

MINUTES REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

7:02 p.m.

January 21, 2025

Pursuant to Codified Ordinance Chapter 107 and ORC Section 121.22, notice of the following meeting was given on January 17, 2025.

ROLL CALL

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

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

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

ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

Board and Commission Members

Mayor Fiala reappointed Greg Schmidt to the Civil Service Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Garry to confirm the reappointment of Greg Schmidt to the Civil Service Commission.

Roll Call: 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Tomaselli and seconded by Mr. Merhar to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of January 7, 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 – Mr. Tomaselli stated an e-mail was sent out by the Mayor regarding the bids for the new Police Station. He asked the Mayor to elaborate further on the bids. Mayor Fiala stated that 12 bids were received last week; of the 12 bidders 4 were below the base bid estimate. The low bidder was Infinity Construction and he stated he has worked with Infinity Construction in the past and feels they are a solid contractor. He stated that the building of the firing range is included in the base bid and Alternate #1 is the build out of the range. Alternate #2 is for the deletion of lockers; if deleted the City would have to buy the equipment and install it. He stated it doesn't seem feasible to accept that alternate. Allowance #1 would provide labor only from the contractor for equipment that is purchased or provided by the City. If everything was accepted the contract would be \$12,811,000. The administration is recommending not including the alternate bid for the firing range build out; this would lower the bid award to \$11,560,000. The Mayor stated the City has investment income from the sale of bonds to cover the \$1,251,000 for the firing range build out. He stated that the City needs time to evaluate how the equipment for the firing range can be purchased; the contractor is willing to hold the pricing of that bid Alternate #1 for 90 days. The Mayor is recommending awarding the base bid only. The owner contingency is \$1,075,398 and can be used for items that were unforeseen in the bid package. The existing range at the current Police Station can be used until that building is sold. Mr. Carr asked if the City could potentially bid out the firing range separately later. The Mayor stated the City could do that but he would like time to investigate the difference in the bid numbers for that alternate.

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. Tomaselli 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 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-5

An ordinance approving the adjustment of the boundary lines separating the Village of Waite Hill and the City of Willoughby by mutual consent and directing the processing of the boundary adjustment.

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Garry to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-5.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-6

An ordinance accepting the re-subdivision plat of Shepherd’s Glen Townhomes, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Mr. Kary and seconded by Mr. Merhar that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2025-6 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Kary and seconded by Mr. Merhar to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-6.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-7

An ordinance amending Chapter 913 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Willoughby, Ohio, titled "Sanitary Sewerage System Charges"; specifically, Section 913.03, titled, "Charges and Rents Generally", and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Ms. Sievers and seconded by Mr. Garry that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2025-7 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

Motion made by Ms. Sievers and seconded by Mr. Garry to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-7.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-8

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the Board of Lake County Commissioners and the City to utilize proceeds from the FY 2025 Senior Levy Fund for the purpose of support of the senior citizens services or facilities for the Willoughby Senior Center, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Mr. Tomaselli and seconded by Mr. Garry that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-8 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. Garry to adopt Resolution No. 2025-8.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-9

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement to accept a 2024 Transit Accessibility Grant from Laketrans in the amount of \$159,880 to provide financial assistance in the Ridge Road Sidewalk Project, 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. 2025-9 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. 2025-9.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-10

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement to accept a Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) 2025 Energized Community Grant in the amount of \$62,395.00, 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 Resolution No. 2025-10 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

Motion made by Ms. Sievers and seconded by Mr. Tomaselli to adopt Resolution No. 2025-10.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-11

A resolution accepting a total donation of \$47,000 from the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Willoughby Aerie No. 2300, to be used to assist the Willoughby Police Department in the purchase of radios, ERT ballistic vests and to support the Cadet Program.

Motion made by Mr. Merhar and seconded by Ms. Sievers to adopt Resolution No. 2025-11.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-12

A resolution honoring Willoughby-Eastlake Water Pollution Control Center employee Robert (Bob) Law and thanking him for his twenty-one (21) plus years of service to the City of Willoughby.

Service Director Palmisano read this Resolution No. 2025-12 in its entirety.

Motion made by Mr. Garry and seconded by Mr. Merhar to adopt Resolution No. 2025-12.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-13

A resolution honoring Willoughby-Eastlake Water Pollution Control Center employee Gordon (Scott) McCallister and thanking him for his twenty-seven (27) plus years of service to the City of Willoughby.

Service Director Palmisano read this Resolution No. 2025-13 in its entirety.

Motion made by Ms. Sievers and seconded by Mr. Garry to adopt Resolution No. 2025-13.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-14

A resolution amending Resolution No. 2024-141 authorizing temporary appropriations totaling \$57,023,134 for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Willoughby, Ohio during the period ending March 31, 2025, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Mr. Tomaselli and seconded by Mr. Kary that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-14 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. Kary to adopt Resolution No. 2025-14.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

MAYOR’S REPORT – Mayor Fiala stated the City is working with Frank Manning and the businesses around Glen Avenue to work through the paid parking issues. Regarding ARPA funds, Mr. Carr asked about the ARPA money that was allocated for Lakefront District signage. Ms. Hoffman stated the money had to be encumbered by year end so it was encumbered and given to the Chagrin River Floodplain Project and the Osborne Park Project. The City is still pursuing the signs but the money will come from a different fund. Regarding vape shops, Mr. Kary stated he’s willing to work with him and the Planning Commission as to how the City wants to handle vape shops going forward. Mayor Fiala stated he and Law Director Lucas recently

discussed getting the language cleaned up. He also stated he is working with the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) for funding the roundabout (on Lost Nation Road).

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Law Director Lucas – No report. Regarding moratoriums, Mr. Tomaselli asked if the state doesn't want municipalities to have a moratorium longer than 18 to 24 months. Mr. Lucas stated he doesn't like to have a moratorium longer than a year. He stated that the Ohio General Assembly still hasn't provided any guidance on the subject (adult use marijuana).

Service Director Palmisano – Mr. Palmisano thanked Council for passage of Resolution Nos. 2025-12 and 2025-13. Ms. Sievers thanked the Service Department for the recent clearing of sidewalks. Mr. Anderson asked about the City's salt stock. Mr. Palmisano stated the City was in good shape.

City Engineer Lannon – Mr. Lannon stated the River Street waterline project could start in a week or so. The traffic pattern will be one way northbound during the waterline portion of the project through March. The retaining wall project will require the road to be closed.

Fire Chief Ungar – No report. Mr. Tomaselli asked if there were any updates on the ladder truck. Chief Ungar stated he hasn't heard anything, but the plant building it slowed down due to the hurricanes in the fall. Chief Ungar stated the company doing the refitting of an ambulance is being delayed due to the company's restructuring.

Assistant Police Chief Tartaglia – Assistant Chief Tartaglia thanked Council for the passage of Resolution No. 2024-11.

Chief Building and Zoning Inspector Keller – No report.

Parks & Recreation Director Keller – No report.

Finance Director Hoffman – Ms. Hoffman thanked Council for the passage of Ordinance No. 2025-7 and Resolution Nos. 2025-8, 2025-10 and 2025-14.

COUNCILMEMEN REPORTS

Ms. Sievers – No report.

Mr. Kary – No report.

Mr. Tomaselli – No report.

Mr. Merhar – No report.

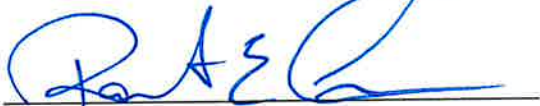
Mr. Garry – No report.

Mr. Anderson – No report.

Mr. Carr – Mr. Carr reminded Council to file their financial disclosure statements and election petitions.

The Regular Council Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

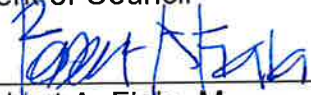
Date approved 2/4/25



Robert E. Carr, President



Clerk of Council



Robert A. Fiala, Mayor