



City of Willowick
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 06, 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

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of September 15, 2026.

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

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

Motion carried. Minutes approved.

APPOINTMENTS, SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR

Mayor Vanni reports that as of last night, it looks like the last couple items for the Rt. 2 agreement are ready to be resolved. He is hoping for the final draft this week to send to Council.

On the facebook page they put a deer survey up in collaboration with ODNR. It's their first step in the process to see if there's anything that can be done with the increasing deer population here. They want to know what kind of experiences residents are having with deer. Nothing more or less. Those results go to ODNR and then the next step is seeing if there is something that can be done based on those results. We get calls both ways. We want to hear from the residents. Wickliffe and Euclid are doing this as well.

Good news, a number of grants we received are on the agenda tonight. \$100,000 for the parking lot from the Lake Development Authority and the Lake County Commissioners. We got \$200,000 earlier this year through the State Capital Fund thanks to Cirino and Troy. It's been very helpful.

We just learned that in 2029 we got a grant from NOACA to finish 305. It's estimated to be \$1.1 project. We got a grant from \$872,000 towards that.

ODOT Urban Paving Program that we submitted for this year for 2030 for paving of Lakeshore from Eastlake border to Vine we received \$300,000 towards that.

Thanks Tim for all the hard work for these grants.

Civic Plus bought Municode. We use this for our website. Now we have to change our website. Molly and Scott and Heather have been working hard on this. It's more complicated than we thought it would be. We will have a new website up hopefully first of the year.

Park improvements continue with good progress. They are planning to put the asphalt trails in tentatively October 19. Once that is set in stone he will put it on facebook and the website because the park will be closed at that time. All in all, very excited to see the finished product it's going to look great.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE MAYOR'S REPORT

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS – Directors & Officials

Service Director – Todd Shannon

He emailed his report this afternoon. As the Mayor said, parking lots are wrapping up. A few items still to take care of. Same with the road program. Unfortunately, there was a massive water break that they are working with the water department for. They are going to do two passes through the City for leaf clean up for sure. 305 is still on track for another 2-3 weeks for this phase then move into the third phase. Met with Eastlake and Wickliffe to try to figure out what we are going to do with the third phase. ODOT is in charge of the traffic flow.

Mr. Malta asks dates for leaf pick up.

November 9- December 18.

Ms. Koudela asks if Todd could review the sections, would it make sense to reassign the sections for different orders of pick up?

He says it is something they could look at. The hope is that starting later and with cooler temps they will fall sooner.

She says she knows there is no perfect plan.

Recreation Director – Julie Kless

She met with the youth league presidents this evening for the rec renewal. They are going to be posting info on the website and passing out literature. This Saturday Manry 9-2 is the Collectible Flea Market. We are hosting the first round of playoffs this weekend. There is an item on the agenda to enter into a contract with SuperGames for the WinterFest.

Ms. Bisbee says baseball pony division took second place. Great that all three football teams made playoffs.

Mayor Vanni says the levy is important. There's information that is being passed out from the leagues, the website, the rec department. It does not increase property taxes, it's a renewal. It brings in just under \$71,000 and is vital for our rec program. If you have questions, please reach out to Council or call City Hall.

City Engineer – Tim McLaughlin

Construction season coming to an end. Next Thursday will start advertising bids for Larimar Culvert project. Estimate is \$1.5 million at the moment. OPWC is scheduled to do 50% of that roughly.

Finance Director – Goran Vrhovac

Has a few items on the agenda, open for questions.

Mr. Malta says he sadly missed the meeting last week and would like to meet one morning during the week. He will call to set up a time.

Law Director – Mandy Gwartz

She addresses the submerged lands lease. It basically says we have no objection to that property owner building into the shoreline a little. We are voting to say there is no City use for that area. Just to say there is no need for the City to prohibit this building because we are not using it for anything.

Police Chief – Rob Daubenmire

Emailed his report, open for questions.

Fire Chief – Bill Malovrh

No report, open for questions.

Mr. Malta thanks him and the Mayor for the swearing in of 8 new firefighters. It was very special. Made you feel like you didn't want to be anywhere else, just right here.

Ms. Antosh asks if that is the first two females?

He says we have had 5 others. They have all left, these two are here now.

Chief Housing/Zoning Inspector – Sean Brennan

WARD MATTERS

Mr. Malta gives Todd a phone number in regards to Claremont. The new surface is great but the stuff left behind needs cleaned up. The water line pipes on her treelawn have been there for 3 weeks. She has talked to people who said they would do the seeding and they won't start with those pipes on there. They have been there for 60 years and he knows Todd can take care of it. He has received other calls on it. It's a sandy dirt all over the place. You probably can't even street sweep it.

Todd says he spoke with her today, she came in. The contractors are going to handle that. The sandy silt is from the water break we had. 2 breaks in a 12" water main. Towards the end by Green is going to have to be remilled and repaved. Water department is going to handle that. It will get cleaned up in due time. It's not from construction.

Ms. Bisbee says a few people have reached out within the 300s area regarding Halloween. We get a lot of people parking cars in the middle of the street and letting kids out. Can we post something to try to stop that?

Ms. Koudela says maybe we can post on the City, Fire, and Police facebook pages? Wouldn't hurt.

Mayor says Mellissa and Molly can get together to work on that.

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)

Mike Bowen, 472 E 319, says he thinks we should put 10x18' signs that say 1 way going down 305 or another sign saying you can't drive here. He's not sure if people can't see the signs. They almost got hit down there.

Ms. Koudela says she is glad they're okay.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – Bisbee, Mohorcic, Antosh

Safety – Phares, Malta, McFarland

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

Mr. Malta says the family and friends have asked him to wait on renaming the basketball court until next year April or early summer. He told them there is no rush on any of that. They are paying for everything.

Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers – Mohorcic, Bisbee, Malta

Tax Compliance – McFarland, Antosh, Phares

Moral Claims – Antosh, Phares, Koudela

Ms. Antosh said they had a meeting with two claims earlier. The first is Michael and Joan Yeckley, 31913 Pendley Rd. Their daughter is here.

She comes up before Council.

Ms. Antosh says that Council has the documentation sent out.

Kathleen says her parents are 87 and 86. Their last water bill was a lot more due to the upstairs toilet running. They did not realize. The water department contacted them. They got the water to stop running and then replaced the parts for the toilet. She is asking if Council would consider a credit to help with the cost of their bill. Normally their usage is \$10 and it was like \$200 some.

Ms. Antosh says the bill confirms this. Their bill was on auto payment so that full charge hit their bank account. The water department gave a credit of \$252.72. They're asking for a sewer credit. The committee, since it was a toilet leak, the water was still going down the sewer so we are still being charged for it. The committee voted Monica, no, Dave, yes, her, no. Now she needs a Council vote for up to a 75% rebate, Goran calculated. She asks for any questions.

Mr. Malta asks for an outline.

The Ordinance states if the water goes down the sewer we do not give a credit.

No one has any further questions.

Ms. Antosh calls for a motion to give a credit for \$1,108.11.

MOTION: Ms. Koudela motioned. Ms. Bisbee second.

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

The vote was 3-3, it did not pass.

The second claim was for another sewer credit, this time for Juanita Rumora 185 E 294 St. The bill showed a usage of 139, normally 5. Her plumber grandson saw a toilet leak and the outside spigot was trickling as well. The Lake County Water gave a credit of \$110.07. The maximum of 75% rebate would have been \$1,132.18. The Committee had a hard time trying to figure out how much went down the sewer and how much was the spigot. We came up with an amount of \$283.05 which was $\frac{1}{4}$ of the max amount.

Ms. Koudela made a motion to give a credit. The Committee voted yes. Ms. Bisbee second.

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

Plan Review Board – Antosh

FUND TRANSFERS & BID AUTHORIZATIONS

CONTRACT APPROVALS

2. Motion authorizing the City to enter into a contract with Super Games for the upcoming Winter Wonderland event in the amount of \$3,967.50.

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

3. Discussion regarding the compensation of an employee.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to adjourn into executive session. Mr. Malta second.

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

Adjourned into executive session at approximately 7:02 p.m.

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to return from executive session. Ms. Bisbee second.

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

Returned from executive session at approximately 7:20 p.m.

INTRODUCTION & CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION

4. RESOLUTION NO. 2026- 41:

A RESOLUTION SETTING FORTH NO OBJECTION TO THE SUBMERGED LAND LEASE AND PROPOSED SHORE STRUCTURE APPLICATION FOR REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 32510 SHOREHAM DRIVE, WILLOWICK, OHIO, OWNED BY ROBERT AND VALERIE CLINGER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the three readings. Mr. Malta 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. Ms. Bisbee second.

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

5. RESOLUTION NO. 2026-42:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE AND UPFITTING OF TWO (2) 2027 FORD POLICE INTERCEPTOR UTILITY VEHICLES FOR USE BY THE WILLOWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT, AUTHORIZING THE USE OF ONEOHIO OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE AND UPFITTING OF ONE (1) OF SAID VEHICLES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

6. RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 43:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER AND RETURN OF ADVANCED FUNDS FROM THE LAKESHORE BLVD SEWER FUND (434) TO THE GENERAL FUND, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

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

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

7. RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 44:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER AND RETURN OF ADVANCED FUNDS FROM THE FORESTGROVE SEWER IMPROVEMENT FUND (435) TO THE GENERAL FUND, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

8. ORDINANCE NO. 2026-33:

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 three readings. Ms. Bisbee 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. Ms. Bisbee second.

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

9. RESOLUTION NO. 2026-45:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WILLOWICK TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LAKE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE RECEIPT AND USE OF LAKESHORE IMPROVEMENT FUNDS FOR THE MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT AND ADA RAMP IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

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

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

10. RESOLUTION NO. 2026-46:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF PATROL RIFLES, SUPPRESSORS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT FOR USE BY THE CITY OF WILLOWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT; AUTHORIZING THE TRADE-IN AND DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN EXISTING POLICE DEPARTMENT FIREARMS AND LAWFULLY FORFEITED FIREARMS; AUTHORIZING THE USE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST

FUND MONIES FOR THE REMAINING PURCHASE COST, SUBJECT TO SEPARATE APPROPRIATION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

11. RESOLUTION NO. 2026- 47:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WILLOWICK TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE LAKE COUNTY MAYORS AND MANAGERS ASSOCIATION AS A REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 167 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor Vanni says when this was founded years ago, the bank account was held by one City. Now with Dennis being gone, Eastlake doesn't want to hold it in their name so they are going to form a council with a treasurer to hold this.

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

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

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

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

12. ORDINANCE NO. 2026- 34:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2026-6 TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM The General Fund (101); Sewer Revenue Fund (205); OneOhio Opiod Fund (229); Municipal Tax Increment Fund (302); FOR 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.

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

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

13. RESOLUTION NO. 2026- 38:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REGIONAL INCOME TAX AGENCY TO REVIEW AND DETERMINE CERTAIN REQUESTS FOR ABATEMENT OF MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX PENALTIES AND INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAW, AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF RITA'S MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX PENALTY AND INTEREST ABATEMENT AUTHORIZATION.

First Reading 9/1/2026, Second Reading 9/15/26.

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

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

14. RESOLUTION NO. 2026- 39:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF ONE UNPAID STUDENT INTERN POSITION WITHIN THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF WILLOWICK

First Reading 9/1/2026, Second Reading 9/15/26.

Mr. McFarland says he no matter if they are an intern or another employee, he feels they deserve to be compensated. He agrees an internship is the best route for the City, but he disagrees with them being unpaid. The work they are providing to the City and residents deserves to be compensated. This is a moral and ethical issue for him. If you do work for anyone, you deserve to be compensated.

Ms. Bisbee appreciates that position but because this is an unpaid internship with some learning, they could get college credits for this, they are being compensated in that way. It is a relatively part time position and something new to try to reach out to local colleges and offer them experience. She has no issue with unpaid for that reason.

Mr. Malta says we cannot discuss what happens in executive sessions, but he wants to thank his colleagues for their opinions.

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS

15. Motion Authorizing an expenditure to the Willoughby Eastlake school district in the amount of \$104,288.01 for the second half TY/25CY26 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. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea.

16. Motion authorizing the 2 items in Exhibit A to be declared as Surplus, Unneeded, Unfit for Public Use and Authorizing it's sale or subsequent disposal.

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

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

Jean Bowen, 472 E 319, asks what the submerged lands item is all about?

Ms. Koudela says they want to do something to prevent erosion and this item is the City saying we are not opposed to them doing it because it's touching the water. We usually get about one per year.

Law Director says the City Engineer knows a bit more.

Tim says this particular project is building a shoreline abutment and a staircase for access to the Lake. This just waives the City's right to saying they can do something, but they do still have other formal processes to go through.

No one else wishes to speak.

Mr. Malta says North and South both sit 7-0 and are on course to play week 9 which is one week from Friday. He encourages everyone to come out to watch. They're having a great year and deserve a lot of support. The fire marshal will be there probably. You'll always have a seat in the press box, just text him. Congrats to Todd and what's happening over there. He has been involved for many years and coached a lot of those kids when they were small. It's going to be a lot of fun.

Ms. Antosh asks what time?

He says 7, he'd get there at 6.

Clarification that it's the 16th.

Todd says tickets are purchased online now too.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Clerk of Council

Council President

Date