



City of Willowick
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 7:30 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 at approximately 7:30 p.m. by Council President Koudela.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

PRESENT:

President Monica Koudela
Ward 1 Councilman Patrick Mohorcic
Ward 1 Councilman Devon McFarland
Ward 2 Councilwoman Natalie Antosh
Ward 2 Councilwoman Theresa Bisbee
Ward 3 Councilman Charles Malta
Ward 3 Councilman David Phares

Also Present: Mayor Vanni, Law Director Landgraf, Police Chief Daubenmire, Chief Brennan, Engineer McLaughlin, Finance Director Benedict, Fire Chief Malovrh, and Service Director Shannon.

Absent: Recreation Director Kless

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of October 1, 2024.

MOTION: Mr. Malta motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of October 1, 2024. Ms. Bisbee second.

ROLL CALL: Yeas unanimous.

Motion carried. Minutes approved.

APPOINTMENTS, SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

Council President Koudela asks if there is anyone here to speak for/against the Administrative Appeals that are on the agenda for tonight.

Ms. Hinton says they are hoping it gets approved.

2. Administrative Appeals No. 2024-027

An Order granting a variance and exception of 72 sq. ft. for a pavilion that is 192 sq. ft. in the application of Section 1171.02(c) of the Codified Ordinances in Board of Zoning Appeals.

MOTION: Mr. McFarland motions to approve. Mr. Malta 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 passed. Approved.

3. Administrative Appeals No. 2024-028

An Order granting a variance and exception of a 2' 5" height for a pavilion that is 12' 5" high in the application of Section 1171.02(c) of the Codified Ordinances in Board of Zoning Appeals.

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.

Motion passed. Approved.

4. Administrative Appeals No. 2024-029

An Order granting a variance and exception of 3'4" for a pavilion that is 6'8" from the dwelling in the application of Section 1171.02(e) of the Codified Ordinances in Board of Zoning Appeals.

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.

Motion passed. Approved.

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR

Mayor Vanni says he is excited to have WE Superintendent here tonight. They have been meeting since he came on board last year and they have a lot of exciting things going on. He gives the floor to Dr. Patrick Ward.

Dr. Ward says he has the best job that is out there. He is going to talk about the work they have done after discussions. They wish to be #1 in the space of education. What is most notable is within the district, 47% of families they serve come from poverty. Looking at promises to the community, last year they spent 40 different coffee talks asking the question about what makes people proud of Willoughby Eastlake schools. What are the skills and competencies that students will need in a rapidly changing world? Students need to be able to work in teams and groups. You need to be able to get along and communicate effectively. Ability to create with new ideas. They have unlimited access to information, how do we shape the future with this? Persevering through problems. Students need to persist through a problem, struggle, failure. Pre-K to 12th is prepared for their future. They represent the pride that the school system has in their students and their futures. Last year, after listening all year, it is important that people in the communities know these doors are open to everyone. There are 1000 employees and over 7000 kids. We must put ourselves in check to remind the community, these are yours. What they heard

was the community said make sure kids are engaged. They want hands on, real life activities. Expose them to real problems. Relationships are the most important things we are going to build. How do we build those relationships? Absolutely committed to growth and being able to measure this. Lastly, investing in the future. He references that his child is his reminder that you have to start every day happy and optimistic for your future. They are working on academic excellence. Pathways for learning and innovative learning for kids. What is the community's perception of the schools? Take in feedback and make adjustments. Premier athletics and arts programs. A lot of families move to this area to compete. How do we stretch dollars and stay off the ballot? How do we make sure campuses are safe and secure? Lastly, how do we tell our story? Hardest thing to do in the 21st century. We need to tell our story and connect with residents and families. This year, across all elementary schools they launched STEAM program. Every day in elementary schools, kids have access to art and STEM. They have seen great success in the first couple weeks of school already. They also need to invest in their teachers. What if each week we got our teachers together and asked what do their kids need each week and how do we support them? Middle school moved to team model. He then moved to high school flex classes and high school programming. They rolled out new Flex courses in the high school. Should school be the same for every child? Or should you be able to move at your pace? This provides ability to learn curriculum at their pace and get the support they need. Some students choose this way and some choose more traditional with 5 day a week classes. Career Tech has about 22% of juniors and seniors that participate in this program in WE. Governor in Ohio asked him to serve in the AI Task Force. What is the future of schooling? Willoughby Eastlake is leading the way. Priority 1: engaged in workforce development. Asking business partners to come in and tell them what they need from students so they can make those connections for students and businesses. 288 students currently enrolled in programs but 240 were turned away because there were not enough slots. There is a lot of demand. They are trying to find a way to get those students into workforce pathways sooner. Senior only programs also launching. He offers everyone to call him for more detailed information per slide but jokes that there is a baseball game tonight and he doesn't want to take everyone's time. Kids are coming in with more anxiety issues than ever before. Priority 2 is a Wellness initiative. He feels school needs to be personal and have kids experience one-on-one connections. Priority 3 is Fiscal Responsibility and Operations. WE is usually on the ballot for renewals. During this 5 year period, they are taking advantage to explain to residents how they are funded and what future funding looks like. He is excited to say their commitment the next couple years is to continuously explain to residents how to best handle these matters. He mentions ways that WE is committed to getting their story and news out. SOI received a blue ribbon award. Every single school in WE is a Purple Star School.

Mr. Malta asks if he is allowed to ask a question. He thanks Mr. Ward for being here. He mentions he loves seeing the 5 year time where they are not going to the taxpayers. Secondly, he wants to know a long range goal for a school that is thriving so well but over 70 years old? (Royalview) You don't have to answer that tonight, but maybe it would be nice to hear the plan in the future. A new school would be great where the football field is maybe.

Mr. Mohorcic says this is a great presentation. He feels that these programs are great and he hopes there is focus on students having fun. Students do a million things these days. They don't need the weight of the world on their shoulders, that is our job as adults.

Mr. Malta says most people don't know that WE and South did an event past weekend that they raised over \$21,000 combined for a disability project.

Mr. Ward says 4 days and over \$21,000.

Mr. McFarland mentions food scarcity is a big concern with the poverty numbers (47%) Mr. Ward mentioned. What is their food program like?

Mr. Ward says there are food programs. He doesn't want to see poverty rates go up. Recently, school community has been giving back through the Food Fresh market they have been doing. They take care of kids incredibly well and he proud to live here.

Mayor Vanni thanks him for coming out. He says Charlie and him have been sitting here for a long time and he thinks the only time anyone came to talk about the schools was when there was a tax levy. He can tell Dr. Ward really cares and he was glad he came out to speak. Last Thursday he had the honor of meeting with Congressman Joyce. Discussions going on potential funding for fire station. These will be ongoing. Yesterday the Fire Chief and Mayor had a meeting with CT. A couple months back, Council approved CT going to bid for ADA Bathroom. Will get Council those items when they are finalized.

No discussion.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE MAYOR'S REPORT

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS – Directors & Officials

Service Director – Todd Shannon

Service Director Shannon emailed his report yesterday. He is happy to answer any questions. They will be receiving Pre Treatment system this week. They got a grant in the spring from the EPA. Willowick Dr. crosswalk ADA ramp has gotten improvements. They have a third party agreement on the agenda tonight. This is due to ODOT mandates.

No questions.

Recreation Director – Julie Kless

Ms. Kless was not in attendance this meeting.

City Engineer – Tim McLaughlin

City Engineer McLaughlin mentions the third party agreement but also another agreement that is on the agenda for the same topic. The United Survey contracts have been executed. This is moving forward and expected to start this year. OPWC applications are due soon. They are finalizing these for sewer improvements. Also finalizing the Lakeshore Blvd. sewer improvements.

Finance Director – Cheryl Benedict

Ms. Benedict has no formal report, but is open for questions.

No questions.

Law Director – Stephanie Landgraf

Ms. Landgraf has no formal report, but is open for questions.

No questions.

Police Chief – Rob Daubenmire

Chief Daubenmire has no formal report, but is open for questions.

No questions.

Fire Chief – Bill Malovrh

Chief Malovrh has no formal report, but is open for questions.

No questions.

Chief Housing/Zoning Inspector – Sean Brennan

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

No questions.

WARD MATTERS

None.

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

Ms. Bisbee reports that there will be a Finance/Budget combined meeting on Tuesday 10/22 and they will get the agenda over to the Clerk to be posted. This will be at 5:30 p.m.

Safety – Phares, Malta, McFarland

No report.

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

No report.

Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers – Mohorcic, Bisbee, Malta

No report.

Tax Compliance – Koudela, Antosh, McFarland

No report.

Moral Claims – Antosh, Phares, Koudela

No report.

Budget – Mohorcic, Koudela, Bisbee

No report.

LIAISON REPORTS

Planning – Phares/Alternate Antosh

Planning Commission met last night and continued discussions on Ordinance Changes and Rec Marijuana.

Board of Zoning Appeals – McFarland/Alternate Koudela

No report.

Volunteer Fire Fighters' Dependents Fund Board – Antosh, Phares

No report.

Recreation Board – Bisbee/Alternate Phares

No report.

Plan Review Board – Antosh

No report.

FUND TRANSFERS & BID AUTHORIZATIONS**CONTRACT APPROVALS**

Motion authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Contract with SuperGames for the Winter Wonderland Project for a total of Eleven Thousand Three Hundred Ten Dollars (\$11,310.00).

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motioned to approve the contract. 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.

Motion passed. Approved.

INTRODUCTION & CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION**6. Ordinance No. 2024-43**

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: Mr. Malta motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. 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.

No discussion.

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.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

7. Ordinance No: 2024-44

An Ordinance authorizing the approval of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) requested preliminary legislation and requirements to complete the terms of the Let Project Agreement between ODOT and the City of Willowick for the resurfacing of E. 305th Street from Lakeland Boulevard to Lakeshore Boulevard, Project No. 120114, and declaring an emergency.

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

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

No discussion.

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.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

8. Ordinance No: 2024-45

An Ordinance amending Ordinance 2024-13 to provide for additional appropriations from the General Fund (101); Earned Benefits Fund (240); for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Willowick, State of Ohio, during the calendar year ending December 31, 2024, and declaring an emergency.

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

No discussion.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to approve. Mr. Phares 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 passed. Legislation approved.

MISCELLANEOUS

9. Motion to authorize the Mayor to enter into a professional services agreement with Osborn Engineering for Third Party Consultant Services.

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

No discussion.

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)

Timothy Sherman, a Willowick resident (350 E 315th Street), says there has been a lot of chatter regarding the increases in the water bill. Why did some go up over 100% since the last bill came out? There has been a lot of talk about how can they afford this? He apologizes if this has been answered already.

Jean Bowan, a Willowick resident (472 E 319th Street), asks what the Funland item on the agenda is for?

Ms. Koudela closes the public portion. She addresses Jean and says that is for inflatables for the Winter Wonderland Rec event at Manry. She says the date is on the winter guide. Ms. Bisbee mentions it is from 1-5 on the 15th of December. Ms. Koudela addresses Mr. Sherman and says rates have been going up. As far as 100% increase, it is possible between a change in usage and the rate increase. The summer months people use more water therefore sewer is higher as well. Does that answer the question? Rates have gone up for various reasons. What Euclid charges the city for sewage treatment has gone up and to keep up with that, resident costs have gone up. They also pay the wages and salary to sewer department in these costs, repairs for sewers, and equipment. It is all encompassing.

Mr. Sherman thanks her for her response and says that does answer his question.

Ms. Koudela says a lot of the surprise with this bill in particular is that it is mostly summer months and usage is higher and it is more noticeable.

Mayor Vanni says that this is the second billing at this rate so he thinks it just jumped out at people because it has been so dry this summer. Operational costs keep going up. As an example, the chemicals the plant uses, Euclid addressed this at their last meeting, have gone up 300%. This is the cost to get water clean and keep it out of the lake. Everything is going up and they are doing their best to monitor it. They went 10 years without raising for a reason. This has been a big shock for a lot of people, but he thinks this was more of a usage thing.

Mr. Malta says he has two things. He wants it to be noted that the hearts and hammer fundraiser is now the first Saturday in February. They moved it to accommodate St. Mary Magdalene. Secondly, on behalf of City Council, he wishes to welcome Council Clerk Moran and appreciates the experience she provides.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

10. To Discuss Collective Bargaining

11. To Discuss Compensation and Employment of a Public Employee

Ms. Koudela asks for a motion to Adjourn into Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining and Compensation and Employment of a Public Employee. They are inviting the Law Director and the Finance Director to join them.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to adjourn into Executive Session. Mr. Malta second.

No discussion.

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

Meeting went into Executive Session at 8:13 p.m.

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to return from Executive Session at 8:57 p.m. Mr. Malta second.

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

Ms. Koudela calls for a Motion to approve the tentative agreement with the FOP Lodge 116.

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

Mr. Malta clarifies that she said 116.

Ms. Koudela, yes 116.

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

Ms. Koudela calls for a Motion to implement weekend premium pay at the additional rate of \$8/hour starting on October 31, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. until November 1, 2024 at 6:00 a.m. for the Fire Department.

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

No discussion.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Koudela calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mohorcic second.

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

No Discussion; Motion Carried; Meeting Adjourned at 8:59 p.m.