

# MINUTES REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

7:00 p.m.

February 4, 2025

Pursuant to Codified Ordinance Chapter 107 and ORC Section 121.22, notice of the following meeting was given on January 31, 2025.

## ROLL CALL

**Council Members Present:** Garry, Kary, Merhar, Sievers, Tomaselli, Anderson and Carr

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

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

## Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Garry and seconded by Mr. Tomaselli to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2025.

Roll Call      7 yes  
                    0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

## STANDING AND REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of Full, Mr. Carr – No report.

Economic Development Committee, Mr. Anderson – No report.

Environmental Planning Committee, Mr. Kary – No report.

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

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

Personnel Committee, Mr. Merhar – No report.

Safety Committee, Mr. Tomaselli – No report.

Service Committee, Mr. Anderson – No report.

WPCC Committee, Mr. Garry – No report.

Planning Commission, Mr. Kary – No report.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** No correspondence.

**PUBLIC PORTION:** No one spoke.

**Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Merhar 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     7 yes  
                  0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-15**

**An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an eighteenth amendment to the WPCC Joint Agreement with the City of Eastlake, as amended.**

Motion made by Mr. Merhar and seconded by Mr. Garry to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-15.

Roll Call     7 yes  
                  0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-16**

**A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the City of Eastlake for implementing the payment procedure for the Willoughby-Eastlake WPCC Lakeshore Boulevard East Equalization Basin Project.**

Motion made by Ms. Sievers and seconded by Mr. Merhar to adopt Resolution No. 2025-16.

Roll Call     7 yes  
                  0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-17**

**A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Infinity Construction Co., in the amount of \$11,560,000.00 for implementation of the Willoughby Police Station Project, and declaring an emergency.**

Motion made by Mr. Tomaselli to amend Resolution No. 2025-17, in Section 1, strike the word "Capital" and replace with "Willoughby Police Department Facility," seconded by Mr. Anderson.

Roll Call     7 yes  
                  0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Tomaselli and seconded by Mr. Anderson that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-17 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call     7 yes  
                  0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Tomaselli and seconded by Mr. Anderson to adopt Resolution No. 2025-17 as amended.

Roll Call      7 yes  
                    0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

**MAYOR'S REPORT** – Mayor Fiala thanked Council for the passage of the resolution awarding the contract to Infinity Construction for the new Police Station. He stated there was a scare from the federal government last week that would have ceased funding for many City projects, however, a court has intervened and a restraining order that would prohibit that. He stated that the recreational cannabis bill is finally moving through the house and senate at the state level and lawmakers have elected to raise the taxes from 10% to 15% and to take all of those taxes and put them in the state's general fund. The 3% that would have gone to cities will not happen unless that is changed. Mr. Tomaselli noted that while medical and recreational marijuana will be highly regulated, Delta-8, Delta-9 and other products you can get at gas stations remains unregulated. Mayor Fiala stated that the moratorium for recreational marijuana ends this month, however, the Law Department is working with a consultant to put together legislation.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

**Law Director Lucas** – No report.

**Service Director Palmisano** – Mr. Palmisano thanked Council for the passage of Ordinance No. 2025-15 and Resolution No. 2025-16.

**City Engineer Lannon** – No report. Regarding the recent legislation passed for Laketran to install sidewalks on SOM Center Road and Rt. 84, Mr. Carr stated there is a big parcel where a large water tower sits and wanted to know if the City can ask to have sidewalks installed on that parcel. Mr. Lannon stated that when the City asked Wendy's and Fifth Third to install sidewalks those were newer projects and also required by code, but he's not sure about the water tower. Mr. Lannon stated asking the county for sidewalks near the water tower is a little different request but the City could ask. Mr. Anderson noted that there could be an issue with some fencing but it would be possible on the SOM Center Road side.

**Fire Chief Ungar** – Chief Ungar stated that effective February 9<sup>th</sup>, staffing at Fire Station #2 will increase with the three new hires through the SAFER Grant; staffing levels will be up to five firefighters.

**Police Chief Schultz** – Chief Schultz thanked Council for the passage of Resolution No. 2025-17. He stated there has been a tremendous amount of planning over the last year and a half. He stated Assistant Chief Tartaglia and others have put a lot of work into the project.

**Chief Building and Zoning Inspector Keller** – No report.

**Parks & Recreation Director Keller** – No report. Mr. Carr asked about the Euclid Avenue pool survey. Ms. Keller stated she wanted to wait to include information on the survey when a mailer goes out regarding pool passes, which should be mid-March.

**Finance Director Hoffman** – No report.

**COUNCILMEN REPORTS**

**Ms. Sievers** – No report.

**Mr. Kary** – No report.

**Mr. Tomaselli** – No report.

**Mr. Merhar** – No report.

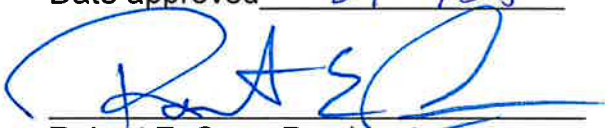
**Mr. Garry** – No report.

**Mr. Anderson** – No report.

**Mr. Carr** – No report.

*The Regular Council Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.*

Date approved 2/10/25



Robert E. Carr, President



Clerk of Council



Robert A. Fiala, Mayor