City of Willowick

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 07, 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

This meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Council President Koudela.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

All members in attendance with the exception of Mr. Mohorcic.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

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

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

Motion carried. Minutes approved.

APPOINTMENTS, SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR

Mayor Vanni reminds everyone that tomorrow night at the American legion Hall there is the town hall to discuss the two renewal levies that are on the November Ballot. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Reminder these are not an increase. He received good news from the WE superintendent. Improvements for Royalview and Willowick Middle. They started working on new electric and AC. Will do flooring and painting in the summer as well as some cosmetic improvements. In 2027 will turn their attention to the Middle School. He was there for student council event with 4th and 5th graders. It was impressive. They raised $1000 for Hearts and Hammers and $500 for the pet food last year. Looking forward to seeing what they do this year. New businesses coming in- Chopstick Cuisine is about 2 months away from opening. Crave Cookies will be opening very soon. If you go to Cleveland Online Magazine there is a nice article. This is their first chain in NE Ohio. The strip mall is now fully complete. He likes the mix we have of businesses in there. Original Steak and Hoagie are coming to Plan Review this Thursday. Looking at the old PNC Bank behind Shoregate. Two big ones coming up later this year with the old Willowick Café and Alfredos Italian Market. It is good to see people want to come to Willowick to do business.

TLC Grant for the Vine Street Corridor. Had a meeting and all 3 decided to apply. We got $1.5 million a couple years ago that we split. Laketran is taking point on the application process. We feel we can get more together than separate. SS4A committee is set. Tim might go into that more in his report. First meeting next week. We want public opinions, support, and input. They will be at the fall flea market this Saturday 9-2 at Manry. He will be there as well. We also had Civil Service meeting yesterday. There is a Sargent retiring in March. We will hire a replacement for him.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Phares says the Sunoco on Lakeshore changed owners. Is it staying a gas station?

Mayor Vanni says we do not know for certain. He knows Law Director is going to speak on it.

Mr. Phares asks if gas stations usually need a liquor license?

Mayor says yes for beer sales too.

Law Director Gwirtz says that is what will be discussed. This is a situation where no one has contacted Building department at all for any plans. We do not have an idea of what is going in there. It is likely to be the same business but we do not have the information. There is no criminal history or anything there.

Mr. Malta says he is glad the Mayor brought up Royalview and that they are fixing it. We need a new school though, it is 70 years old. Looking to the future for our children and how big our elementary school is, it is time to come to Willowick and build a middle school.

Mayor Vanni says he totally agrees. The new superintendent is really making an effort to include the community and make improvements.

Mr. Malta says the property is there because we don't even use that football field.

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS – Directors & Officials

Service Director – Todd Shannon

Service Director Shannon submitted his report electronically. The SS4A Committee meeting is next week. It is a 2 year planning phase grant that will evaluate our entire City. It is a big deal. We got federal funding for it. They will do a lot of outreach for it as well. December water line on Lakeshore will be getting work done… it will be torn up for the whole winter. Good news is that is the last section of water line that needs done. They are switching fall to winter now. Leaf season in 3 weeks. He doesn't know when leaves will start. It is hard to figure out when to do it. October 20 is the start date. Hopefully 2 passes, but at least one through the City. It is weather and equipment dependent as well.

Mr. Malta says 566 Fairway has an issue with the apron a year ago. There is a spot that needs fixed.

Ms. Koudela says there were guys working at Vine and Lakeshore. Is the cross walk fixed?

Todd says 95%. They did find a wire chewed through. Should be finished when they come back Friday.

Ms. Koudela asks who the contractor is for the water line?

Todd says same as last year.

Ms. Koudela asks if he passed along the complaints?

Todd says yes. This location will be a little bit challenging and the traffic patterns will be changing daily.

Ms. Koudela asks that they mark the traffic pattern appropriately unlike last time.

Recreation Director – Julie Kless

Doreen comes to do Julie's report. This Saturday 9-2 is the fall flea market. Sunday October 26 5:30-7:30 at the community center is the Halloween dance. Wednesday October 8 the Senior Center is having a health fair from 9-12. Saturday November 8 9-2 is holiday boutique. Wednesday November 19 is Thanksgiving Birthday Lunch, Regovich is catering. If you can attend, we appreciate it, it will be a big one. Friday December 12 at Pine Ridge is Senior Center Christmas party.

Mr. Malta asks what time health fair is tomorrow?

Doreen says 9-12 and there are snacks.

City Engineer – Tim McLaughlin

City Engineer Tim McLaughlin emailed his report. There are a couple items on tonight's agenda. One is concerning the Lakeshore West Rehab project. Bids opened 2 weeks ago and we got good bids. Under legislation and misc, there are items for 305 Resurfacing Project taking place next year.

Finance Director – Goran Vrhovac

Open for questions. No questions.

Law Director – Mandy Gwirtz

Open for questions. No questions.

Police Chief – Rob Daubenmire

Police Chief Daubenmire emailed his report yesterday. This past Sunday, the police department went to MOL and Captains Stadium for Trunk or Treat. Very successful events and he really enjoyed himself. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Police Department is wearing pink badges for the month.

Fire Chief – Bill Malovrh

Fire Chief Malovrh is open for questions.

Mr. Malta says he played phone tag with a resident today regarding an extra charge for ambulance ride. Can he have her call him?

Chief says yes absolutely.

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)

Frank McCarty, E 328th St, brings a letter from someone we all know. He reads the letter to Council. He wishes to express his appreciation to the President of the United States, Donald Trump. He offers a round of applause to each member of Council as well.

No one else wishes to speak.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – Bisbee, Mohorcic, Antosh

Ms. Bisbee reports on the Finance Committee Meeting this evening. They talked through different scenarios when it comes to homestead and the percentage that has decreased on the seniors and homestead folks. Looking to expand that. Recommending to go to Council, maintaining the current status quo of the sewer costs.

Safety – Phares, Malta, McFarland

Mr. Phares says there is a Safety Meeting on October 21 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the Nuisance Ordinance for the final time.

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

Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers – Mohorcic, Bisbee, Malta

Tax Compliance – McFarland, Antosh, Phares

Mr. McFarland says there will be a Tax Compliance meeting following this meeting. It should be quick.

Moral Claims – Antosh, Phares, Koudela

Ms. Antosh says there will be a Moral Claims meeting this evening as well.

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

2. Motion authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with SuperGames for a total of $7,935.00 for rentals for the City's Winter Wonderland event.

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

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

   Motion passed.

3. Motion authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contact with Municipal and Contractors Sealing Products, Inc for the Lakeshore Boulevard Trunk Sewer West Rehabilitation Project in the amount of $949,560.00.

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

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

Motion passed.

4. Motion authorizing the Mayor and Finance Director to enter into a contract with Asure for COBRA for the City for a total of $782.64 annual investment for a period of 24 months.

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

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

Motion passed.

INTRODUCTION & CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION

5. RESOLUTION NO. 2025-59:

   A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO THE FINAL CONTRACT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE RESURFACING OF E. 305TH STREET FROM LAKELAND BLVD. TO LAKESHORE BLVD (S.R. 283) WITHIN 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. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea.

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

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

   Motion passed. Legislation approved.

6. ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 42:

   AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2025-13 TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND (101); STREET IMPROVMENT LEVY FUND (213); FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF WILLOWICK, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

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

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

   Motion passed. Legislation approved.

MISCELLANEOUS

7. Motion Authorizing an expenditure to the Willoughby Eastlake school district in the amount of $108,189.82 for the second half TY/24CY25 Pilot reimbursement and $31,000.00 for the Pupil Payment per the compensation Agreement for the Shoreland Crossings TIF.

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

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

Motion passed.

8. Motion to declare the items listed in "Appendix A" as Surplus, Unneeded, Unfit for public use and authorizing its Sale or Subsequent Disposal.

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

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

Motion passed.

9. Motion authorizing the City of Willowick Finance Director to certify that $949,401.00 has been lawfully appropriated for the resurfacing improvements to E. 305th Street from Lakeland Blvd to Lakeshore Blvd.

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

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

Motion passed.

10. Motion authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with the State of Ohio Department of Transportation for resurfacing improvements to E. 305th Street from Lakeland Blvd to Lakeshore Blvd in the amount of $949,401.00.

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

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

Motion passed.

11. Motion authorizing a Liquor Permit to Lakeshore Gas, LLC, located at 29000 Lakeshore Blvd, Willowick, OH 44095.

Mr. McFarland asks if this is because there is a new owner?

Law Director Gwirtz says that we believe this is a new operator, but again, the state has made us aware. They do not have an objection and they want to know our position. If we do not agree with them, we have a hearing to state our reasons.

Mr. Phares says the auditor site says there is a new owner.

Law Director says they must have sold the building. They have not presented to building.

Ms. Antosh says if we say no, it goes where?

Law Director says we send the form back that we don’t authorize it and set up a hearing.

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

ROLL CALL: Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, NO. Ms. Antosh, NO. Bisbee, NO. Mr. Phares, NO. Mr. Malta, NO.

Motion failed.

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, asks about number 8… what are the items? Just curious.

No one else wishes to speak.

Ms. Koudela says the items are a 1997 Gator, 50 banquet chairs, 1-man lift, and a leaf/lawn vacuum. All from service department. She receives a copy of the list.

Mr. Malta says the owner of Be Smoothie was a major sponsor in the Malta Challenge cheerleading show. It was the 17th annual last night. Eastlake North won. He congratulates them.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

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Clerk of Council

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Council President Date