

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

**DATE:** October 1, 2019  
**PLACE:** City Hall  
**TIME:** 7:30 p.m.

The sixteenth meeting of Council was called to order by Council President Patton at 7:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Invocation.

**Present:** Council members Vanni, Malta, Reho, Patton, Pintar, Turk and Koudela.  
**Also Present:** Mayor Regovich, Law Director Landgraf, Finance Director Benedict, Fire Chief Posipanka, Police Chief Turner, Service Director Pauley, Chief Housing and Zoning Inspector Brennan, Recreation Director Kless, City Engineer Lannon, Council Clerk Wovrosh, and Economic Development Manager Drake.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Mr. Malta, seconded by Mr. Reho to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council of September 17, 2019.

Discussion: None.

Vote: Ayes: Vanni, Malta, Reho, Patton, Pintar, Koudela. Abstain: Turk. Motion carried.

**Mr. Steve Thompson, Superintendent of the Willoughby-Eastlake Schools**

Mr. Thompson thanked the Police Department and first responders for their assistance and support that day with a situation at the schools. Fortunately, it turned out not to be serious. He then provided a brief update of the 4.99 mill operating levy that is on the November ballot in light of the loss of funding from the State. The last levy for operating money was in 2012. The bond issue money has nothing to do with the levy money.

**Mr. Ben Capelle, Chief Executive Officer of Laketran**

Mr. Cappelle stated that Laketran will be on the November ballot. The current operating levy which is a sales tax levy was passed 31 years ago in 1988. Dial-A-Ride demand has increase with the aging Lake County population and use by disabled individuals going to work. State funding has decreased. There will be 30% cuts across the board should the levy fail. Passage of the levy would allow Dial-A-Ride, which is 75% of the levy, to continue to operate as is. In response to Mr. Malta's questions: 1) Dial-A-Ride operates 6:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. M-F and 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. on Saturday. 2) On a given day, peak service for Dial-A-Ride is around 75 buses on the road. The fixed route service has 9 and the downtown service to Cleveland has up to 15 at a time.

**Appointments, Special Resolutions & Proclamations**

None.

**Administrative Appeals**

None.

**Reports and Communications from the Mayor/Safety Director**

Mayor Regovich reported the following:

- He thanked the Police Department and all the first responders for their response to a threat at the schools that day. Fortunately, it proved to be false. This was the first time an incident has happened at the new schools, so they were able to get feedback about what to do in the future.

- There is legislation for the NOPEC grant which exists for us since we are a NOPEC city. We are currently looking at doing an energy audit to see where we can best use those funds. The grant is about \$145,000 and has no matching funds.
- We are moving forward with the Special Improvement District (SID) for erosion control in Lake Erie. It involves 14 communities in Lake County and Euclid. Those who live on the lake would be able to put erosion control measures which are very expensive on their taxes. They are going to also look for federal funds to help out in public areas.
- October 13 is the last day of the Better Flip House before it goes out for bid. Approximately 1,700-1,800 people have gone through since June.

### **Council Discussion of the Mayor's Report**

Mr. Malta inquired if NOPEC has been beneficial for the city and how. Mayor Regovich said it has been beneficial so far. So far it has saved us money; they strive for about 14%. So far we just have electricity, and Willowick residents are automatically signed up for it unless they opt out. His issue is that they started as a group for cheaper power and have become very large with a number of programs; this seems to indicate there is a lot of money. We just have electricity at this time, and Willowick residents are automatically signed up for it unless they opt out.

### **General Communications & Reports – Directors & Officials**

**Service Director Rob Pauley:** Written report submitted. The LSB Waterline Crossover Project is in the final stages, and paving should begin soon. This is a Lake Count Dept. of Utilities project. Construction updates are on the website. The final collection of the year was held by the Lake County Solid Waste District. Ms. Koudela inquired if the county is coming back to take care of the area in the northern lane of LSB in front of Northshore Mall. Mr. Pauley said that the city has two large areas that will be patched by the contractor, but he is currently running a little behind schedule. Mr. Reho said the light at LSB and Vine is not synchronizing properly, and Mr. Pauley stated that they are still working on the master programming unit which went out.

**Recreation Director Julie Kless:** No written report. Youth basketball sign-ups are ongoing for grades 1-8. They are also taking registrations for the Special Needs Basketball Program which begins the following week. The Flea Market will be Saturday, October 19 from 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

**City Engineer Tim Lannon:** No written report. There was a Streets, Sidewalks and Sewers meeting prior to the evening's Council meeting.

**Finance Director Cheryl Benedict:** No written report. We received a check for just under \$123,000 from the Bureau of Workers compensation as part of the \$1.5 billion dividend; this represents 88% of our 2017 premium. It was not part of the projected revenue because we were not aware of it at the beginning of the year. Regarding Bryon White's question from the last meeting regarding the fund from which the pool pumps were purchased, she reported that they were purchased from the Recreation Renewal Improvement Fund.

**Law Director Landgraf:** No written report. She said that Resolution No. 2019-49 should be amended to include an emergency clause in the caption since this is in Section 3 of the Resolution.

**Fire Chief Bob Posipanka:** Report submitted electronically. Mr. Reho received the report regarding the ISO classification which will help us, and he thanked the Chief for doing this. He also noted that homeowners might see a little drop in their premiums because of this, though it might have a bigger effect on commercial property owners. In response to Mr. Malta's question about when flu shots might be available, Chief Posipanka will check on it.

**Police Chief Brian Turner:** No report.

**Chief Housing and Zoning Inspector Sean Brennan:** Written report submitted.

**Economic Development Manager Monica Drake:** Ms. Drake said that there will be another stakeholders meeting on October 23 with regard to the Lakefront TLCI. Laketrans and the cities are in the process of finalizing their top selection of the consultant with regard to the Vine Street Corridor TLCI. We are starting to receive a number of inquiries about the CRA. Mr. Malta inquired if there are any potential replacements for the Pat Catan's location, and Ms. Drake said they have reached out to a couple similar stores but have not yet had any response.

### **Ward Matters**

None.

### **Public Participation**

Ryan Lose of 30533 Willow Lane asked on behalf of a resident if there is an auxiliary police program to assist the Police in watching for things such as the recent car break-ins. Chief Turner said that the auxiliary program was suspended a number of years ago due to liability concerns. The department would not sponsor people walking the streets. Block Watch efforts would have to be taken up by the citizens. One common denominator in the recent car break-ins is unlocked car doors and stressed the importance of locking car doors.

### **Reports of Standing Committees**

**Finance:** No report.

**Safety:** No report.

**Service, Utilities & Public Lands:** No report.

**Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers:** Mr. Vanni reported on the meeting that night prior to the Council meeting. Most of the conversation revolved around the rain event on August 7. The first report indicated that the southern part of the city received 2.18" of rain in an hour while the Service Department got only .75". They learned that the rain from the night before on August 6 pushed the amount of rain received to 2.88" which took it from a 10-year storm to a 20-year storm. We continue to monitor all of this very effectively. The work done by lining the sewers on E. 327 and E. 329 was not only cost effective but has also been successful. We will be doing the other portion of E. 327 due to a grant received. We are moving in the right direction though not as quickly as we would like due to the financial constraints. We are doing the improvements very methodically because of the cost which is between \$3 million-\$3.35 million per mile. We are doing testing on Willowick Drive to gather data and will have a meeting by the end of the year to review the data. We are also going to have to look at the sewer rates which were also discussed at the last committee meeting. The cost of Euclid's improvements which were mandated by the EPA is being passed on to us which means it will need to be passed on to the residents.

**Tax Compliance:** No report.

**Moral Claims:** No report.

**Budget:** No report.

### **Liaison Reports**

Mr. Malta said that there are many projects on Tuesday nights. The annual fundraiser has been set for Saturday, January 25, 2020.

### **Fund Transfers and Bid Authorizations**

None.

### **Contract Approvals**

None.

## **Introduction & Consideration of Legislation**

Ordinance No. 2019-31 (Finance Director) An Ordinance directing the Director of Finance to certify delinquent accounts to the Lake County Auditor and Lake County Treasurer for collection as property tax and declaring an emergency.

Motion by Mr. Vanni, seconded by Mr. Reho to waive the three readings of Ordinance No. 2019-31.  
Discussion: None.  
Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Malta, seconded by Ms. Turk to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-31.  
Discussion: None.  
Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 2019-49 (Law Director) A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to take all actions necessary to accept Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) 2019 Energized Community Grant(s) funds, and declaring an emergency.

Motion by Mr. Vanni, seconded by Mr. Reho to waive the three-day rule for Resolution No. 2019-49 as amended to add "and declaring an emergency."  
Discussion: None.  
Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Reho, seconded by Mr. Malta to waive the three readings of Resolution No. 2019-49.  
Discussion: None.  
Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Vanni, seconded by Mr. Reho to approve Resolution No. 2019-49.  
Discussion: None.  
Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

## **Miscellaneous**

None.

## **Public Participation**

Ryan Lose of 30533 Willow Lane on behalf of a resident asked if the Fire Department Memorial is open. Chief Posipanka noted that it is open, but the work is not complete. Six people will be entered into the Memorial. The individual with the donations can contact him or the Fire Department.

CJ Williams of 492 E. 300<sup>th</sup> Street spoke with the Director of the Board of Elections recently and found that there is a charge back, based on the number of items an entity has on the ballot. He asked Mr. Vanni for a clarification or if he was aware of that. He also noted that a resident has flags that could be donated to the Fire Memorial if they were needed. Mr. Vanni said he knew that a Special Election can cost the city a lot of money, but he was under the impression that a General Election does not cost us anything. Ms. Benedict clarified that the city does pay a portion of the costs for a General Election, but nowhere near what we would pay for a special election. Mr. Vanni had not realized this and apologized for not giving the correct information.

Susan Paradise of 30970 Willowick Drive asked the Mayor if he could clarify what Eastlake voted on related to deer control. Mayor Regovich said that his understanding is that it is in a controlled area but is not sure how large of an area is required. It has to be from above like a tree stand, and has to be with an

arrow. It requires a permit from the Police Chief. She also wondered how this would affect Willowick residents whose yards back up to Eastlake. The Mayor speculated that the hunters might have to receive permission from the owners of the land to hunt on their land. This is the only control that ODNR has. We don't have any property large enough that would allow for safe discharge of any type of weapon. Concern was expressed regarding wounded deer which cross city lines and end up in a Willowick resident's yard. Mayor Regovich noted that he has the same concern, considering that deer can run for a long way before finally going down. He noted that the Eastlake Police Chief gives out the permits and might talk to the individuals about such things.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. Vanni, seconded by Ms. Turk to adjourn.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL**

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
**CLERK OF COUNCIL**