

MINUTES REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

7:22 p.m.

December 17, 2024

Pursuant to Codified Ordinance Chapter 107 and ORC Section 121.22, notice of the following meeting was given on December 13, 2024.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Sievers, Tomaselli, Carr, Kary and Merhar

Absent: Councilmen Anderson and Garry

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. Merhar and seconded by Mr. Tomaselli to excuse Councilman Anderson from tonight's meeting.

Roll Call: 5 yes
0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Merhar and seconded by Mr. Tomaselli to excuse Councilman Garry 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 Kary.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Tomaselli and seconded by Mr. Merhar to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of December 3, 2024.

Roll Call 5 yes
0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

STANDING AND REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of Full, Mr. Carr – No report.

Economic Development Committee, Mr. Anderson – Absent.

Environmental Planning Committee, Mr. Kary – Reported the committee met this evening covering two EAS's that are on the agenda tonight.

Finance and Audit Committee, Mr. Tomaselli – No report.

Parks & Recreation Committee, Ms. Sievers – No report.

Personnel Committee, Mr. Anderson – Absent.

Safety Committee, Mr. Tomaselli – No report.

Service Committee, Mr. Anderson – Absent.

WPCC Committee, Mr. Garry – Absent.

Planning Commission, Mr. Kary – No report.

CORRESPONDENCE: No correspondence.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Nate Janoso, 3127 Gale Road, Willoughby – Mr. Janoso stated he wanted to talk about some safety concerns he has regarding his daughter who attends Grant Elementary School which is about a half a mile from where he resides. Per the current school policy, his daughter walks to school because they are less than a mile from the school. There are no sidewalks on Gale Rd. from Cheltenham to the corner of Hurricane and again from Hurricane to the drive into the school. He stated this is the first year the drop off and pick up lines are routed down Gale Rd. adding extra vehicle traffic making the walk to school very dangerous with the lack of sidewalks. He stated that cars speed down Gale Rd. and due to the cars coming in and out of the school drive he is forced off the road into a deep ditch. A few solutions could be to install sidewalks on Gale Rd. or provide busing to students within a mile of the school. He offered a few suggestions for safety including the addition of school zone signs, a flashing speed limit sign and stop signs added at Gale Rd. and Nantucket and Gale Rd. and Cheltenham. Mr. Tomaselli stated he has had conversations with Chief Schultz about this situation which led to additional patrol. There are speeding issues on Gale Rd. and on Hurricane. He stated the City worked with the school to move the pickup line off Hurricane to Gale Rd. because it was backing up onto Lost Nation Road; however, the school never made any considerations for expanding the school zone. Mr. Tomaselli stated he will get all parties involved to address the safety issues.

Lavare Malina, 37446 Grove Avenue, Willoughby – Mr. Malina stated he just moved to the City on July 1st from New Jersey. He voiced concerns with shopping carts that are left out at various grocery stores in the area (i.e., Target, Giant Eagle) noting that he has 3 dents in his car from run away carts. Mayor Fiala stated it is private property but First Interstate is the developer and he stated the City is willing to reach out to them and let them know their tenants are not being careful. Chief Building & Zoning Inspector Keller stated he can make a call to First Interstate, but ultimately it is their property. He felt the best approach would be to contact the store manager and find out what their policy is regarding shopping carts.

Motion made by Mr. Merhar and seconded by Mr. Tomaselli 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:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-130

An ordinance amending Article III of the Charter of the City of Willoughby, Ohio, titled, “The Council;” specifically, Section 7, titled “General Ordinances”.

Motion made by Mr. Tomaselli and seconded by Mr. Merhar to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-130.

Roll Call 5 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-131

An ordinance amending Article III of the Charter of the City of Willoughby, Ohio, titled, “The Council;” specifically, Section 11, titled “Effective Date of Ordinances and Resolutions.”

Motion made by Mr. Merhar and seconded by Ms. Sievers to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-131.

Roll Call 5 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-132

An ordinance amending Article III of the Charter of the City of Willoughby, Ohio, titled, “The Council;” specifically, establishing Section 12, titled, “Removal.”

Motion made by Ms. Sievers and seconded by Mr. Merhar to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-132.

Roll Call 5 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-133

An ordinance amending Article IV of the Charter of the City of Willoughby, Ohio, titled, “The Mayor;” specifically, establishing Section 8, titled, “Removal.”

Motion made by Mr. Merhar and seconded by Ms. Sievers to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-133.

Roll Call 5 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-134

An ordinance amending Article VII of the Charter of the City of Willoughby, Ohio, titled, “Civil Service Commission;” specifically, Section 3, titled, “Classification of Service.”

Motion made by Ms. Sievers and seconded by Mr. Merhar to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-134.

Roll Call 5 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-135

An ordinance amending Article XI of the Charter of the City of Willoughby, Ohio, titled, "Miscellaneous"; specifically, establishing Section 6, titled, "Gender Neutrality."

Motion made by Mr. Merhar and seconded by Ms. Sievers to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-135.

Roll Call 5 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-136

An ordinance accepting Amendment No. 1 to Ordinance No. 2024-38, the Manning & Payroll Ordinance, relative to the Department of Parks and Recreation, and hourly personnel, fulltime, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Ms. Sievers and seconded by Mr. Tomaselli that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2024-136 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 5 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Merhar and seconded by Ms. Sievers to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-136.

Roll Call 5 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-137

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an addendum to the Subrecipient Agreement with the Lake County Commissioners and Willoughby Union Realty, LLC to utilize additional Lake County ARPA funds in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for the purpose of construction and/or installation of ventilation improvements of the Willoughby Union High Historic Restoration Project, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Mr. Tomaselli and seconded by Mr. Merhar that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2024-137 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 5 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Tomaselli and seconded by Mr. Merhar to adopt Resolution No. 2024-137.

Roll Call 5 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-138

A resolution approving EAS #15-10-24 for a smoke/vape shop and sale of related products at the existing building located at 34302 Euclid Avenue (Smokerz Drip).

Roll Call 5 yes
0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-142

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Mark Haynes Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$3,256,746.60 for implementation of the Osborne Park Coastal Improvements Phase 1 Erosion Project, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Ms. Sievers and seconded by Mr. Kary that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2024-142 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 5 yes
0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

Motion made by Ms. Sievers and seconded by Mr. Kary to adopt Resolution No. 2024-142.

Roll Call 5 yes
0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-143

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Biohabitats, Inc. in the amount of \$4,545,162.00 for the final design and construction for the Chagrin River Floodplain Restoration and Trail Connection Project, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Mr. Tomaselli and seconded by Ms. Sievers that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2024-143 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 5 yes
0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Tomaselli and seconded by Ms. Sievers to adopt Resolution No. 2024-143.

Roll Call 5 yes
0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

MAYOR’S REPORT – Mayor Fiala thanked Council for the passage of Resolution Nos. 2024-142 and 2024-143; the City is anxious to move forward with these projects. He is hoping that the Police Station can be awarded next month with bids due shortly after the first of the year. Regarding leaf pick up, he stated the City wasn’t prepared before the snowstorm hit and could have done a better job getting the message out about pick up. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

DIRECTOR’S REPORTS

Law Director Lucas – No report. Mr. Lucas wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Service Director Palmisano – Mr. Palmisano stated the Service Department is working on snow removal, storm damage pick up and leaf pick up. Republic Waste will be extending the yard waste pick up by another week (Friday, 12/20). The City has reached out to a tree removal company to assist with storm damage pick up. Currently there is one crew out conducting storm damage removal and two other crews doing leaf pick up. Residents were advised that leaf pick up was stopped but the City is able to do it. The crews will continue to work weather permitting. Mr. Carr stated that Terrace Construction is laying fiber for AT&T causing a bit of a mess but the City has been assured it will be cleaned up.

City Engineer Lannon – No report. Mr. Carr asked if the Safe Routes to School program is still in existence. Mr. Lannon stated he would check into it as sidewalks are part of that program (referencing the lack of sidewalks on Gale Rd.).

Fire Chief Ungar – Chief Ungar wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Police Chief Schultz – Chief Schultz thanked the community for supporting the Stuff the Cruiser event and the Toys for Tots campaign. He stated that the Fraternal Order of Eagles #2300 donated \$47,000 to the department for several programs including the Cadet Program that will be used for police academy scholarships. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Chief Building and Zoning Inspector Keller – No report.

Parks & Recreation Director Keller – Absent.

Finance Director Hoffman – Ms. Hoffman thanked Council for the passage of Ordinance No. 2024-136 and Resolution Nos. 2024-140 and 2024-141.

COUNCILMEN REPORTS

Council wished everyone a merry Christmas and Happy New year.

Ms. Sievers – No report.

Mr. Kary – No report.

Mr. Tomaselli – Mr. Tomaselli thanked Judean Keller, Chief Ungar and Chief Schultz for their support of the Santa Parade; it was a wonderful event. He stated Erie Street Miracles have pledged to participate every year because it was so fun.

Mr. Merhar – No report.

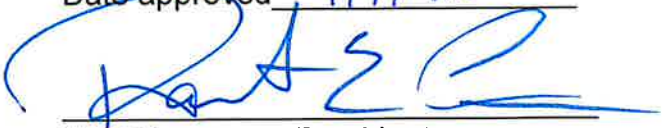
Mr. Garry – Absent.

Mr. Anderson – Absent.

Mr. Carr – No report.

The Regular Council Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Date approved 11/7/25



Robert E. Carr, President



Clerk of Council



Robert A. Fiala, Mayor