



City of Willowick
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, August 15, 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

1. The Fourteenth Meeting of Council

President Koudela called to order the fourteenth meeting of Council at 7:31pm.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

PRESENT

President Monica Koudela
Ward 1 Councilman Patrick Mohorcic
Ward 1 Councilman Tom Loncala
Ward 2 Councilwoman Natalie Antosh
Ward 2 Councilwoman Theresa Bisbee
Ward 3 Councilman Charles Malta
Ward 3 Councilman David Phares

Also present: Director Benedict; Mayor Vanni; Law Director Landgraf; Acting Fire Chief Zak; Director Shannon; Chief Brennan; Ashley Misch for Engineer McLaughlin; Clerk Morgan

Absent: Acting Police Chief Daubenmire; Director Kless; Engineer McLaughlin

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Motion to Approve the Minutes from the July 18, 2023, Regular Council Meeting

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

Voting Yea: President Koudela, Ward 1 Councilman Mohorcic, Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh, Ward 2 Councilwoman Bisbee, Ward 3 Councilman Malta, Ward 3 Councilman Phares

Voting Abstaining: Ward 1 Councilman Loncala

No Discussion; Motion Carried

3. Motion to Approve the Minutes from the July 26, 2023, Special Council Meeting

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

Voting Yea: President Koudela, Ward 1 Councilman Mohorcic, Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh, Ward 2 Councilwoman Bisbee, Ward 3 Councilman Malta, Ward 3 Councilman Phares

Voting Abstaining: Ward 1 Councilman Loncala

No Discussion; Motion Carried

APPOINTMENTS, SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

All Administered by Mayor Vanni

4. Peace Officer Commission and Oath of Office-Police Sergeant Jacob Cook
5. Peace Officer Commission and Oath of Office-Police Lieutenant Keith Lawrence
6. Peace Officer Commission and Oath of Office-Police Chief Rob Daubenmire

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

7. Administrative Appeals Order No 2023-13 (Steimle/Nelson)

An Order Granting a Variance and Exception of 16" to Extend a Fence Beyond the Rear House Line on the Right Side in the Application of Section 1165.07(b) of the Codified Ordinances in Board of Zoning Appeals

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

Voting Yea: President Koudela, Ward 1 Councilman Mohorcic, Ward 1 Councilman Loncala, Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh, Ward 2 Councilwoman Bisbee, Ward 3 Councilman Malta, Ward 3 Councilman Phares

No Discussion; Motion Carried

8. Administrative Appeals No. 2023-14 (Adams)

An Order Granting a Variance and Exception of 14' 7" of Double Fencing Rear Left Property Line in the Application of Section 1165.05 of the Codified Ordinances in Board of Zoning Appeals

Motion made by Ward 1 Councilman Mohorcic, Seconded by Ward 3 Councilman Phares.

Voting Yea: President Koudela, Ward 1 Councilman Mohorcic, Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh, Ward 2 Councilwoman Bisbee, Ward 3 Councilman Malta, Ward 3 Councilman Phares

Voting Nay: Ward 1 Councilman Loncala

No Discussion; Motion Carried

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR

Welcome and congratulations to our newest council member, Tom Loncala now representing Ward 1.

Regarding stolen mail throughout Lake and Cuyahoga Counties, Mayor spoke with Police Chief

and Detective Gregory Spakes developed a task force. There was a meeting with the two postal inspectors, agents from the FBI and from other communities to try to get a handle on this issue. There is a legal opinion referencing the way the local government funds have been disbursed since 1982 and this should have been abolished in 2012. The Mayor and Director Benedict went to a meeting to discuss this. There are two different formulas: the alternative formula and the State statutory formula, which is very complex and generous to the county and not the cities and townships. Currently, we are on the alternative formula and that will remain until 2024. We receive about \$1.1 million from the local government fund. It will be revisited but the good news is they found some new information from the 2012 meeting that was not apparent to the county prosecutor when he prepared the opinion. There is a counter legal opinion that states the alternative legal opinion is acceptable. The Mayors put a committee of 8 together to review this. Willowick will more than likely keep the alternative formula and update it from the 1982 version. Per the County Auditor, nobody wants to utilize the State statutory formula because the county gets all the money. Will await the opinion of the committee.

The truck we turned in for sale brought in a little over \$22,200 that Enterprise mentioned it would not happen this year. In addition, the County Commissioners had awarded ARPA funds amounting to \$410,000 for the E. 327th project. We now have an additional \$437,500 in ARPA funds for the E. 288th/Fairway Storm Water Rehabilitation Project, which we are joined with the City of Wickliffe. It is the Willowick sewer but is a 2 city project which aided in getting addition funds. This allows for the freeing up of money for additional projects. ODOT will have a kick off meeting for E. 305th project. Willowick had previously received a little over \$2 million for the project to begin in 2025. Finally, Mayor met with the new superintendent. He noted he was very impressed with him and what the administration plans during the first 100 days, which is listening to the community. When asked what the area mayors are looking for, they agreed it was safety.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE MAYOR'S REPORT

Councilman Malta requested Mayor reach out to Detective Spakes to offer his assistance with the task force. He also noted that council pass on to their constituents that the mail thieves are washing the checks to reuse but they cannot wash black gel. He also mentioned that Emerson Hren, a senior at North High School, will be speaking to kick off the school year.

Councilman Mohorec asked if there was any discussion regarding re-appropriating some of the money that was to cover the street improvements. Mayor anticipates getting with Engineer McLaughlin, Director Shannon and Director Benedict in the fall to discuss. He is meeting with Congressman Joyce next month regarding the \$4 million earmarked for Euclid Ave. that may go through Willoughby, Wickliffe and Willowick.

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS – Directors & Officials

Service Director – Todd Shannon

Electronic report submitted. Quick update on the Shoreland lighting projects, all is in place, CEI has the poles. The project site was walked and everything is staked out at Shoreland and Lakewick.

Councilman Phares asked about the scheduling and Director Shannon noted it was a filler project. Every resident received a hand delivered notice.

Councilman Malta noted that there is a resident on 312th & 293rd stated she has never seen a truck over on the east side of 293rd and she was informed it would be in the next couple of days. Director Shannon stated they were on the south side of 293rd this date.

Recreation Director – Julie Kless

Absent

City Engineer – Ashley Misch for Tim McLaughlin

No Report

Finance Director – Cheryl Benedict

No Report

Law Director – Stephanie Landgraf

No Report

Acting Police Chief – Rob Daubenmire

Absent

Acting Fire Chief – Ronald Zak

No Report-Electronic Report Submitted

Chief Housing/Zoning Inspector – Sean Brennan

No Report-Electronic Report Submitted

Councilwoman Antosh inquired about the 10 rodent reports and asked for location. Director Brennan stated these were scattered couple of areas. She asked about the complaints compared to last year. Director noted there are a few more complaints. Service department has been asked to bait the catch basins and do inspections on these properties as some rodents could be due to resident gardens or feeders.

President Koudela mentioned complaints about trees or shrubs covering the sidewalks near Sagamore Park and by the PNC Bank on 305th St. that need trimmed and cleared.

WARD MATTERS

Councilman Malta commended the staff for the pickleball courts.

President Koudela noted that the audio recordings are now being posted to the website. Councilwoman Bisbee asked to revisit videos of meetings. She noted Facebook live to record, WebEx, to monitor incoming questions. Councilman Phares had been in contact with IT regarding recording and posting. President Koudela had previously discussed this with the law department pertaining to possible legal issues and having that interaction may not meet all the requirements. Councilwoman Bisbee asked that this be delivered to the residents. Director Landgraf stated it is not recording and publishing it but it is the interaction. Those become public records and to incorporate those into the minutes would present a challenge. The majority of the communities are live streaming; not handling interaction. President Koudela asked if specific ideas are available or tools that could be used, if Ms. Bisbee could gather that information and forward to her and the law director for review.

Councilman Malta mentioned Facebook live would be good but if it we spend a dollar on doing this, a dollar is too much. Mayor Sakacs of Wickliffe would be the person to ask questions. He had mentioned it was the worst mistake they made because nobody was hardly ever watching their meetings.

Councilman Phares noted it is very important to have the perception of transparency whether someone watches or not, the residents know the city is making the effort.

Councilman Mohorcic stated he argues we are being transparent right now and he agrees with Mr. Malta's statement that we should not spend any money on it. Facebook live is great but if a camera and tripod are utilized, then there will be complaints of quality and suggests purchase different equipment.

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)

Jean Bowen 472 E. 329th Street asked about height of hedges and the obstruction of the view driving. It is dangerous. She also mention to Director Shannon the kudzu vines growing around a pole Willowick Drive and Bayridge and he noted he would notify CEI to have that addressed.

President Koudela noted the same about the vines on the pole and appreciated Director Shannon's statement about contacting CEI. In regard to the hedge height, Chief Brennan stated he would go over and look at that property on 319th St. and Willowick Drive.

Bill Savoca 30412 Oakdale Road inquired about the pizza place that was to be on the old Walker Hardware property, whether it was still happening.

Mayor Vanni explained that the Cleveland Pizza plan is no longer an option and has attempted to assist. The current property where Cleveland Pizza is presently located is up for sale.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Changes to these committees are as follows:

Finance committee will be Bisbee, Mohorcic and Loncala

Service, Utilities and Public Lands committee will be Malta, Phares and Loncala

Tax compliance committee will be Koudela, Antosh and Loncala

Budget committee chair will be Mohorcic

Finance – Bisbee, Koudela, Mohorcic

No Report

Safety – Phares, Malta, Bisbee

No Report

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

Gold Star Family Memorial Monument (GSFMM) committee has met 3 times with Owen Engle as the representative who brought attention to this matter. Manry Park is the selected area for this monument. Once the application and the 501 (c) 3 is in place, donations for the building of the monument can begin. Ideas are encouraged for raising the funds for this project.

Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers – Malta, Antosh, Mohorcic

No Report

Tax Compliance – Koudela, Antosh, Patton

No Report

Moral Claims – Antosh, Phares, Patton

Meeting to be set for 9/5/2023 at 6:00pm

Budget – Koudela, Bisbee, Mohorcic

No Report

LIAISON REPORTS

Changes to these committees are as follows:

Planning will be Phares and Alternate Antosh

BZA will be Loncala and Alternate Koudela

Planning – Phares/Alternate Koudela

Councilman Phares noted the commission discussed the ‘Jammin’ for Jesus’ event and addressed a complaint from a neighbor that has been taken care of now regarding this event. He would like to address another ordinance regarding vehicle repair shops on Vine Street. He mentioned two details to the commission that will be discussed at next month’s meeting.

Board of Zoning Appeals – Koudela/Alternate Mohorcic

No Report

Volunteer Fire Fighters’ Dependents Fund Board – Antosh, Phares

No Report

Recreation Board – Bisbee/Alternate Phares

Car show this Sunday (8/20) at Dudley with concessions being run by Willowick Rec Baseball and all proceeds will go back to the leagues.

Plan Review Board – Antosh

No Report

Hearts & Hammers – Malta

Tuesday Workdays and volunteers always welcomed. Fundraiser in January. Tickets to be available soon.

FUND TRANSFERS & BID AUTHORIZATIONS

None

CONTRACT APPROVALS

9. Motion Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contact with Trax Construction Co. for the 2023 Lateral Repair Program in the Amount of \$212,619.00

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

Voting Yea: President Koudela, Ward 1 Councilman Mohorcic, Ward 1 Councilman Loncala, Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh, Ward 2 Councilwoman Bisbee, Ward 3 Councilman Malta, Ward 3 Councilman Phares

No Discussion; Motion Carried

INTRODUCTION & CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION

None

MISCELLANEOUS

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Phil Dettering 469 Bayridge Rd. inquired about the Fire Chief and about the status of moving City Hall elsewhere.

Director Landgraf explained that the fire chief is on a voluntary leave of absence and Captain Zak is currently the acting fire chief during this time.

Mayor Vanni stated that the first step to the new city hall is to get the house next door torn down. Preliminary estimates expected to be \$19,000 and will go out for bid. Plans are to begin moving forward in the fall regarding the development's next step. Nothing concrete at this time but the goal is to move forward right after the election. Mayor and Councilman Mohorcic have met with plan developers regarding funding and a fire study is currently being done that should be complete early fall. He would like to keep the municipal complex here but there is a need for a new fire station. There is nothing definite. Mr. Dettering asked about lake access being part of the fire station plan. Mayor stated there would always be public access to the lake as long as he is in office and he is looking to double it. Where the buildings are built, he would like to keep them here as fire is centralized in its current location. Councilman Mohorcic reiterated the Mayor's statement. Councilman Phares stated a good idea would be to put a committee together to figure out a plan. Mayor explained there is a master plan; it is determining what the next step would be in the process. He reminded that this is an election year and if starts spending Monday and he should lose in November, the new administration may not agree. His current goal is to do things that will benefit the city and after the election, as Mayor, he will start moving forward.

ADJOURNMENT

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

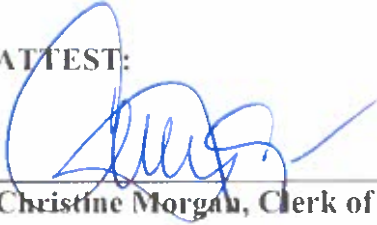
Voting Yea: President Koudela, Ward 1 Councilman Mohorcic, Ward 1 Councilman Loncala, Ward 2 Councilwoman Antosh, Ward 2 Councilwoman Bisbee, Ward 3 Councilman Malta, Ward 3 Councilman Phares

No Discussion; Motion Carried; Meeting Adjourned at 8:34pm



Monica Koudela, President of Council

ATTEST:



Christine Morgan, Clerk of Council