

MINUTES REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

7:01 p.m.

April 15, 2025

Pursuant to Codified Ordinance Chapter 107 and ORC Section 121.22, notice of the following meeting was given on April 11, 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, Parks & Recreation Director 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. Mehar and seconded by Mr. Garry 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 Merhar.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Merhar and seconded by Mr. Garry to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2025.

Roll Call 5 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

STANDING AND REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of Full, Mr. Carr – The committee met this evening to discuss Mayor and Council salaries; legislation for those salary increases will be on the next Council agenda.

Economic Development Committee, Mr. Anderson – No report.

Environmental Planning Committee, Mr. Kary – Absent.

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. 2025-39 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 5 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Sievers to adopt Resolution No. 2025-39.

Roll Call 5 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-40

A resolution amending the meeting schedule of Council for the months of June, July, August, and September, 2025.

Motion made by Mr. Garry and seconded by Mr. Merhar to adopt Resolution No. 2025-40.

Roll Call 5 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-41

A resolution declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the City of Willoughby.

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Sievers to adopt Resolution No. 2025-41.

Roll Call 5 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-42

A resolution authorizing the City Engineer to prepare plans and specifications and estimates of the cost of construction for certain new sidewalks in the City.

Motion made by Mr. Merhar and seconded by Ms. Sievers that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-42 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 Resolution No. 2025-42.

Roll Call 5 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 5 to 0

MAYOR’S REPORT – No report.

DIRECTOR’S REPORTS

Law Director Lucas – No report.

Service Director Palmisano – Mr. Palmisano thanked Council for the passage of Resolution No. 2025-38. Ms. Sievers thanked Mr. Palmisano for the work at the end of Lost Nation Road.

City Engineer Lannon – Mr. Lannon reported that construction on the retaining wall on River Street is underway and is going well. Mr. Tomaselli asked if River Street would be repaved. Mr. Lannon stated it will be paved by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) next year. Mr. Anderson asked when the work would begin on Ridge Road. Mr. Lannon stated he didn't know but he will find out.

Fire Chief Ungar – Chief Ungar stated he had given Council an update on the production of the ladder truck at the last meeting. Incidentally, he stated he received an e-mail today from the International Association of Fire Chiefs; it revealed that the US Senate is opening a bi-partisan investigation on fire apparatus manufacturers for several reasons; one being the cost of the apparatus outpacing inflation, the back logs they are creating and floating price increases due to having the trucks in production for a long time. Mr. Anderson asked how many fire engine manufacturers there are. Chief Ungar stated at least a dozen, but there are three big manufacturers who have cornered the market and have been buying some of the smaller manufacturers. He stated the fire engine they purchased in 2014 was from a manufacturer in a small town in Pennsylvania. Another manufacturer purchased the company and moved it to Louisiana, combining it with three other manufacturers. There are three big groups that are steering the market.

Police Chief Schultz – Chief Schultz stated this week is National Telecommunicators Week which honors the dispatchers and emergency communicators who are the true first, first responders. He stated that qualities of a dispatcher include integrity, effective communication skills, tremendous decision making abilities, enthusiasm, dedication, the ability to multi-task and strong work ethic. He stated that Willoughby is fortunate to have 10 full time and 6 part time of the finest dispatchers. He thanked the City's dispatchers for their service and commitment to the City and to the city of Kirtland. Mr. Tomaselli stated he spent the day with the City's dispatchers and stated it was a great experience. He stated our dispatchers are truly talented.

Chief Building and Zoning Inspector Keller – Mr. Keller reported that Karen Brooks has started her property maintenance inspections; please reach out to her if you have any troublesome streets or houses. Mr. Tomaselli asked if there was a plan for the former Ruple property on Pelton Road. Mr. Keller stated there is an active site plan which is being monitored by Lake County Soil and Water. Once the grading is completed, it is Mr. Keller's understanding that the owner plans to use the property for his business. The owner is complying right now with the county but the City is overseeing it.

Parks & Recreation Director Keller – The ribbon cutting for the new pickleball courts is May 8th. There are currently 990 pools surveys; it will be open until May 12th.

Finance Director Hoffman – Ms. Hoffman thanked Council for the passage of Resolution 2025-39.

Ohio State Representative Dan Troy – Mr. Troy stated there is an important issue on the May 6th ballot; State Issue 2 renews the Ohio Public Works Program. He stated the program has been around since the late 1980's. Mr. Troy and Mr. Scott Oelslager teamed up to sponsor HGR7 which put the issue on the ballot on May 6th. The authorization from the voters for this constitutional provision expires on July 1, 2025. He stated the City has received under the state construction improvement program \$8.4 million in grants and \$3 million in zero interest loans. The City has also received road grants in the amount of \$1.07 million. The City has received about \$12 million from this program and he would like to see that continue. He stated the current program is \$2 billion over a 10 year period expiring this year. The new proposal is \$2.5 billion over the next 10 years or \$250 million for these particular projects. He stated it is not a bond issue or a tax increase; it is covered (since its inception) under the existing state revenues. He stated the decisions on what is funded are not made in Columbus but rather made at the local level. He wanted to make Council aware of how important Issue 2 is. Mr. Troy stated the state budget was passed last week; the local government percentage for Willoughby that had been 1.7% of all state revenues has been raised to 1.75%. Mr. Troy stated there was a substantial reduction for the H2Ohio Program which the City has benefited from.

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 7:31 p.m.


Date approved 5-6-25



 John Tomaselli, Vice President



 Clerk of Council



 Robert A. Fiala, Mayor