



City of Willowick
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 6:30 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

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. by Council President Koudela.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

All members in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of January 7, 2025.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of January 7, 2025. Ms. Bisbee second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

Motion carried. Minutes approved.

APPOINTMENTS, SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

2. Motion to confirm the mayoral appointment of Mandy Gwartz as Director of Law.

MOTION: Mr. Malta motioned to approve the Motion. Ms. Antosh second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

Motion carried. Motion approved.

3. Administration of Oath of Office to Law Director Mandy Gwartz.

4. Motion to confirm the mayoral appointment of Nicole Monaco to the Willowick Planning Commission for a 3-year term ending January 21, 2028.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motioned to approve the Motion. Mr. Phares second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

Motion carried. Motion approved.

5. Motion to confirm the mayoral appointment of Adam Downing to the Willowick Planning Commission for a 3-year term ending December 31, 2026.

MOTION: Mr. Malta motioned to approve the Motion. Mr. McFarland second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

Motion carried. Motion approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR

Mayor Vanni thanks Council for their appointments for the Planning Commission. He thanks Mr. Downing for coming in tonight and also for his service. He will be swearing them in soon. He congratulates Mandy Gwartz on her appointment as well. Cheryl has been working on the budget and they have been meeting with directors. He believes the meeting will be set up for the 22nd. One more week left with Kimble, he knows Justin is here from Major Waste also for an update. The cans have been getting delivered. The weather is not great out there, with the cold weather we get water main breaks. There is an issue in Ward 1. Todd reached out to the County. In 2022 they had a number of breaks on that street as well. They grade the water lines like we do with the streets, similar to ODOT. It is up there, but it is not bad enough. They are aware of it though and he will continue to keep them aware of what is going on there. The Water Department is working on it. Hopefully what happened this week might move it up, but we might be 2 years out still. Good news, we received a NOPEC Grant for \$32,169.00. It needs to be used towards energy efficient improvements. He is going to reach out to see if there is any way we can apply it to the Fire Department renovations. He is not sure. The Courier, two months in a row did not get enough advertising. There will not be one in February again. Please still write and send articles to Molly so they can go on the website. There is a chance they may not come back at all now. Maybe in the spring but there is a chance. Facebook is great, but our senior crowd usually reads the paper. They need to figure something out if they do cease to exist. They will need to find a way to get the info out still. Please keep writing. He was invited to our newest business and he was very impressed with what they did. They are near Pie Café. They are doing good... maybe 15 kids enrolled already. There is a waiting list also. He was very impressed and wishes them good luck.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Malta asks if he can say who has moved into the building again.

Mayor Vanni says it is called Amazing Minds Learning Center. It's like a preschool with licensed teachers. They are open at 5 am until like 10 pm. It's super nice, you should stop in.

Mr. Malta is happy someone went in that building.

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS – Directors & Officials

Service Director – Todd Shannon

Mr. Shannon gives his time to Justin from Major Waste. Justin says they kicked off cart delivery yesterday. There are over 10,000 cans that must be delivered. They have delivered nearly 4,000 as of end of day today. They are not running the same days as Kimble so they can stay out of each other's way. It is a pretty large scale operation. He asks if Council has any questions?

Mr. Malta asks him for his cell phone number.

Ms. Antosh asks if they end up picking up Kimble's cans, if someone misses that pick up, will it still be picked up if it is full?

Justin says in that exact scenario, they had another contract a couple years ago. His guys know to dump the cans even if they are not correct.

There is clarification that it was originally going to be the same company that was doing drop off and pick up, but now it is not.

Mr. Malta asks if big items need wrapped? Are they getting picked up same day as garbage?

Justin says yes to both. Please wrap any textiles.

Ms. Antosh says she was on the website and it said something about double wrapping.

Justin says as long as there is an attempt made, the drivers are good about it. They usually try to tell people that there are mattress bags for inexpensive that they can just slide the items in.

Mr. Shannon says there is a light flashing on Lakeshore and that is above them, someone is coming to look at it. They have also been out salting and plowing a lot. It's also pothole and water break season... please let them know if you see one. Parts guys continue to work in the buildings. Have been in fire department for like the past month doing renovations.

Mr. Malta asks if Todd can have Johnny check Gilcrest and Lakeshore? The light is not cycling through.

Recreation Director – Julie Kless

Mayor Vanni reports for Julie who is absent. She has been sick. There are some items for Rec Department on the agenda. He is happy to answer questions about these between himself and Todd.

City Engineer – Tim McLaughlin

Mr. McLaughlin says E 305 sewer is ongoing. Contractor has been slow with the weather. The good news is they shouldn't have to do as many digs as anticipated. It may be more cost effective. Lakeshore and Forestgrove projects will have survey crews out doing inspections. Finally, E 305 ODOT resurfacing is on Stage 3. Now they can go to NOACA and apply for additional funds.

Finance Director – Cheryl Benedict

Finance Director Benedict says they are working on the budget and will get binders out. There are 3 ordinances on the agenda to close funds they are no longer using. There are also some for transfers which are mostly annual or housekeeping measures.

No questions.

Law Director – Mandy Gwartz

Law Director Gwartz is happy to be in this position. While she does not live in Willowick, she does her banking, grocery shopping, everything here. She cares about this city and has a lot of connection here. She loved working with the Police Department and looks forward to continuing on.

Council welcomes her.

Police Chief – Rob Daubenmire

Police Chief Daubenmire has no formal report, but is open for questions.

No questions.

Fire Chief – Bill Malovrh

Fire Chief Malovrh has no report, but he thanks Todd and everyone for the amount of work they are doing over there. They have opened up the place quite a bit. It's a totally different side of the fire department right now, all thanks to them.

Chief Housing/Zoning Inspector – Sean Brennan

WARD MATTERS

Ms. Koudela got a call from a resident that said they are all doing a great job and he wishes he could be here.

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)

Ms. Bowen, 472 E 319. Their street lights are winking at each other. One will go on and then the other shuts off, etc. Who should I call?

Todd says CEI. Go on the website and put in the address. You'll get email confirmation. It usually takes 3-5 days.

Adam Downing comes to thank Councilman McFarland for informing him of the vacancy in Planning. He looks forward to serve.

Michael Copp, 32309 Knobel Rd. asks how often they run the street sweepers? The street is always full of acorns, leaves, branches, etc. He knows the snow came early this year, but it has been going on. Now there is a skating rink. Maybe can we run the street sweeper more often than once a year? Also on topic of street lights, the light by his house went out around Christmas, it worked briefly after they came out, but it has not been on since. If they are replacing lights that would be great with the new style.

Todd says as far as the street sweeper goes, they are required to do 2 times a year by EPA, but they usually do 6. He will send a salt truck tomorrow but unfortunately with the ice and temps right now, it's tricky. As far as street lights go, that is entirely CEI.

Mayor Vanni says he is meeting with their rep on Thursday morning and he will bring it to attention.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – Bisbee, Mohorcic, Antosh

Safety – Phares, Malta, McFarland

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

Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers – Mohorcic, Malta, Bisbee

Tax Compliance – Koudela, Antosh, McFarland

Moral Claims – Antosh, Phares, Koudela

Budget – Mohorcic, Koudela, Bisbee

Mr. Mohorcic says annual Budget meeting will be Saturday February 22nd. He will send out the agenda soon.

LIAISON REPORTS

Planning – Phares/Alternate Antosh

Board of Zoning Appeals – McFarland/Alternate Koudela

Volunteer Fire Fighters' Dependents Fund Board – Antosh, Phares

Recreation Board – Bisbee/Alternate Phares

Plan Review Board – Antosh

FUND TRANSFERS & BID AUTHORIZATIONS

CONTRACT APPROVALS

INTRODUCTION & CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION

6. Ordinance 2025-1:

An Ordinance providing for the submission of a Proposed Amendment to Article VII of the Charter of the City of Willowick, Ohio, titled Civil Service Commission (Section 7.3, Titled Classification of Service) to the Electors of the City, and declaring an emergency.

First Reading 1/7, Item is on Second Reading.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Ms. Bisbee second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to approve. Mr. Malta second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

7. Ordinance No. 2024-67 (Amended):

A Ordinance amending Chapter 1165 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Willowick, Ohio, titled "Fences," and declaring an emergency.

First Reading 12/17, Second Reading 1/7, Item is on Third Reading.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to approve. Mr. Malta second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

8. Ordinance No. 2025-2:

An Ordinance establishing the 2025 Fee Schedule for the Willowick Recreation Department, repealing certain Ordinances, and declaring an emergency.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Mr. McFarland second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to approve. Ms. Bisbee second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

9. Ordinance No. 2025-3:

An Ordinance providing for the compensation of seasonal and part-time employees of the City of Willowick Recreation Department for Year 2025, and declaring an emergency.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Mr. Malta second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to approve. Mr. McFarland second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

10. Ordinance No. 2025-4:

An Ordinance authorizing the Finance Director of the City to close the Sanitary Sewer Improvement Fund (422), and declaring an emergency.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Mr. McFarland second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to approve. Mr. McFarland second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

11. Ordinance No. 2025-5:

An Ordinance authorizing the Finance Director of the City to close the Coronavirus Relief Grant Fund (226), and declaring an emergency.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Mr. Phares second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

MOTION: Mr. Malta motions to approve. Ms. Antosh second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

12. Ordinance No. 2025-6:

An Ordinance authorizing the Finance Director of the City to close the Lakefront Connectivity & Downtown Development Grant Fund (225), and declaring an emergency.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Mr. McFarland second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to approve. Mr. McFarland second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

13. Ordinance No. 2025-7:

An Ordinance authorizing all actions necessary to accept Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) 2025 Energized Community Grant, and declaring an emergency.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Mr. McFarland second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to approve. Mr. McFarland second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

14. Ordinance No. 2025-8:

An Ordinance establishing the compensation of the Director of Law of the City, repealing certain Ordinances, and declaring an emergency.

MOTION: Mr. Malta motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Ms. Antosh second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to approve. Mr. McFarland second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

15. Resolution No. 2025-2:

A Resolution authorizing the transfer of funds from the General Fund (101) to the Police Pension Fund (801), and declaring an emergency.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Ms. Bisbee second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to approve. Ms. Bisbee second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

16. Resolution No. 2025-3:

A Resolution authorizing the advance of funds from the General Fund (101) to the Forestgrove Sewer Improvement Fund (435), and declaring an emergency.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Mr. McFarland second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to approve. Ms. Bisbee second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

17. Resolution No. 2025-4:

A Resolution authorizing the advance of funds from the General Fund (101) to the Lakeshore Blvd. Sewer Improvement Fund (434), and declaring an emergency.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Ms. Bisbee second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to approve. Mr. McFarland second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

18. Resolution No. 2025-5:

A Resolution to approve authorizations (Then and Now Certificate) to the City of Willoughby in the amount of \$20,600.00 for the City of Willowick, and declaring an emergency.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Mr. McFarland second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

MOTION: Mr. Malta motions to approve. Ms. Antosh second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

MISCELLANEOUS

19. Motion authorizing the expenditure of funds to Gerow Equipment in the amount of \$22,865.00 for the Martin Pool pump.

Ms. Koudela clarifies that she believes this is for the Manry Pool.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motioned to approve the Motion. Mr. McFarland second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

Motion carried. Motion approved.

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)

Phil Dietering 496 Bayridge says News Herald published the wrong time.

It is clarified that Council Clerk will reach out to ensure they have the right time going forward. The press notice we sent them stated 6:30 so we are unsure where the confusion came from.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

20. Discussion of Collective Bargaining.

Ms. Koudela calls for a Motion to adjourn into Executive Session.

MOTION: Ms. Bisbee motioned to adjourn into Executive Session. Mr. Malta second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

Motion carried. Adjourned into Executive Session at 7:14 p.m.

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Koudela calls for a Motion to return from Executive Session.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motioned to return from Executive Session. Ms. Bisbee second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

Motion carried. Returned from Executive Session at 7:27 p.m.

Ms. Koudela calls for a Motion to Approve the Tentative Agreement with the Willowick Firefighters' Association.

MOTION: Mr. Malta motioned to approve the Motion. Ms. Antosh second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.

Motion carried. Motion approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Koudela calls for a Motion to Adjourn the Meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motioned to Adjourn the Meeting. Ms. Bisbee second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Phares, yea. Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea.


Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at approximately 7:28 p.m.



Clerk of Council



Council President



Date