be completed this Friday. Then manhole rehab. In other news, Euclid Ave. resurfacing is going to be an ODOT administered project that will have a scope meeting next Friday. Wickliffe is the lead sponsorship on that. Lastly, a follow up regarding Mayor's report on OPWC. The City has gotten a significant portion of the funding in the last 5 years. It's about ¼ of the funding. It is very important to continue that.

Finance Director – Cheryl Benedict

Finance Director Benedict says that last August, we assessed Shoregate Towers for the demo costs and fencing. We received \$72,000~ already and expect to receive the remainder.

Law Director – Mandy Gwartz

Law Director Gwartz has no report, but open for questions.

Police Chief – Rob Daubenmire

Police Chief Daubenmire says he submitted his report, and open for questions.

Fire Chief – Bill Malovrh

Fire Chief Malovrh has no report, but open for questions.

Chief Housing/Zoning Inspector – Sean Brennan

Chief Housing/Zoning Inspector Brennan has no report, but open for questions.

WARD MATTERS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a) Public statement (1 minute maximum)

b) Council response to the public

c) Public clarification (30 seconds to 1 minute for the purpose of restating or rearticulating an original question, concern, suggestion or idea)

Frank McCarty 467 E 328th Street, has a problem sidewalk at the entrance to his driveway. Before he commits financially, he wants to know from Council what it would cost to replace two concrete blocks, possibly a third. Is there anyone who can tell him what that will cost to replace?

Ms. Koudela says they do not know for sure, it would depend on which contractor they choose. She says contact Building and they can get him a list of contractors.

Sean says contractors come in to the office and put an estimate on their applications. He says blocks usually go anywhere between 500-600 per block depending on the thickness. Could be between 1200-1500 depending on who he uses.

Frank thanks Council for their help.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – Bisbee, Mohorcic, Antosh

Safety – Phares, Malta, McFarland

Service, Utilities & Public Lands – Malta, Phares, McFarland

Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers – Mohorcic, Malta, Bisbee

Tax Compliance – Koudela, Antosh, McFarland

Moral Claims – Antosh, Phares, Koudela

Budget – Mohorcic, Koudela, Bisbee

LIAISON REPORTS

Planning – Phares/Alternate Antosh

Ms. Antosh says there is a couple who has applied to open a bike shop on Euclid Avenue.

Board of Zoning Appeals – McFarland/Alternate Koudela

Volunteer Fire Fighters' Dependents Fund Board – Antosh, Phares

Recreation Board – Bisbee/Alternate Phares

Plan Review Board – Antosh

FUND TRANSFERS & BID AUTHORIZATIONS

CONTRACT APPROVALS

INTRODUCTION & CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION

4. RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 10

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AUTHORIZATIONS (THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATE) TO AXON ENTERPRISE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,386.00 FOR THE CITY OF WILLOWICK, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Mr. Malta second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to approve. Mr. Phares second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

5. RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 11

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AUTHORIZATIONS (THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATE) TO MORTON SALT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,465.28 FOR THE CITY OF WILLOWICK, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Mr. Phares second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

MOTION: Mr. Malta motions to approve. Ms. Antosh second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

6. RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 12

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AUTHORIZATIONS (THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATE) TO MORTON SALT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,748.80 FOR THE CITY OF WILLOWICK, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: Mr. Malta motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Ms. Antosh second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to approve. Mr. Phares second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

7. RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 13

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AUTHORIZATIONS (THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATE) TO CITY OF EUCLID IN THE AMOUNT OF \$323,774.22 FOR THE CITY OF WILLOWICK, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Mr. Malta second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to approve. Mr. Phares second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

8. RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 14

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AUTHORIZATIONS (THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATE) TO LAKE COUNTY CAPTAINS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,000.00 FOR THE CITY OF WILLOWICK, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Mr. McFarland second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to approve. Mr. Phares second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

9. RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 15

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AUTHORIZATIONS (THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATE) TO NORSE TACTICAL LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,281.94 FOR THE CITY OF WILLOWICK, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Ms. Bisbee second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to approve. Ms. Bisbee second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

10. RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 16

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND (101) TO THE POLICE PENSION FUND (801) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Mr. Phares second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

MOTION: Mr. Phares motions to approve. Ms. Antosh second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

11. RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 17

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AUTHORIZATIONS (THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATE) TO FLOCK SAFETY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,397.26 FOR THE CITY OF WILLOWICK, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Mr. Phares second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to approve. Mr. McFarland second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

12. ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 18

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 125 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLOWICK, OHIO, TITLED “CONTRACTS;” SPECIFICALLY, AMENDING SECTION 125.02, TITLED “PROCEDURE FOR ADVERTISING AND AWARD; EXCEPTION” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Mr. Malta second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to approve. Mr. Phares second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

13. Report and recommendation from the Planning Commission on Ordinance No. 2025-19 and 2025-20.

Ms. Antosh questions the \$500 application fee? Is it one time?

Mr. Brennan asks where that is on there?

Clarifies it is page 41.

He feels that there is a process for the background check from the Chief. The fee is for the background.

She says the licensing fee, is that yearly?

He says yes yearly.

Page 42B says that the administration renewal.

Mr. Brennan says that it does say except renewals.

Law Director Gwartz says that the \$500 fee goes to the applicant's security plan to the police department for review. That is a one-time fee. The license fee is yearly, the \$17,500. They would not have to pay the \$500 more than once. The idea behind the administrative renewal at the discretion of the zoning director is to expedite things if there were no problems. That is meant to cover the cost of background checks as well as the time needed to vet out the security plan.

14. ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 19

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING CHAPTER 786 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TITLED "MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES."

Mr. Phares says he will make a map showing the 500 ft. distances from the Churches.

This item was placed on First Reading.

15. ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1145 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLOWICK, OHIO, TITLED "RETAIL DISTRICT;" SPECIFICALLY, AMENDING SECTION 1145.03, TITLED "USES."

This item was placed on First Reading.

MISCELLANEOUS

16. Motion authorizing an expenditure in the amount of \$288,000. to the Willoughby Eastlake School District for the Pupil Payment for Collection Years 2019 through 2024 per the Compensation Agreement for the Shoreland Crossings TIF.

Mr. Phares asks Cheryl to explain.

Cheryl says that there was a payment of \$1,000 per pupil. At the time she could not get a finalized count. This is for how many people from Shoreland crossings are in the school district in the second half of the year. She is happy to send out calculations to Council.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motioned to approve the Motion. Mr. Bisbee second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

Motion carried. Motion approved.

17. Motion to designate Administrative Assistant to the Mayor Molly Henderson to attend the Sunshine Law Certified Training on behalf of Mayor/Safety Director Michael J. Vanni; Council President Monica Koudela; Ward 1 Councilman Devon McFarland; Ward 1 Councilman Patrick Mohorcic; Ward 2 Councilwoman Natalie Antosh; Ward 2 Councilwoman Theresa Bisbee; Ward 3 Councilman Charlie Malta and Ward 3 Councilman David Phares.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motioned to approve the Motion. Mr. Malta second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

Motion carried. Motion approved.

18. Motion authorizing the purchase of turnout gear and glove straps for the Fire Department from Johnson's Fire Equipment Company in the amount of \$39,999.96.

MOTION: Mr. Malta motioned to approve the Motion. Ms. Antosh second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

Motion carried. Motion approved.

19. Motion to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$19,550 from RJK Roofing Solutions to make repairs to the roof at the City Hall complex.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motioned to approve the Motion. Mr. Malta second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

Motion carried. Motion approved.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a) Public statement (1 minute maximum)

b) Council response to the public

c) Public clarification (30 seconds to 1 minute for the purpose of restating or rearticulating an original question, concern, suggestion or idea)

Jean Bowen, 472 E 319th Street, why are we giving Euclid over \$300,000?

Ms. Koudela says that is the payment for the sewer bills.

Cheryl says that is one month.

Mr. Phares says 70 million gallons.

No one else wishes to speak.

Mr. Malta says last night was the 36th annual Broadmoor game. The Mayor was there and Mr. Malta appreciates him coming. It means a lot to them. There were other Mayors and Commissioners and it was a great event. It is only one hour from 7-8. He thanks Mayor Vanni again.

Mayor Vanni says it is very inspirational.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

20. To discuss compensation, sick and vacation benefits of a Public Employee.

Ms. Koudela calls for a Motion to adjourn into Executive Session.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motioned to adjourn into Executive Session. Mr. Malta second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

Motion carried. Adjourned into Executive Session at 7:14 p.m.

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Koudela calls for a Motion to return from Executive Session.

MOTION: Mr. Malta motioned to return from Executive Session. Ms. Antosh second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

Motion carried. Returned from Executive Session at 8:14 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Koudela calls for a Motion to Adjourn the Meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motioned to Adjourn the Meeting. Mr. Malta second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea.

Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Clerk of Council

Council President

Date