



City of Willowick
REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 7:30 PM
City Council Chambers/ Webex

ADA NOTICE

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) during this meeting should notify the City of Willowick at 440-585-3700 at least three working days before the meeting.

MINUTES

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The twentieth meeting of Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President Patton. This was conducted as a virtual public meeting due to the coronavirus pandemic. We are authorized to hold the virtual meeting under the laws of the State of Ohio as well as the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Willowick.

PRESENT

Council President Robert Patton
Ward 1 Councilwoman Monica Koudela
Ward 1 Councilman Michael Vanni
Ward 2 Councilwoman Natalie Antosh
Ward 2 Councilwoman Theresa Bisbee
Ward 3 Councilman Charles Malta
Ward 3 Councilman David Phares

Also Present:

Mayor Regovich, Law Director Landgraf, Finance Director Benedict, Fire Chief Tennyson, Police Lieutenant Mastroianni, City Engineer McLaughlin, Economic Development Manager Drake, Chief Housing and Zoning Inspector Brennan, Sewer Foreman Rob Gross, Council Clerk Wovrosh and Angie Trend. Recreation Director Kless was absent.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

Ward 1 Councilwoman Monica Koudela
Ward 1 Councilman Michael Vanni
Ward 2 Councilwoman Natalie Antosh
Ward 2 Councilwoman Theresa Bisbee
Ward 3 Councilman Charles Malta
Ward 3 Councilman David Phares

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion made by Ward 3 Councilman Malta, seconded by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council of December 1, 2020.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All yeas. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS, SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

2. Administrative Appeal Order No. 2020-44 - Stiver

An Order granting a variance and exception of solid fencing to install solid fencing on side property line lot in the application of Section 1165.04(c) of the Codified Ordinances in Board of Zoning Appeals.

Motion made by Ward 3 Councilman Malta, Seconded by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All yeas. Motion carried.

3. Administrative Appeal Order No. 2020-45 - Sacha #1

An Order granting a variance and exception to construct a fence that extends 17' from the side of the house in the application of Section 1165.07(c) of the Codified Ordinances in Board of Zoning Appeals.

Motion made by Ward 3 Councilman Phares, seconded by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh.

Discussion: Ms. Antosh asked Council President Patton if he was aware if the fence was the same height as the neighbor's. Mr. Sacha stated that his lot is one of five houses in the island area (Shoreland Circle) and his fence will be consistent with other fencing in the neighborhood.

Voting Yea: All yeas. Motion carried.

4. Administrative Appeal Order No. 2020-46 - Sacha #2

An Order granting a variance and exception of 2' height for a fence on a corner lot in the application of Section 1165.07(c) of the Codified Ordinances in Board of Zoning Appeals.

Motion made by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh, seconded by Ward 3 Councilman Phares.

Discussion: Mr. Sacha again stated that the fencing is consistent with the other fencing in the neighborhood.

Voting Yea: All yes. Motion carried.

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR

Mayor & Acting Service Director Regovich reported:

Budgets are due from all of the city departments this coming week and are currently being turned in. Budget hearings will need to be scheduled and will be discussed at the next meeting as to whether they will be virtual or in person with social distancing.

Lake County received the first doses of the Covid-19 vaccination and healthcare workers will be the first to start receiving them. In the meantime wearing masks and social distancing should continue. Lake

County is now ranked in the bottom 25% for all 88 counties. The Mayor is hoping that we will continue on the right path so that this coming summer pools and other activities can be opened back up. Incentive pay for the Fire Department through the end of the year will be discussed with the Fire Chief and some new options to maintain a fully staffed department will be discussed for the future. The Fire Chief is in need of his own vehicle for his turnout gear should it become contaminated. The Police Chief will be getting a new vehicle and will be donating his vehicle to the Fire Chief. The new software system for City Council is being worked on by the Council Clerk and will hopefully get easier as the database is being created. The system is designed to go paperless. All Director's, Chief's and members of Council will have their own laptops to be able to work in the system and from home if necessary.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE MAYOR'S REPORT

None.

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS – Directors & Officials

Acting Service Director – Rich Regovich

The Service Department workers did an excellent job getting the leaves cleaned up throughout the city and are scheduled to have the remainder done by December 16.

There has been another separation in the 84 inch pipe on Fairway Blvd. and another sink hole found in a front yard of a resident that will need to be fixed right away. The Engineer and Sewer Department were on scene and inside the pipe taking video and pictures. The separation caused the laterals from the tees to the street to collapse and will need to be an emergency repair. The Service Department has the salt spreaders and plow trucks ready for winter.

Discussion: Councilman Malta thanked the Mayor for handling the Fairway issues as they are serious. The Mayor replied thanking the City Engineer Tim McLaughlin and Sewer Foreman Rob Gross. Rob backfilled the area with gravel to help the dirt from eroding and they are hoping to get things handled sooner rather than later.

Recreation Director – Julie Kless

Absent. No written report.

City Engineer – Tim McLaughlin

No written report. OPWC applications were turned in on the previous Thursday and will hopefully get turned around in July of 2021 if both projects are awarded.

Finance Director – Cheryl Benedict

No written report.

Law Director – Stephanie Landgraf

No written report. Executive Session requested after the Regular Council Meeting to discuss pending litigation. As of December 18th the city will have a new City Prosecutor, Mandy Gwartz who will be replacing the current City Prosecutor Jamie Eck.

Police Chief – Brian Turner

Written report electronically submitted. Police Lieutenant Mastroianni sitting in for Chief Turner. "A Christmas with Blue" program had to be cancelled this year due to Covid-19. The Police Department still reached out to the school and made sure that all of the families that needed help received it from all of the donations made to the program.

Fire Chief – Joe Tennyson

Written report submitted electronically. A request was made for an incentive pay of an additional rate of five dollars per hour for the weekend shifts running from December 19 through December 27, 2020. This is to ensure that no shifts run short throughout the holidays. The money was already encumbered from vacant shifts throughout the year. There are also a number of ideas being discussed for the coming year to maintain shift coverage and also the plan to hire several more energetic individuals.

Chief Housing/Zoning Inspector – Sean Brennan

No written report.

Economic Development Manager – Monica Drake

Discussion: Councilman Malta asked Ms. Drake about the backhoe over by the old Chase Bank Drive through next to the old Purple Shamrock. He wanted to know if the old Purple Shamrock was next to come down and if there was anyone interested yet in going into the new venue. Ms. Drake reported that the location is where two new strip center buildings are going. Chief Housing Inspector Brennan stated that there will be two 6000 square foot buildings going in with five units in each one and permits are in the process of being obtained.

WARD MATTERS

None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a) Public statement (1 minute maximum)*
- b) Council response to the public*
- c) Public clarification (30 seconds to 1 minute for the purpose of restating or rearticulating an original question, concern, suggestion or idea)*

None.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**Finance – Vanni, Bisbee, Koudela**

Councilman Vanni reported they had a meeting on December 8th and there were two items discussed. The first item was the CallWorks 911 System and the financing options for it. The second item was moving \$200,000 from the General Fund to the Earned Benefit Fund. The recommendation to Council was a 3-0 vote to accept purchasing the 911 System and using the finance option that Finance Director Benedict proposed. Also the Committee voted unanimously, 3-0, to move \$200,000 from the General Fund to the Earned Benefits Fund. Last year \$150,000 was transferred from the General Fund to the Earned Benefit Fund.

Safety – Phares, Malta, Bisbee

Councilman Phares stated the Safety Committee Meeting was held that day at 6:30 p.m. There were four issues discussed. The first one was farm animals and possibly creating an Ordinance to prohibit them. The committee will be looking at surrounding city Ordinances to get a more accurate definition as to what a farm animal is considered. The Committee agreed to pass the information to the Law Director to start writing an Ordinance. The second issue was exotic animals. Per the ORC there is a long list of prohibited animals and the committee will also be looking into permits being needed for certain exotic animals. This issue will also be passed along to the Law Director. The third issue was ATV and off-

road vehicles. The committee decided to take no action at this time. The fourth issue was the abuse of 911 system, calling in for non-emergencies. This will be discussed at the next Safety Meeting after looking at some other laws in the county.

Service, Utilities & Public Lands – Malta, Phares, Bisbee

No report.

Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers – Vanni, Malta, Antosh

No report.

Tax Compliance – Koudela, Antosh, Patton

No report.

Moral Claims – Antosh, Phares, Patton

No report.

Budget – Vanni, Koudela, Patton

Councilman Vanni reported that budget meetings are coming up and it has yet to be determined if they will be held virtually or in person.

LIAISON REPORTS

Planning – Phares/Alternate Koudela

No report.

Board of Zoning Appeals – Koudela/Alternate Vanni

No report.

Volunteer Fire Fighters' Dependents Fund Board – Malta, Vanni

No report.

Recreation Board – Bisbee/Alternate Phares

No report.

Plan Review Board – Antosh

No report.

Hearts & Hammers – Malta

Councilman Malta stated that he is amazed at how much work was able to be completed during Covid for Hearts and Hammers. He thanked the committee and also all of the volunteers.

FUND TRANSFERS & BID AUTHORIZATIONS

None.

CONTRACT APPROVALS

None.

INTRODUCTION & CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION**5. Ordinance No. 2020-47**

An Ordinance amending Chapter 921 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Willowick, Ohio, titled "Streets, Utilities and Public Services Code;" specifically, Section 921.08, titled "Sanitary Sewer Rental Rates," to provide a use charge rate based upon \$4.486 per 100 cubic feet of water, establish a minimum quarterly billing for such use charge rate of \$35.89 per 800 cubic feet of water, or part thereof.

1st Reading – November 17, 2020

2nd Reading - December 1, 2020

3rd Reading - December 15, 2020

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-47 made by Ward 3 Councilman Malta, seconded by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All yes. Motion carried.

6. Ordinance No. 2020-51

An Ordinance to make appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Willowick, State of Ohio, during the first quarter ending March 31, 2021 and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh to waive the three readings of Ordinance No. 2020-51, seconded by Ward 3 Councilman Phares.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All yeas. Motion carried.

Motion made by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-51, seconded by Ward 3 Councilman Phares.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All yeas. Motion carried.

7. Ordinance No. 2020-52

An Ordinance amending Ordinance 2020-16 to provide for additional appropriations from the General Fund (101); Sewer Revenue Fund (205); Police & Fire Capital Improvement Fund (207); Permissive License Fee Fund (215); Senior Citizens Fund (220); Lakefront Connectivity and Redevelopment Fund (225); Sanitary Sewer Improvement Fund (422); Security Deposits Fund (802); and the donations & bequests fund (803) for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Willowick, State of Ohio, during the calendar year ending December 31, 2020, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Ward 3 Councilman Malta to waive the three readings on Ordinance No. 2020-52, seconded by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All yeas. Motion carried.

Motion made by Ward 3 Councilman Malta to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-52, seconded by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All yeas. Motion carried.

8. Resolution No. 2020-42

A Resolution requesting the County Auditor to make advance payments of taxes pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 321.34, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Ward 3 Councilman Phares to waive the three readings on Resolution No. 2020-42, seconded by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All yeas. Motion carried.

Motion made by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh to approve Resolution No. 2020-42, seconded by Ward 3 Councilman Phares.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All yeas. Motion carried.

9. Resolution No. 2020-43

A Resolution accepting the rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Ward 3 Councilman Malta to waive the three readings on Resolution No. 2020-43, seconded by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All yeas. Motion carried.

Motion made by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh to approve Resolution No. 2020-43, seconded by Ward 1 Councilman Vanni.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All yeas. Motion carried.

10. Resolution No. 2020-44

A Resolution authorizing the transfer of funds from the General Fund (101) to the Earned Benefits Fund (240) and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Ward 3 Councilman Malta to waive the three readings of Resolution No. 2020-44, seconded by Ward 1 Councilman Vanni.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All yeas. Motion carried.

Motion made by Ward 1 Councilman Vanni to approve Resolution No. 2020-44, seconded by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All yeas. Motion carried.

11. Resolution No. 2020-45

A Resolution authorizing the transfer and partial return of advanced funds from the Lakefront Connectivity and Downtown Revitalization Fund to the General Fund, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Ward 3 Councilman Malta to waive the three readings of Resolution 2020-45, seconded by Ward 3 Councilman Phares.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All yeas. Motion carried.

Motion made by Ward 3 Councilman Malta to approve Resolution No. 2020-45, seconded by Ward 3 Councilman Phares.

Discussion: Councilman Phares inquired as to what the original \$79,000.00 was used for. Mayor Regovich stated the money was from the Lakefront Grant and used for the planning and drawings of the Lakefront Development.

Voting Yea: All yeas. Motion carried.

12. Resolution 2020-46

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of Willowick to enter into a contract with Motorola Services, Inc. for the purchase of a CallWorks 911 Communications System and Services, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh to waive the three readings of Resolution No. 2020-46, seconded by Ward 1 Councilman Vanni.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All yeas. Motion carried.

Motion made by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh to approve Resolution No. 2020-46, seconded by Ward 1 Councilman Vanni.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All yeas. Motion carried.

13. Resolution No. 2020-47

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of Willowick to enter into a contract with Huntington Public Capital Corporation, or a related subsidiary, in the principal amount not to exceed two hundred fifty five thousand dollars (\$255,000.00), and at an interest rate not to exceed 4.0 %, for the purpose of financing the purchase of a Motorola Solutions, Inc., CallWorks 911 System, with related services and equipment, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh to waive the three readings on Resolution No. 2020-47, seconded by Ward 3 Councilman Phares.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All yeas. Motion carried.

Motion made by Ward 1 Councilman Vanni to approve Resolution No. 2020-47, seconded by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All yeas. Motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS

14. Motion authorizing a Purchase Order Requisition to Motorola Solutions for the down payment for Callworks 911 System for the Police Department in the amount of \$102,759.23.

Motion made by Ward 3 Councilman Malta, seconded by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh to authorize a Purchase Order Requisition to Motorola Solutions.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All Yeas. Motion carried.

15. Motion authorizing a Purchase Order Requisition to Tim Lally Chevrolet for a 2021 Chevrolet Traverse for the Police Department in the amount of \$35,900.00.

Motion made by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh, seconded by Ward 1 Councilman Vanni to authorize a Purchase Order Requisition to Tim Lally Chevrolet.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: Ward 1 Councilwoman Koudela, Ward 1 Councilman Vanni, Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh, Ward 2 Councilwoman Bisbee, Ward 3 Councilman Malta, Ward 3 Councilman Phares.

Voting Abstaining: Council President Patton

16. Motion authorizing the expenditure to Wichert Insurance Agency in the amount of \$114,413 for the 2021 Property and Liability Insurance Program.

Motion made by Ward 1 Councilman Vanni, seconded by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh to authorize the expenditure to Wichert Insurance Agency.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All yes. Motion carried.

17. Motion authorizing a Purchase Order Requisition to the Willoughby-Eastlake School District for the first and second halves TY2019/CY2020 in the amount of \$139,558.26.

Motion made by Ward 1 Councilman Vanni, seconded by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh to authorize a Purchase Order Requisition to the Willoughby-Eastlake School District.

Discussion: Finance Director Benedict stated this is per the agreement and are the payments in lieu of taxes to the school district from Shoreland Crossings. This should be the last year as the debt will be paid off.

Voting Yea: Ward 1 Councilwoman Koudela, Ward 1 Councilman Vanni, Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh, Ward 2 Councilwoman Bisbee, Ward 3 Councilman Malta, Ward 3 Councilman Phares.

Voting Abstaining: Council President Patton

18. Motion to implement an incentive pay schedule in the Fire Department for weekend shifts commencing December 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. through December 27, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the additional hourly rate of five dollars (\$5.00).

Motion made by Ward 3 Councilman Malta, seconded by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh to implement an incentive pay schedule in the Fire Department.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All yeas. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a) Public statement (1 minute maximum)

b) Council response to the public

c) Public clarification (30 seconds to 1 minute for the purpose of restating or rearticulating an original question, concern, suggestion or idea)

Dee Logan of 327 Blissfield, inquired if the sewer rate increase would increase her water bill and by how much. She wanted to know if no matter how little she used would it still be a minimum charge. Finance Director Benedict confirmed that this would raise the sewer rate based on water consumption. There is a minimum number of units billed and that will remain at eight. The rate increase will be 10% and is the increase to cover the cost that was passed on to us by the City of

Euclid. Council President Patton stated it was his understanding that the costs were a result of an order by the Environmental Protection Agency to compel the City of Euclid to build a new processing plant. This will be passing along the mandate from the EPA to the residents. Ms. Logan reported that she was unable to hear all of the conversation and would contact the Finance Director for further information.

Mr. Malta reported that people could drop off items for Toys for Tots at Planet Fitness the next day. He also asked Council members to notify him if there are families in their ward that might be in need.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Ward 1 Councilman Vanni, seconded by Ward 3 Councilman Phares to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and a personnel matter, specifically employment of a public employee.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All yeas. Motion carried.

RETURN TO TABLE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Ward 3 Councilman Malta, seconded by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh to return from Executive Session.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All yeas. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Ward 1 Councilman Vanni, Seconded by Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh to adjourn.

Discussion: None.

Voting Yea: All yeas. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST: *Susan K. Worrach*
CLERK OF COUNCIL