



City of Willowick
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, December 02, 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

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Council Clerk Moran.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

1. Nominations for President Pro Tempore for Tonight's Meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to appoint Mr. Mohorcic as President Pro Tempore for tonight's meeting. Mr. Malta second.

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

A moment of silence was taken honoring former Mayor Regovich.

Mayor Vanni says the County and the City lost a great leader. He was there to serve the people he represented and was a great person. He is very lucky to have known him and sat next to him. Everything that has been said about him the past week is nothing but the truth. He made every decision with a lot of thought. It was always about the people he served. He did this as Mayor for Willowick and then again as Commissioner for Lake County. He was a great person, family man, who would do anything for you. Even before being elected, he was on boards for the City. Then he started Hearts and Hammers, which continues to thrive. This is before he even got into public office. He just wanted to give back to his community. It has been tough. He will not be replaced. Vanni's goal is to continue to work and carry out on his behalf. Rich stepped up when Mayor Bonde passed. He had to learn the ropes with no training. Mayor Vanni admired him so much for that. He will miss his friend. The family thanks everyone who was out yesterday.

Ms. Antosh says she has known Rich 15-17 years. He got her involved in Hearts and Hammers as well as Council. He will be missed.

Mr. Malta goes way back with Rich. He was a perfect example of a friend, father, husband. We could all learn a lot from him. He had a great impact on the City.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of November 18, 2025.

Ms. Antosh clarifies that on page 4 it should say 2025 not 2026. Mr. Mohorcic calls for the minutes to be amended and passed as such.

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

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

Motion carried. Minutes approved.

APPOINTMENTS, SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

3. Proclamation honoring Timothy Bynane for 44 years of service to the Willowick Fire Department.

Mayor Vanni presents the following proclamation.

4. Proclamation honoring Carl Duy for 47 years of service to the Willowick Fire Department.

Mayor Vanni presents the following proclamation.

5. Proclamation honoring Cheryl Eiduke for 30 years of service to the Willowick Fire Department.

Mayor Vanni presents the following proclamation.

6. Proclamation honoring Ronald Zak for 35 years of service to the Willowick Fire Department.

Ron unfortunately could not make it this evening. The Mayor gave the proclamation to the Fire Chief.

7. Proclamation honoring Mark Slavick for 40 years of service to the Willowick Fire Department.

Mayor Vanni presents the following proclamation.

8. Motion authorizing the Mayoral appointment of Michael Lazor to the Board of Tax Review for a two-year term commencing on December 1, 2025.

MOTION: Mr. Malta motioned to approve. Mr. Phares second.

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

9. Motion that the Willowick City Council appoint Jodi Didomenico and Mary Betsa to the Board of Tax Review for a two-year term commencing on December 1, 2025.

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

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

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR

Mayor Vanni gives an update on the gunshots on Oakdale. It is their number 1 priority. They are working hard to get these people off the streets as soon as possible. There is zero tolerance for this in the City. They will be prosecuted to the fullest extent.

Secondly, he provides an update that he and the Finance Director will be meeting with the Fire captains on Thursday for their first formal meeting. He congratulates Be Smoothie for winning Small Business of the Year for the Chamber. Lastly, Julie is out sick. He reminds everyone December 14 8:30-12:30 is Winter Wonderland at Manry with a pancake breakfast. This is the last event of the year.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Malta gives Molly props. She did a lot of leg work for the award. They deserve it, they are so involved.

Mayor Vanni says he will let her know, thank you.

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS – Directors & Officials

Service Director – Todd Shannon

He submitted his report to Council. They completed their third round of leaf collection. Will try for one more weather permitting. 3 of the trucks have been converted to salt trucks. Will be a challenge with the snow in the forecast. Lakeshore Blvd is about 3 weeks pushed back, will start around Christmas. Forestgrove has started. Lakeshore sewer by 293 started on Monday.

Recreation Director – Julie Kless

City Engineer – Tim McLaughlin

He reports that this Thursday the bids will open for E 305 sewer project. Looking forward to seeing what type of bids they get. Will likely run April-October 2026.

Ms. Antosh asks for the amount.

He says \$2.8 million total, but we have a \$2 million grant.

Finance Director – Goran Vrhovac

Law Director – Mandy Gwartz

She has no formal report, but open for questions. None.

Police Chief – Rob Daubenmire

He piggybacks off what the Mayor said. There is an investigation for the incident on Oakdale. Once there is an arrest, they will let everyone know.

Mr. McFarland says he has seen discussion about the Flock cameras. What is the City using them for?

He says right now there are 3 cameras installed, plate cameras at entrances to the City. If the plate is entered as a warrant or missing person, etc, and one of the indicators pings on that, an officer can be there. There will be two live action cameras installed that will be operated by dispatch. One will be on Vine. Basically, it would have been super helpful for the hit skip they had. The other camera will be installed near Chase Bank and will take pictures east and west down Lakeshore and also the shopping complex. Again, operated by dispatch.

Fire Chief – Bill Malovrh

He had to step away.

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)

No one wishes to speak.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – Bisbee, Mohorcic, Antosh

Safety – Phares, Malta, McFarland

Mr. Phares requests a Safety Committee Meeting to be scheduled. He will reach out to the Committee members. This will address the dog shelter issue.

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**

10. RESOLUTION NO. 2025-60:

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF WILLOWICK, LOCATED AT 483 EAST 328TH STREET, WILLOWICK OHIO, NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO LIST THE PROPERTY FOR SALE IN ACCORDANCE TO THE OHIO REVISED CODE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

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

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

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

11. ORDINANCE 2025-49 (Amended):

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2025-13 TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE General Fund (101); SCM&R Fund (202); State Highway Fund (203); Security Deposit Refunds (802); 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 waive the three-day rule. Mr. Malta second.

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

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

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

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

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

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

12. First Reading 11/18/25, Item is on Second Reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-45 (Amended):

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, TITLED "SANITARY SEWER RENTAL RATES," TO PROVIDE A USE CHARGE RATE BASED UPON \$11.2655 PER 100 CUBIC FEET OF WATER, ESTABLISH A MINIMUM QUARTERLY BILLING FOR SUCH USE CHARGE RATE OF \$90.1261 PER 800 CUBIC FEET OF WATER, OR PART THEREOF.

13. First Reading 11/18/25, Item is on Second Reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 48:

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING A NEW CHAPTER 510 OF THE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLOWICK ENTITLED "NUISANCE ABATEMENT."

MISCELLANEOUS

14. Motion authorizing a Liquor Permit to Alfredos Market, LLC, located at 30575 Euclid Ave, Willowick, OH 44095.

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

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

Sylvia, a Willowick resident, comes to find out more about the increase in the sewer rates and the process. Is that an annual increase? She is paying on average, \$500 per quarter for water and sewer. Most of it is sewer.

No one else wishes to speak.

Mr. Mohorcic asks Mayor Vanni to talk about the process and where we are at. Mayor Vanni says our water gets treated through Euclid. In 2008 when we had a 500 year storm, their plant suffered severe damage. One of the EQ tanks overflowed. The EPA came in and told them to build a new plant. It was completed a few years ago. Because of the cost and operating costs, especially where chemicals have gone up 300% over covid, this is the cost they use to maintain and operate the plant. They service a number of communities in Cuyahoga and Lake County. In late 2022, we found that they were going to hit us with a 25% increase. We had not raised rates before 2021 in roughly 10 years. The 25% increase really blindsided them. They met with Euclid with Willoughby Hills and Wickliffe. They apologized for putting this on the cities, but at the end of the day, the EPA mandate required it and they had no choice to pass this cost along as well. He says the City Engineer can go into more technical discussion about it, but the federal government mandated this build. The problem with that is that it was not taken into account the communities' ability to pay. They passed these increases on to every community they serve. The City roughly pays \$265,000 per month to treat the water. The sewer increases go towards the sewer rates for water to be treated, operating expenses, sewer repairs, infrastructure. That fund has to be self sustaining. We have talked to Euclid... they're in the same boat. They are billed monthly. When you compare bills to them, you must compare 3 months. Theirs is a little higher. We are at the higher end of the sewer rates, but that will be changing very shortly. We have reached out. There is a concern. We didn't raise them for 10 years. We have always been sensitive knowing this is a bedroom community. Our taxes are high enough. Any increase is taken very seriously and not made lightly. Again, we went 10 years without an increase. Maybe in hindsight we should have, that's another argument. Wickliffe has Lubrizol, they take a huge burden of that sewer bill off residents. We have 1% industry. What we have done over the last couple years is attend meetings and ask them to re-evaluate. They spread it out for them and instead of going double digits in 2025, they spread it over 2025, 2026, 2027.

She asks if the increase is 10% over the next 3 years.

Mr. McFarland says that is the increase coming from Euclid, we are looking at options.

Mayor Vanni says last year we absorbed roughly 2% the past 2 years. The only thing he can tell her for sure is that the City is expecting a 9.93% increase in 2027. We are hoping we can absorb some of it, we will try. That discussion will come next year. The item on the agenda is for a 7% increase. The cities have been fighting and lobbying EPA. He personally spoke to the

Congressman and Senator's office. We have written letters to our reps and spoken with them. They will continue to do so. The help needs to come from the top. We re-evaluate it every year.

Mr. McLaughlin says right now, in NE Ohio specifically, Willowick is in the middle of the pack in terms of quarterly average bill. Euclid has the highest quarterly sewer bill by far. Willowick comparatively is about \$331 per quarter with the increase for your average resident. Unfortunately, people look at Willoughby and Eastlake with their own plant system. Eastlake just went through 100% increase last year and will be looking at 10-15% in the next year and then again. Willoughby may be even more significant. These are communities with greater industrial basis too which can help with residents. The sad and simple fact is that this is just the way it is now. Chemicals increased greatly. With Euclid specifically, the US EPA and DOJ are the ones that come down. This is a federal government mandate. It is extremely difficult to fight. This is the trend of the industry.

She asks two questions. 1: infrastructure funds and grants? Have we looked into this? 2: She looked at the financial statements with \$1.5 million in revenue last year. What is that for? How is it used? From the 2024 financials on the Ohio State website.

Mr. McLaughlin says we apply for grants and/or low interest loans yearly. We need a local match to get those grants. The sewer revenue fund when he started 5-6 years ago was in the negative. The only way we can get grants is by increasing the rates to have the funds. This year we have about \$1.2 million in grants. We get creative and try to use any programs we can. In terms of the fund itself, he does not feel prepared to answer that.

Mr. Mohorcic asks if she's referring to the sewer revenue fund? He says we use that to pay Euclid. She says there is a net revenue of \$1.4 million.

Mayor Vanni asks for clarification.

She asks if she can approach and show him what she is referring to. She looked up the financial statements on the State of Ohio.

Mr. Mohorcic says they can provide what they actually look at with the line by line revenue. He says we eat that. We also increased our homestead fund.

Mayor Vanni says he has never seen that page on the state, but he gets monthly reports. If you call up tomorrow they're happy to send all of those as they are public record. To Tim's point, that fund was in the negative. We should have about a 6 month surplus in the fund for emergencies. That comes out to \$1.5 or \$1.8 million. He doesn't want to speak without the Finance Director here. Everything that we use in there goes out for projects, maintenance, etc.

Ms. Antosh asks if Willowick's water bills are 3 months, are all cities like that? How does that get determined?

Mayor Vanni says he can't speak for Wickliffe or Willoughby Hills, but he does know Euclid is monthly. He thinks it is because our utilities make the call on that. Mentor has their own water so he's not sure, but Wickliffe also gets theirs from Lake County Utilities.

Tim clarifies that Eastlake is also billed quarterly through the County.

Mr. Malta, on another note, says Hearts and Hammers fundraiser will be 2/7 and he will have tickets at the next meeting. Cash, check, etc. It is a great event. It is their only fundraiser. Second, he thanks all the volunteers for cleaning up the parks and fall clean up with the homeowners in Willowick. They had over 20 volunteers. What was nice about that, is that we had 13 JR National

Honor Society students from Willowick Middle. They worked very hard. He thanks Nancy for doing the leg work on that. It made the day go quick. He thanks the adults that volunteered as well.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Mohorcic calls for a Motion to Adjourn the Meeting.

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

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

Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Clerk of Council

Council President

Date