



City of Willowick
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, June 03, 2025 at 6:30 PM
City Council Chambers

ADA NOTICE

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) during this meeting should notify the City of Willowick at 440-585-3700 at least three working days before the meeting.

MINUTES

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

All members of Council were in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of May 20, 2025.

MOTION: Mr. Malta motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of May 20, 2025. Mr. McFarland second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea.

Motion carried. Minutes approved.

APPOINTMENTS, SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR

Mayor Vanni thanks Chief Daubenmire and Lt. Lawrence and the entire police department for working with Saint Mary Magdalene staffing. He feels the plan worked and kept people inside the festival safe. He had a handful of people come up to him and say thank you and that they felt safe. He also thanks the Fire Department for being there as well. The plan did its job. That being said, there was an incident Saturday night that occurred about 20 minutes after the festival closed. It occurred near 327th. It was a byproduct of the festival. The group that was involved never made entrance to the festival and it is still under investigation. Chief Daubenmire will touch on it more during his report. They are meeting with the Parish next week to discuss this year's festival as well as the future.

The parade was a success. It was a really good day.

They did not make the next cut for the federal grant that they applied for the culvert project they were looking at, but they do have other options for that and are still in good shape.

He met with Chief Malovrh about another grant. They watered it down a lot since the program was introduced. It is for adding fire staff to the department. Now they took the retention part out. It does not help us at this point. Chief is going to keep looking for other grants. We are a part time department so we might have options.

Lastly, the electrical increase hit June 1st. If we get calls, please go to the website for contacts for First Energy and NOPEC. There is more info there for residents. He is unsure how much the increase will be.

No discussion.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE MAYOR'S REPORT

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS – Directors & Officials

Service Director – Todd Shannon

Service Director Shannon sent his report over. They are working on getting the pools open for next Monday as well as camp. The winter took a toll on the roads and are working on that. The new skidsteer arrived last week.

Recreation Director – Julie Kless

City Engineer – Tim McLaughlin

City Engineer McLaughlin said 305 sewer project is coming to a close. It should be coming in under budget. They are getting ready to submit stage 3 for the road resurfacing project for Lakeshore to Rt. 2.

Finance Director – Cheryl Benedict

Finance Director Benedict references the changes to the travel policy. It adjusts the meal money changes.

Law Director – Mandy Gwartz

Law Director Gwartz says when she spoke to Julie about the tragedy in Green, they started developing comprehensive rules to provide for better safety for those in the parade. She asks Council to give her any ideas if they have them as well.

Police Chief – Rob Daubenmire

Police Chief says he will submit his report soon. The festival went very well and they got a lot of feedback. Lt. Lawrence did a great job as head of security there. There was an incident for a young man shot in the abdomen outside the festival. He is okay and the investigation is ongoing.

Fire Chief – Bill Malovrh

Fire Chief Malovrh submitted his report today.

Chief Housing/Zoning Inspector – Sean Brennan

WARD MATTERS

Mr. Malta says that 29146 Edgewood something needs done about the grass. There is a tarp covering the front entrance. If there is a fire, they can't get out. He feels this is a safety hazard.

He says Planet Fitness for ages 14-19 can work out for free all summer long. It's a nice opportunity.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a) Public statement (1 minute maximum)

b) Council response to the public

c) Public clarification (30 seconds to 1 minute for the purpose of restating or rearticulating an original question, concern, suggestion or idea)

Susan Clark, 30901 Lakeshore Blvd. says she is concerned for the tenants in Willowick and Lake County. Fair Housing Resource Center lost 85% of their funding and may have to close soon. She spoke with one of the County Commissioners about this and they are unsure if anything can be done. She also wrote to other State officials. She just wrote a letter to Representative Troy as well. She is hoping he could influence someone to help.

Jacob Cook, a police officer, comes to speak. They came up to show support. The Chief did not know they were coming. They wanted to show support for what the Chief is asking for. They are overworked as a department. In the month of February he was only out of the City 2 days. This goes for a lot of guys back there too. The department is busy. They accept undue liability to handle calls by themselves or rely on mutual aid. Last week there were two psychological incidents that occurred at the same time. They had to divide. One of them was violent. If the other one had turned violent, they would have needed mutual aid. They are well trained and the City invests in them. They feel they are doing a disservice to the residents by being understaffed. They had to rely on mutual aid for the incident after the festival. They send officers out to help, but other departments are also busy and sometimes unable to. Adding one more officer would be very helpful. 2 p.m.-2 a.m. having an extra person would be super helpful. Eastlake came to help for the incident after the festival. Last night, Eastlake had a shots fired call and they had to assist with that. That left zero officers in the City of Willowick. They were right on the border so they could respond, but it is still a disservice. He worries that there would be a violent call with one officer responding alone. He appreciates the support from Mayor Vanni. Two years ago he was hit head on and hospitalized. He asked every officer if they were ever injured. Most said yes. He asked if their Mayor showed up and most said no. He said Mayor Vanni was there at 6 a.m. checking on him. He received calls from Council and Service. It is a great City to work in and he wants to be able to provide the best service possible.

Ms. Koudela asks if Mayor Vanni has any recommendations for Fair Housing.

Mayor Vanni says that is a concern because Fair Housing does a lot and they work with them quite a bit. Right now, there is no straight answer coming down. Last he heard, they want to have something passed by July 4. In passing he thinks he spoke to Rep. Troy about this topic as well. He doesn't think anyone knows what is going to happen which he understands is not a great answer.

Ms. Koudela says thank you to Police for being here and for the work they do. Council received a lot of information tonight. They didn't say no... but it is a big thing. They want to provide Police with the support they need.

Mr. McFarland wants to thank him for coming out and saying that. Having those specific instances really helps. Understanding the dollars is one thing, but the human element is another.

Mr. Malta says we appreciate everything and thanks him for coming to speak.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – Bisbee, Mohorcic, Antosh

Ms. Bisbee reports on the Finance/Budget Meeting that took place before this meeting. They had a lot to cover. They are hoping to come back and meet again after the next Council meeting.

Safety – Phares, Malta, McFarland

Mr. Phares says 2 weeks from now on the 17th 5:30 p.m. Safety Meeting. Topics: On-site parking during trash day, nuisance, and vape shops.

Service, Utilities & Public Lands – Malta, Phares, McFarland

Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers – Mohorcic, Malta, Bisbee

Tax Compliance – Koudela, Antosh, McFarland

Ms. Koudela says that there is a change for the Committee for Tax Compliance. Mr. McFarland will be the chair moving forward and Mr. Phares will join.

Moral Claims – Antosh, Phares, Koudela

Budget – Mohorcic, Koudela, Bisbee

LIAISON REPORTS

Planning – Phares/Alternate Antosh

Board of Zoning Appeals – McFarland/Alternate Koudela

Volunteer Fire Fighters' Dependents Fund Board – Antosh, Phares

Recreation Board – Bisbee/Alternate Phares

Ms. Bisbee says next week starts summer camp. She commends Julie and her team for getting it all together as well as Service.

Plan Review Board – Antosh

FUND TRANSFERS & BID AUTHORIZATIONS

CONTRACT APPROVALS

INTRODUCTION & CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION

2. RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 29:

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE UNIFORM TRAVEL POLICY FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF WILLOWICK, REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 2017-33 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Mr. Malta second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to approve. Mr. McFarland second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 30:

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AUTHORIZATIONS (THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATE)

TO THE JOHNSON'S FIRE EQUIPMENT COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$39,999.96
FOR THE CITY OF WILLOWICK, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Finance Director Benedict clarifies that if we receive an invoice before a purchase order, we have to do a Then and Now.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring three readings. Mr. McFarland second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to approve. Ms. Bisbee second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea.

Motion passed. Legislation approved.

MISCELLANEOUS

4. Motion to Vacate the Regularly Scheduled Council Meetings of July 1, 2025 and August 5, 2025.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to approve. Ms. Bisbee second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea.

Motion carried. Motion approved.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a) *Public statement (1 minute maximum)*
b) *Council response to the public*
c) *Public clarification (30 seconds to 1 minute for the purpose of restating or rearticulating an original question, concern, suggestion or idea)*

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Koudela calls for a Motion to Adjourn the Meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motioned to Adjourn the Meeting. Mr. Phares second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Malta, yea. Mr. McFarland, yea. Ms. Koudela, yea. Ms. Antosh, yea. Mr. Mohorcic, yea. Ms. Bisbee, yea. Mr. Phares, yea.

Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.


Clerk of Council


Council President

6/17/25
Date