



City of Willowick
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Council President Koudela.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

All members in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of March 3, 2026.

MOTION: Mr. Malta motions to approve. Ms. Bisbee second.

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

APPOINTMENTS, SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

2. Motion to approve the mayoral appointment of Nicole Hastings to the Willowick Recreation Board for 3 years term expiring on Dec. 31, 2029.

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

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

3. Peace Officer Commission and Oath of Office – Police Officer Sydney Prochazka

Mayor Vanni administers the Oath of Office to Officer Sydney Prochazka.

4. Peace Office Commission and Oath of Office – Sergeant Donald Slapnicker

Mayor Vanni administers the Oath of Office to Sergeant Donald Slapnicker.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

5. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL ORDER NO. 2026-6: (CHEN)

AN ORDER GRANTING A VARIANCE AND EXCEPTION OF 22 SQUARE FEET FOR

THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 162 SQUARE FOOT METAL ACCESSORY BUILDING IN THE APPLICATION OF SECTION 1171.02(c) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLOWICK.

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

Mr. Phares asks what they want to store?

Ms. Koudela says that from what she read in the minutes, it is supplies.

Mr. McFarland says they go through a lot of to-go containers and would like to not run to the store so frequently.

Law Director Gwartz says that her understanding is that this applicant has already gone to building with another proposed plan that would not require a variance.

Sean Brennan says they did come in after the meeting last week and wanted to know what they needed to do after going to BZA to maybe get something that is smaller. He gave them another copy of the Ordinances and an application. He told them this still goes to Council.

Ms. Antosh asks if they are considering building a shed? This is a metal storage container.

Mr. Brennan says what they submitted originally is a metal storage trailer. They have not submitted anything regarding their secondary plan, but it sounded like a regular storage shed in compliance with the Ordinances.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, no. Ms. Bisbee, no. Mr. Phares, no. Mr. Malta, no. Mr. McFarland, no. Ms. Koudela, no. Ms. Antosh, no. Motion denied.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL ORDER NO. 2026-7: (CHEN)

AN ORDER GRANTING A VARIANCE AND EXCEPTION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A METAL ACCESSORY BUILDING THAT DOES NOT ANCHOR THE METAL ACCESSORY BUILDING ON A FOUR (4) INCH THICK CONCRETE BASE IN APPLICATION OF SECTION 1171.02(d) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLOWICK.

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

Mr. McFarland recommends we table this one. He thinks there is the suggestion they will be coming back with a slightly different option. If they are still going with a shipping container, they are big and heavy. If they are moving, we have a bigger problem. If it ever becomes necessary, he feels tabling it might be easier.

Law Director Gwartz says she is not sure it's the same as the previous case last month. They go hand in hand together that this would be required because of the type of structure. She is not sure there is a lot of logic... they will have to go back to BZA anyway to get possible variance for the structure. The other case they were trying to avoid going back to BZA at all. At that time, that applicant had reached out to Council and had appeared at the BZA meeting and had already submitted new plans for the house (last month) whereas nothing has been submitted yet for this.

Mr. Mohorcic says for what it is worth, we had 70 mph winds Friday. He would like to have 4" thick for that reason.

Ms. Koudela says if this is denied today, they won't have to wait 6 months because it would be a different plan.

Mr. McFarland says he wishes to retract his request to table then.

Mr. Brennan says if they submitted something per the Ordinance, it says if it was a metal construction. That would need to be anchored to a 4" base. If they submitted a wood construction to the City, it does not have to be on the 4" base.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Mohorcic, no. Ms. Bisbee, no. Mr. Phares, no. Mr. Malta, no. Mr. McFarland, no. Ms. Koudela, no. Ms. Antosh, no. Motion denied.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL ORDER NO. 2026-8: (STRANO)

AN ORDER GRANTING A VARIANCE AND EXCEPTION OF 285 SQUARE FEET FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 285 SQUARE FOOT ADDITION TO THE DETACHED GARAGE AND TO ALLOW THE PROPOSED LOCATION OF THE DETACHED GARAGE ADDITION IN APPLICATION OF SECTION 1163.07 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLOWICK

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

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

8. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL ORDER NO. 2026-9: (STRANO)

AN ORDER GRANTING A VARIANCE TO ALLOW THE PROPOSED LOCATION PROVIDED ON THE DRAWING OF A DETACHED GARAGE ADDITION NO MORE THAN 16" FROM THE SIDE LINE AND 5' FROM THE REAR PROPERTY LINE IN THE APPLICATION OF SECTION 1163.07 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLOWICK.

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

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

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR

Mayor Vanni introduces Nick Janek, the liaison for the Lake County Health District.

Nick brings up the complaints on the rats. Overall, rat related complaints peaked in 2023, declined a bit in 2024, and fell by about half in 2025. For Willowick, 2023 had 16 complaints, declined to 9 for 2024, and 7 complaints for 2025. No complaints yet in 2026. If you are not calling in, it does not go into the stats.

Mayor Vanni wishes everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day. Last Wednesday we had that rain/wind storm, over the weekend we had wind, and apparently got hit with a meteor today. He and Todd were at the County for a meeting with all the Service Directors. It was pretty much County wide. All in all, they only go 3 phone calls of potential basement flooding. We want residents to call, that's how they track. All in all, he thinks we got off okay with the interesting week of weather.

Last week we had 3 fires. The Fire Department did a great job. No injuries in all 3 of them. The one in the basement was not super serious, but the other two were pretty bad. One was a garage

fire and they did a great job containing it. He thanks them for all the hard work there preventing damage and making sure everyone stayed safe.

We got a complaint over kids riding their e-bikes in the parks. This was at Manry on the sidewalk. They are going to get signage up there at the park to prohibit them. Hopefully that will take care of it.

He thanks everyone who came to State of the Cities. The presentation is on Facebook and the City website.

We also had, last Wednesday in the afternoon, the Rt. 2 maintenance meeting. We are still ongoing. Have another meeting scheduled for April 2. Did present with a draft of an updated maintenance agreement which we are still going through. Then also the lights, which is a separate issue. We are making progress on that which is a good sign. Slow, but still progress.

We got \$334,000 grant that is going to Vine Street Corridor Project.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Malta says State of the Cities, Mike represented the City very well and he was proud. Great job. Had to be nerve wracking, especially going first.

It was nice that \$1500 was donated to Hearts and Hammers in Rich Regovich's name.

Mayor Vanni says in addition to that donation, they also at their annual awards ceremony, they renamed the Morley Scholarship to Morley Regovich Scholarship.

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS – Directors & Officials

Service Director – Todd Shannon

Recreation Director – Julie Kless

There are a few items on the agenda this evening. There is a motion for a PO for the pickleball courts. That was a budgeted item. There is another motion authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement for the installation as well.

City Engineer – Tim McLaughlin

There is one item on the agenda for consideration. Legislation 2026-12. This is another resolution to apply for funding through the US Senate. This will be for the rec improvements.

Finance Director – Goran Vrhovac

Final budget reading is tonight. He has taken over the final camera/mic project for the Council room. He is looking at working with service to get the equipment themselves and seeing if we could get it work. We would have a mic in the middle and a camera in the back that would be wide angle. If we did it that way, we could get it to \$2000. Would run everything to that room and record it there and then put it on the City Website and Youtube the next day. Would not be live. Also on the agenda, we want to apply for a grant. We need the City's emails and websites switched over to .gov apply for the bigger grants. Also, SHI contract on the agenda. No change there, just a continuance.

Law Director – Mandy Gwartz

No report, but open for questions.

Police Chief – Rob Daubenmire

The three live action cameras are up and running at Lakeshore/Vine, Lakeshore in the area of Aaron's rental, and Euclid Ave at 305. They are not red light cameras or speed cameras, just live action to keep an eye on intersections.

Fire Chief – Bill Malovrh

No formal report, but open for questions.

Ms. Antosh asks where were the 3 fires?

He says 323 was a garage fire, an hour before that was a basement fire, and on Saturday we had a garage fire extending into a house. Like the Mayor said, no injuries. Great job by all departments. The house on Sylvan had damage to the neighbor's house.

Chief Housing/Zoning Inspector – Sean Brennan

No formal report. Spoke with Mandy and asked her to look at an Ordinance for them which is proposed as OR 2026-13. Couple words taken out of it. Some properties in the City where we have vacant lots do have sidewalks. The Ordinance said it had to have a dwelling on the property to go through point of sale.

Ms. Antosh asks if there are any vacant lots without a sidewalk, do we require them to install one at time of sale?

He says we do have lots in the City that do not have sidewalks and we do not require them to have at point of sale.

WARD MATTERS

Ms. Antosh says she spoke with the Mayor about this. Those of you that were around in the mid-80s, George Maxwell was an auxiliary officer and he was working the crosswalk at Christmas Eve and he was hit and killed. They were wondering if that sidewalk could be named the George Maxwell walkway. Not the street, just that walkway and maybe a memorial sign. What would have to be done to try to get this?

Ms. Koudela asks if she's referring to just the cross walk?

Law Director Gwartz doesn't believe there's a legal restriction, it would just be what the costs are for the City. Maybe service can work on signage.

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)

No one wishes to speak.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – Bisbee, Mohorcic, Antosh

Safety – Phares, Malta, McFarland

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

Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers – Mohorcic, Bisbee, Malta

Tax Compliance – McFarland, Antosh, Phares

Moral Claims – Antosh, Phares, Koudela

She has one Moral Claim. Will get with the Committee to likely meet before the next meeting.

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

Plan Review Board – Antosh

FUND TRANSFERS & BID AUTHORIZATIONS

CONTRACT APPROVALS

INTRODUCTION & CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION

9. ORDINANCE NO. 2026- 13

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1355 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLOWICK, OHIO, TITLED “POINT OF SALE INSPECTIONS;” SPECIFICALLY, AMENDING SECTION 1355.01, TITLED “POINT OF SALE CERTIFICATE REQUIRED” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring separate readings and readings in full. Mr. Malta second.

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

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

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

10. RESOLUTION NO. 2026-11:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WILLOWICK TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT ANY AND ALL APPLICATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CYBEROHIO ROUND 3 .GOV GRANT PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026, AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED FOR THE PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring separate readings and readings in full. Ms. Bisbee second.

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

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

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

11. RESOLUTION NO. 2026- 12:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT A FUNDING REQUEST TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE AND THE CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING AND APPROPRIATIONS BILL, TO SUBMIT ANY APPLICATIONS, EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY CONTRACTS OR DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED THEREWITH, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to suspend the rule requiring separate readings and readings in full. Mr. McFarland second.

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

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

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

12. AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 2026- 6:

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, 2026, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading 2/17/26, Second Reading 3/3/26, Item is on Third Reading.

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

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

13. ORDINANCE NO. 2026- 12:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 549 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLOWICK, OHIO, TITLED "WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES;" SPECIFICALLY SECTION 549.10, TITLED "FIREWORKS," TO PROVIDE AN EXCEPTION FOR THOSE IN THE CITY TO POSSESS, DISCHARGE, IGNITE AND EXPLODE FIREWORKS ON CERTAIN HOLIDAYS.

First Reading 3/3/26, Item is on Second Reading.

MISCELLANEOUS

14. Motion Authorizing the Mayor and/or Police Chief to enter into an agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. to provide taser certification training to the Willowick Police Department for the cost of \$23,386.00.

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

Mr. McFarland asks if this is for the whole department?

Chief says the actual price includes the training, it is for the purchase of the tasers. He believes there will be 8 people being trained.

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

15. A Motion to Authorize the Mayor and/or Service Director to Enter Into an Agreement with Cintas to provide Uniform Rental to the Service Department.

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

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

16. Motion Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with SHI to provide Anti-virus/Anti-Malware software for the city for the cost of \$5,924.16.

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

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

17. Motion to authorize the purchase order in the amount of \$19,000 to South Coast Sports Construction for the installation of 3 pickleball courts at Dudley Park.

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

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

18. Motion authorizing the Mayor to enter into a agreement with South Coast Sports Construction for the installation of 3 pickleball courts at Dudley Park.

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

Mr. Malta asks if there was a timeframe for install?

Julie says 2 weeks.

Mayor Vanni says Julie did a lot of work to get this price cut in half. He thanks her.

Julie says this includes the repairs and the purchasing of the nets. This includes everything.

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

19. Motion authorizing a Liquor Permit to Lakeshore Gas LLC located at 29000 Lakeshore Blvd., Willowick, OH 44095.

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

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

20. Motion authorizing the approval of a new business, College Tree Removal, located at P#28A0230000450.

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

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

21. Motion authorizing a new business, Bombshell Beauty & Spa LLC, Located at 28902 Lakeshore Blvd. Willowick, OH 44095.

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

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

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)

Phil Ditering, 469 Bayridge, says you were talking about naming a sidewalk for someone who did something for the City and died because of it? If you come up with a good idea, he had a neighbor who did that, George Maxin, he was not a full police officer.

Ms. Antosh says that is who she is talking about. He was an auxiliary police officer.

Mr. McFarland asks if the microphone is just for the recording or would it be for audience as well?

Goran says it would capture the podium and us.

Mr. Malta says anyone who supported the SMM St. Patrick's Day festival, it was an incredible event. That day, we kept his wife's brother's name alive. In 1969, his buddy went through the ice and he died saving him. It is amazing SMM has kept his name alive in the scholarship. It is an incredible event. Next year when it comes around, he will bring it up again. He thanks everyone who was there. It's usually the first Saturday in March.

If you ever get a chance to see the Broadmoor Coaches Game, it's a great time. To see the children who can't really play basketball, but that day they do, it's a great school for the children. That day it is really cool. If you get a chance, come out. He thanks Mike Vanni for being there with 5 of the western Lake County Mayors.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

22. Executive Session inviting the Law Director and Finance Director to discuss the status of a Collective Bargaining Agreement.

MOTION: Ms. Antosh motions to adjourn into executive session at 7:23 p.m. Ms. Bisbee second.

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

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Mr. Malta motions to return from executive session at 8:24 Ms. Antosh second.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Clerk of Council

Council President

Date

4/7/26