



City of Willowick
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, February 18, 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

All members of Council were present at Roll Call with the exception of Mr. Phares who was absent. Mayor Vanni was acting as the Council Clerk for this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of February 4, 2025.

MOTION: Mr. Malta motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of February 4, 2025. Mr. McFarland second.

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

Motion carried. Minutes approved.

APPOINTMENTS, SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR

Mayor Vanni presents a speaker from NOPEC to get everyone up to speed about what is going on with the rates as well as the Willowick Café project. She explains her background before coming to NOPEC. She says right now you have 3,491 homes enrolled for electric, 2,722 enrolled for gas. Looking at benefits, NOPEC Energized Community Grant received \$32,169 in awards this year which is to be accepted still so be sure to get on the Portal and do that. Available balance from rollover is \$21,487. To date, \$318,154 in total grant awards. Also, you have Community Event Sponsorship Grant of \$2,000 this year. Lending is complete for Willowick Café now. She thanks Council for their support and work with this project.

Next, she would like to talk about the electric rate increase in the State of Ohio. This is market-wide, not just NOPEC. Regional transmission organization that serves 13 states ensures that power is there when we need it. If we all flip on the switches, we expect it will respond. What PJM does is to make sure the

grid is able to respond to that. In 2024 they held a capacity auction that resulted in higher prices which means higher bills for all consumers in Ohio and other states they serve. These prices will go into effect June 2025. Power companies charge capacity fees to make sure they are able to provide energy for the demands. NOPEC does not have control over the capacity auctions. These are passed through to all residential and commercial customers. The auction for June 2025-May 2026 resulted in over an 800% increase in the capacity prices. This means an average household might increase 10-15% which is about 2 cents more per kilowatt hour. These prices are expected to last the next 3-5 years until more capacity is added. Everyone can decrease their use to decrease their bill. Tips: take advantage of natural lighting during the day, use LED bulbs, make minor thermostat adjustments, etc. Can save as much as 10% annually by turning thermostat back 7-10 degrees from normal setting 8 hours per day. Use smart thermostat. Seal drafts around windows and doors. Wash on cold. Easiest thing is to turn lights off and unplug devices when not using. There are more tips on their website as well as other resources. She asks if there are questions?

Mr. Malta asks about the 3,491 homes for electricity. He asks her to clarify on the number for gas.

Mayor Vanni asks if the vote is going in May or June?

She says they already had the auction, it will go into effect June 2025.

Mayor Vanni asks if there is another vote for the increase for infrastructure?

She says she would have to check and get back to him. She will look into the latest update.

They thank her for coming out.

Mayor Vanni reports that the next meeting he will have the contract for the Lakefront Lodge. Looking forward to rolling that out. Paul Palagyi from Metroparks will be here as well. Sean and himself have a meeting on Monday about a party interested in the Rite Aid property. Pie Café was awarded the 2025 Customer Service Award from Willoughby Western Lake County Chamber of Commerce. The owner is a Willowick resident. It was nice for them to get that recognition. They had a NextGen911 meeting next week and they are getting closer to having a plan for the County, hopefully in April. He thinks it will need to go to all Councils in the County for approval. The Courier is back... that's good news. Deadline is tomorrow to get articles in. He will also continue posting to facebook and the website.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Malta asks who awarded the Pie Café award?

Mayor Vanni says Willoughby Western Lake County Chamber of Commerce. This was a People's Choice Award.

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS – Directors & Officials

Service Director – Todd Shannon

Recreation Director – Julie Kless

Ms. Kless says they started registrations today. Over 110 people attended the Father/Daughter Dance on Sunday.

Mayor Vanni says everyone he spoke to had a great time.

City Engineer – Tim McLaughlin

Mr. McLaughlin says E 305 Sewer Project continues to make progress. There are more lateral repairs that still need to be made... hopefully this week. Project remains on schedule.

Finance Director – Cheryl Benedict

Law Director – Mandy Gwartz

Ms. Gwartz has no report, but open for questions.

Police Chief – Rob Daubenmire

Chief Daubenmire has no report, but open for questions.

Fire Chief – Bill Malovrh

Chief Malovrh has no report, but open for questions.

Chief Housing/Zoning Inspector – Sean Brennan

Mr. Brennan has no report, but open for questions.

Mr. Malta says there is a tree that might need taken care of in the spring. He gives Mr. Brennan the address.

Mr. Brennan says he will have someone look at it.

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)

Gene Bowen, 472 E 319, says that she saw a report about the freeway lights on tv and they were told the same thing as everyone else a year ago. Has anyone contacted the County about the lights being off? It's dangerous. She was also curious, the lawsuit for the apartments, do we have any idea what that will cost the City?

Mike Bowen, 472 E 319, says the proud action that his son and himself had raising the flag from half to full staff, they were proud to do that. He is a disabled Iraq War Veteran. They did everything precise like they were supposed to. It touched their hearts to be able to do that. He thanks Mayor Vanni for the opportunity to do that. Also, on the news they showed the guy who owns Shoregate Towers. He sneered at the camera. He sees that on the list there is an Executive Session and wasn't sure if that was in there or not. Don't let that guy step on us.

Ms. Koudela thanks him for his comments and his service. Let's talk about lights first. Todd isn't here.

Mayor Vanni says thank you also. The lights, they were fighting about for well over a year. Then they got put back on. Then in early 2024 with the big August 6th storm, the part broke. It was put in relatively quick but there was fighting about who did what. He was under the assumption they were working unless something happened again. They were on for Wickliffe through Mentor.

Ms. Koudela turns to the Law Director for comments about the lawsuit.

Law Director Gwartz says there isn't much they can say because the lawsuit is pending and anything they say could potentially come back.

Mr. Malta asks if ODOT takes care of that section of the freeway or not.

Mayor Vanni says ODOT.

Mr. Malta says roads were horrible until Willowick, but our section was clean as a whistle.

Ms. Antosh asks if the ramps are also ODOT?

Mayor Vanni says they don't want their guys out there for safety reasons.

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

Ms. Antosh says there was a Moral Claims Meeting earlier. There are 3 different claims that need voted on. First one is a resident on 293 St. that had a spigot leak and is requesting a sewer credit. It would be \$228.77.

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

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

Motion carried. Motion approved.

Second one is in regards to Shoregate Shopping Center requesting two sewer credits for breaks in the parking lot. First credit is in the amount of \$5,255.12.

MOTION: Mr. Mohorcic motioned to approve the Motion. Mr. Malta second.

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

Motion carried. Motion approved.

Ms. Antosh state the second one for Shoregate is for a sewer credit for \$3545.48.

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

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

Motion carried. Motion approved.

Ms. Antosh says the final claim is for Paul Gambrill. He was driving down E 315 S. and he said there was oncoming traffic and he hit a tree branch that was overhanging the road and cracked his windshield. He was asking for total of the replacement. Moral Claims Committee voted unanimously no. Any questions?

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

ROLL CALL: Mr. McFarland, no. Ms. Koudela, no. Ms. Antosh, no. Mr. Mohorcic, no. Ms. Bisbee, no. Mr. Malta, no.

Budget – Mohorcic, Koudela, Bisbee

Mr. Mohorcic reports that the Budget Meeting is this Saturday at 9 am in Council Chambers.

LIAISON REPORTS

Planning – Phares/Alternate Antosh

Ms. Antosh reports from Dave's notes. They are starting to discuss Recreational Marijuana and making an Ordinance for it. The main points are:

Limit dispensaries to one in the City

Charge annual fee of \$17,500 because Eastlake charges \$15,000

Discrete signage

Allow drive-thru service

Have security plan in the Ordinance

They reviewed several other Cities' Ordinances. Discussion will continue in March.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Malta brings up Saint Mary Magdalene St. Patty's Day party. You can contact him if you're interested. It's an important fundraiser for their family as not a lot of people know a lot of the story about the scholarship. It is in the name of his wife's brother. Saturday March 8.

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)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

2. Discussion of Pending Civil Litigation

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

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

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

Motion carried. Adjourned into Executive Session at 7:07 p.m.

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

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

Motion carried. Adjourned into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at approximately 8:01 p.m.

Clerk of Council

Council President

Date