



City of Willowick
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, April 21, 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 approximately 6:33 p.m. by Council President Koudela.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of April 7, 2026.

MOTION: Mr. McFarland motions to approve. Mr. Malta second.

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

APPOINTMENTS, SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR

Mayor Vanni says Tim reached out to the Lake County Utilities Department and it looks like they moved Fairway up. From 288 to the bend on Fairway will get a new water line. Hopefully next year all of Dickerson. That's good it got moved up.

The median at Shoregate where you can't make a left turn has been completed. It got delayed a bit due to sewer issues, but has been up about a week and a half or so.

SMM Festival is coming up. They got approved by Planning last week. Should be same set up plus Ferris wheel, scrambler, and giant slide. Our safety protocol will be the same as last year, they worked well. There was one incident at the end but they did what they were supposed to do. Coming up really soon.

Lastly, on a sad note, Rick Marucci, the owner of Lake County Sewer passed away last week. He was instrumental getting new developments done behind the scenes. Also, that urgent care center is really there because of all his work. He loved Willowick and did a lot for the City.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Malta adds that he found out today that Rick was one of the very first members of Hearts and Hammers. It was nice to learn that. He was his mailman for about 20 years and each morning he would stop to chit chat. He really did love the City. If you get a chance to read Frank Supancic's post, it was wonderful on Facebook. A very nice tribute.

Mayor Vanni says he did not know about Hearts and Hammers. He met him on Council 2005/2006. He did a lot behind the scenes and didn't want credit for them.

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS – Directors & Officials

Service Director – Todd Shannon

Emailed his report this morning. The deer seminar last week was very informative. If you get deer complaints, please notify him to track data. Apex is on the agenda. It is to have them come in and bait catch basins for rats. Road projects... busy construction season here. E 305 will start next week... it's an ODOT project. Lakeshore Blvd should be complete in about a month or month and a half.

Ms. Bisbee says the 305 Project is ODOT, but do they provide detours to him?

He says yes they did, they're pretty extensive. Most detours will be down Bayridge. They will be marked for signage.

She asks about the dead end streets... are they going to be able to get into their streets?

He says yes.

Councilman Phares has arrived at the Council Meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Recreation Director – Julie Kless

She says the parade application is in Council's mailboxes. There are two items on the agenda- compensation for seasonal employees and the other is a budgeted repair of the football field PO. They have completed lifeguard hiring and are looking for 3 more camp counselors.

City Engineer – Tim McLaughlin

Two items on the agenda- R 18 for fair housing for CDBG application. It's one of the requirements. The second is the parking lot project contract approval. The bid opening happened last Friday and they received 5 bids. The base is for the parking lot expansion and the alternate is for improvements. The bids were very close and we feel we got a good contract bid before Council tonight.

Mr. McFarland asks if the bid came in under?

Tim says all the bids came in low.

Finance Director – Goran Vrhovac

Law Director – Mandy Gwartz

No report, but open for questions.

Police Chief – Rob Daubenmire

Open for questions.

Fire Chief – Bill Malovrh

Chief Housing/Zoning Inspector – Sean Brennan

One thing on the agenda tonight, item #15 for the new software update. They already did pay some money towards that so it will not be the whole amount at this time.

WARD MATTERS

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)*

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

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

2. Motion authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contact with Phillips Paving LLC. for the Base and Alternate for the Willowick Municipal Center Parking Lot Project in the amount of \$849,040.00.

MOTION: Mr. Malta motions to waive the three- day rule. Mr. Phares second.

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

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

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

INTRODUCTION & CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION

3. RESOLUTION NO. 2026-16:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO PENN CARE, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW AMBULANCE FOR THE WILLOWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

MOTION: Mr. Phares motions to approve. Mr. Malta second.

Ms. Bisbee asks if this is remaining ARPA money?

Mayor Vanni says it is not costing anything, it is the last of the ARPA money we had to spend by the end of 2026. We should have it here by August.

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

4. ORDINANCE NO. 2026-16:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2026-6 TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM The NOPEC Grant Fund (227); 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.

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

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

MOTION: Mr. Malta motions to approve. Mr. Phares second.

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

5. ORDINANCE NO. 2026-17:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF SEASONAL AND PART-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF WILLOWICK RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR YEAR 2026, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

MOTION: Mr. McFarland motions to approve. Mr. Malta second.

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

6. RESOLUTION NO. 2026 – 17:

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AUTHORIZATIONS (THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATE) TO EMSAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,150.00 FOR THE CITY OF WILLOWICK, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

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

MOTION: Mr. Malta motions to approve. Mr. McFarland second.

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

7. RESOLUTION NO. 2026- 18:

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FAIR HOUSING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

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

MOTION: Mr. McFarland motions to approve. Mr. Phares second.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

8. Motion authorizing an expenditure in the amount of \$21,180.00 to Fire Force for the purchase of 45-minute QC Buddy Breather, Cylinders, and face pieces.

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

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

9. Motion to declare the items listed in Exhibit “A” as Surplus, Unneeded, Unfit for Public use and authorizing its sale or subsequent disposal.

MOTION: Mr. McFarland motions to approve. Mr. Phares second.

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

10. Motion to authorize the purchase order in the amount of \$13,600 to Innovative Landscape Management for the repairs to Manry Football Field.

MOTION: Mr. McFarland motions to approve. Mr. Malta second.

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

11. Motion authorizing an expenditure of \$10,000.00 to Active Networking for the Renewal of Existing Service Contract- 100 hour 2026.

MOTION: Mr. Phares motions to approve. Mr. Malta second.

Ms. Bisbee says she knows this is just a renewal, but she has some concerns about the spam emails still coming through. Anything they're going to do to try to prevent those?

Mayor Vanni says we want to know when they come through. Let him know. He does not get them often, maybe every 4 months or so. He will let Tom know. We have to update our server. He did not know it was happening that often so he is glad it was brought to his attention.

She says it rotates on who it is "coming from". Usually "Mayor Vanni" sometimes another Council person. Her other questions is when Alyssa puts out the email with the agenda, she only gets that email if someone else responds to it.

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

12. A Motion authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Apex Pest Control to rodent bait sixteen (16) City basins from April through October.

MOTION: Mr. McFarland motions to approve. Mr. Malta second.

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

13. Motion to implement Weekend Premium Pay in the Fire Department for part-time firefighters commencing the weekend of Memorial Day 2026 through Labor Day 2026 from Friday, 1800 hours to Monday, 0600 hours at an additional rate of \$8.00 per hour, excluding Holidays.

(There was a typo on the agenda that listed this as 2025, but Ms. Koudela clarified it was for 2026).

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

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

14. Motion authorizing the Mayor and/or the Finance Director to process and pay the invoice submitted by Douglas & Associates Co., L.P.A. in the amount of Thirty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Nine Dollars and Thirty-Nine Cents (\$35,989.39) for legal services rendered in connection with the Shoregate Towers garage demolition matter.

MOTION: Mr. McFarland motions to approve. Mr. Phares second.

Ms. Bisbee asks if these fees are something that could go back to the previous owners?

Law Director Gwartz says it is something we have to pay. There was an Ordinance Council passed hiring this firm and this was the contingency fee. When the receiver took over, they paid the lien.

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

15. A Motion authorizing the Building Department to enter into an agreement with iWorQ to provide setup, software and technical support for task management software at the cost of Twelve Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars \$12,750.00.

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

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a) Public statement (1 minute maximum)
- b) Council response to the public
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No one wishes to speak.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Koudela reminds everyone that there is no meeting on May 5th due to Election Day. The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 19.

Mr. Malta says the Rich Regovich Scholarship is under way for hopefully 2027. They are doing paperwork to finalize with the State. He is excited about it. It will keep Rich's name alive. He told the committee today that he would like a plaque in Council Chambers somewhere. It would be nice to see. Being that we do not have a meeting on the 5th, he will send Council and the Directors something about the Tribute show on the radio show which will be May 11 7:00 p.m. at the Happy Moose in Mentor.

Mayor Vanni says May 1st Eastlake North is having their Hall of Fame Inductions and they are going to give Citizen of the Year to Rich. 6-8 p.m. at Regovich Catering.

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


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

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

Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 7:01 p.m.



Clerk of Council



Council President

5/19/26

Date