

**CITY OF WILLOWICK
LAKE COUNTY, OHIO
MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF A REGULAR MEETING COUNCIL**

DATE: November 18, 2008
PLACE: City Hall
TIME: 7:30 p.m.

The twentieth meeting of Council was called to order by Council President Moran followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Invocation.

PRESENT WERE: Council Members Moran, Allan, Vanni, Patton, Malta, Wells and Hintz.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Richard Bonde, Law Director O'Donnell, Finance Director Benedict, City Engineer Juday, Recreation Director Kless, Police Chief Lazor, Asst. Fire Chief Rupena, Building and Service Director Dominick and Council Clerk Russo.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Patton, seconded by Mr. Hintz, to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting of Council of October 21, 2008. Discussion: None. Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Appointments, Special Resolutions & Proclamations

Special Resolution (Mayor Bonde) A Special Resolution expressing the gratitude of the City of Willowick to Colleen Vahcic for her many years of community service.

Motion by Mr. Allan, seconded by Mr. Wells, to approve Special Resolution. Discussion: None. Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Special Resolution (Mayor Bonde) A Special Resolution expressing the gratitude of the City of Willowick to Gary Vahcic for his many years of community service.

Motion by Mr. Allan, seconded by Mr. Wells, to approve Special Resolution. Discussion: None. Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Special Resolution (Mayor Bonde) A Special Resolution expressing the gratitude of the City of Willowick to Doreen Nevulis for her many years of community service.

Motion by Mr. Allan, seconded by Mr. Vanni, to approve Special Resolution. Discussion: None. Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Special Resolution (Mayor Bonde) A Special Resolution expressing the gratitude of the City of Willowick to Jim Quade for his many years of community service.

Motion by Mr. Allan, seconded by Mr. Wells, to approve Special Resolution. Discussion: None. Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Special Resolution (Mayor Bonde) A Special Resolution expressing the gratitude of the City of Willowick to Thomas Ott for his many years of community service.

Motion by Mr. Allan, seconded by Mr. Vanni, to approve Special Resolution. Discussion: None. Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Administrative Appeals

Administrative Appeal Order No. 2008-20 An Order granting a variance and exception of 74’ west sideline in application of Section 1147.14(e) of the Codified Ordinances in Board of Zoning Appeals Case No. 21-259, Senior Mid-Rise Building, 30803 Lakeshore Blvd.

Administrative Appeal Order No. 2008-20 remains postponed.

Administrative Appeal Order No. 2008-21 An Order granting a variance and exception of 84.7’ east sideline in application of Section 1147.14(e) of the Codified Ordinances in Board of Zoning Appeals Case No. 21-259, Senior Mid-Rise Building, 30803 Lakeshore Blvd.

Administrative Appeal Order No. 2008-21 remains postponed.

Administrative Appeal Order No. 2008-22 An Order granting a variance and exception of 1.078 acreage in application of Section 1147.13(a) of the Codified Ordinances in Board of Zoning Appeals Case No. 21-259, Senior Mid-Rise Building, 30803 Lakeshore Blvd.

Administrative Appeal Order No. 2008-22 remains postponed.

Reports & Communications from the Mayor/Safety Director

Mayor Bonde has been speaking with the recreation department and the city’s leagues with regard to what options the city might have to offer those residents not able to pay the participation fees. The Mayor does not want to exclude any child not able to pay the fees; any parent not able to pay fees should contact his office. Further conversations will follow. The Mayor spoke with Wickliffe Mayor Tom Ruffner regarding declaring a “Quiet Zone” in Wickliffe; Willowick would also like to take part in this. The railroad tracks run through both Willowick and Wickliffe, there have been many complaints about train whistles blowing at all times. Will report further as more information is received. Reviewed ordinance on the agenda regarding EMS billing, the cost for riding in city ambulance will increase; billing to insurance company will increase. City will continue to write off any billing a resident is not able to pay. Rates are increasing due to the high level of training the fire department receives, all men are EMS certified. It has been decided that the money in the Transportation Improvement Program for the widening of North Marginal will be removed and placed into signalization for those improvements. Wanted to make Council aware the cost of widening North Marginal would be close to 2 million dollars, the street would only be widened for a right hand turn and that is not where a majority of the tie-ups come from. City has heard back from OPWC (former Issue 2 money) and has been given a grant for the Thomas Street Project. City received a \$250,000 grant

and a \$150,000 zero interest loan. The project will include the sewers. Spoke with Congressman LaTourette's office offering the support of the city regarding National City Bank. Storefront Renovation Committee will be assisting Stebal Music on Vine Street, will update. Mayor discussed a map received from the Lake County Health Department showing the location of rats throughout the city. The map was produced before the sewer baiting occurred. Mayor Bonde discussed the city income taxes and explained the slight increase, stating overall, the city will be down. The city is struggling with interest income, stated the city is heavily reliant on property tax. Most of the income in the general fund comes from levies, particularly outside levies, which is stable. Asking the directors to cut back when working on their budgets for next year. Further discussed budget and the increases the city is seeing in many areas of services. Discussed Shoreland Crossings home sales.

Discussion of Mayor's Report:

Mr. Wells feels the city should widen North Marginal as the mornings are very backed up and if there were a turning lane, it would alleviate some of the backup. Mayor pointed out that most of the cars are turning left onto the freeway in the morning. Further discussion was had on the turning lane. City Engineer Juday stated it is more involved than simply adding a lane and the cost would be approximately 2 million dollars. Mr. Wells asked if the widening could be looked into further. Mr. Hintz is in agreement with Mr. Wells, however, feels that at this time, there are projects that are more important and if the time becomes right, perhaps the widening of North Marginal could be revisited.

General Communications & Reports – Directors & Officials

Service Director Joe Dominick submitted written report; leaf removal is running on schedule.

Discussion: Mr. Malta asked who is responsible for bringing streets and surrounding areas back to normal after a water main has been repaired. Mr. Dominick responded it is the responsibility of the Water Department. Mr. Allan stated the water department has yet to repair a chuckhole caused by a water main break that was repaired at least 4 months ago. Mayor Bonde offered to make a call to the County for these repairs. Mr. Wells mentioned a sidewalk that is need of repairs as well. Mr. Dominick stated he would look into the sidewalk issue.

Recreation Director Julie Kless submitted and reviewed written report.

Discussion: None.

City Engineer Craig Juday no written report, reviewed several projects. Regarding the outfall, the contractor has mobilized, cleared side slopes, and has encountered a problem with locating good, reusable soil at the bottom of the ravine. Seems it may all have to be removed and replaced. Most likely will be submitting change order pertaining to such. Added the contractor is doing a very nice job.

Discussion: None.

Finance Director Cheryl Benedict no written report.

Discussion: None.

Law Director John O'Donnell no report.

Discussion: None.

Police Chief Michael Lazor – monthly report filed, reviewed Purchase Order on agenda this evening, asked for approval. Reviewed shooting in the city, victim was shot in the hand, assailant was apprehended within minutes.

Discussion: Mr. Wells stated he had requested the flag be lowered to half staff due to the passing of a former police officer, noted that it was not lowered, feels it is important to lower the flag and recognize the death of a city employee. Chief Lazor responded he was saddened by the loss of the officer; however, he is not familiar with protocol of lowering the flag and does not want to make it commonplace. Believes it is only the Governor or President that can order a flag lowered. Mayor reiterated that it is indeed only the Governor or President can order a flag lowered. Added that the passing of Mr. Ryan was a very big loss. Mr. Wells stated the post office lowers the flag when a postal employee passes away. Mr. Malta asked what happens when a 911 call is received when it part of the street is Wickliffe and the other Willowick. Chief Lazor stated both cities are aware of the other cities calls; both Wickliffe and Willowick assist each other often.

Fire Chief Robert Posipanka – Asst. Chief Joe Rupena present, submitted written report.

Discussion: None.

Chief Building Inspector Joe Dominick submitted written report.

Discussion: Mr. Hintz thanked Mr. Dominick for his quick response to the lot on Oakdale.

WARD MATTERS

Mr. Malta asked what could be done with the Aldi's alarm, has received many complaints that it is going off at all hours with just the wind blowing. Chief Lazor stated there are ordinances that have penalties for repeated offenses of false alarms. He will look into the number of times the department has gone to Aldi's, believes after the fourth visit the store can be cited.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Tony Vitolo of 31513 Daniel stated the dangers of a right turn onto E. 305th from North Marginal, witnessed a truck running a red light nearly hitting a woman turning right on red. Asked if the city could supply a motorcycle officer under the bridge to prevent people running red lights.

Al Luikart of 32003 Dickerson stated he is a licensed trapper. Has noticed the drastic increase in the rat population within the city and that he has trapped four rats from his neighbor's home. Offered several simple solutions to prevent them from coming up through the sewer grates, further offered his services to seniors and residents as well as hold a free seminar for the residents and would like to place an article in the Courier pertaining to rat prevention. Mr. Luikart suggested simply tying ¼" mesh to the top of the grate would prevent them from getting through.

Response:

Mayor Bonde responded to Mr. Vitolo with regard to the purchase of a motorcycle, stated the only place the city would need a motorcycle officer is on E. 305th. The city has looked into this in the past. Addressed Mr. Luikart and agreed with his suggestions and facts. Mayor Bonde further suggested not feeding cats or dogs outside and tying down the tops of garbage cans. Stated he will speak with Mr. Dominick and meet with him for further discussion. Mr. Wells further addressed the rat issue. Mr. Luikart added the cost of the mesh covers would be approximately \$2.00 per cover and he would volunteer to assist the senior citizens.

Reports of Standing Committees

Finance Committee – No report.

Safety Committee – No report.

Service, Utilities & Public Lands Committee – No report.

Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers – No report.

Tax Compliance Committee – No report.

Moral Claims Committee – No report

Budget Committee – No report.

Sewer & Storm water Task Force- No report.

Fire Department Development Committee - No report.

City Development Committee - No report.

LIAISON REPORTS

Hearts and Hammers: No report.

FUND TRANSFERS & BID AUTHORIZATIONS

None.

CONTRACT APPROVALS

Motion by Mr. Allan, seconded by Mr. Patton, to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with Republic Waste for three years, plus extension year 1, extension year 2, alternate 1, alternate 2, plus applicable fuel cost adjustments. Discussion: Mr. Wells asked who would monitor the fuel cost adjustments. Finance Director Benedict stated her office would review monthly based on the National Fuel Average and contractor would be responsible for providing data monthly. Law Director O'Donnell stated this is the formula used by all bidders for this contract. Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ken Selander of 628 Pendley thanked the Senior Center for the 90th birthday party. The remainder of the statement is inaudible.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Patton, seconded by Mr. Vanni, to adjourn. Discussion: None. Vote: All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

ATTEST: _____
CLERK OF COUNCIL

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL