



City of Willowick
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, February 02, 2021 at 7:30 PM
City Council Chambers/ Webex

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 third meeting of Council of 2021 was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President Patton. This is a virtual meeting with the same rules pursuant to guidelines of the Ohio Attorney General with the approval of the Law Director pursuant to Ohio Law.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

PRESENT

Council President Robert Patton
Ward 1 Councilwoman Monica Koudela
Ward 1 Councilman Michael Vanni
Ward 2 Councilwoman Natalie Antosh
Ward 2 Councilwoman Theresa Bisbee
Ward 3 Councilman Charles Malta
Ward 3 Councilman David Phares

Also Present: Mayor Regovich, Finance Director Benedict, Fire Chief Tennyson, Police Chief Turner, City Engineer McLaughlin, Chief Housing and Zoning Inspector Brennan, Sewer Foreman Rob Gross, Law Director Landgraf, Economic Director Drake and Council Clerk Angie Trend. Recreation Director Kless was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of January 19, 2021.

Motion made by Mr. Malta, seconded by Ms. Antosh to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of January 19, 2021.

Discussion: None

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS, SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

None.

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR

Mayor & Acting Service Director Regovich reported:

Lake County is receiving between 400 and 700 doses of the COVID vaccine per week which are being distributed according to the Governor's guidelines.

IT has been working on some computer issues and if anyone is having problems with their new laptop please let the Mayor know.

The "Great Grocery Giveaway" was successful with 480 boxes of food given away. Councilman Malta was a great help as well as many other volunteers.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE MAYOR'S REPORT

None.

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS – Directors & Officials**Acting Service Director – Rich Regovich**

Written report submitted electronically. The Service Department employees were a big help with setting up for the "Great Grocery Giveaway". The road crew has also been working a lot of night shifts salting and brining the roads in preparation for the morning rush hour. We are anticipating some very cold weather coming up over the next few days and we will be prepared.

Discussion: Councilwoman Antosh asked if when the crews were out salting if they were only salting the intersections or were they doing the side streets as well. Acting Service Director Regovich replied that the main intersections are salted and any intersection with a stop sign or cross street is salted. Councilwoman Koudela asked if the Service Director position would be advertised soon. Acting Service Director Regovich reported that he would like to advertise the position soon and that he was still working on some things to make sure everything was ready for the incoming director. Legislation will need to be checked to see when the term for the acting director expires.

Recreation Director – Julie Kless

No report. Absent.

City Engineer – Tim McLaughlin

On Lakeland Blvd. the City of Wickliffe is going to be having a coring company doing pavement cores as a part of the joint project of the Lakeland repave. The company will be out working for about three days and it should only cause minor traffic issues.

An inspection will be done next week on Fairway for the storm sewer issues as long as there are no issues with the weather.

Finance Director – Cheryl Benedict

In regards to Ordinance No. 2021-8 this was a various purpose note. It consisted of the TIF (tax increment financing) for Shoreland Crossings as well as sewer improvements. The final payment will be made on the Shoreland Crossings portion and a portion of the sewer note will be retired as required. The remainder will be renewed or rolled over which is \$228,000. Council also received an email with a spreadsheet of all of the expenditures and encumbrances from the CARES Act money. Council should have received their budget binders and the meeting will be at City Hall on Saturday.

Councilman Vanni confirmed that the Budget Hearing would be in person at City Hall on Saturday, February 6 at 8 a.m.

Law Director – Stephanie Landgraf

No report. Ms. Landgraf requested an executive session tonight to discuss pending or imminent litigation.

Police Chief – Brian Turner

The Police Department's annual report was emailed out. Today the department had panel interviews with four dispatch applicants for the vacancy in dispatch. There were some good candidates and it will make for a tough decision. Also a letter was received from Lake County Prosecutor Chuck Coulson who reviewed the officer involved shooting that occurred on Friday, October 12, 2020. BCI was called in for an investigation of the incident. They do not render an opinion or a ruling on the incident they only gather the facts and forward that to the Lake County Prosecutor. After reviewing the investigation from BCI, Prosecutor Coulson made the determination that the officers involved were justified. The final step will be the Detective Bureau doing an internal investigation to make sure the officers followed the department policies. Chief Turner does not feel that there will be any issues with the internal investigation.

Fire Chief – Joe Tennyson

Written report submitted electronically. Last Wednesday a Willowick Dispatcher while on her way home from work observed a car was off to the side of the road. The dispatcher and two officers determined the male was having a medical emergency. The rescue squad arrived on scene and the male, who was in full arrest, arrived at the hospital within twenty-two minutes. The male is doing well at this time and the Fire Chief wanted to congratulate all that were involved in the incident. Today there was a significant accident on SR 2 which caused the freeway to be closed down for almost two hours. Two patients were transported to the hospital as a result.

Chief Housing/Zoning Inspector – Sean Brennan

No written report. Councilwoman Koudela asked Mr. Brennan about a BZA case involving a home on Bayridge where a roof needed to be replaced and the variance had been denied. Mr. Brennan advised all necessary repairs have been made to the house and the homeowner is in compliance.

Economic Development Manager – Monica Drake

Ms. Drake reported that she has been reaching out to different businesses in Willowick as the Small Business Administration has come up with another round of Paycheck Protection Program Funding. Also Ms. Drake reported that she has been working on a Sign/Storefront Program with the City of Wickliffe and as soon as she has more information she will share it with Mayor Regovich.

WARD MATTERS

None.

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)*

Bryon White, 30550 Willow Lane: Mr. White asked if there was a general timeline for when the Finance Director will have the report for the earmarked stimulus money available to the public.

Secondly Mr. White stated on Willow Lane there has been a telephone pole that had been damaged and has been being held up by straps for the last year and a half. Mr. White wanted to know if there was any movement on getting this resolved.

Finance Director Benedict said that Mr. White could call her and request a copy of the report with the information on how the money was spent.

Mayor Regovich said that he would contact CEI in reference to the telephone pole on Willow Lane. Mr. White stated that he has contacted CEI and was told that the responsibility for the removal falls on the cable companies. CEI said that the last cable company that removes their lines is responsible for taking care of the pole. The Mayor said that he would reach out to their government liaison for more information.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – Vanni, Bisbee, Koudela

No report.

Safety – Phares, Malta, Bisbee

No report. Mr. Phares stated that he has had a few residents express interest in re-examining the prohibition of bee hives and bee keeping in the city. This will probably be on the agenda for the next Safety Committee Meeting.

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

Councilman Malta wanted to thank Mayor Regovich for participating in the "Great Grocery Giveaway" at the Willowick Senior Center. The Mayor was there for well over eight hours helping out. This was a great event for Willowick and Mr. Malta would also like to thank the CEO of Council on Aging, Joey Tomsick and the manager of Western Reserve Myron Bennett. Dave's Market also gave everyone who received a box of food a \$20.00 gift card for their store. Thank you also goes out to Dan Troy, Police Chief Brian Turner, Recreation Director Julie Kless and Todd Shannon from the Service Department who were all a great help. Mr. Malta wants to make sure for the next event like this that people are informed and that all of the boxes of food will be handed out to people in need.

Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers – Vanni, Malta, Antosh

No report.

Tax Compliance – Koudela, Antosh, Patton

No report.

Moral Claims – Antosh, Phares, Patton

No report.

Budget – Vanni, Koudela, Patton

Just a reminder that the Budget Hearing will be this Saturday at 8:00 a.m. at City Hall.

LIAISON REPORTS

Planning – Phares/Alternate Koudela

No report.

Board of Zoning Appeals – Koudela/Alternate Vanni

No report.

Volunteer Fire Fighters' Dependents Fund Board – Antosh, Phares

No report.

Recreation Board – Bisbee/Alternate Phares

No report.

Plan Review Board – Antosh

Ms. Koudela reported that Ace Hardware is going to be expanding for extra storage.

Hearts & Hammers – Malta

Mr. Malta wanted to thank the seventeen volunteers who have been shoveling snow for forty-one walkways in the city for senior citizens.

FUND TRANSFERS & BID AUTHORIZATIONS

None.

CONTRACT APPROVALS

None.

INTRODUCTION & CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION**2. Ordinance No. 2021-6**

An Ordinance fixing the compensation of adult school guards and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Ms. Antosh, seconded by Ms. Bisbee to waive the three readings of Ordinance No. 2021-6.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Ms. Antosh, seconded by Ms. Bisbee to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-6.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

3. Ordinance No. 2021-7

An Ordinance amending Ordinance 2020-51 to provide for additional appropriations from the General Fund (101); Sewer Revenue Fund (205); Fire Emergency Rescue Fund (208) and the Sanitary Sewer Improvement Fund (422) for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Willowick, State of Ohio, during first quarter ending March 31, 2021, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Ms. Antosh, seconded by Mr. Phares to waive the three readings of Ordinance No. 2021-7.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Ms. Antosh, seconded by Mr. Phares to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-7.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

4. Ordinance No. 2021-8

An Ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of \$228,000 of Notes, in anticipation of the issuance of Bonds, for the purpose of paying costs of improving the municipal sewerage system, and declaring an emergency.

The Fiscal Officer's Certificate was presented to the Clerk of Council prior to the introduction of the Ordinance No. 2021-8.

Motion made by Ms. Antosh, seconded by Mr. Phares to waive the three readings of Ordinance No. 2021-8.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Phares, seconded by Mr. Malta to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-8.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

5. Resolution No. 2021-2

A Resolution authorizing the transfer of funds from the Sewer Revenue Fund (205) to the Sanitary Sewer Improvement Fund (422) and declaring an emergency.

Motion made Mr. Phares, seconded by Ms. Antosh to waive the three readings of Resolution No. 2021-2.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Malta, seconded by Ms. Antosh to approve Resolution No. 2021-2.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS

6. Motion to declare the following appliances from the Fire Department as unfit for use by the City, obsolete, and having no value other than scrap metal, to be disposed of as surplus; Whirlpool Washer: Model #WTW80000BW0, Serial #C33070521; Whirlpool Dryer Model #WED8000BW0, Serial #M41110048; and GE Refrigerator: Model #TBX21NITMRWH, Serial #ZL604819, City Tag #01075.

Motion made by Ms. Antosh, seconded by Mr. Phares to declare the appliances from the Fire Department as unfit for use by the City, obsolete, and having no value other than scrap metal, to be disposed of as surplus.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

7. Discuss Ohio Sunshine Law

Motion made by Mr. Malta, seconded by Ms. Antosh to declare the Clerk of Council as the representative for Council for Ohio Sunshine Law purposes.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

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)

Bryon White, 30550 Willow Lane, had a follow-up question as to whether he should contact the Finance Director directly or did he need to use the official records request form to request the information on the earmarked stimulus package. Secondly, will the earmarked stimulus spending package be made public on the city website?

Phil Detering, 469 Bayridge Blvd., Mr. Detering stated that it is his understanding that the Senior Center is being used for food preparation and distribution. Mr. Detering asked that when the Senior Center opens back up will there be enough room for the senior's and Meals on Wheels at the center? Secondly, in reference to the food giveaway, Mr. Detering stated that the people he had spoken with had no information about the giveaway. He suggested that maybe fliers could be handed out for the next time.

Finance Director Benedict responded to Mr. White by saying that he could call her with his records request. She also stated that as far as posting this information on the City website it would need to be discussed further with the Mayor and Council.

Law Director Landgraf said that the posting of the information on the City website would be a Council decision. Mr. White can make his records request either electronically or if the City has a form to fill out he could do that. Either way would be an appropriate public records request.

Mayor Regovich responded to Mr. Detering saying that they hope the Senior Center would accommodate Meals on Wheels and the seniors together. Meals on Wheels currently only uses the kitchen area. They have a section at the library that they have for their computers and desks. The Mayor feels that this will be an opportunity for the seniors to partake in meals more frequently when the center opens. Currently Meals on Wheels is there Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to assist with people who are home bound.

Mr. Malta addressed Mr. Detering's second question about the grocery giveaway saying that we did not receive the information until the Thursday before the giveaway. Also you had to log onto a computer to get a confirmation number. Mr. Malta agrees that the process needs to be fixed and the information needs to get out to the people. There were four hundred boxes of food that were not given out due to only having four days to prepare. The Mayor did the best he could with the amount of time he had and they need to make sure that everyone that needs food gets it the next time around.

Mayor Regovich stated that Western Reserve had put the event together and it was federally funded program along with the CARES Act. The CARES Act funding comes quickly and has to be spent quickly. The reason for the sign up process was so that eight hundred people did not show up all at once making the process more difficult. Should there be another event we are hoping to be better prepared.

Mr. Detering asked if a list of people could be contacted before hand to be able to help out with another event. Mayor Regovich said he did not have an answer for that as this was handled by Western Reserve. Should we get another call for this program some different suggestions will hopefully be made.

Councilman Malta expressed concern about the seniors that can not make it to pick up the food and that that would need to be addressed also.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

8:24 p.m. adjourned to Executive Session.

RETURN TO TABLE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Malta, seconded by Ms. Antosh to return to the table from Executive Session.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Law Director Landgraf requested a motion to authorize the City Law Director to take all actions necessary to implement the recommendations made by the City Engineer as it relates to the Larimar development culvert and extension.

Motion made by Ms. Antosh, seconded by Mr. Vanni to authorize the Law Director to implement the recommendations made by the City Engineer as it relates to the Larimar development culvert and extension.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Council President Patton asked if there were any more items to be brought before Council.

Councilwoman Bisbee mentioned the recreational basketball program and wanted to thank Recreation Director Kless for doing such a good job with the program.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Antosh, seconded by Mr. Malta to adjourn.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.



PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:



CLERK OF COUNCIL