



City of Willowick
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, June 16, 2026 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 June 2, 2026.

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

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

APPOINTMENTS, SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

2. A Proclamation honoring Firefighter Jacob Platt, Firefighter Francis Bittner, Firefighter Clayton Reed, Patrolman Benedetto Bruno, Paul Reinhard, and Richard Kodramaz for their efforts related to the May 7 house fire at 399 E 326th Street.

Mayor Vanni is honored to acknowledge our first responders and residents. He reads the Proclamation from the City of Willowick and Willowick Fire Department.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR

Mayor Vanni introduces Nick Janek, our liaison for the Health District.

Nick says there are a few items on the summary. First is a recap of the incident of the Painesville Lubrizol facility. A truck carrying sterile materials was checked for temperature and found to be overheating. The area it was placed into is adjacent to the Lubrizol fire department and cooling measures began. A response team was assembled. The buffer zone was increased which resulted in closures of the roads nearby. The cooling water was tested clean. Active air monitoring as well. This was all a part of standard procedure for Lubrizol. Second item, the staff duties at the Health District will be restructured as Ron Graham decided to retire.

The Mayor says the parking lot is making good progress. He appreciates Cirino and Troy's help getting the grant for that project.

Metroparks will start doing some work after Labor Day. There's a chance that pavilion might be up this year. Tour Lake County, we will be on their sand sculpture tour. Last year they picked a number of parks they wanted to feature and there is a gentleman who does unbelievable sand sculptures. We are one of the five parks chosen this year. We are number 1 on the tour. The man is coming June 24-26 and it will go where the gazebo was. July 11 is when the tour starts. They go from Mentor Lagoons, Headlands Beach, Fairport Harbor, and Bill Stanton Park as well.

We are having a big event for the 250th and he thanks Julie and Molly for their work. 11-2 at Dudley and noon we will open time capsule. He invited a lot of elected officials from the past. He is looking forward to it. Fireworks that night with Wickliffe and Eastlake at Captains Stadium like before.

Julie and the parks did a great job on opening day. He thanks Councilwoman Bisbee as well. The parks look great. Field 3 at Dudley was under water and you wouldn't have even been able to tell, they did a great job.

Cleveland Magazine ranked the City top 15 for best bargains. We are 6th. We are now ranked 8 in Safety. A testament to our community as a whole and our first responders.

He hopes to see everyone on the 4th.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE MAYOR'S REPORT

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS – Directors & Officials

Service Director – Todd Shannon

We are in the heat of the construction. Road Program will start end of June. First phase of 305 hopefully complete next week. Touch a truck will be at Dudley 9-3 pm on the 17th partnered with the library.

Ms. Antosh asks if they are coming back to blacktop the whole section?

He says the final layer will be section by section.

Recreation Director – Julie Kless

First week went well. Lifeguards and counselors are doing a great job. We are working on the 250th celebration. She gave everyone a flyer and handed out a letter related to the incident at Dudley on Monday. That way you have the information if the parents reach out.

City Engineer – Tim McLaughlin

Finance Director – Goran Vrhovac

He has a few items on the agenda. He wanted to address the council request regarding reduced water charges for the summer due to watering grass. He found a comparable with Wickliffe, they have the same program. It's kind of like our Moral Claims program. They look at their winter bill and then adjust the sewer charge. Wickliffe charges a \$20 fee to apply. The City is responsible for reviewing all of this. He is also waiting on the County to get more information. What he has gotten from the County so far is there are issues because everyone is billed at a different date.

Mr. Mohorcic asks if we have to do it where Council votes or can we do it at the discretion of the Finance Director and Mayor?

He says he thinks Council has to approve the program but then his office could handle it.

Ms. Koudela says she thinks what he meant by Moral Claims is that each person has to apply and the calculations for it.

Law Director – Mandy Gwartz

No report but open for questions.

Police Chief – Rob Daubenmire

No report, but open for questions.

Fire Chief – Bill Malovrh

No report, but open for questions.

Ms. Antosh asks if he knows what caused the most recent fire on 326?

Captain says the State Fire Marshal came to assist with that. At this time, it is considered undetermined. No foul play to be thought of, but there were multiple factors involved. This is very common when you get into possible electrical issues inside the home. If a fire is not prosecuted it can be considered undetermined.

Ms. Antosh asks if there was oxygen in the house?

He says yes.

Chief Housing/Zoning Inspector – Sean Brennan

WARD MATTERS

Mr. McFarland says he brought this up last meeting, but wanted to bring it up again. For the parade, one of the people in the parade with him has done many parades before. They wanted him to pass on to the department heads that this was one of the greatest parades they have ever been in. The multiple departments work so incredibly well together.

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)

Michael Copp, 32309 Knobel, says there seems to be an alarming number of dog attacks in the neighborhoods. There was one on Knobel a couple weeks ago. What is the proper protocol? There was a guy walking his dog with an electronic leash where the dog would be 5 houses down. There was another guy whose dog got loose supposedly it was a puppy by the ice cream stand. They put a fence up around it but there are no collars. He had it come up when he was walking his dog. It wasn't listening to the lady who lives in the house. No collar or anything to grab onto. What is he allowed to do when it attacks his dog?

Police Chief says all dog attacks need to be reported to the police department to be investigated. We encourage you to call when this happens.

The resident says they did attend the call on Knobel. Unfortunately his Ring camera did not trigger it. There are a lot of them popping up on the scanner app as well.

Chief says they are investigated and any bites are sent to the Health District. The dog that did the biting must be quarantined for 5 days and they request all vet records as part of their investigation?

Michael says bear spray? A firearm? What is he in his legal means to do?

Chief says pepper spray is a good deterrent. He suggests he protects himself.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – Bisbee, Mohorcic, Antosh

Safety – Phares, Malta, McFarland

Mr. Phares reports on tonight's safety meeting regarding on street parking, Airbnbs, ebikes, orbee guns, fireworks, dog shelters.

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

Mr. Malta schedules a meeting on July 21 at 5:45 p.m. They waited the 2 year grace period on the possibility of the remaining basketball court at Dudley.

The meeting is paused for the Tax Budget Meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Finance Director Goran says the total taxes for the City would be 6.9. The only levy fund that is changing is the elimination of the 5 mill recreation fund because it is up for renewal this year.

Tax Budget hearing over at 7:06 p.m.

Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers – Malta, Bisbee, Mohorcic

Tax Compliance – Koudela, Antosh, McFarland

Moral Claims – Antosh, Phares, Koudela

Budget – Mohorcic, Koudela, Bisbee

LIAISON REPORTS

Planning – Phares/Alternate Antosh

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

3. RESOLUTION NO. 2026-24:

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES

AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUTY AUDITOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

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

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

4. RESOLUTION NO. 2026-25:

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A GRANT OF MONEY FROM THE WILLOUGHBY ELKS LODGE TO BE USED BY THE CITY OF WILLOWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROTECTIVE BOOTS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

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

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

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

5. ORDINANCE NO. 2026- 23:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF WILLOWICK, OHIO TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MEDICAL MUTUAL INSURANCE TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE HEALTHCARE INSURANCE PLAN FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY; AND DECALRING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION: Mr. Malta to suspend the rule requiring separate readings. Mr. McFarland second.

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

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

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

6. ORDINANCE NO. 2026-24:

AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO CERTIFY DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR AND LAKE COUNTY TREASURER FOR COLLECTION AS PROPERTY TAX AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS

7. Motion authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with CivicPlus for website services on behalf of the City for a first year total of \$4,492.74 and a second year total of \$5,300.00.

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

Ms. Bisbee asks if this is a new company?

Finance Director Vrhovac says this is the current website we are using. This is its current provider that recently bought out another program of ours.

She asks if every year there is an uptick in the yearly cost? This year is the \$4900 and next is \$5300 and then if we continue it is the next uptick?

He says the \$4900 is actually up from what we are currently paying and yes it will go up.

Mayor says we were also able to eliminate the MuniCode. The price is going up. Goran looked to see what we actually need. CivicPlus we need for the website but Municode we are able to eliminate. That contract was \$7000.

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

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)

No one wishes to speak.

Ms. Koudela reminds everyone the July 7 meeting was vacated. We will meet again on July 21.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

8. Discussion of Collective Bargaining with the Law Director and Finance Director.

MOTION: Mr. Malta motions to adjourn into Executive Session at 7:12 p.m. Ms. Antosh second.

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

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to return from Executive Session at 8:16 p.m. Mr. Phares second.

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

Ms. Koudela calls for a Motion to accept the State Employee Relations Board Fact Finder's Report and Recommendation Willowick Firefighters, IAFF Local 5576, and City of Willowick, Ohio.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh to accept. Mr. Malta second.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Clerk of Council

Council President

Date