

MINUTES REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

7:10 p.m.

August 11, 2026

Pursuant to Codified Ordinance Chapter 107 and ORC Section 121.22, notice of the following meeting was given on August 7, 2026.

ROLL CALL

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

Others Present: Mayor Fiala, Law Director McConville, Service Director Knecht, 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. Tomaselli and seconded by Ms. Sievers to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of July 14, 2026.

Roll Call	6 yes	
	0 no	Motion carried 6 to 0
	1 abstain (Anderson)	

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 – Ms. Sievers requested a committee meeting prior to the next Council meeting to discuss park hours and e-bikes in the parks.

Personnel Committee, Ms. Sievers – No report.

Safety Committee, Mr. Tomaselli – Mr. Tomaselli reported that the committee met this evening to discuss e-bike usage in the City; there may be another committee meeting to discuss the topic.

Service Committee, Mr. Anderson – No report.

WPCC Committee, Mr. Garry – No report.

Planning Commission, Mr. Kary – No report.

CORRESPONDENCE: Clerk Novak read a request from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a new C-2 and C-1 license for Ohio CVS Stores LLC, CVS Pharmacy 435, 6005 SOM Center Road, Willoughby, Ohio 44094. There were no objections.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Doreen Langa, 37929 Clark Court, Willoughby, Ohio (Ward 5) -

Ms. Langa stated she was speaking tonight as a concerned downtown Willoughby resident regarding the increasing number of festivals and community events downtown and their impact on traffic, noise and safety. She stated she has lived in Willoughby for most of her life and has proudly called Clark Court home for the past 26 years. She values the vibrancy of downtown Willoughby and appreciates its restaurants, shops, markets, and community atmosphere. However, she believes it is important to balance the needs of businesses, visitors, and residents. Over the years, the number of downtown events has increased significantly, including 5K runs, Last Stop Willoughby, the tree lighting, chili cook-off, ice sculptures, rib cook-off, cruise-in, arts fest, Saturday markets, and others. What once caused occasional inconvenience now affects residents several times each year. These events bring larger crowds, road closures, noise, parking issues, and safety concerns for those who live downtown. Her concern is not with the events themselves, but with the continued expansion without clear guidance and meaningful resident input. She respectfully is asking the City to consider the following: when will the City determine that the number of downtown events is sufficient; what is criteria guide approval of new events; how often and under what authority may Route 20 be closed; when are festival proposals submitted by the bar and restaurant association and approved; how can residents provide input; and who pays for City workers, police, cleanup, staging, and related services. She is asking that the City review parking and traffic visibility near Clark Avenue and Clark Court, where parked vehicles can make it difficult and unsafe for residents to exit the street. Additional enforcement or clearer no-parking measures may help improve safety. She stated she appreciates the City's efforts to create a vibrant, safe, and welcoming community. Her goal is to better understand the process and to help ensure downtown residents are included as the City considers future events and growth. Mayor Fiala suggested that Ms. Langa reach out to Shana Boyd to set up a meeting regarding her concerns.

Darlene Calore, 5419 SOM Center Road, Willoughby, Ohio -

Ms. Calore expressed concern about e-bike activity on sidewalks near her property. She reported multiple recent incidents involving riders traveling at high speeds on the sidewalk, cutting through her driveway and yard, and passing close to her while she was doing yard work. She noted that several riders appeared to be juveniles and were not wearing helmets. Ms. Calore stated that she contacted the Police Department and appreciated the dispatcher's assistance, but expressed concern that riders can quickly leave the area through nearby cut-throughs, making enforcement difficult.

She also described an incident involving an adult rider who approached at a high speed, refused to slow down, used profanity, and continued around her. Ms. Calore asked the City to consider prohibiting motorized vehicles, including e-bikes, from sidewalks, noting that similar restrictions apply to mopeds, dirt bikes, and motorcycles.

Daniel Somrack, 4186 Madison Avenue, Willoughby, Ohio -

Mr. Somrack stated he is concerned about safety in downtown Willoughby, particularly the increase in intoxication, fights, threats, and disorderly behavior. Recently, while reading the Bible aloud downtown without amplification, he was threatened by an armed individual who was not a Willoughby resident. He is grateful to the bystanders and Officer Pitt for intervening. He stated that the Willoughby police officers are doing excellent work, but they appear stretched thin. The issue seems to be growing beyond Friday and Saturday nights and is now affecting Thursdays as well. He stated the oversaturation of alcohol consumption downtown is contributing to the decline in public safety and quality of life. He respectfully is asking Council to consider limiting alcohol sales after midnight as one possible step to address these concerns.

Tom Wares, 38178 Emsley Court, Willoughby, Ohio -

Mr. Wares stated that tree limbs along Westminster are hanging low and striking his RV when he drives to his development. He said he contacted the Service Director twice and was told trimming would likely occur in the fall, possibly October. He asked whether the City could trim the low-hanging branches sooner and offered to provide photos. It was confirmed that the trees are located on the tree lawn and that Service Director Knecht is aware of the issue.

Michelle Kocis, 718 Iroquois Trail, Willoughby, Ohio -

Ms. Kocis expressed concern about e-bike safety, particularly after dark. She described two recent incidents in which e-bike riders were difficult to see, appeared to be using bike lanes as travel lanes, and did not seem to follow traffic rules. She asked whether e-bike riders must follow specific regulations, obtain licenses, or complete safety training, and emphasized the need to clarify rules to protect both riders and drivers. Mr. Carr thanked Ms. Kocis for her comments and noted that e-bike safety and related legislation had been discussed earlier in the evening; the City is working to address these concerns and improve safety.

Laurie Williamson, 4294 Aimee Lane, Willoughby, Ohio –

Ms. Williamson stated she enjoys the concerts and appreciates having them in the community. However, the volume has become much louder than it used to be. She stated she sits with her friends near the former Citizens Bank and has always been able to enjoy the music while still talking. Lately, the music has been so loud that conversation is difficult, even from that distance. She would appreciate consideration being given to lowering the volume slightly.

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Garry 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. 2026-99

An ordinance vacating and terminating a portion of an easement no longer necessary for storm sewer purposes located on Permanent Parcel No. 27A0150000230, Lake County, Ohio (Shankland Reserve).

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Garry to table Ordinance No. 2026-99.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-100

An ordinance accepting the Final Plat for Shankland Reserve, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Mr. Luciano and seconded by Mr. Tomaselli to table Ordinance No. 2026-100.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-101

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a four (4) year agreement with Medicount Management, Inc. with successive one (1) year renewal options at a 0.25% increase over the base rate per year for services necessary to the collection of rates charged by the City of Willoughby for all Fire Department Emergency Medical and Rescue Squad Services provided to the residents and non-residents of the City, 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. 2026-101 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. 2026-101.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-102

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Ronyak Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$720,720 for implementation of the 2026 Pavement Repair Program, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Mr. Garry and seconded by Ms. Sievers that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2026-102 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Garry and seconded by Ms. Sievers to adopt Resolution No. 2026-102.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-103

A resolution honoring and commending Willoughby-Eastlake Water Pollution Control Center employee Michael (Mike) Ackerman and thanking him for his twenty-seven (24) plus years of service to the City of Willoughby.

Service Director Knecht read this resolution in its entirety.

Motion made by Mr. Luciano and seconded by Ms. Sievers to adopt Resolution No. 2026-103.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-104

A resolution designating public depositories for active funds of the City of Willoughby, Ohio, repealing Resolution No. 2021-67, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Ms. Sievers and seconded by Mr. Luciano that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2026-104 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. Luciano to adopt Resolution No. 2026-104.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

MAYOR'S REPORT – No report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Law Director McConville – No report.

Service Director Knecht – Mr. Knecht thanked Council for the passage of Resolution Nos. 2026-102 and 2026-103. Mr. Knecht recognized Mr. Ackerman's service to the City and Mike Brooks, Assistant Superintendent at WPCC, for earning his Class 4 wastewater license. This is a significant achievement, and he appreciates his hard work and dedication. Mr. Kary stated that several Ward 2 residents have asked about the railroad tracks. He asked if there is anything the City can do realizing the City doesn't own the tracks, to encourage repairs and maintenance? Mr. Knecht stated the City has submitted requests, and Mayor Fiala has worked to reach the appropriate contacts. Inspections have occurred, repairs have been recommended, and the City is waiting for those repairs to be completed.

Mr. Kary stated he wanted to raise a traffic concern at Shankland and Euclid. Residents report difficulty turning left from Shankland onto Euclid when vehicles turning right from Euclid onto Shankland block the intersection. Mr. Knecht stated that City Engineer Lannon is aware of the concern and staff are reviewing the issue. He stated he has observed the issue as well and understands the residents' frustration.

City Engineer Lannon – Absent.

Fire Chief Ungar – Chief Ungar thanked Council for the passage of Resolution No. 2026-101.

Police Chief Schultz – Chief Schultz congratulated Mike Ackerman on his career and best wishes for a long and enjoyable retirement. Regarding the concerns raised about downtown Willoughby, Chief Schultz stated these concerns are taken seriously. Downtown safety remains a priority, especially during the summer months when visitor activity increases. The department's goal is to maintain a safe and welcoming environment for everyone, and the department will continue to review concerns and adjust as needed. Regarding golf carts, Mr. Anderson stated it's his understanding is that, for a golf cart to be street legal in Ohio, it must be inspected by a police officer. He asked if the department currently inspects golf carts. Chief Schultz stated that currently the

department does not. However, legislation is being developed that includes the inspection. To make a golf cart street legal, several requirements must be considered, including brake lights, a license plate, seat belts, turn signals, and other safety equipment. Police inspection is one component currently under discussion.

Chief Building and Zoning Inspector Keller – No report. Mr. Anderson stated he received an email from a resident regarding a house near downtown that neighbors said had been vacant for six years. The resident was interested in living there, and Mr. Anderson explained that the City could only determine whether there were any violations. After reviewing emails, Mr. Anderson did not find any related violation records. Mr. Keller responded that there are no ordinances specifically addressing vacant properties as long as they are maintained, and suggested the resident could review county records to contact the property owner.

Parks & Recreation Director Keller – Ms. Keller reported that this is the final week for the Osborne Park pool's regular season. The pool will close on Sunday, then remain open on weekends through Labor Day. Ms. Sievers asked for an update on the Osborne Park construction project, noting increased activity at the site this week, including rock deliveries, and asked whether the work was still in phase one or nearing the next stage. Ms. Keller explained that phases one and two are being completed at the same time. Most of the sand has been placed on the east section, work continues on the platform, and recent rock deliveries are being used to fill the circular area at the end of the platform before concrete is poured. After that, armor stone will be installed up to the platform and along the side walls, with crews continuing to work from the west and east toward the center.

Finance Director Hoffman – Ms. Hoffman thanked Council for passage of Resolution No. 2026-104.

COUNCILMEN REPORTS

Ms. Sievers – No report.

Mr. Kary – No report.

Mr. Tomaselli – Mr. Tomaselli congratulated Mike Ackerman on his retirement.

Mr. Luciano – No report.

Mr. Garry – No report.

Mr. Anderson – No report.

Mr. Carr – No report.

The Regular Council Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

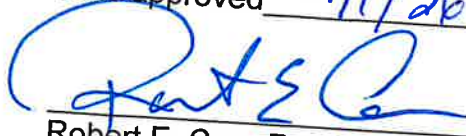
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Date approved

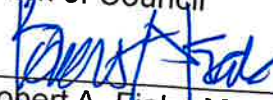
9/1/26



Robert E. Carr, President



Clerk of Council



Robert A. Fiala, Mayor