

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

**DATE:** October 6, 2020  
**PLACE:** Remote Meeting  
**TIME:** 7:30 p.m.

This meeting was conducted as a virtual public meeting due to the coronavirus pandemic. We are authorized to hold the virtual meeting under the laws of the State of Ohio as well as the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Willowick. Council will continue to meet virtually through October and assess the situation prior to the November meetings.

The fifteenth 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, Phares. Mr. Malta joined the meeting later.  
**Also Present:** Mayor Regovich, Law Director Landgraf, Finance Director Benedict, Acting Fire Chief Palumbo, Police Chief Turner, Service Department Foreman Gross, Chief Housing and Zoning Inspector Brennan, City Engineer McLaughlin, Economic Development Manager Drake and Council Clerk Wovrosh. Recreation Director Kless was absent.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Ms. Antosh, seconded by Ms. Bisbee to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council of September 15, 2020.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Phares, seconded by Ms. Antosh to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council of September 21, 2020.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

**Appointments, Special Resolutions & Proclamations**

Special Resolution                      A Special Resolution recognizing Larry Hemphill for his contributions to the Willowick Community

Mr. Malta joined the meeting at this time.

Motion by Mr. Vanni, seconded by Ms. Antosh to approve the Special Resolution honoring Larry Hemphill.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

**Administrative Appeals**

None.

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

Mayor Regovich reported:

- Two renewal levies will be on the ballot in November. Renewal Levy #1 is a five-year renewal levy for the storm sewers. It was originally passed in 1985 and brings in about \$121,000. Renewal Levy #2 for the safety forces is a \$1.5M from 1995 and brings in about \$250,000 which is less than the cost of one ambulance. This is also a five-year levy. These levies are very important, and Council was urged to get the word out.
- Trick or Treating will take place on October 31 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Procedures suggested by the Governor and the County Health Department will be posted on our website.
- There will probably be another meeting next week to consider additional Covid-19 funded items. We want to be sure we use the funding available to us. He thanked Finance Director Benedict and her staff for their hard work on this.
- It is suggested that the opening of the Senior Center wait until at least the first of the year. The guidelines and procedures to open now are very cumbersome. Most of the senior centers in Lake County are looking at the same timeline.
- In regard to the police shooting that occurred on Friday night, he is very proud of our policemen and firefighters. We are fortunate to have the Chief and all the people that work in this city. Chief Turner took control of the situation, calmly ran it and made great decisions. He protected our people and the city. We were very lucky that it turned out the way that it did and that our guys were able to go home. It has been a tough couple of days for our guys.

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

Mr. Patton was at the scene of the police shooting on Friday night with the Mayor, and what the police officers do is nothing short of incredible. People do not appreciate them as much as they should.

Mr. Vanni agreed. Chief Turner did a phenomenal job in handling the situation in such a professional way. We are lucky to have all the employees and our police officers specifically who work for our city.

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

**Acting Service Director Rich Regovich:** Written report submitted. There will be one pass through the city for leaf pickup as we did last year. We are waiting to see when most of the leaves have dropped before we finalize the schedule, but it will most likely be the end of November. We will keep the website updated. Kimble will be picking up leaves in yard waste bags through the end of December. There has been a lot of sewer work taking place on Willowick Drive. Mr. Gross reported that they have been cleaning all the catch basins and dye testing. They have been root cutting. Aqua brakes have been installed to restrict the flow of water into the storm sewers by keeping it in the street. It then will drain slowly to the mains. This will hopefully give some relief to the residents in the area who have had issues. Mayor Regovich reported that the crew did a lot of major cleaning from E. 309 to E. 305 and from E. 309 to Bayridge. We may not know how effective they are until spring or the next heavy rain. We will continue looking at long-term repairs for that area.

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

**City Engineer Tim McLaughlin:** No written report. Mr. Laughlin is preparing an official recommendation and nomination for WPCLF for the committee to review which will be focused mostly in the Willowick Drive area. In a couple of weeks there will be smoke testing in the E. 327<sup>th</sup>, E. 328<sup>th</sup> and E. 329<sup>th</sup> area pre- and post-construction.

**Finance Director Cheryl Benedict:** No written report. Ms. Benedict previously distributed to Council a spreadsheet of CARES funding that has been encumbered or expensed to date. There is about \$300,000 in Fire and EMS wages, Medicare, Social Security and/or PERS which will be reversing these out of the General Fund and charged to the CARES fund. We are not able to charge off any of the police wages. To date the total is about \$1.2M of the \$1.8M that we previously received. We will have another deposit going

into the general checking account from Senate Bill 357 which will be \$508,000. The deadline for encumbrance has been extended to November 20 for previous funding and the latest funding. The December 30 deadline for expensing all the money is still in place. We still have a little over \$1M that we can use for Covid-related expenses. We are looking at a potential program for small businesses.

**Law Director Stephanie Landgraf:** No written report.

**Police Chief Brian Turner:** Written report submitted electronically. He thanked the Mayor, Council President Patton and Mr. Vanni for their kind words but redirected them back to the officers and dispatchers. Their actions and work ethic make his job extremely easy. It was a call he never wanted to get. The support from the first responders in the community and police and fire in the area was overwhelming. He was able to see Ofc. Bruno, the officer who was shot, before he was transported to the hospital for observation which put his mind at ease. He spoke with Ofc. Guirreiri who was the other officer involved in the shooting, but he was able to remain on the scene. Knowing they were fine was the biggest hurdle to overcome. The actions of officers such as Sgt. LaForge and Ofc. Cook were incredible. The assistance from our Fire Department was valuable as was that of other fire and police departments in the area. Many well-wishers have contacted him. Mayor Regovich was at the scene the entire evening and purchased pizza for the officers that were working which was greatly appreciated. The most important thing is that his guys went home that night. The investigation is ongoing, and BCI's investigation could take up to 60 days. It will then go to the County Prosecutor's office for their review which is normal protocol. We will also conduct an internal investigation to be sure that policies were followed. This situation could have gone differently, and he will be forever thankful for the way it turned out. He thanked everyone for their show of support and their concern for our officers.

**Acting Fire Chief Mark Palumbo:** Written report submitted electronically. He extended his gratitude and sentiment on behalf of the Fire Department that all worked out well for the Police Department. There is nothing more stressful than going on a call for our own, especially for their brothers in blue. They were grateful that all were able to go home to their families that night. They were very impressed with the amount of professionalism that was displayed. Mayor Regovich thanked Acting Chief Palumbo and the members of the Fire Department who responded to the incident quickly and transported Ofc. Bruno. He stated that mutual aid in our county is amazing. It was evident that night with first responders from a number of communities present and responding to the situation, taking care of the officers and the suspect. Everyone knew what they were supposed to do and got to where they had to go quickly and efficiently in the middle of the organized chaos. It all happened within minutes and was amazing to see.

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

**Economic Development Manager Monica Drake:** No written report. She is excited about the potential for the local small business grant program. She attended the virtual three-day annual summit of the Ohio Economic Development Association recently. It offered various virtual workshops that were very beneficial along with updates to economic development programs that are helpful tools. All were able to attend free of charge due to Ohio Means Jobs paying their registration fees.

### **Ward Matters**

None.

### **Public Participation**

None.

### **Reports of Standing Committees**

**Finance:** No report.

**Safety:** No report.

**Service, Utilities & Public Lands:** Mr. Malta scheduled a virtual meeting for Tuesday, October 20 at 6:30 p.m. prior to the Council meeting to discuss the subject of fertilizer that is being used on public lands. He will contact the resident who has raised this question. He stated that he is proud to be a resident of Willowick in light of the performances of Chief Turner, Acting Fire Chief Palumbo and Mayor Regovich during the recent incident.

**Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers:** Mr. Vanni reported that the committee met that evening prior to the regular meeting. They discussed the need for an increase in the sewer rates which will help us catch up and get on track with the sewer rate that got passed on to us from Euclid. The last one was in 2014. This will enable us to continue working on projects on the east side of the city at E. 329<sup>th</sup> and E. 330<sup>th</sup> which have been shown to work, and to continue to address the situation on Willowick Drive. This will also help us in applying for the WPCLF loans which have extremely low interest rates right now. The committee recommended to Council by a vote of 3-0 to raise the rates 20% in 2021, 10% in 2022, and 5% in 2023. He would like this on the agenda for the October 20 meeting and requested that it be put on three readings to provide everyone with adequate time to review and discuss it.

**Tax Compliance:** No report.

**Moral Claims:** No report.

**Budget:** No report.

#### **Liaison Reports**

Planning Commission: No report.

Board of Zoning Appeals: No report.

Volunteer Firefighters Dependents Fund Board: No report.

Recreation Board: No report.

**Plan Review Board:** Ms. Antosh reported that Palumbo Beverage will be expanding into the next storefront area to add a deli and coffee area. The owners of the old Chase Bank building in Shoregate are considering adding a window on the south wall to be more of a drive-thru to attempt to get a restaurant in that space. It is currently in the planning stages.

**Hearts & Hammers:** Mr. Malta reminded members that Tuesday nights are project nights. They are looking forward to fall clean-up. Those interested in helping can contact him.

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

None.

#### **Contract Approvals**

Motion by Mr. Malta, seconded by Ms. Antosh to authorize the Mayor to enter into a 48 month lease agreement with ComDoc for five (5) Xerox devices in the monthly amount of \$910.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Vanni, seconded by Ms. Antosh to authorize the Mayor to sign Amendment #1 to Agreement #32164 Willowick Lakefront Connectivity and Downtown Redevelopment Plan TLCI between ODOT, NOACA, and the City of Willowick, extending the expiration date to June 30, 2021.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

**Introduction & Consideration of Legislation**

Ordinance No. 2020-41  
(Law Director)

An Ordinance approving the editing and inclusion of certain ordinances as parts of the various component codes of the Codified Ordinances; approving, adopting and enacting new matter in the updated and revised Codified Ordinances; repealing Ordinances and Resolutions in conflict therewith, and declaring an emergency.

Motion by Mr. Malta, seconded by Mr. Phares to waive the three readings of Ordinance No. 2020-41.  
Discussion: None.  
Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Malta, seconded by Mr. Vanni to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-41.  
Discussion: None.  
Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

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Ordinance No. 2020-42  
(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. Phares, seconded by Ms. Antosh to waive the three readings of Ordinance No. 2020-42.  
Discussion: None.  
Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Vanni, seconded by Ms. Antosh to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-42.  
Discussion: None.  
Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

**Miscellaneous**

Motion by Mr. Vanni, seconded by Ms. Antosh to authorize a change of LLC membership interests of Sullivans Tavern LLC located at 30829 Euclid Avenue and Patio from Russell A. Sullivan to Michael J. Comella and Brian S. Weisman, and with no objection from the Police Department.  
Discussion: None.  
Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Ms. Antosh, seconded by Mr. Phares to authorize an expenditure to Stryker Sales for a Lifepak 15 monitor for the new ambulance in the amount of \$38,218.08 from CARES funding.  
Discussion: None.  
Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Vanni, seconded by Ms. Bisbee to authorize an expenditure to Euclid Glass for automatic entry doors for City Hall office door in the amount of \$14,200.00 from CARES funding.  
Discussion: None.  
Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Phares, seconded by Ms. Antosh to authorize an expenditure to Shuttler's Uniforms for 65 responder parkas in the amount of \$22,000.00 from CARES funding.  
Discussion: None.  
Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Malta, seconded by Ms. Antosh to authorize an expenditure to Cerni Motors for five Fisher eight-foot HD2 plow systems for the new F350 trucks in the amount of \$34,293.75.

Discussion: Ms. Benedict stated that these were not budgeted. She will be coming back to Council for additional appropriations which will come from the SCM&R Fund from the additional gas tax revenue. Ms. Koudela inquired why the Service Department cannot install the plows. Mayor Regovich explained that the installation fee is included in the quote as a safety measure in case we cannot do it ourselves. We will try to install them ourselves first. He explained why we chose this system.

Vote: Ayes: Patton, Antosh, Bisbee, Vanni, Malta, Phares. Nays: Koudela. Motion carried.

Motion by Ms. Antosh, seconded by Mr. Phares to declare the items listed for the 2020 city auction as surplus.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Public Participation**

None.

### **Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. Vanni, seconded by Mr. Malta to adjourn.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.



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**PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL**

ATTEST: Susan K. Worrish  
**CLERK OF COUNCIL**