



City of Willowick
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, March 03, 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 at 6:30 p.m. by Council President Koudela.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

All members in attendance with the exception of Ms. Antosh.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of February 17, 2026.

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

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

APPOINTMENTS, SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Vanni thanks everyone for coming. These two gentleman have worked for the City for a long time and he is very thankful for their many years of service.

2. A proclamation honoring Bryan Kravos for 15 years of service to the Willowick Police Department.

Mayor Vanni reads the Proclamation honoring Bryan Kravos for his service to the City of Willowick.

3. A proclamation honoring Bob Weis for 19 years of service to the Willowick Police Department.

Mayor Vanni reads the Proclamation honoring Robert Weis for his service to the City of Willowick.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

4. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL ORDER NO. 2026-1: (BARAZ)

AN ORDER GRANTING A VARIANCE AND EXCEPTION OF 5,420 SQUARE FEET TO

CONSTRUCT A SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING ON A LOT THAT IS 2,080 SQUARE FEET. IN THE APPLICATION OF SECTION 1163.03(a) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLOWICK..

(Tabled at 2/24/26 Meeting)

No one is here for or against the variance. Ms. Koudela says that the applicant has sent a revised plan and Sean has reviewed. She calls for questions.

Mr. McFarland asks between the Fire Chief and Sean, do we foresee any fire issues with this plan that we may not be aware of?

Sean says that as far as other structures, they are far enough away from each other for the fire code.

No further questions.

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR

Mayor Vanni reminds everyone that next Wednesday is the annual State of the Cities. He appreciates everyone that is going. It's a really good event and presentations are really good. He is looking forward to delivering his and it will be available after the event on Facebook and the City website.

Todd and himself are headed to the County for a Rt. 2 maintenance and street light meeting. He will have an update.

On the agenda tonight, there are two pieces of legislation giving permission to apply for grants both at the Federal and State level. Federal level is through Joyce's office. He was looking through it and saw that renovations of community, senior, and rec centers are eligible. They are going to apply for the floor at Manry. That's basically a half million dollar project there. The state project would be hopefully additional funding for the parking lot next door. The federal money would not be til 2027.

We are waiting regarding Youtube for the meetings. Looking at how we can get the camera set up so that we can just upload it. Hopefully more information at the next Council Meeting.

Got some good news from Lake County Department of Utilities. Every year some water main breaks... two of the problem areas on Dickerson and Fairway, we found out about a week and a half ago, they are on the schedule for next year.

Last thing, on E 305, resurfacing was supposed to start April 1, but they are delayed. They will stay on it with ODOT. Hopefully by May or June. It will not be starting next month like anticipated though.

Nick Janek is here to speak on behalf of the County Health District. He reports on the meeting that was last night. The Lake County General Health District 2027 budget was approved. \$3,013,000. The budget will be the same as 2026. The major changes and roles are the new Health Commissioner and the Director of Health Education.

Council has no questions.

He provides the Mayor and Council President Koudela with a packet from the Meeting.

Mayor Vanni thanks Nick for everything he does for us there by going to the meetings and sharing the information.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Malta thanks Julie, Tim, and Mike for going a little bit deeper to try to find funding for the flooring at Manry.

Mayor Vanni says fingers crossed. Federal grants are tough to get. He will do what he can. Tim and Julie did a lot of work on this.

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS – Directors & Officials

Service Director – Todd Shannon

Todd submitted his report electronically. Yard waste started this week. The Mayor mentioned 305, it is a contractual issue between ODOT and the contractor. There is an item on there for bids for the roof for fire department. Also yesterday we experienced a illicit discharge that is currently working on being cleaned up and all reports have been filed.

Mayor Vanni says that the service department and fire department as well as Verdantas did a great job staying on top of that. To the point where the County EPA said they were using this as a test case as an example of how protocol should be followed if something like this happens.

Recreation Director – Julie Kless

Registrations are ongoing. There was a nationwide outage for 4 days with the sportsman software. The online will hopefully be back tomorrow. We have caught up with everything on our end. Working on summer staff and will be going to the Lakeland Job Fair on April 14 for students in the education field for counselors. She reached out to North and South for swim team members to potentially lifeguard. Sunday March 29 there is Breakfast with the Bunny. Adult Easter Egg Hunt at Manry April 4 doors open 6 pm, hunt at 8 pm. Hired a new senior center assistant coordinator that has a lot of prior experience with the City and events.

City Engineer – Tim McLaughlin

He says there is one additional item aside from what the Mayor spoke about. Item 15 is for the ADA bathroom improvements. We did not receive any proposals. We are not required to publically bid the project which requires another 3-4 weeks. Forestgrove Sewer improvements March 23 will remobilize.

Finance Director – Goran Vrhovac

He says there are a few items on the agenda. Sewer rate change... when we did the method for calculating, we increased by 10%. The previous finance director made the change for the total percentage. We changed the minimum dollar amount. We received a County form that we need Council to approve where they billed the previous owner, but needs to be added to the new owner. Lastly, an item for the County to advance payments.

Ms. Bisbee says Goran contacted her about the sewer rebate and she said to just put it in front of Council since it was a very minimal change from before.

Mayor Vanni makes sure everyone understands that this is increasing the discount. The sewer rates are not going up, the discount that we offer (the only City in the County) is going up.

Law Director – Mandy Gwartz

She says the only change that was made in that legislation was to reflect the discount and weighs in favor of the residents because it is a higher discount than the previous finance director calculated. No other changes, just the discount.

Police Chief – Rob Daubenmire

He says that retired Lt. Palante unexpectedly passed away. He submitted his report and is open for questions.

Fire Chief – Bill Malovrh

He submitted his report electronically and is open for questions.

Chief Housing/Zoning Inspector – Sean Brennan

Open for questions.

Ms. Koudela asks if there have been many applications for the full time position?

He says about 5. Scheduling interviews now.

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

Mr. Phares reports on this evening's Safety Committee Meeting. Discussion of updates to Animal Cruelty Ordinance. Will make some changes and will invite Humane Society to come and speak about our changes. Second, after dark solicitations where people knock on doors after dark. Law Director is looking into this. Currently it is 9 am- 9 pm. Third, Fire Department staffing. Looking to possibly hire more. Will move forward at a later date.

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

INTRODUCTION & CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION

5. RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 7:

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO MAKE ADVANCE PAYMENTS OF TAXES PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 321.34, 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. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea.

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

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

6. RESOLUTION NO. 2026-8:

A RESOLUTION TO REMOVE THE SEWER AMOUNT AND ADMINISTRATION FEE FROM PROPERTY TAXES FOR PARCEL NUMBER 28A043T000120 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

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

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

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

7. RESOLUTION NO. 2026- 9:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT A FUNDING REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING GRANT PROGRAM THROUGH THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY CONTRACTS OR DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED THEREWITH, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

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

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

8. RESOLUTION NO. 2026- 10:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT A FUNDING REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CAPITAL BUDGET COMMUNITY PROJECT APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND OHIO SENATE, TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY CONTRACTS OR DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED THEREWITH, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

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

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

9. ORDINANCE NO. 2026- 10:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 921 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLOWICK, OHIO, TITLED "STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE;" SPECIFICALLY SECTION 921.08(b)(1), TITLED "SANITARY SEWER RENTAL RATES," TO PROVIDE A MAXIMUM DISCOUNT OF \$36.05 FOR THOSE ENROLLED IN THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES WATER DISCOUNT PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

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

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

10. ORDINANCE NO. 2026- 11:

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

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

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

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

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

11. ORDINANCE NO. 2026- 12:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 549 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLOWICK, OHIO, TITLED “WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES;” SPECIFICALLY SECTION 549.10, TITLED “FIREWORKS,” TO PROVIDE AN EXCEPTION FOR THOSE IN THE CITY TO POSSESS, DISCHARGE, IGNITE AND EXPLODE FIREWORKS ON CERTAIN HOLIDAYS.

This is the Ordinance Mr. McFarland discussed last meeting to mirror the State.

Ms. Bisbee says we have had many discussions about this and gone back and forth. Her concern is, they’re going to do it anyway and the police can’t be all over the City. She has spoken to many people as well and there are pros and cons to both. We need to be mindful of both sides. There are people who want to do it on those dates and there are also people who are affected by the fireworks, and the animals as well.

Mr. McFarland says his personal belief on this is that the way the State of Ohio has it, those people with mental health issues and the frightened animals, when the days are specifically allowed by the State, you have more time to prepare for it. Those concerns are valid. That is why they limited the days and times that way you can prepare for it.

Police Chief Daubemire says the State says it is okay so why would we go against that.

This item was placed on First Reading.

12. ORDINANCE NO. 2026- 6:

An Ordinance to make appropriations for the 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.

First Reading 2/17/26, Item is on Second Reading.

MISCELLANEOUS

13. Motion to authorize the Service Director to advertise and obtain bids for the city of Willowick Fire Department apparatus bay roof and the canopy roof at the City Hall entrance.

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

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

14. Motion to authorize a purchase order in the amount of \$43,678.46 to Morton Salt for the purchase of bulk road salt.

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

Mr. Mohorcic asks if this is for next year?

Todd says that this is to make us whole.

Ms. Bisbee says didn’t we have this same amount last meeting?

Todd says that 3 meetings ago it was \$40,000. We are unfortunately burning through salt. Finance Director says last meeting was to appropriate the funds, this meeting is to purchase it.

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

15. Motion to authorize the City Engineer to advertise and obtain bids for the City of Willowick Fire Department ADA Bathroom Improvements.

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

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

Michael Bowen, 472 E 319, says as has been discussed about the solicitation after dark. He disagrees with anything besides a friend or neighbor coming to his door after dark. He can readily see, he has security cameras around his property. When his cameras go into infrared mode, he can readily identify, the level of suspicion goes up as does the security level. He thinks it is wrong to have anyone come to the door to try to solicit him despite his no solicitation sign. Take care of business in the daylight and at night leave the people alone.

Mr. Malta thanks Mayor Vanni and Fire Chief Malovrh for making an appearance at the Gold Star Fundraiser at Willowick Lounge. He would like Council to tune into his radio show on Monday March 16 where Broadmoor Bobcats will be at Lake Catholic playing. The second hour will be highlighted by the Lake County Mayors who will get to talk about their City. He appreciates them for coming and being a part of it. Lastly, he congratulates Quinn Phares Ward 3 resident who is the winner of the Spencer Farkas memorial scholarship. He will be attending the Ohio State University with over a 4.0 GPA. That is a big deal. The scholarship usually comes from one of the employees there at Sweetberry.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION: Ms. Bisbee motions to approve. Mr. Mohorcic second.

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

Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Clerk of Council

Council President

Date

