

MINUTES REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

7:04 p.m.

February 18, 2025

Pursuant to Codified Ordinance Chapter 107 and ORC Section 121.22, notice of the following meeting was given on February 14, 2025.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Councilwoman Sievers

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, Parks & Recreation Director Keller, Finance Director Hoffman, Clerk Novak

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Merhar to excuse Councilwoman Sievers from tonight's meeting.

Roll Call 6 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 6 to 0

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Tomaselli and seconded by Mr. Merhar to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2025.

Roll Call 6 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 6 to 0

STANDING AND REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of Full, Mr. Carr – Mr. Carr stated there has been talk recently regarding an increase in salary for the Mayor and Council. He stated the City charter stipulates that any changes made to the Mayor's salary or Council needs to be approved 30 days prior to the filing deadline for the election. Changes to salaries would need to be approved by June or July, 2025 to be effective January 1, 2026. Unless there is opposition to the discussion, he asked Councilmen Tomaselli and Merhar to review comparative salary information that Clerk Novak has as well as legislation that would increase salaries on a more regular basis. He would like to hold a meeting after the budget is discussed perhaps in April or May.

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 – Absent.

Personnel Committee, Mr. Merhar – No report.

Safety Committee, Mr. Tomaselli – No report.

Service Committee, Mr. Anderson – No report.

WPCC Committee, Mr. Garry – Mr. Garry stated the joint annual WPCC meeting will be held tomorrow night at 6 p.m. at Eastlake City Hall.

Planning Commission, Mr. Kary – No report.

CORRESPONDENCE: No correspondence.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Pat Carroll Bonander, 35616 Timber Ridge Lane, Willoughby – Ms. Bonander stated she is the current President of the Willoughby Arts Collaborative (WAC). She thanked Council for the passage of legislation to create a public art fund. The WAC is a 501(C)3 and receives grants and private donations and they are excited that the City supports and values their mission. She stated the WAC has applied to the Public Art Committee for review and funding and she hopes that Council supports it. Mr. Carr stated that a memo regarding that application was sent to Council and there was no opposition.

Motion made by Mr. Garry 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 6 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 6 to 0

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-18

A resolution expressing an intent to sell unneeded, obsolete, or unfit property by internet auction, establishing a procedure for conducting the sale, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Merhar that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-18 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 6 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 6 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Merhar to adopt Resolution No. 2025-18.

Roll Call 6 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 6 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-19

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Enerwise Global Technologies, LLC dba CPower for participation in an electric power demand response program at the Willoughby-Eastlake Water Pollution Control Center for a period of three (3) years, effective June 1, 2025 and ending on May 31, 2028.

Motion made by Mr. Garry and seconded by Mr. Merhar to adopt Resolution No. 2025-19.

Roll Call 6 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 6 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-20

A resolution authorizing a limited further extension until June 20, 2025 of the temporary moratorium on the issuance and processing of permits allowing retail dispensaries, cultivators, or processors of adult use marijuana within the City of Willoughby, Ohio, 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 Resolution No. 2025-20 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 6 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 6 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Kary and seconded by Mr. Merhar to adopt Resolution No. 2025-20.

Roll Call 5 yes
 1 no (Tomaselli)

Motion carried 5 to 1

MAYOR’S REPORT – Regarding the recent executive orders reducing funding, Mayor Fiala stated he didn’t see anything impeding the funding for Osborne Park project or the Chagrin River Trail. The City is in receipt of the funding for Phase I work at Osborne Park; he is monitoring the anticipated \$3 million funds closely. There is months of planning ahead for the Chagrin River Trail which there is funding for; the City will watch closely to see if the \$2 million from Dave Joyce is withheld. Only work that currently has funding will be completed for that project.

DIRECTOR’S REPORTS

Law Director Lucas – No report.

Service Director Palmisano – No report.

City Engineer Lannon – No report. Regarding the sidewalks on SOM Center Road near the water tower, Mr. Carr stated he noticed a lot of footprints in the snow along the Maplegrove Road side. He stated there is a sidewalk on the other side. Mr. Lannon stated the triangle of

property between Ridge Road and SOM Center Road where the water tower sits is owned by the Lake County Commissioners and the City. He indicated there is a possibility of doing a joint project with the Commissioners for sidewalks in that area.

Fire Chief Ungar – No report.

Assistant Police Chief Tartaglia – No report.

Chief Building and Zoning Inspector Keller – No report.

Parks & Recreation Director Keller – No report.

Finance Director Hoffman – No report.

COUNCILMEN REPORTS

Ms. Sievers – Absent.

Mr. Kary – No report.

Mr. Tomaselli – No report.

Mr. Merhar – No report.

Mr. Garry – No report. Mr. Gary thanked the Service Department for the snowplowing in Ridge Acres.

Mr. Anderson – No report.

Mr. Carr – No report.

Motion made and seconded to go into Executive Session in accordance with ORC 121.22(G)1 to consider the compensation of a public employee.

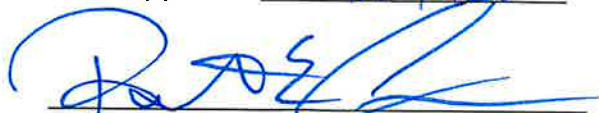
Roll Call 6 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 6 to 0

The Council meeting reconvened at 8:14 p.m. from the Executive Session.

The Regular Council Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Date approved 3/11/25



Robert E. Carr, President



Clerk of Council


Robert A. Fiala, Mayor