

MINUTES REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

7:01 p.m.

September 19, 2023

Pursuant to Codified Ordinance Chapter 107 and ORC Section 121.22, notice of the following meeting was given on September 15, 2023.

ROLL CALL

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

Others Present: Mayor Fiala, Law Director Lucas, Service Director Palmisano, City Engineer Lannon, Police Chief Schultz, Chief Building & Zoning Inspector Puskas, Parks & Recreation Director Keller, Finance Director Hoffman, Clerk Novak

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion made and seconded to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of September 5, 2023.

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. Anderson – No report.

Safety Committee, Mr. Tomaselli – No report.

Service Committee, Dan Anderson – Mr. Anderson reported a committee meeting was held tonight where Tim Lannon and Paul Ciupa reviewed the Lost Nation Road Traffic study.

WPCC Committee, Mr. Garry – No report.

Planning Commission, Mr. Kary – No report.

CORRESPONDENCE: No correspondence.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Salvatore La Courte, 2240 North Bay Drive, Willoughby – Mr. La Courte stated he was before Council to discuss some activity taking place on North Bay Drive. He stated there have been several break ins and car thefts in the area and last week a car was stolen out of his neighbors garage. He stated he wasn't looking for any answers tonight, but feels the problem is growing due to Lost Nation Road being an easy on and easy off road. He asked the City to think creatively to resolve the problem.

Jerry Ranally, 37832 Park Avenue, Willoughby – Mr. Ranally thanked Council for confirming his appointment to the Civil Service Commission. He stated Eric Barbe left the Commission but did a super job over the years. He is looking forward to serving the City.

Neil Sharp, 39425 King Edward Court, Willoughby – Mr. Sharp stated he is concerned with the new policy related to the trapping of animals going from 5 traps to 2 traps. He stated where he lives is an area where there are a lot of animals near the wall that runs along the freeway. He believes that having only two traps leaves the residents in this area overrun with animals. He asked the City to revisit the policy regarding the number of traps. He stated he feels Ken Smith should be recognized for his years of service to the City. He stated removing the snow fences near Ridgewood Greens was a mistake as the snow piles up on Rt. 84. He stated the ancillary road near Ridgewood Greens needs to be closed off.

Aaron Rose, 4241 River Street, Willoughby – Mr. Rose suggested the City build a pedestrian bridge over Mentor Avenue from the courthouse to the other side. He also suggested having a loading zone for ride share apps such as Uber and Lyft.

Motion made and seconded 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. 2023-113**

A resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission, authorizing the necessary tax levies, certifying same to the Lake County Auditor, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made and seconded that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2023-113 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

Motion made and seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2023-113.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-114

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Local 1657, and Ohio Council 8 (AFSCME) necessary to modify Article 33 Wages effective March 24, 2024, and amending Article 20 Sick Leave between the City of Willoughby, Ohio and AFSCME, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made and seconded that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2023-114 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

Motion made and seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2023-114.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-115

A resolution amending the meeting schedule of the Council of the City of Willoughby, Ohio, for the month of November, 2023.

Motion made and seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2023-115.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-116

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to grant permission to SmithGroup to act as the City’s advisors for permitting purposes for the Osborne Park Re-Imagined Project, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made and seconded that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2023-116 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

Motion made and seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2023-116.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-117

A resolution congratulating the Willoughby Stingers Swim Team on winning the Suburban League Swim Championship.

Councilman Anderson read this Resolution in its entirety.

Motion made and seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2023-117.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-118

A resolution honoring, commending, and thanking Eric Barbe for his 26 years of service to the City of Willoughby.

Clerk Novak read this Resolution in its entirety.

Motion made and seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2023-118.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Fiala read a letter from Eric Barbe in its entirety. (See attached Exhibit A). Mayor Fiala stated that Eric Barbe committed a lot of his time to the City.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Law Director Lucas – Law Director Lucas stated he has known Eric Barbe a long time and he is the kind of person who makes you proud to know him and makes you want to be a better person that serves your community.

Service Director Palmisano – No report. Regarding the water line repairs being conducted by the county, Mr. Anderson asked when they will be back to finish the work. Mr. Palmisano replied they are due back to finish the work, but he had heard the county was having staffing issues. Mr. Carr reminded Mr. Palmisano regarding the removal of dead trees.

City Engineer Lannon – Regarding storm water, Mr. Lannon mentioned Council take a tour of various projects sometime this fall. He stated the Meadowlands project is wrapping up and is functional. The project went well, however, there will be a change order due to a street that was torn up. He believes the overall cost will be under the original amount. He stated they will do some post construction monitoring for some time. Preliminary work is being done on River Street in anticipation of the slope stabilization project.

Fire Chief Ungar – Absent.

Police Chief Schultz – Chief Schultz stated it was an honor and privilege to work with Eric Barbe for several years; he served the Civil Service Commission with professionalism and integrity. He stated he was looking forward to working with Jerry Ranally. He reported his department participated in the Miracle League this past weekend at the Captains stadium; thirteen Police Officers and one retired Police Officer participated. Regarding the comments made by Mr. La Courte earlier this evening, he stated he appreciates his concerns and there have been many conversations regarding the issue. He stated he has a great staff and will continue to work hard to resolve the issues. Mr. Tomaselli asked about the department searching for unregistered vehicles. Chief Schultz replied that the program started up again

this summer which entails looking for unlicensed and or inoperable vehicles and giving notices to the owners to take care of or remove the problem.

Building Inspector Puskas – No report.

Parks & Recreation Director Keller – No report. Mr. Carr asked about the Chagrin River rerouting project. Ms. Keller said all work should be completed by the first week in January; they are beginning the bendway weirs work and then will work on the rerouting.

Finance Director Hoffman – No report.

COUNCILMEN REPORTS

Ms. Sievers – No report.

Mr. Kary – Due to a recent interaction with the Willoughby Fire Department, Mr. Kary stated the City should be very proud of the department and the work they do.

Mr. Tomaselli – No report. Regarding the recent Downtown Willoughby 5K, he said Craig Rowe has put the race on for the past 11 years and this year was his last. The race will continue but he wanted to recognize Craig Rowe for his efforts for the last 11 years.

Mr. Merhar – No report.

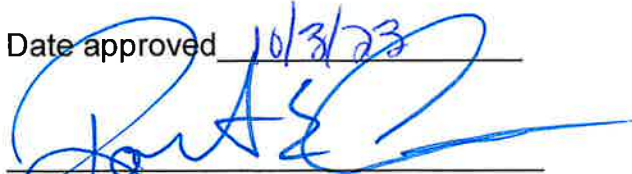
Mr. Garry – Mr. Garry thanked the Mayor and Police Department for supporting the Miracle League.

Mr. Anderson – No report. Reminded Council about the joint meeting with the Planning Commission on Thursday. Mayor Fiala will send out an agenda.

Mr. Carr – No report.

The Regular Council Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Date approved 10/3/23



Robert E. Carr, President


Clerk of Council
Robert A. Fiala, Mayor

Exhibit A

19 September 2023

To: Mayor Robert Fiala and Willoughby City Council Members

My sincerest apologies for not attending tonight's Council Meeting to accept your recognition. As it turns out, at this very moment, I am being installed as the new Board President of the Fine Arts Association here in Willoughby, and am unfortunately unable to be in two places at the same time.

I would like to thank Mayor Fiala, and his predecessor, David Anderson for having the confidence in me to fill the role on the Civil Service Commission for so many years. Hopefully, I met their expectations.

I would particularly like to thank Alisa Novak, and our previous Secretary, Sarah Ritchie for their incredible level of professionalism-- and keeping me on track for so many years. I'd also like to acknowledge my fellow Commissioners, Jeffrey Mitchell and Greg Schmidt, who have provided immense support to me. I am confident Jerry Ranally will fill my position without difficulty, and the transition will be seamless.

To all current and previous Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs, commanding officers, Department Heads, and all other employees with whom I have had the pleasure of working: I realize that the Commission's process has been cumbersome at times, and I have greatly appreciated your patience. In the end, however, the results are clearly evident—we have ended up with a fabulous team!

In closing, I was once asked why I have served the Civil Service Commission for so many years. For me the answer is simple--especially when considering our first responders. If ever I were to call 9-1-1, I want to know that the best qualified, highest-trained professional we can find, will show up at my door in less than five minutes. I want this for my family and for all of my fellow citizens. And if I could make a small contribution in time to help ensure that this happens, I was happy to do it. I think we were successful in this endeavor.

Many thanks, and I wish you all future success!

All the best,

Eric Barbe