

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

DATE: March 23, 2010
PLACE: City Hall
TIME: 6:30 p.m.

A Special 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, Vanni, Patton, Malta, Allan, Salesky and Wells.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Bonde, Law Director O'Donnell, Finance Director Benedict, Recreation Director Kless, Fire Chief Posipanka, Police Chief Lazor and Council Clerk Russo.

Introduction & Consideration of Legislation

Ordinance No. 2010-11 An Ordinance amending Chapter 177 of the
(Law Director) Codified Ordinances of the City of
 Willowick and declaring an emergency.

Motion by Mr. Patton,seconded by Mr. Malta, to waive the rules requiring three separate readings. Discussion: None. Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Patton, seconded by Mr. Vanni, to adopt Ordinance No. 2010-11
Discussion: None. Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2010-12 Ordinance amending Chapter 745 of
(Law Director) the Codified Ordinances of the City of
 Willowick and declaring an emergency.

Motion by Mr. Patton,seconded by Mr. Vanni, to waive the rules requiring three separate readings. Discussion: None. Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Patton,seconded by Mr. Malta, to adopt Ordinance No. 2010-12.
Discussion: None. Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2010-13 An Ordinance amending Section 1337.01 of
(Law Director) the Codified Ordinances of the City of
 Willowick and declaring an emergency.

Motion by Mr. Patton,seconded by Mr. Vanni, to waive the rules requiring three separate readings. Discussion: None. Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Salesky, seconded by Mr. Patton, to adopt Ordinance No. 2010-13.
Discussion: None. Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2010-14 An Ordinance amending Section 167.02(h)
(Law Director) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of
Willowick and declaring an emergency.

Motion by Mr. Patton, seconded by Mr. Vanni, to waive the rules requiring three separate readings. Discussion: None. Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Vanni, seconded by Mr. Patton, to adopt Ordinance No. 2010-14.
Discussion: None. Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2010-9 An Ordinance to make appropriations for
(Finance Director) current expenses and other expenditures of
(As amended) the City of Willowick, State of Ohio, during
the calendar year ending December 31, 2010
and declaring an emergency.
(2/16/10 Placed on First Reading)
(3/2/10 Second Reading-as amended)
(3/16/10 Postponed)

Motion by Mr. Patton, seconded by Mr. Malta to bring Ordinance No. 2010-9 back to the table.
Discussion: None. Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion: Council President Moran explained this would be the last chance anyone has to speak on the budget issues, questions, comments and concerns. Councilman Allan began by explaining he still has many concerns pertaining to the budget and his biggest fear is the possibility of having to lay off employees in the near future, reviewed his notes on the possible ways the city can cut line items and possible cost saving ideas, stated he would rather be proactive rather than reactive. Reviewed the idea of furlough days and vending machines instead of a manned concession stands, suggestions regarding swim coaches, field trips of the day camp children also made. Mr. Patton understands the suggestions of Mr. Allan however, there is not enough time to review in detail and make changes to the budget as it must be passed within the week. Suggested quarterly meetings between the Finance and Budget Committees to keep a close eye on the condition of city finances. The main issues are where city stands with the sewer revenue fund, carryover balance, what the current price of gas is, no one can predict where the city will be in six months. Mr. Patton supports passing the budget, as is this evening and scheduling quarterly meetings to keep a close eye on the financial condition of the city. Ms. Moran pointed out the there are recreation issues that need to be addressed before the first quarterly meeting. Also explained swim team is a sport and there is great liability involved. Mr. Malta agrees with the Mr. Allan in that perhaps the sports leagues can pick up additional costs, that the vending machines are a possibility and furlough is definitely something that should be looked into further. Ms. Moran stated she has the understanding the service/secretaries union is in agreement that the furlough time is an option they are willing to look into further, another option mentioned was making across the board cuts. At this time, Council President Moran opened the floor to the Directors and Chiefs for their input regarding the budget. Recreation Director Kless began by explaining the budget for the diamond crew has been cut approximately in half just in the last two years. Ms. Kless estimates the total amount that has been cut in the last two years is \$12,000. The Service Department currently paints the soccer fields. The diamond person is making \$7,000 a year for 6 months work, working an estimated 6-8 hours everyday, with the assistance of one Service Department worker, continued to explain his job in detail. There is no way the Service Department can maintain all 11 fields as well as all of their other

duties. Ms. Kless stated the city receives many compliments on the conditions of the fields, cannot justify asking the leagues to pay more money and ask for volunteers to paint the fields. As far as concessions go, questions are how much are the vending machines and what would profit actually be, there are many issues that need to be addressed before a decision can be made, stated also, the department has already cut field trips and has been discussed that the residents pay for 3 or 4 of their trips, the cost of the camp did go up this year. Stressed the fields are a very, very important part of her department and strongly disagrees that any more cuts can come from this portion of her budget. Mr. Wells asked about the fields, Ms. Kless stated the worker is at the fields 7 days a week from March to the end of August, also added he does more than asked for the recreation department as she has lost several workers and he is willing to help out where and when needed. Mr. Wells feels the leagues could come up with the \$7,000 for field maintenance. Ms. Kless pointed out that the leagues have been more than willing to pay an additional \$300.00 each to the city to offset some costs. Mr. Salesky stated the baseball league is donating \$10,000 for various improvements to the fields (exact improvements inaudible). Mr. Allan explained his thoughts on cutting city services, employees and recreation services. Complimented Ms. Kless that she does have one of the best recreation departments in the County. Mr. Malta stated how proud of the Recreation Department and diamond crew he is, still feels the leagues will need to help out financially in the future, does not want to see any city employee lose their job. Ms. Kless stated she would not want an employee to lose their job, however, if the Service Department can provide the same level of service as the diamond crew, she would be willing to cut it, however, the work involved is very time consuming and she does not want to see the field quality compromised. Mr. Vanni stated he feels Council has done their due diligence regarding the budget at this time, believes having quarterly meetings is in the best interest of everyone in the City. Chief Lazor stated he currently has 24 staff members, he has spent many hours looking into scheduling differently, the only safe possibility, would be 3 men on the road, not only for the safety of the officers, but for the safety of the city residents. The numbers he is working with now has not been this low since 1976, there are incidentals that can be cut, but he cannot afford to lose another officer. The officers have already taken on additional duties left when previous lay offs occurred in his department recently. Asking Council please consider the safety of the city and his officers before further cuts are made, thanked Council for all the time and consideration they have put into the budget process. Chief Posipanka pointed out that the Administrators, Chiefs and Directors have had to cut \$721,908.77 from the General Fund this year as compared to last years approved budget. Explained his budget is \$1.6 million, \$1.1 million of that budget is for part time pay and he has prepared numerous reports for Council, invites anyone to come to his department for further explanation and accounting of his budget. Ms. Moran stated no one will deny that Chief Posipanka has worked incredibly hard on the budget and has patiently provided reports, thanked him for preparing those reports. It has given Ms. Moran a better look at what is involved in the department, has a better understanding. Pointed out the coming years may be as difficult or even more difficult and the reports will have to be provided again. Mr. Wells also explained the intricacies of the department. Council President Moran opened the floor to those sitting in the audience to offer the opinion of the city budget. Mr. Salesky asked for any input from those seated in the audience. Jennifer Quinn spoke on behalf of the secretaries and service department employees union stating they are in support of the possible furlough in order to save jobs. This would need to be discussed with the Union Representatives and Mayor Bonde during union discussions. Police Dispatcher Angie Trend asked for a complete explanation of the furlough, Ms. Moran explained that City Council does not have the authority to implement such a plan and if it were an option it would need to be discussed during union negotiations and that all bargaining units would need to be in complete agreement. Law Director O'Donnell and Council President Moran briefly explained if the furlough was implemented, it would not affect sick time, vacation time, healthcare or PERS and

