

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

**DATE:** March 3, 2020  
**PLACE:** City Hall  
**TIME:** 7:30 p.m.

The fifth 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 Patton, Antosh, Bisbee, Koudela, Vanni, Malta and Phares.  
**Also Present:** Mayor Regovich, Law Director Landgraf, Police Chief Turner, Service Director Pauley, City Engineer Lannon, Development Manager Drake and Council Clerk Wovrosh. Finance Director Benedict, Acting Fire Chief Zak, Chief Housing and Zoning Inspector Brennan, and Recreation Director Kless were absent.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Mr. Malta, seconded by Mr. Vanni to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council of February 18, 2020.

Discussion: Mr. Patton thanked Ms. Wovrosh for the accuracy of the minutes.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

**Appointments, Special Resolutions & Proclamations**

Mayor Regovich administered the Oath of Office to Bryan Kravos for the rank of Sergeant in the Willowick Police Department.

Special Resolution (Mayor) A Special Resolution acknowledging with gratitude Todd Shannon for his military service to our country

Motion by Mr. Malta, seconded by Ms. Antosh to approve the Special Resolution for Todd Shannon.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

**Administrative Appeals**

None.

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

Mayor Regovich reported the following:

- Resolution 2020-11 is a Memorandum of Understanding which is for the settlement for the opioid crisis for the State of Ohio. The state received a lot of criticism in the past for keeping the money from the tobacco settlement and distributing it as they wished. This memorandum gives each city a portion, with the Attorney General's Office getting 15% and the cities getting 35%. A group of mayors and city managers from throughout the state will be created to oversee the remaining funds. They are moving this forward quickly in the hope that they will be able to obtain the money before the company declares bankruptcy.
- A meeting that day at Laketran kicked off the Vine Street Corridor TLCI. The project timeline was reviewed.

- He spoke with someone from North Ridgeville regarding their fleet program through Enterprise. They reported being in the black after their first year in the program leasing trucks. He was very positive about the program and the people they work with.
- The Health Department will be holding an education session about rats on Saturday, March 14 at 9:30 a.m. at the Community Center.
- He did a video on social media with the other mayors about how the school levy could potentially affect Willowick. Forty percent of income to the General Fund is from income tax, and the biggest employer in the city is the school system. Supt. Steve Thompson who was in attendance thanked the Mayor for his support and Mr. Malta for the opportunity to be on his radio program. He asked that people support the levy on March 17.

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

None.

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

**Service Director Rob Pauley:** Written report submitted. Special collections by the Solid Waste District begin on April 25 with the collection of computer and household electronics. Fees may apply. On the agenda there is a request to authorize the issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the energy service provider for the energy service contract. This will enable us to leverage the NOPEC Energized Communities Grant Program. The construction update is posted on the city's website and will be updated every two weeks or as change warrants it. This includes updates not only on city projects but also ones that will affect us such as those by Lake County Dept. of Utilities and ODOT.

**Recreation Director Julie Kless:** Absent. No written report.

**City Engineer Tim Lannon:** No written report. Mr. Lannon provided an update about the Larimar culvert extensions. ODOT bridge inspection also inspects the culvert under Lake Shore Blvd. which was installed in 1964. In order to access it, they must walk through the Larimar culverts. They noted that they would rate the Larimar culvert which was installed in 2006 or 2007 as in worse condition than the one installed by ODOT in the city in 1964.

**Finance Director Cheryl Benedict:** Absent. No written report.

**Law Director Landgraf:** No written report. Ms. Landgraf noted that the culvert mentioned in the City Engineer's report was referred to the Law Department, and they will proceed to contact the land owner and/or subdivision. She provided a clarification regarding the Memorandum of Understanding for the opioid settlement. If Willowick finds the ultimate settlement to not be acceptable, the city retains the authority to opt out of it and proceed against the pharmaceutical company independently if they choose. This agreement allows the Governor and the Attorney General to proceed against the pharmaceutical company as one cohesive group for all municipalities in Ohio and enables them to negotiate on behalf of all municipalities as opposed to each one individually.

**Police Chief Brian Turner:** Written report submitted electronically.

**Acting Fire Chief Ron Zak:** Absent. No written report.

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

**Economic Development Manager Monica Drake:** We received our first Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) application. The CRA Program was posted on Facebook and we are sharing a poster that has been prepared. Work is being done to develop a page for the website.

## **Ward Matters**

Mr. Malta reported that there is a coyote at the corner of E. 291<sup>st</sup> and Foxboro at dawn every morning. The Mayor can provide information to him from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The basic message is to leave them alone and they will go away.

Mr. Vanni was contacted by a resident who has an autistic child inquiring if there is any type of program or sticker that alerts first responders in the event that they would need to come to the house. Chief Turner will check to see if there is anything, and the Mayor will reach out to our Deepwood contacts.

## **Public Participation**

Bryon White of 30550 Willow Lane had four questions.

- 1) In the February 4 Council meeting Chief Turner stated that Willowick had never had its own SWAT team. Mr. White then cited information posted on the Police Department website regarding the creation of the SWAT team which seemed to indicate that Willowick had its own team. Mr. Patton noted that the questions asked of the Police Chief were not asked after the Pledge of Allegiance but rather during the correct time. There were no ordinances violated by his questions. Chief Turner noted that the language in the post is ambiguous and stated that the SWAT team was developed in 1987 with Wickliffe and Willowick officers, never just Willowick. Other departments from the western part of Lake County over the years joined what is now the Western Lake County Emergency Response Team.
- 2) Mr. White noted that the Chief indicated that there are four members who support the SWAT ERT. He feels that Willowick should not incur this extra cost to the taxpayers when other communities can better afford this expense. Chief Turner stated that the number of officers on the team is his decision. There used to be five and now there are four. Training is once a month, and it comes out of the training account which is used for all training, not just SWAT training.
- 3) In the February 4 minutes Ms. Benedict explained that when the (Shoreland Crossings) TIF is paid off, all the taxes go back to the county and that our share will be distributed between the General Fund and other funds. He wanted to confirm that the General Fund will increase from the taxes collected from Shoreland Crossings. Mr. Patton clarified that this means that a portion of the taxes assessed to the residents of Shoreland Crossings goes to pay the debt service on the TIF. When the note is paid off, that money will then be the same as any other property tax, and there may be some increase to the General Fund on the retirement of the bond. Mayor Regovich confirmed that once the TIF (Tax Incremental Financing) is paid off, the taxes are collected as normal. We will then get our portion of the distribution of the property tax along with the school system, Laketran, the library and all others that get property tax. There will be an increase to the General Fund and the other accounts that receive distribution from property tax. We don't know how much it will be.
- 4) He thanked Council for the minutes of committee meetings being posted. He asked if the Board of Zoning Appeals, Planning Commission, Recreation Board, or the Plan Review Board submit minutes and if there is a timeline for submission. Mrs. Wovrosh explained that those boards and commissions are not part of Council, but we can request that the minutes be posted.

Phil Detering of 469 Bayridge inquired how long an active drug-related house would be investigated before it would be closed. Chief Turner said he cannot give a timeline. Any information we have regarding suspected drug houses goes to our Detective Bureau and gets forwarded to Lake County Narcotics. It takes time to build cases and get the needed information to execute search warrants. Mayor Regovich also explained that they do not necessarily share information when there is an ongoing investigation. When they go a house, they use a SWAT team. Mr. Malta stated that we will not always know when the county is investigating.

Mary Miragliotta of 186 Shoreland Circle is new in Willowick and loves living here. She thanked Mr. Pauley for taking care of the street light that was out in front of her house and inquired if all the street lights will be changed out to LEDs to match. Mayor Regovich responded that the lights on Shoreland Circle will all be changed to LEDs upon passage of the budget. Mr. Pauley has submitted the costs for Shoreland, Lakewick and Micasa. The Mayor said that they are scheduled to be replaced since the current lights tend to go out often. These lights are owned by the city.

Dee Logan of 327 Blissfield said that with spring there will be weed killer. Most weed killers contain 2,4-D which was the main ingredient in Agent Orange. She enumerated the effects it can have on the body. We have a responsibility to take care of the lake and lakefront. Lake Metroparks and Willowick use weed killer which goes directly into the lake, and people and animals walk through it. Other cities have ordinances that ban weed killer on public property. She cited the benefits of the weeds that are being targeted by weed killer. Mr. Patton thanked her for her comments.

Lawrence Block of 229 E. 324<sup>th</sup> Street, a long-time resident of Willowick, attended the day-long seminar that was held by the Police Department last year. It was beneficial for all who attended, helping them to understand that challenges of being a police officer. He encouraged the city to keep it in the budget. Mayor Regovich agreed that it was a good session and hopes to be able to maintain it. The open house can be done at minimal cost and is good for the city.

### **Reports of Standing Committees**

**Finance:** No report.

**Safety:** No report. Mr. Phares is still working on the minutes of the last meeting and will distribute them when they are ready.

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

**Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers:** No report.

**Tax Compliance:** No report.

**Moral Claims:** No report.

**Budget:** No report. Mr. Vanni said that the minutes of the Budget Hearing have been distributed and posted online. The budget is on second reading.

### **Liaison Reports**

Plan Review Board: Ms. Antosh reported that Great Lakes Crushing is requesting to install a 55' by 140' prefab metal storage building to store all their dry material. The request was approved and will move to the next step of in the process.

Hearts & Hammers: Mr. Malta rreported that the next meeting is March 5. He encouraged people to get involved.

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

Motion by Mr. Vanni, seconded by Mr. Malta to authorize the Service Director to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to identify and select a qualified energy service provider or energy services company for the identification of energy improvements on a guaranteed performance contracting basis.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Contract Approvals**

None.

**Introduction & Consideration of Legislation**

Ordinance No. 2020-16 (Finance Director) An Ordinance to make appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Willowick, State of Ohio, during the calendar year ending December 31, 2020, and declaring an emergency.  
**1<sup>st</sup> Reading – February 18, 2020**

Ordinance No. 2020-16 was placed on second reading.

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Resolution No. 2020-11 (Law Director) A Resolution accepting the One Ohio Memorandum of Understanding regarding the pursuit and use of potential opioid litigation settlement funds, and declaring an emergency.

Motion by Mr. Vanni, seconded by Ms. Antosh to waive the three-day rule for Resolution No. 2020-11.  
Discussion: None.  
Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Vanni, seconded by Ms. Bisbee to waive the three readings of Resolution No. 2020-11.  
Discussion: None.  
Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Malta, seconded by Ms. Antosh to approve Resolution No. 2020-11.  
Discussion: None.  
Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

**Miscellaneous**

Motion by Mr. Malta, seconded by Mr. Vanni to grant authorization for Rob Gross to sign purchase orders during the absence of the Service Director from March 4-9, 2020.  
Discussion: None.  
Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

**Public Participation**

Mary Miragliotta of 186 Shoreland Circle asked why there are no reports for committee meetings and when decisions are made. Mr. Patton responded that there are periodic meetings during the course of the year. Committees usually meet to address a issues that arise and submit a report. Mr. Vanni said that the Finance and Budget Committees usually have a joint meeting quarterly. The Streets, Sidewalks and Sewers Committee usually meets quarterly as well. The meetings are always announced. Ms. Miragliotta suggested providing updates from committees in the Courier to keep residents informed.

Justine Menn of 30136 Barjode asked if an RFP has gone out for the Shoreland Circle lighting upgrade and if bids are still being received if it has. Mayor Regovich said that there has not been an RFP yet. The money for this project would not come from the General Fund.

Dee Logan of 327 Blissfield inquired what more is being done by Council members outside of the meeting to address the issue of weed killer being used on public land. This is for the health and safety of our residents and of those who come to our city. Mr. Patton recommended that she contact Mr. Malta to make a presentation to the Service, Utilities and Public Lands Committee.

**Adjournment**

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

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

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**PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL**

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