

MINUTES REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

7:05 p.m.

July 8, 2025

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

ROLL CALL

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

Others Present: Mayor Fiala, Law Director Lucas, Engineering Tech John Crislip, Assistant City Engineer McLaughlin, 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 Tomaselli.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Merhar to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2025.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

PUBLIC HEARING:

Clerk Novak read the legal notice for the public hearing to be held tonight on 2026 Tax Budget (see attached).

Those Speaking in Favor – No one spoke.

Those Speaking in Opposition – No one spoke.

STANDING AND REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of Full, Mr. Carr – Mr. Carr stated there was a committee meeting tonight to discuss the possible use of the Pelton Road landfill. Mayor Fiala requested a discussion regarding short term rentals at the August meeting.

Economic Development Committee, Mr. Anderson – No report.

Environmental Planning Committee, Mr. Kary – Mr. Kary stated the committee met this evening to discuss EAS #9-3-25, #10-4-25 and #12-5-25.

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:

Mark Perillo, 38524 Wood Road, Willoughby – Mr. Perillo stated he started the pickleball program at Lakeland a few years ago which now has 700 members. He stated he offered to help design the courts at Osborne Park. He stated that the City has built one of the finest pickleball facilities in the area. He is now running the (voluntarily) pickleball program at Osborne Park. He stated he is at the courts everyday at 7:30 a.m. and word is getting out that people can show up and play pickleball in a friendly environment. He thanked the City for making such a great place to play. He suggested putting lights at the pickleball courts at least on 4 of the courts.

Mary Feathers, 886 Bellvue, Willoughby – Ms. Feathers stated the White Cane walk will be held October 11th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-67

A resolution congratulating the Lake Catholic High School Boys Varsity Baseball Team on winning the 2025 OHSA Division IV Baseball Championship.

Councilwoman Sievers read this Resolution in its entirety.

Motion made by Ms. Sievers and seconded by Mr. Anderson to adopt Resolution No. 2025-67.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-68

A resolution approving EAS #9-3-25 for an outdoor dining area at the existing building located at 4099 Erie Street (Chagrin River Diner).

Motion made by Mr. Kary and seconded by Mr. Merhar to adopt Resolution No. 2025-68.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-69

A resolution approving EAS #10-4-25 for the construction of an addition to the existing building located at 38195 Airport Parkway (Quality CNC Machining).

Motion made by Mr. Kary and seconded by Ms. Sievers to adopt Resolution No. 2025-69.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-70

A resolution approving EAS #12-5-25 for an adult daycare center and homecare agency at the existing building located at 38765-38769 Lakeshore Blvd. (Porscha's Heart to Heart Homecare).

Motion made by Mr. Kary and seconded by Ms. Sievers to adopt Resolution No. 2025-70.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-71

A resolution authorizing an expenditure in the amount of \$59,523.74 for the purchase of one (1) 2025 Ford F-350 Pickup Truck with Plow from Classic Ford for use by the Cemetery Department, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Mr. Garry and seconded by Mr. Merhar that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-71 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Garry and seconded by Mr. Merhar to adopt Resolution No. 2025-71.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-72

A resolution authorizing an expenditure in the amount of \$80,473 for the purchase of one (1) Kobelco Excavator with 24" Bucket for use by the Sewer Department from Southeastern Equipment Company through Sourcewell, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Mr. Merhar and seconded by Mr. Garry that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-72 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Merhar and seconded by Mr. Garry to adopt Resolution No. 2025-72.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-73

A resolution authorizing an expenditure in the amount of \$71,948 for the purchase of one (1) 2025 Ford F-350 Cab and Chassis with Stakebody from Classic Ford for use by the Street Department, 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. 2025-73 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Garry to adopt Resolution No. 2025-73.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-74

A resolution authorizing a total expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$126,000 for the purchase of one (1) 2025 Ford F-600 One Ton Truck Chassis from Classic Auto Group for use by the Street Department and the attendant dump body installation package on the truck by Best Truck Equipment, Inc., and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Mr. Garry and seconded by Mr. Tomaselli that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-74 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Garry and seconded by Mr. Tomaselli to adopt Resolution No. 2025-74.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-75

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Atlantic Emergency Solutions, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$415,100 for the purchase of one (1) Horton Medical Unit, Ford F550 XLT Gas 4 x 4, Model 623 for use by the Willoughby Fire Department; said purchase to be made through the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program, and declaring an emergency.

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. 2025-75 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. 2025-75.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-76

A resolution approving an agreement between the Willoughby Part-Time Firefighter Association and the City of Willoughby, Ohio, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Kary that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-76 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Kary to adopt Resolution No. 2025-76.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-77

A resolution declaring a 2014 Ford Police Interceptor SUV owned by the City of Willoughby as obsolete and not needed for public use, authorizing the sale thereof to Andrews Osborne Academy, Willoughby, Ohio, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Tomaselli that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-77 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Tomaselli to adopt Resolution No. 2025-77.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-78

A resolution adopting the Tax Budget of the City of Willoughby, Ohio for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026; submitting same to the Lake County Auditor, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Mr. Garry and seconded by Mr. Tomaselli that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-78 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Garry and seconded by Mr. Tomaselli to adopt Resolution No. 2025-78.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-79

An ordinance providing for the manning levels and compensation of elected and appointed officials and salaried and non-union employees of the City of Willoughby, Ohio; repealing any and all other ordinances or part thereof which may be inconsistent herewith or which may be redundant hereto; and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Mr. Merhar and seconded by Ms. Sievers that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2025-79 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Merhar and seconded by Ms. Sievers to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-79.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-80

A resolution authorizing the City Engineer to prepare plans and specifications and to advertise for bids for the 2025 Highway Pavement Lane Marking Project, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Mr. Garry and seconded by Mr. Merhar that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-80 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Garry and seconded by Mr. Merhar to adopt Resolution No. 2025-80.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-81

A resolution accepting a donation of \$15,000 from the Willoughby VFW Post 1500 to be used for the purchase of furniture at the new Willoughby Police Department Facility.

Motion made by Mr. Tomaselli and seconded by Mr. Anderson to adopt Resolution No. 2025-81.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-82

A resolution confirming that certain real property owned by Riverside Commons @ Rt 2 LLC is located in a City-established Community Reinvestment Area, eligible for a five (5) year tax exemption of one hundred percent (100%) and authorizing the Mayor to finalize a Tax Incentive Financing Agreement with the Riverside Property Owner for public infrastructure improvements to include required minimum service payments of fifty percent (50%) for five (5) years in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code, and declaring an emergency.

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. 2025-82 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. 2025-82.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Fiala thanked Council for the passage of Resolution 2025-81.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Law Director Lucas – No report. Mr. Carr asked about the sidewalks in front of Wendy's and Walgreens on Rt. 91. Mr. Lucas stated that both Wendy's and Walgreens have indicated they would be putting in sidewalks but there has been a lull in communication over the last couple weeks.

Engineering Tech Crislip – Mr. Crislip thanked Council for the passage of Resolution Nos. 2025-71 through 2025-74.

Assistant City Engineer McLaughlin – No report.

Fire Chief Ungar – Chief Ungar thanked Council for the passage of Resolution No. 2025-75. He reported that this morning there were 5 simultaneous trash can fires along Euclid Avenue. No damage was reported to any buildings.

Police Chief Schultz – Chief Schultz thanked Council for the passage of Resolution Nos. 2025-77 and 81. Regarding the trash can fires reported by Chief Ungar, he stated a suspect was identified around 9:30 a.m. and subsequently arrested and was taken to the Lake County jail. The suspect faces several felonies and misdemeanor charges. He stated it was a great team effort between the Fire and Police Departments. Chief Schultz discussed the many partnerships the department has throughout the community. He was happy to help Andrews Osborne Academy by selling them a used obsolete vehicle for their campus security. He thanked the entire Willoughby VFW 1500 organization including Commander Mark Case and Brent Woerner for their support over the years and the recent donation.

Chief Building and Zoning Inspector Keller – No report.

Parks & Recreation Director Keller – No report.

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 7:49 p.m.

Date approved 8/12/25



Robert E. Carr, President


Clerk of Council
Robert A. Fiala, Mayor

2026 TAX BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to ORC Section 705.17, notice is hereby given that the Council of the City of Willoughby will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed 2026 Tax Budget on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 7:05 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Willoughby City Hall, One Public Square, Willoughby, Ohio.

The proposed Tax Budget of the City of Willoughby, Ohio for the year 2026 is on file in the office of the City Finance Director and available for public inspection from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Any person interested in being heard on the proposed 2026 Tax Budget of the City of Willoughby will have an opportunity to be heard at the date and time slated above.

BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY

Alisa Novak
Clerk of Council

Publish: June 27, 2025