



City of Willowick CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

**Tuesday, January 20, 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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of January 6, 2026.

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

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

APPOINTMENTS, SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

2. Motion to approve the mayoral appointment of Nikki Jablonski 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. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR

Mayor Vanni reports that the wind storm did some damage to the Fire Station roof as well as the overhang. They are currently working with the insurance company. We will talk more at the budget meetings. Hopefully settled by then. Looking at having to do a roof at the Community Center and now with this damage, probably addressing the Fire Department sooner than later. There is still hope for insurance.

About a year ago, Julie and Scott and Diane Novak with the seniors agreed with NCI to get a Willowick sign like Wickliffe and Eastlake. Vicki Morley texted that it is coming along really nicely. He thanks everyone for working together to get this going. We should have it sometime this

year, hopefully in the spring. Talking with Todd and Julie, thinking about putting it where the Willowick sign is now right off the freeway.

Also, an update on Gold Star family memorial. There is a meeting tomorrow that he will be attending. He and Mandy met with them and their legal team for the foundation. They set a date for September 27 of this year to have it all ready to go and be dedicated. We are moving along with the parking lot and feel we can go to bid next month. We wanted to be realistic and think that the lot should be done by then. Lake Metroparks has also been working with them. It will be very exciting. September 27, 2026 is the aimed date.

Courier will not be printed this month but will start in March. Give your articles to Molly and she can post them on the facebook page as we have been doing.

We finalized OPWC last week. Getting \$500,000 grant for the Larimar culvert and a 0% interest loan as well.

He saw in the News Herald about the Royalview Royal Council. It was a nice article. This year they did the Ohio Paws for Purpose. Last year did Hearts and Hammers. The teachers that run this do a great job. That's a lot of money for 4th and 5th graders to raise for Willowick charities.

The budget is nearly finalized. Hopefully by end of the week. On schedule for the 3rd and 4th meetings.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE MAYOR'S REPORT

Ms. Antosh asks if they decided where the monument is going?

Mayor says it will go right by where the house was torn down. There is plenty of room and no erosion problems. It does also provide some level of privacy away from the pavilion. They are very excited. When the house was torn down, we couldn't really do anything in that spot so it worked out really well. Metroparks will put some barriers there as well as part of the agreement. Some of the trees are coming down, but we cannot take all of them. They are holding up the side of the hill. Mandy is working on the final, it will be an MOU, we have to temporarily donate the land. It'll come before council next month probably.

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS – Directors & Officials

Service Director – Todd Shannon

Emailed report. We are not immune to the salt shortage, just like surrounding cities. We have 460 tons on board currently. They do not know when we will get more. We are salting smart. The storms are not really plowable, but you need to salt, but we need to conserve the best we can. SS4A is going to have touch a truck event coming up in the spring/summer.

Mr. Mohorcic asks we haven't used a lot of salt the past couple years? Did we stockpile it? Shelf life?

Todd says years ago, we used to bid our own salt and it worked out well for many years. Then we ran into an issue where no one would bid it so we were stuck getting treated salt which was way more expensive. So we jumped on the ODOT consortium. In April is when he has to put his magic thinking hat on and guess how much salt we will need. He said 1600 this year so that is what we get at the pricing. We can get more but it gets more expensive. Last year we did end up stockpiling because we had over forecasted. We have gone through that already. He clarifies that you must take 90%, can go up to 110% at the contractual price. He says we are getting creative with liquid brine as well. We are doing everything we can to try to keep the roads safe but it is challenging right now.

Recreation Director – Julie Kless

Working on spring/summer program guide. Will be on the website by February 6. Registrations will start on Tuesday February 24. Youth basketball practices have started. Mens over 30 basketball league will start Sunday.

City Engineer – Tim McLaughlin

Emailed his report. On that report, there were 4 items detailed that are on the agenda tonight.

Finance Director – Goran Vrhovac

Last week he met with the auditors. The audit is starting. We are currently working on the rough draft of the budget. Will be tightening it up and expect to have the books ready and done by Friday.

Law Director – Mandy Gwirtz

On the agenda there is a motion authorizing her to withdraw the opposition for the liquor license. Since then they have come to planning and got everything they needed. They have corrected course and she is asking for permission to withdraw the objection.

Police Chief – Rob Daubenmire

No report, but open for questions.

Fire Chief – Bill Malovrh

Emailed his report, open for questions.

Mr. Malta says we heard from the Mayor about the wind and the roof. Streetsboro just built a new fire station. Do you know the Chief there? Could you find out what it cost and how they raised the funding? Is City Hall or a Police Station attached?

Chief Housing/Zoning Inspector – Sean Brennan

No formal report, but open for questions. Chopsticks Cuisine opened yesterday as an fyi where the old Taco Bell was.

Mr. Malta asks what is going in the old PNC Bank?

Sean says it is a cheesesteak place. They came to planning a couple months back. Hopefully they will open up sometime soon within next month or so.

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)*

No one wishes to speak.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – Bisbee, Mohorcic, Antosh

Safety – Phares, Malta, McFarland

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

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

3. A Motion authorizing the Mayor and/or Fire Chief to enter a 5 year contract with TCP, for the Aladtec Subscription which is the scheduling and payroll program.

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

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

INTRODUCTION & CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION

4. RESOLUTION NO. 2026-3:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MASTER AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES WITH VERDANTAS, LLC.

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

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

5. ORDINANCE NO. 2026- 2:

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM The General Fund (101); The Sewer Revenue Fund (205); Fire Emergency Rescue Fund (208); FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF WILLOWICK, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026, 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. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea.

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

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

6. **RESOLUTION NO. 2026-4:**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI ON BEHALF OF THE OHIO CYBER RANGE INSTITUTE TO PROVIDE CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING TO THE CITY OF WILLOWICK EMPLOYEES

Ms. Bisbee asks who gets trained on this.

Mayor says it is free from the State and everyone on City Council and in the City.

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

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

7. **First Reading 12/16/25, Second Reading 1/6/26, Item is on Third Reading:**

ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 53 (AMENDED):

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.”

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

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

8. **First Reading 12/16/25, Second Reading 1/6/26, Item is on Third 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.

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS

9. Motion to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$49,299.00 to SLE Technologies Inc. for the purchase of 4 vertical lift columns for the Service Department maintenance garage.

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

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

10. Motion authorizing Change Order CO-#1 to United Survey, Inc for the amount of \$189,315.00 for the Forestgrove Sewer Improvements Project Phase I Project.

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

Mr. Mohorcic asks what this is for.

Tim says it is to add the lateral program which we bid out.

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

11. Motion authorizing Verdantas to perform Engineering Retainer and General Services for the City of Willowick in accordance with the Master Service Agreement for Engineering Services.

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

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

12. Motion authorizing Verdantas to perform annual Sanitary Sewer Support Services including flow monitoring maintenance and data management, smoke testing, rain event analysis, and complete annual regulatory sanitary sewer compliance reports for a fee of \$25,000 in accordance with the Master Service Agreement for Engineering Services.

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

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

13. Motion authorizing Verdantas to prepare specifications, construction plans and bid documents, advertise and obtain bids, and before construction related services for the Larimar Culvert Improvements Project for a fee of \$128,100 in accordance with the Master Service Agreement for Engineering Services.

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

Mr. Phares asks if it is supposed to say perform?

Tim says it is supposed to be perform. There was a typo.

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

14. A Motion authorizing the Mayor and/or Service Director to enter into a service agreement with Great Lakes Mechanical Service for the preventative service and maintenance of the City of Willowick's HVAC Equipment at the annual cost of \$6,980.00.

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

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

15. Motion authorizing the Mayor and/or Service Department Director to enter into an Agreement with GPS for the remote monitoring of the pool pump at Manry Park at the annual cost of \$595.00.

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

Ms. Bisbee asks if we already have one at Dudley?

Todd says we do not. Dudley's is not in the pitt like Manry's is. This is to make sure it does not flood.

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

16. A Motion authorizing the Law Director to formally withdraw the City's objection to liquor permit # 10008502-1 (Lakeshore Gas, 29000 Lakeshore Blvd., Willowick, Ohio).

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Malta says Hearts and Hammers tickets are going fast this year. If you're thinking about going, get a hold of Natalie. It's incredible that we are 2 and a half weeks away and we are doing so well. Also, about Gold Star, the foundation is having a basket raffle at Willowick Lounge on the 22nd of February from 1-4:30. Sunday afternoon. If you'd like to donate a basket or just come, there is no ticket price, just bid on the baskets. All the money goes to the foundation.

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 7:02 p.m.

Clerk of Council

Council President

Date

