



City of Willowick
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 21, 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 6:32 p.m. by Council President Koudela.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

All members in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of October 7, 2025.

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

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

Motion carried. Minutes approved.

APPOINTMENTS, SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

2. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL ORDER NO. 2025-28: (MARUCCI)

AN ORDER GRANTING A VARIANCE AND EXCEPTION TO ALLOW A NEW GRAVEL/LOOSE AGGREGATE PARKING LOT IN THE APPLICATION OF SECTION 1163.13(d) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES IN BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS.

Applicant is here tonight to answer any questions. No one in the audience is for or against this ordinance.

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

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

Motion carried. Administrative Appeal approved.

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR

Mayor Vanni says that Nick Janek is here from the Lake County Health District. The Deputy Health Commissioner has been looking at federal and state grants for a rat population study in Lake and Geauga Counties and also attempt remediation. This has not been done before with grant funds. Lake/Geauga WIC on 10/20, Health District voted unanimously to accept the WIC grant of \$1 million+ dollars. This year's grant was approved at \$900,000+.

Mayor Vanni thanks him for coming.

Mayor Vanni says 2 weeks from tonight is Election Day. There are two important renewal levies- Not an increase. First is for Police/Fire Capital which allows equipment for safety forces. Second is for storm sewer laterals which provides for repairs on the City side. No increase. Please reach out with any questions. As mentioned at Safety Committee Meeting, they had their first SS4A Committee meeting. 10 members on the Committee, 3 are residents. They are going to meet again November 19. A 2 year long process. These are major improvements which will help us take on large projects in the City. This Friday, everyone is invited to Crave Cookie ribbon cutting at 11:00 a.m. That is the last unit to be filled there. He mentioned last Council meeting, this is their first franchise in NE Ohio. Their Grand Opening is not until Saturday. He is excited about them coming to the City. They have been concentrating on getting these vacant buildings fixed and occupied. They have been looking at maybe a Storefront Renovation Program again with CDBG. He is thinking about forming an association like DTW has. Separate from the City, but the businesses get together. Molly came up with this idea of piggy-backing on Small Business Saturday. They are sending out post cards to see if any businesses in Willowick would like to have specials that day and the City will post them on their socials to get news out.

He says since we are not meeting again until after Election Day, Sunday November 9 at the American Legion is the Veterans Breakfast from 9-12.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Phares asks if anything new has come of the entrance at Shoregate?

Todd says they still have the issue with the sinkhole and can't determine where it is at. They do not want them to put an island on something that could potentially sink again.

Mr. Malta thanks Mayor Vanni for supporting the Rangers and stopping up at the Press Box on Friday night and having the opportunity to meet the brand new principal. Last game is Friday.

Ms. Koudela reminds everyone that the next Council Meeting is November 18 due to Election Day.

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS – Directors & Officials**Service Director – Todd Shannon**

He has two items on the agenda. The salt purchase order and a purchase order for a sewer truck-budgeted item. They actually found this truck by accident. It is actually \$15,000 cheaper than state contract. Yesterday they started leaf collection. They finished section 1 and 2 so far.

Recreation Director – Julie Kless

She says they have their Halloween dance this Sunday 5:30-7:30 at the Community Center. Adding some Christmas events. Will keep everyone posted about all the new programs.

City Engineer – Tim McLaughlin

He updates about projects. There is pre-con for Forestgrove tomorrow. Another pre-con independent of us with Cresthaven and other streets in that area. One other project still working on contracts is Lakeshore Storm Sewer Improvements. Should be finalized in the next couple weeks. He also sent out the E305 results. Very good initial results. They usually like to do a full year to see how the sewers do through multiple events and different seasons. Really good news though so far.

Mr. Mohorcic asks about the 305 report. We are basically comparing in the report that over major rains, the level got 73 inches at its worst and now at similar it is getting 12.5". That prevents flooding because of no backing up?

Tim says correct. There is always a big enough storm that could always cause an issue, but these are very common storms that we have every year.

Mr. Mohorcic asks what the max level is?

Tim says the term is free board. Basically top of surface to top of peak level in there so about 73". Does not mean there will be basement backups, but if you are within that you are in a systematic level for basement issues.

Finance Director – Goran Vrhovac

He says he has a few items on the agenda and is open for questions. He brings the sewer rate increases to Council's attention. They asked previously about a discount from the County for a homestead project. We could, but it would be more detrimental to us. He did put together new projections showing a 5% increase on our side as a discount to our residents that are already in the Homestead Act. These numbers include the 7% we are passing on.

Ms. Bisbee says thank you for the packet of information. We chatted about if we could expand that Homestead but she realizes that if we did that there is an additional cost from Lake County to the City. That doesn't make it feasible at this time?

He says no the cost would make it greater than the discount the residents are getting now.

Ms. Koudela says Goran also mentioned it could be an audit red flag about determining who is eligible and who is not so there is a risk. We could increase that discount? Maybe review and we can discuss more during Sewer Committee section.

Law Director – Mandy Gwirtz

No report, but open for questions.

Police Chief – Rob Daubenmire

No report, but open for questions.

Fire Chief – Bill Malovrh

Emailed his report and open for questions.

Ms. Koudela says she saw the pictures of the parrot rescue. She thanks him for the sweatshirts.

Chief Housing/Zoning Inspector – Sean Brennan

No report, but open for 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 says that at the last Committee meeting they talked about the 7% increase where the City would shoulder the 2.09% additional from Euclid. We were looking at doing an increase for the Homestead of either 30 to 35 or 30 to 40. At the next meeting in November this will likely be on the agenda.

Mr. Mohorcic says he is comfortable with the 10% discount. It is fair and minimal impact to our fund but a big impact to the residents that use it.

Ms. Bisbee agrees with that as well. She feels it is a good first step.

Ms. Koudela asks if there are thoughts on just doing the 5% and reviewing in a year?

Ms. Bisbee feels that wouldn't do much difference for those residents.

Mr. Mohorcic says he understands the sentiment but looking at the comparison from Finance Director we are looking at about a \$1500 annual impact for that 5% difference.

The remainder of Council echoes that they are good with the 10% as it provides more support to our most vulnerable population.

Mandy says she will prepare legislation for the next meeting.

Ms. Koudela says it will go on 3 readings.

Mayor Vanni says that meeting we have legislation for the increase of 7 and then also the 30 to 40 now.

Ms. Antosh asks when it would start?

Mandy and the Mayor say January 1st.

Goran says 2026 bill in March.

Safety – Phares, Malta, McFarland

Mr. Phares reports on the Safety Meeting that took place prior. They discussed the Nuisance Ordinance. They talked about adding a tiered system of fines for violations. The recommendation was made to Council and will be in legislation at the next Council Meeting and it will go likely 3 readings.

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

Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers – Mohorcic, Bisbee, Malta

Tax Compliance – McFarland, Antosh, Phares

Moral Claims – Antosh, Phares, Koudela

Ms. Antosh says we have one moral claims that Council has to vote on this evening. We met on October 7 and Mr. Mickler is asking for a sewer credit. He received a water credit for filling his swimming pool.

The water department figured out a credit for a leaky toilet. Goran figured out that the sewer credit would be \$39.48 based on the max rebate amount. She asks if Council has any questions.

He thanks Council for hearing him out.

Council voted yes unanimously.

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

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

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

Ms. Bisbee wants to mention that all Willowick teams made it to the post-season. One team of fall ball made playoffs and came in 4th.

Plan Review Board – Antosh

FUND TRANSFERS & BID AUTHORIZATIONS

CONTRACT APPROVALS

INTRODUCTION & CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION

3. ORDINANCE NO. 2025-43:

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

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

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

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

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

4. ORDINANCE NO. 2025-44:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2025-13 TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND (101); SCM&R FUND (202); PERMISSIVE LICENSE FEE FUND (215); 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: Mr. Malta motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Mr. McFarland second.

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

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

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

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

MISCELLANEOUS

5. A motion authorizing the Mayor and Finance Director to complete an application and claim on behalf of the City of Willowick to participate in a Discover Card Class Action lawsuit.

Mr. Mohorcic asks what that is?

Goran says that discover has been charging additional fees to merchants. They have been legally obligated to send these letters out to claim these funds back. We are going to enter to see what we are eligible for.

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

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

Motion carried.

6. Motion to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$20,500 to Morton Salt for road salt.

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

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

Motion carried.

7. Motion to amend the Pupil payment from \$31,000 to \$36,000 per the compensation Agreement for the Shoreland Crossing TIF.

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

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

Motion carried.

8. Motion to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$66,585.00 to Preston Chevy for the purchase of a Van with service body.

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

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

Motion carried.

9. A motion authorizing the Fire Chief and/or the Mayor to complete and submit an application to receive FY 2026 Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS) Grant.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to waive the 3-day Rule. Ms. Bisbee second.

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

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

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

Motion carried.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Clerk of Council

Council President

Date