

# MINUTES REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

7:01 p.m.

February 20, 2024

Pursuant to Codified Ordinance Chapter 107 and ORC Section 121.22, notice of the following meeting was given on February 16, 2024.

## ROLL CALL

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

**Others Present:** Mayor Fiala, Law Director Lucas, Service Director Palmisano, Fire Chief Ungar, Police Chief Schultz, Chief Building & Zoning Inspector Puskas, Finance Director Hoffman, Clerk Novak

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

## Approval of Minutes

Motion made and seconded to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2024.

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 – Mr. Tomaselli stated 2024 budgets will be distributed prior to a committee meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss the 2024 operating budget.

Parks & Recreation Committee, Ms. Sievers – No report.

Personnel Committee, Mr. Anderson – No report.

Safety Committee, Mr. Tomaselli – No report.

Service Committee, Dan Anderson – No report.

WPCC Committee, Mr. Garry – Mr. Garry reported that the annual meeting is tomorrow night at Eastlake city hall at 6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission, Mr. Kary – No report.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** No correspondence.

**PUBLIC PORTION:**

**Neil Sharpe, 39425 King Edward Court, Willoughby** – Mr. Sharpe stated he and other King Edward Court residents have requested that a snow fence be put up at the curve between King Edward Court and Polo Park Drive. He realizes it has been a mild winter but one car has already slid off the road; a few horizontal fences on the north side doesn't stop the drifting.

Mr. Sharpe stated he knows a lot of people who are concerned that the City is a sanctuary city. He stated there is a lot of confusion and people have a lot of concerns regarding the southern border and illegal immigration. He suggested that the City share with the residents a recent letter from Lake County Sheriff Frank Leonbruno regarding immigration.

**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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-146 - Tabled**

**An ordinance agreeing to change portions of the boundary of the City of Willoughby with the Village of Waite Hill, and superseding Ordinance No. 2023-6.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-26**

**A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a five (5) year lease agreement with Club Car, LLC for options "1", "4", and "5" of the bid form to lease golf carts, special events carts, and utility carts for the Lost Nation Municipal Golf Course, and declaring an emergency.**

Motion made and seconded that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2024-26 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call      7 yes  
                    0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

Motion made and seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2024-26.

Roll Call      7 yes  
                    0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-27**

**A resolution authorizing a 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, for a period of one year from the effective date of this resolution, and declaring an emergency.**

Motion made and seconded that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2024-27 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call      7 yes  
                  0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

Motion made and seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2024-27.

Roll Call      7 yes  
                  0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

**MAYOR’S REPORT** – Mayor Fiala reported that a memo will go to Council and the Boards and Commissions regarding the agenda for the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting; matters concerning Kava and a letter from a resident will be addressed.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORTS**

**Law Director Lucas** – Law Director Lucas reported there are text changes going through the Planning Commission regarding conditional use restrictions as to location and conditions for use regarding Kava and related substances and one regarding vaping at the Mayor’s request. These text changes will go to the Planning Commission first and then before Council.

**Service Director Palmisano** – No report. Mr. Carr thanked Mr. Palmisano for quickly addressing complaints of speeding on Halle Drive. Regarding garbage in the area, Mr. Puskas stated a letter is going out tomorrow.

**City Engineer Lannon** – Absent.

**Fire Chief Ungar** – No report.

**Police Chief Schultz** – Chief Schultz stated last week Lake County Sheriff Frank Leonbruno posted a press release regarding a summary of his views on the national immigration crises and the growing threat of terrorism in our communities. He stated his department is prepared for anything that could happen. He stated the Lake County Chief’s of Police meets every month and this topic has been discussed for the last several years. Sheriff Leonbruno expressed his concern when he visited the border last year noting that it’s a national crises and affects every community. The rise in heroin, fentanyl, methamphetamines, human trafficking and many other crimes are directly related to the migrant crises and domestic terrorism. Chief Schultz stated that the Willoughby Police Department and their partners in Lake County have built strong relationships and they have been preparing long before this current crises has materialized. He stated every day his department works on defensive tactics, firearms training, use of force, de-escalation, crises intervention, crime prevention, mental health and other trainings. The continual training will give the department the best opportunity to make the best decisions when the time comes. The Flock Safety cameras and live action cameras downtown have created a blanket of security for the community. Being involved with the U.S. Marshalls Northern Ohio

Violent Fugitive Task Force and the Northeast Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force has provided a huge resource in order to combat a lot of problems. He stated that Operation Safe Stay was started a few years ago making the hotels and motels a safer place to stay. He gave other examples of how the department is working with other northeast Ohio agencies to make Willoughby a safer community. He stated he is very proud of his officers, dispatchers and support staff and he will continue to do better tomorrow than he did today.

**Chief Building and Zoning Inspector Puskas** – No report.

**Parks & Recreation Director Keller** – Absent. Mr. Carr asked about the outcome of a meeting last week regarding the Chagrin River Park. Mayor Fiala stated the team walked the site and then had a planning meeting; it was really a meeting where the City provided the team information. The intent is to have the team come back and do a presentation during a public meeting.

**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 7:26 p.m.*

Date approved 3/5/24

  
Robert E. Carr, President

  
Clerk of Council  
  
Robert A. Fiala, Mayor