



City of Willowick
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 06, 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

The meeting was called to Order by Council President Koudela at approximately 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

All members in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of December 16, 2025.

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

Mayor Vanni clarifies none of these are new appointments, just renewal,

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

APPOINTMENTS, SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

2. Motion to approve the mayoral appointment of James Tobin to The Willowick Civil Service Commission for a 6-year term expiring on December 31, 2032.

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

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

3. Motion to approve the mayoral appointment of Adam Fortney to the Willowick Planning Commission for a 3-year term expiring on December 31, 2029.

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

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

4. Motion to approve the mayoral appointment of Jef Hren to the Willowick Planning Commission for a 3-year term expiring on December 31, 2029.

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

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

5. Motion to approve the mayoral appointment of Karin Zito to the Willowick Recreation Board for a 3-year term expiring on December 31, 2029.

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

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

6. Motion to approve the mayoral appointment of Rena Perchinske to the Willowick Recreation Board for a 3-year term expiring on December 31, 2029.

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

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

7. Motion to approve the mayoral appointment of Nick Koudela to the Willowick Board of Zoning Appeals for a 3-year term expiring on December 31, 2029.

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

Mr. McFarland thanks Nick Koudela and Rich Hill for staying on the board for another term. They have had to handle some rather complex issues last time and they have done a lot of leg work that helps Council for solving these issues.

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

8. Motion to approve the mayoral appointment of Rich Hill to the Willowick Board of Zoning Appeals for a 3-year term expiring on December 31, 2029.

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

Mr. Malta says he is thrilled they are all coming back.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR

Mayor Vanni welcomes everyone back and wishes them a happy new year. He publically thanks all of the people involved in his committee appointments. They do not get paid, it is volunteer, and he appreciates them. Currently they're working on budget stuff right now. Also, he thanks the Fire Department. On Christmas Eve, they went out with Royalview Elementary to help two needy families with food and gifts. Everyone in the City has done a good job with helping out those less fortunate. Lastly, he did request an executive session to discuss contract negotiations.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE MAYOR'S REPORT

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS – Directors & Officials

Service Director – Todd Shannon

No formal report. They have been out doing snow and ice removal. There is a bulk PO for salt from Morton. They are started to clean up after the holidays and getting into pothole season.

Recreation Director – Julie Kless

City Engineer – Tim McLaughlin

Nothing on the agenda tonight. Forestgrove Sewer is proceeding. They did initial steps for the sewers and got some materials ordered, but probably nothing substantial until spring. Lakeshore has about 30% work done with the culvert. Making good progress.

Mr. Shannon says the Lakeshore Blvd. Waterline project from the County will be commencing this week. Staging at Shoregate. Will start at Vine and Lakeshore now and work their way back.

Finance Director – Goran Vrhovac

A few items from him on the agenda. Open to questions.

Law Director – Mandy Gwartz

Had an opportunity to speak with the attorney for the receiver of Shoregate Towers. Sale is expected to close within the next 30-60 days and will be able to begin work.

Police Chief – Rob Daubenmire

Has a few items on the agenda. One of which is for Flock Safety Cameras. The other is for a contract for communications. It is a renewal. He sent his report this afternoon, please reach out with any questions.

Fire Chief – Bill Malovrh

No report, but open for questions.

Chief Housing/Zoning Inspector – Sean Brennan

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)

Jean Bowen, 472 E 319 st., says there is an older woman who lives on her street that she sees every couple of days. The week before last, she had been calling and she did not respond, nor to a knock on the door. Thursday night she called the police for a welfare check. They were there very promptly. The house was dark, but they were able to gain access. They found her on her bed only somewhat responsive and very confused. They determined she needed to go to the hospital. The paramedics took her. She was not in good shape. This week she has been checking on her. She wanted to let Council know that the police did not do any damage and made great decisions and the paramedics did a great job. She gives them a round of applause because who knows what could have happened next.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – Bisbee, Mohorcic, Antosh

Safety – Phares, Malta, McFarland

Mr. Phares says they may have the first use of the nuisance ordinance. He asks if Mayor or Law Director wants to say anything about 315 property.

Gwartz says they have to send a letter to the property owner letting them know. When she spoke with the Mayor about it, she knew this property may be an item for this item they passed. It is a non-owner occupied home.

Ms. Antosh asks who sends the letter?

Gwartz says it will either be the Mayor or herself.

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

Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers – Mohorcic, Bisbee, Malta

Tax Compliance – McFarland, Antosh, Phares

Moral Claims – Antosh, Phares, Koudela

Budget – Mohorcic, Koudela, Bisbee

Mr. Mohorcic says the budget meetings will be over two days- Feb. 3 and Feb. 4th. The 3rd is after a Council Meeting and the 4th will be at 6:00 p.m. Any questions please reach out to himself or the Finance Director.

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

Ms. Bisbee says the Youth Basketball League will start practices this Saturday and run through the first week of March.

Plan Review Board – Antosh

FUND TRANSFERS & BID AUTHORIZATIONS

CONTRACT APPROVALS

INTRODUCTION & CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION

9. RESOLUTION NO. 2026-1:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY TO ADJUST THE APPORTIONMENTS AND COST ALLOCATIONS OF THE WILLOUGHBY MUNICIPAL COURT FOR THE PERIOD OF 2018 TO 2024 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring separate readings and readings in full. Ms. Bisbee second.

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

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

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

10. RESOLUTION NO. 2026-2:

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A DONATION OF MONEY FROM THE WILLOUGHBY EAGLES TO BE USED BY THE CITY OF WILLOWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A DRONE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: Mr. Malta motions to suspend the rule requiring separate readings and readings in full. Ms. Bisbee second.

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

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

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

11. ORDINANCE NO. 2026-1:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF APPOINTED OFFICIALS AND CERTAIN OTHER EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY, REPEALING CERTAIN ORDINANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring separate readings and readings in full. Mr. Phares second.

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

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

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

12. First Reading 12/16/25, Item is on Second Reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-59 (Amended):

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING CODIFIED ORDINANCE 133.51 IMPLEMENTING A PROGRAM TO RECOVER COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DELIVERY OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES BY THE MUNICIPALITY FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING: TRAFFIC CRASH RESPONSE, GAS LINE REPAIR, UTILITY COMPANY WAIT TIME, ILLEGAL BURN, SEARCH AND RESCUE, STRUCTURE FIRES, HAZMAT RESPONSE, FALSE ALARMS, WATER RESCUE, MINING INCIDENTS AND PREPPING FOR CAREFLIGHT; ALL BEING PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES THAT ARE REQUIRED DUE TO AN INDIVIDUAL'S NEGLIGENCE AND ARE BEYOND THE USUAL BASIC PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES.

13. First Reading 12/16/25, Item is on Second Reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 53:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 133 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLOWICK, OHIO TITLED “DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE”; SPECIFICALLY SECTION 133.17, TITLED “CHARGES FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE.”

MISCELLANEOUS

14. Motion to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$40,000 to Morton Salt for the purchase of bulk safety salt.

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

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

15. Motion to Authorize the Mayor and/or Police Chief to Enter into an Agreement with Flock Group, Inc. to Provide Safety Hardware and Safety Products for a trial period of 90 days.

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

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

16. Motion Authorizing the Mayor and/or Police Chief to enter into a service agreement with Communications Service to service the Willowick Police Department Radios and Radio Console for the monthly cost of \$530.40

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

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

17. Motion Authorizing the Mayor and/or the Fire Chief to complete and authorize pre-award applications and conditions for a grant from the FY2026 Small County Volunteer Fire Department Grant Program from the State of Ohio for funding of firefighting gear.

MOTION: Mr. Malta motions to approve. Mr. McFarland second.

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

18. Motion authorizing the Mayor and/ or Fire Chief to apply for the Firehouse Subs grant for firefighter gear.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to waive the Three Day Rule. Mr. Phares second.

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

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Malta thanks the President of Toys for Tots who was able to help a few families this year. He wants to show Council what the warehouse looks like. He collects them all himself. He will remind everyone First of December this year. Hearts and Hammers Fundraiser is February 7th. Can get tickets from himself or Natalie.

Chief Daubenmire thanks the Resident, Jean, who spoke addressing the woman who needed rescued. If she had not intervened they would not be there.

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

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to enter into executive session. Ms. Bisbee second.

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

Adjourned into Executive Session at 6:55 p.m.

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Mr. Malta motions to adjourn from executive session. Ms. Antosh second.

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

Returned from Executive Session at 8:02 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Clerk of Council

Council President

Date