

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

7:05 p.m.

January 7, 2025

Pursuant to Codified Ordinance Chapter 107 and ORC Section 121.22, notice of the following meeting was given on January 3, 2025.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Anderson, Garry, Merhar, Sievers and Tomaselli

Absent: Councilmen Carr and Kary

Others Present: Mayor Fiala, Law Director Lucas, Service Director Palmisano, City Engineer Lannon, Fire Chief Ungar, Police Chief Schultz, Chief Building & Zoning Inspector Keller, Finance Director Hoffman, Clerk Novak

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Merhar to excuse Councilman Carr from tonight's meeting.

Roll Call: 5 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Garry and seconded by Mr. Merhar to excuse Councilman Kary from tonight's meeting.

Roll Call: 5 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

The meeting was led in Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance by Councilman Tomaselli.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Merhar and seconded by Ms. Sievers to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of December 17, 2024.

Roll Call 5 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT 2025

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Garry to nominate Councilman Carr as Council President.

Roll Call: 5 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

There were no other nominations.

Motion made Mr. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Sievers to elect Councilman Carr as Council President.

Roll Call: 5 yes
0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT 2025

Motion made Ms. Sievers and seconded by Mr. Anderson to nominate Councilman Tomaselli as Council Vice President.

Roll Call: 5 yes
0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

There were no other nominations.

Motion made Mr. Garry and seconded by Ms. Sievers to elect Councilman Tomaselli as Council Vice President.

Roll Call: 5 yes
0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Motion made by Mr. Merhar and seconded by Ms. Sievers to appoint Councilmen Bob Carr and Dan Anderson to the Volunteer Firefighters' Dependents Fund Board.

Roll Call: 5 yes
0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Merhar and seconded by Ms. Sievers to appoint Councilmen John Tomaselli and Ken Kary to the Volunteer Peace Officers Dependents Fund.

Roll Call: 5 yes
0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

Board and Commission Members

Mayor Fiala appointed the following members to the boards and commissions:

Planning Commission – Jim Cook
Zoning Board of Appeals – Phil Davis
Design Review Board – Amy Bell, Nichole Chapman (Parker), John Perkovich
Board of Building Code Appeals – Kevin McCrone
Sign Review Board – Josephine Begin, Will Palmer

Mayor Fiala stated that Amy Bell was part of the Charter Review Commission and lives in downtown Willoughby. He stated that Josephine Begin is replacing George Phillips. She works for Frank Manning and lives in Ridge Acres.

Motion made by Mr. Garry and seconded by Mr. Anderson to confirm the Mayor’s Board and Commission appointments.

Roll Call: 5 yes
0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

STANDING AND REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS – Mr. Tomaselli asked Council to reach out to Council President Carr regarding any changes to their current committee assignments.

CORRESPONDENCE: No correspondence.

PUBLIC PORTION: No one spoke.

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Sievers that all ordinances and resolutions be read by caption only and that as to legislation not containing an emergency clause, the rules requiring that ordinances and resolutions be read on three separate days be waived.

Roll Call 5 yes
0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-1

A resolution requesting the Lake County Auditor to make advance payments of taxes to the City of Willoughby, Ohio, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Garry that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-1 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 5 yes
0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Garry to adopt Resolution No. 2025-1.

Roll Call 5 yes
0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-2

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the cities of Willoughby, Wickliffe, and Willowick, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Garry that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-2 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 5 yes
0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Garry to adopt Resolution No. 2025-2.

Roll Call 5 yes
0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-3

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Motorola Solutions, Inc. through the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program in the amount of \$257,114.89 for the purchase of Motorola Radios necessary to the operation of the Willoughby Police Department, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Merhar that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-3 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 5 yes
0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Merhar to adopt Resolution No. 2025-3.

Roll Call 5 yes
0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-4

A resolution to approve a Then and Now Certificate and to authorize the Finance Director to draw a warrant for the invoices associated with such certificate for payment of fuel expenses, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Sievers that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-4 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 5 yes
0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Garry to adopt Resolution No. 2025-4.

Roll Call 5 yes
0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Fiala thanked Council for confirming his appointments for the Boards and Commissions. He stated the bid results for the new Police Station are due prior to the next Council meeting and he will have a list of all the fundings sources and expenses to date for the Osborne Park project, the Chagrin River Trail Connection Project and the new Police Station by the next Council meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Law Director Lucas – No report.

Service Director Palmisano – No report. Mr. Anderson asked if the Service Department was able to complete the leaf pick up. Mr. Palmisano stated the majority of the leaf pick up and storm clean-up is complete. If the snow melts, the crews will be back out again. Mr. Tomaselli mentioned that a lot of light bulbs were out on the Christmas decorations in Wes Point Park. Mr. Palmisano stated crews started to work on replacing bulbs yesterday. Mr. Garry asked when the sidewalk would be replaced from Ridge Acres to Lowe's. Mr. Palmisano stated the work will be done as soon as the weather breaks.

City Engineer Lannon – Mr. Lannon stated he'll have more information about the schedule for the River Street watermain replacement prior to the next Council meeting. Regarding street closures, Mr. Lannon stated there will be closures during the slope stabilization work but that won't start until after the watermain is complete. Traffic will be maintained during the watermain work but with some delays.

Fire Chief Ungar – Chief Ungar stated his department surpassed 6,200 calls this past year and it will be outlined in the annual report.

Police Chief Schultz – Chief Schultz thanked Council for the passage of Resolution No. 2025-3. He stated this past weekend the department held an event at the YMCA called Sports with the Force which was an event created by Community Involvement Officer Ross Shirey. He stated the event included dodgeball, wiffleball, basketball and football and was a huge success. The next Sports with the Force will be held on February 2nd and the first weekend of March and April as well. The event is free but registration is required. Coffee with Cops at Fiona's this past Saturday was also a success.

Chief Building and Zoning Inspector Keller – No report.

Parks & Recreation Director Keller – Absent.

Finance Director Hoffman – Ms. Hoffman thanked Council for the passage of Resolution Nos. 2025-1 and 2025-4. Mr. Garry asked when the golf course debt will be paid off. Ms. Hoffman stated the first debt is paid off and she wasn't exactly sure when the second debt will be paid off but she would let him know.

COUNCILMEN REPORTS

Ms. Sievers – No report.

Mr. Kary – Absent.

Mr. Tomaselli – No report.

Mr. Merhar – No report.

Mr. Garry – No report.

Mr. Anderson – No report.

Mr. Carr – Absent.

The Regular Council Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Date approved 1/21/25

John Tomaselli
John Tomaselli, Vice President

Olivia Rod
Clerk of Council

Robert A. Fiala
Robert A. Fiala, Mayor