



**MICHAEL J. VANNI**  
Mayor / Safety Director

## City of Willowick

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At the December 17, 2024 City Council meeting, the Council unanimously passed legislation to add three full-time fire captains to our Fire Department. The department has been operating as an all part-time department with the exception of the Fire Chief and the Administrative Assistant. This model has served the city quite well over the years, and Willowick has been blessed with great firefighters and officers who have, and currently serve, the residents. However, there are some challenges that an all part-time department presents, which we believe the addition of these full-time captains will start to address. These positions will bring long term leadership, structure and stability to the department while also providing additional safety to our firefighters and residents. Conversations regarding the staffing of our Fire Department have been going on since before I was elected to City Council in 2005, and I am honored to be part of an administration that was able to take this step for the betterment of our Fire Department and residents.

Police Sergeant John Beckwith officially retired on January 2nd, 2025, after serving the City of Willowick for 30 years. I have had the honor and privilege of working with Sergeant Beckwith over the past 20 years as both City Councilman and Mayor and have nothing but the greatest respect for his service and dedication to our city and Police Department. John will be greatly missed, and we wish him nothing but the best in his retirement.

At the January 7th, 2025 City Council meeting, I had the honor of swearing in Patrolman Ryan Neibecker to the position of sergeant and Joseph Maslanka as our newest police officer. Congratulations to them both, as the city is truly blessed to have such a great group of police officers throughout the entire department.

The City will be holding its annual budget hearing on Saturday, February 22, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at City Hall in Council Chambers. This is a public meeting where the Mayor and directors of each department present their proposed expenditures for the coming year. This is our most important meeting of the year, as it is our number one priority to make sure that our residents tax dollars are being spent efficiently and responsibly.

Congratulations to Mandy Gwartz who I had the honor of swearing-in at the January 21st, 2025 City Council meeting as our new law director. Mandy currently serves as the city's prosecutor and I am looking forward to working with her in her new position.

I hope to see everyone Saturday, February 2nd, at the annual Hearts & Hammers fundraiser in Eastlake at Regovich Catering. This is a great event with all proceeds going directly to helping Willowick residents in need.

Please also make sure to routinely access the city website at [www.cityofwillowick.com](http://www.cityofwillowick.com) as we are constantly updating the site and adding community programs and events available to our residents.

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