



**City of Willowick**  
**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

Tuesday, March 07, 2023 at 7:30 PM  
City Council Chambers

**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**

(Total meetings to date - 4 )

The fifth meeting of Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President Patton.

**PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE**

**INVOCATION**

**ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL**

**PRESENT**

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

**ALSO PRESENT**

Mayor Vanni, Law Director Landgraf, Fire Chief Malovrh, Police Chief Turner, Service Director Shannon, Recreation Director Kless, City Engineer McLaughlin and Council Clerk Trend.

**ABSENT**

Finance Director Benedict and Chief Housing & Zoning Inspector Brennan.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of February 21, 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Malta, seconded by Ms. Antosh to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of February 21, 2023.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** All ayes. Motion carried.

## **APPOINTMENTS, SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS & PROCLAMATIONS**

None.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS**

None.

## **REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR**

A new pizza restaurant will be opening soon on Vine St. called the Pie Cafe. The Willowick Cafe is looking to do a total renovation. The traffic light loop at E. 317/Vine St. is going to be replaced with traffic light cameras and the County will hopefully be contributing approximately \$5000. The City of Euclid expects to have the final draft of the sewer rate increase fact sheet available by the end of the week.

## **COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE MAYOR'S REPORT**

None.

## **GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS – Directors & Officials**

### **Service Director – Todd Shannon**

Written report submitted electronically. Updates are being done to city buildings. Potholes are being filled and the city has only used 600 tons of salt compared to 1800 tons. Plans for the replacement lighting in Shoreland Circle are still being worked on and the city is hoping to have more answers this week.

### **Recreation Director – Julie Kless**

Registrations for the Spring/Summer Programs are going well.

### **City Engineer – Tim McLaughlin**

Written report submitted electronically. The city had two bid openings one for the 2023 Pavement repair Program and for the 2023 Striping Program. The Vine St. Phase II water main replacement is currently advertising. The Project is expected to be completed in 2023.

### **Finance Director – Cheryl Benedict**

### **Law Director – Stephanie Landgraf**

Revisions to Codified Ordinance 1141 and 1145 for the retail district and mixed use district have been sent back to the Planning Commission for a final review before coming in front of Council.

### **Police Chief – Brian Turner**

The February monthly report has been sent out. Chief Turner thanked Service Director Shannon and his crew for all the work they recently have done in the Police Department.

### **Fire Chief – Bill Malovrh**

No written report.

### **Chief Housing/Zoning Inspector – Sean Brennan**

No report - absent.

## WARD MATTERS

Mr. Phares stated there has been a van parked in front of the Leaders of the World Daycare with flat tires and expired plates. The business owner wants the van left there for advertising. Chief Turner stated a warning citation has been issued allowing several days to comply and will be followed up on.

Council President Patton stated he has heard some rumors over social media that the city has not done enough to address the sewer rate increase from the City of Euclid. The increase is due to the EPA pushing the cost of their improvement regulations onto the City of Euclid. The City of Willowick was not made aware of the large increase until mid January 2023. Mr. Patton provided some facts: Ordinance No. 2022-43 to increase the sewer rate by 10% was put on three readings, 10-18-22/11-1-22/11-15-22 and was adopted on 11-15-22. This is needed as the Sewer Fund must be self sustaining. At this time the City was not aware of the large increase coming from Euclid. Mr. Patton stated these items are placed on three readings as this is the residents money and he would like everyone to be given the opportunity to voice their opinion.

Ordinance No. 2023-4 was for the city to be able to raise the cap to increase the rates. This was a language change and not the actual rate increase. This was adopted on 2-7-23.

Upon learning of the large rate increase multiple things were done as a city:

Finance Committee meetings to discuss the increase were held on 1-23-23 at 6:00 p.m., 1-31-23 at 6:00 p.m. and 2-14-23 at 6:00 p.m. All of the meetings were properly announced to the public pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code.

A Special Meeting of Council was held on 2-14-23 at 7:00 p.m. to review and consider the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding the sewer rate increase. All four of the meetings held from the time the city was informed of the rate increase in mid January until mid February were publicly announced.

In addition a letter of objection was submitted to the City of Euclid by Mayor Vanni on 2-3-23. This was an objection pursuant to the agreement with the City of Euclid where the City of Willowick exercised their rights to object to the rate increase therefore leading to a meeting with the City of Euclid. Ordinance No. 2023-6 (as amended) is the actual 25% rate increase to the residents that was put on first reading on 2-21-23 and is on the second reading tonight.

## 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)*

Sandra Cummings, 145 E. 291 St. states her son is continuing to have issues with the city approving the last five posts needed to complete the construction of his fence. She stated Ms. Antosh will not return her calls or emails and would like to know what needs to be done to resolve the issue.

Christopher Cummings, 145 E. 291 St. states the city stopped the remainder of his son's fence from being installed in November and it currently is still unable to be completed due to the double fencing

laws in the city.

Mason Cummings, 30421 Oakdale Rd. states he is the owner of the house and would like to have the fencing issue resolved. He has followed all of the rules, kept records and would like to know what the next step is to get the fence completed.

Law Director Landgraf stated Mr. Cummings will need to apply for a variance with BZA for double fencing as double fencing is prohibited within the city. If approved the fence can be completed.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **Finance – Bisbee, Koudela, Mohorcic**

No report.

### **Safety – Phares, Malta, Bisbee**

No report.

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

No report.

### **Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers – Malta, Antosh, Mohorcic**

No report.

### **Tax Compliance – Koudela, Antosh, Patton**

No report.

### **Moral Claims – Antosh, Phares, Patton**

No report.

### **Budget – Koudela, Bisbee, Mohorcic**

No report.

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

### **Planning – Phares/Alternate Koudela**

No report.

### **Board of Zoning Appeals – Koudela/Alternate Mohorcic**

No report.

### **Volunteer Fire Fighters' Dependents Fund Board – Antosh, Phares**

No report.

### **Recreation Board – Bisbee/Alternate Phares**

No report.

### **Plan Review Board – Antosh**

The Goodwill store in Eastlake would like to move into the space where Pat Catan's used to be. Plan Review has approved the application for them to move onto the next step.

### **Hearts & Hammers – Malta**

Spring clean-up in the parks will be on Saturday, May 6. Contact Charlie Malta at 440-488-1757 to volunteer.

### **FUND TRANSFERS & BID AUTHORIZATIONS**

None.

### **CONTRACT APPROVALS**

2. Motion authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with TruGreen Commerical Lawn Care for fertilization and weed control for all city properties in the amount of \$3,633.81 for 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Mohorcic, seconded by Ms. Antosh authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with TruGreen Commerical Lawn Care for fertilization and weed control for all city properties in the amount of \$3,633.81 for 2023.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** All ayes. Motion carried.

### **INTRODUCTION & CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION**

3. Ordinance No. 2023-5 (Finance Director)

An Ordinance to make appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Willowick, State of Ohio, during the calendar year ending December 31, 2023, and declaring an emergency.

***1st Reading 2-21-23***

***2nd Reading 3-7-23***

4. Ordinance No. 2023-6 (Law Director) (as amended)

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 \$6.786 per 100 cubic feet of water, establish a minimum quarterly billing for such use charge rate of \$54.29 per 800 cubic feet of water, or part thereof.

***1st Reading 2-21-23***

***2nd Reading 3-7-23***

Discussion: As it pertains to what the city has done to help with the sewer rate increase Ms. Koudela stated the Finance Department also made adjustments to the budget.

2022 - \$50,000 advance from the General Fund which is typically returned back to the fund within a year, to date it has not been returned and there are no plans for it to be returned.

2023 - \$280,000 has been budgeted to to be advanced from the General Fund. There were employees wages paid out of the Sewer Fund and those wages are being transferred back to being paid out of the General Fund in order to sustain the Sewer Fund.

The Finance Department provided a history of the rate increases from the City of Euclid.

2012 - 21% increase

2018 - 10%

2019 - 10%

2020 - 10%

The City of Willowick did not increase the consumption rate to the residents until 2020. The rate increases in 2020, 2021 and 2022 were made to catch up from not increasing the rates back from 2012. The current 25% increase to the residents is the same percentage that the City of Euclid is increasing to the city.

Mr. Patton stated the 10% increase passed in the fall of 2022 was an effort to make up for the lack of increases to the residents since 2012. The \$280,000 advance from the General Fund is not a direct transfer of funds the advance is meant to be paid back over time. The Sewer Fund has to be a self sustaining fund and money cannot be borrowed from the General Fund as we do not know what the General Fund is going to look like from year to year. Ms. Koudela stated all members of Council were in attendance for the recent Finance meetings due to the seriousness of the rate increase however no members of the public were present.

5. Ordinance No. 2023-8 (Finance Director)

An Ordinance providing for the compensation of seasonal and part-time employees of the City of Willowick Recreation Department for year 2023, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Mr. Malta, seconded by Ms. Antosh to waive the three readings on Ordinance No. 2023-8.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Ms. Antosh, seconded by Mr. Phares to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-8.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** All ayes. Motion carried.

6. Resolution No. 2023-10

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of Willowick to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fraternal Order of Police Willowick Lodge No. 116, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Ms. Antosh, seconded by Ms. Bisbee to waive the three readings on Resolution No. 2023-10.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Ms. Antosh, seconded by Mr. Phares to approve Resolution No. 2023-10.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** All ayes. Motion carried.

7. Resolution No. 2023-11

A Resolution to approve authorizations (Then and Now Certificate) to Aladtec in the amount of \$4,810.40, for the City of Willowick, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Ms. Antosh, seconded by Ms. Bisbee to waive the three readings on Resolution No. 2023-11.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Ms. Antosh, seconded by Mr. Malta to approve Resolution No. 2023-11.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** All ayes. Motion carried.

## MISCELLANEOUS

8. Motion to declare the items set forth on Exhibit "A" as surplus, obsolete, unneeded and unfit for public use and authorizing its sale or subsequent disposal.

Motion made by Ms. Antosh, seconded by Ms. Bisbee to declare the items set forth on Exhibit "A" as surplus, obsolete, unneeded and unfit for public use and authorizing its sale or subsequent disposal.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** All ayes. Motion carried.

9. Motion authorizing the Mayor to execute an Agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the installation and maintenance of US Bicycle Route signs.

Motion made by Mr. Mohorcic, seconded by Ms. Antosh authorizing the Mayor to execute an Agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the installation and maintenance of US Bicycle Route signs.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** All ayes. 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)*

None.

Mr. Malta added this coming Saturday St. Mary Magdalene is hosting the St. Patrick's Day Raffle and they will be giving away the Frankie O'Hara Scholarship which has been done for 53 years. Mr. Malta would like to thank the committee for keeping Frankie's name alive. Frankie was the brother of his wife who drowned in 1969 while trying to save another boy who fell through the ice.

## ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

10. To discuss collective bargaining and the compensation of public employees.

Motion made by Ms. Antosh, seconded by Mr. Phares to discuss collective bargaining and the compensation of public employees at 8:10 p.m.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** All ayes. Motion carried.

## RETURN TO THE TABLE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Malta, seconded by Ms. Antosh to return to the table from Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion to appoint Christine Morgan as clerk of Council effective March 13, 2023.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** All ayes. Motion carried.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Ms. Antosh, seconded by Ms. Phares to adjourn.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** All ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.