

President of Council
MICHAEL KLINE

Vice President of Council
TANYA TAYLOR DRAPER

Clerk of Council
NICHOLAS AIELLO

City of Willoughby Hills

Council
JULIE A. BELICH
JOE JARMUSZKIEWICZ
DANIEL KNECHT
VICKI MILLER
KATHLEEN SIVO

Regular Council Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2026

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order on Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. **Council President Kline** presided.

Call to Order 7:00 p.m. (0:10)

Cell Phone Reminder to Turn off Devices

Pledge of Allegiance (Audio: 0:14)

ROLL CALL (Audio: 0:37)

Members Present: Councilwoman Kathleen Sivo, Council Vice President Tanya Taylor Draper, Councilwoman Julie A. Belich, Councilman Joe Jarmuszkiewicz, Council President Michael Kline, Councilman Dan Knecht, and Councilwoman Vicki Miller

Also Present: City Engineer Pete DiFranco, Finance Director Bruce Scott and Law Director Michael A. Kenny Jr.

Absent: Mayor Christopher Hallum

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE (Audio 1:04)

Email dated 3/18/2026 from Gandee, Robert MEMO - 2026 Mar 18 - Request for Additional Three Career Firefighters from SAFER Grant
Email dated 3/18/2026 from Stephanie Laing Re: PCABR Meeting 3/19/26 THURSDAY
Email dated 3/18/2026 from Cleveland IronLeague Re: Housing Council Meeting March 24, 2026
Email dated 3/18/2026 from Grubiss, Mark RE: Signed Exhibit to Ordinance 2009-25
Email dated 3/18/2026 from Ponchin, Mike RE: Ordinance
Email dated 3/17/2026 from Rodd Schroeder Re: Letter to council
Email dated 3/17/2026 from Hallum, Chris RE: PCABR Meeting March 19, 2026
Email dated 3/16/2026 from Hallum, Chris RE: Housing Council for March 24, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. Agendas
Email dated 3/16/2026 from Hallum, Chris Mayor's Report - March 12. 2026
Email dated 3/13/2026 from Mehollin, Karen Re: Facebook feed
Email dated 3/13/2026 from Katherine D. Lloyd Re: PCABR Preparation
Email dated 3/13/2026 from Rodd Schroeder Re: Accident
Email dated 3/12/2026 from Lloyd, Katherine RE: 3/19/26 PCABR Agenda - dragt
Email dated 3/12/2026 from Lloyd, Katherine RE: Willoughby Hills PCABR Meeting March 19, 2026 Meeting Notification
Email dated 3/12/2026 from Scott, Bruce RE: Public Records Request – RFPs, Proposals, Awards, Evaluations (Jan 1, 2023 – Nov 1, 2025)
Email dated 3/11/2026 from Tom Roseum Re: PCABR Meeting March 19, 2026
Email dated 3/11/2026 from Katherine D. Lloyd Re: 2023 Finalized Master Plan
Email dated 3/11/2026 from Katherine D. Lloyd Re: Willoughby Hills PCABR Meeting March 19, 2026 Meeting Notification
Email dated 3/11/2026 from Pietro DiFrancoRE: Pleasant Valley In-Ground Pool Application
Email dated 3/11/2026 from Mehollin, Karen Re: Willoughby Hills Master Plan 2023 Final with Signature
Email dated 3/11/2026 from Pietro DiFrancoRE: 2023 Finalized Master Plan
Email dated 3/10/2026 from CLE Grilling Accident
Email dated 3/10/2026 from Mehollin, Karen Fw: 2022 Master Plan - Willoughby Hills
Email dated 3/10/2026 from Gloria Majeski Re: Records Commission Rules
Email dated 3/10/2026 from Gloria Majeski Re: Records Commission Minutes not posted on website
Email dated 3/06/2026 from Mehollin, Karen Fw: 2026 asphalt and limestone bids.xlsx
Email dated 3/06/2026 from Pietro DiFrancoReview for PCABR -2496 Mapleview - In-Ground Pool
Email dated 3/06/2026 from Joe Lester Re: Housing Council Meeting on the 23rd or 24th of March
Email dated 3/06/2026 from Pietro DiFrancoReview for PCABR -38151 Pleasant Valley - In-Ground Pool
Email dated 3/05/2026 from Katherine D. Lloyd Re: Reminder Regarding Tonight's Meeting
Email dated 3/05/2026 from Willoughby Hills Re: FW: Legislation for the March Council Meeting
Email dated 3/05/2026 from Taylor Draper, Tanya Re: South Creek Development LLC and Common Purpose Development Group LLC
Email dated 3/05/2026 from Kate Bayer City website question
Email dated 3/04/2026 from Katherine D. Lloyd Re: Agenda for 2-5-26
Email dated 3/04/2026 from Scott, Bruce RE: Housing Council Meeting
Email dated 3/04/2026 from Dave Walters Re: Nature Works 32nd Round Application Review
Email dated 3/04/2026 from McFarren, Darlene RE: PCABR Minutes 2/19/26 Draft for Review
Email dated 3/04/2026 from Scott, Bruce RE: Police Transport Van Purchase Ordinance
Email dated 3/04/2026 from Naegele, Matthew RE: Ordinance for Authorization to Purchase
Email dated 3/04/2026 from Thomas Lobe Re: Small Box Moratorium Extension

PUBLIC PORTION #1 (Audio: 1:20)

An opportunity for the public to address Council concerning anything pertaining to tonight's agenda.

Public Portion #1 opened at 7:02 p.m.

- Nobody spoke for Public Portion.

Public Portion #1 closed at 7:02 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT (Audio: 1:45)

- **No Mayor's Report.**

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Audio 1:50)

- **No Law Director's report.**

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Audio: 2:00)

- **Finance Director Scott:** Tonight, I support the passage of Ordinance 2026-019. As we discussed in the working session, this is the new leaf machine/hook truck for Mark. We feel this would be a huge benefit to our residents by providing quick leaf pick-up and the opportunity for us to use this in multiple locations. The price is right, and they only have one available right now. I feel that we can find room within the budget to get this taken care of. Other than that, I have no comments and I am open for questions.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT (Audio: 2:44)

- **City Engineer DiFranco:** Work on the Chardon Road Bridge over I-271 continues. It will be closed until November. Work on River Road is scheduled to start on April 13. One lane of traffic will be kept open for northbound only. I am working with Chagrin Valley Engineering and coordinating with ODOT on the proposed path on State Route 91. That concludes my report and I am open for questions.

- **Councilwoman Miller:** We have gotten a couple questions on River Road. That really affects a lot of people on their commute. It is my understanding that they are going to start on the south end and work towards Chardon Road for the first phase.

- **City Engineer DiFranco:** I would have to double check.

- **Councilwoman Miller:** Do you know when they are going to be putting up signage for that?

- **City Engineer DiFranco:** Usually, a week or two before they start, so probably by April 1.

- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** Are they maintaining northbound traffic for the whole project, or for just half?

- **City Engineer DiFranco:** I believe it is the whole project.

- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** So, they will shift lanes over to the right or to the left?
- **City Engineer DiFranco:** Correct.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** Isn't that going to be hard if you live over there?
- **City Engineer DiFranco:** It is an inconvenience, yes.
- **Council President Kline:** I know there has been newspaper reporting on it, and the Department of Transportation also made mention last year that it is starting on the south end and working up. The first phase ends at Route 6. I assume that means, until that's done, the north half will be open for regular traffic.
- **City Engineer DiFranco:** Correct.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS REPORTS / COMMITTEE REPORTS (Audio 5:00)

PC-ABR reported by Council Vice President Taylor Draper

- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** I would like to report on the Planning and Zoning Commission Architectural Board of Review. The group met last Thursday, March 19. During the Architectural Board portion of the meeting, there were two in-ground pools on the agenda to be approved. The one that we did approve was 38151 Pleasant Valley. The second at 2496 Mapleview Lane, the representative was not there, so we postponed that review.

There was no business for the Planning Portion of the meeting.

- That concludes my report.

Recreation Commission reported by Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz

No report.

Beautification Committee reported by Council Vice President Taylor Draper

No report.

Finance Committee Report by Council President Kline

No report.

WHISPER reported by Councilwoman Miller

No report.

Deer Management Committee reported by Councilwoman Belich

No report.

Business Subcommittee – reported by Councilwoman Sivo

No report.

- **Council President Kline:** Even though it is not listed here, on Tuesday evening, the Housing Council met. The Housing Council meets once a year. They are charged with approving the continuing exterior appearance of the businesses in the City that have received financial benefit via tax abatement. We met Tuesday and viewed pictures. There are five businesses now that come under it. They were approved. The Housing Council has completed their assignment for the year.
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** Could you recall the businesses for us so that we know the ones that are under review?
- **Council President Kline:** The businesses that are applicable for this are the senior apartments at 91 and Route 6, the Cleveland Veterinary Rehab on Chardon Road, the Dunkin Donuts on Bishop Road, Produce Packaging, and the Chipotle on Chardon Road.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (Audio: 7:28)

- No unfinished business.

CONSENT:

DISPOSITION OF THE JOURNAL

Approval of the March 12, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Approval of the March 12, 2026 Working Committee of Council and Rules & Legislation Minutes

ORDINANCE 2026-018-FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART NINE – STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE, TITLE THREE – UTILITIES, CHAPTER 925 – SEWERAGE SYSTEM REGULATIONS, SECTION 925.06 – FEES, SUB-SECTION (c) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS, OHIO AND REPEALING ANY AND ALL CONFLICTING LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION 2026-004-FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS.

Motion made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz**, to approve the items on the consent agenda.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion

Roll Call: **AYES:** Sivo, Taylor Draper, Belich, Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, Knecht, Miller

NAYS: None

Vote: 7/0

The aforementioned motion has passed.

LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE 2026-019 – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN ANY AND ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO SECURE THE PURCHASE OF A NEW FREIGHTLINER AND HOOKLIFT MOUNTED LEAF COLLECTOR THROUGH SOURCEWELL, A COOPERATIVE PURCHASING COMPANY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz**, seconded by **Councilman Knecht**, to waive the three reading rule on Ordinance 2026-019.

Discussion on the Motion:

- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** This piece of equipment will help with leaf pickup, and we will be able to utilize this for additional services within the City. This can be adapted with the flatbed and operated with one operator instead of three or four. The pricing we are getting on it is around \$40,000.00 less than what it will be if we don't take it right now. It is available, there is no 12-18 month lead time for it. I think it will be very beneficial for our City Service Department to have this piece of equipment right now.

Roll Call: **AYES: Sivo, Taylor Draper, Belich, Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, Knecht, Miller**
 NAYS: None
 Vote: 7/0

The three reading rule on Ordinance 2026-019 has been waived.

Motion made by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz**, seconded by **Councilman Knecht**, to waive the three reading rule on Ordinance 2026-019.

Discussion on the Motion:

- No discussion.

Roll Call: **AYES: Sivo, Taylor Draper, Belich, Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, Knecht, Miller**
 NAYS: None
 Vote: 7/0

Ordinance 2026-019 has been adopted.

NEW BUSINESS (Audio 4:25)

- No new business.

PUBLIC PORTION #2 (Audio 4:35)

An opportunity for the public to address Council with any comments, issues or concerns.

Public Portion #2 opened at 7:17 p.m.

- **Jen Varro 2890 SOM Center Rd:** I am curious if anyone would know when the Christian school that is with the French church moves. In the near future, will the speed cameras on SOM Center stay or go?

- Also, with the 1.4 million dollar property tax surplus that the Mayor announced at the Mayor's meeting at LaVera, are there any plans to increase the tax credit percentage to property owners like many other cities have done?
- Finally, I am responding to an inappropriate comment made by a Council person regarding the Architectural Board of Review public comment that I recently made in regard to 34210 Giovanni Avenue. I want to be clear; a quorum is the minimum number of members required to legally conduct business. As defined by our Charter and law, it ensures decisions are representative. If a quorum is not met, the meetings' actions are invalid. No exceptions. Simply put, no quorum means no meeting. I ask everyone to think before speaking. I am not angry out of spite; I am angry because I am stating the truth. I never called anyone on the Architectural Board a liar; the minutes will prove that. I called this Council person a liar after the meeting adjourned because her response to my concern about the lack of quorum was false. I am fully appreciative of the volunteerism of our architectural board; their work is invaluable. This has nothing to do with that. Our Charter is in place and must be followed, just like any other law or rule. This City is a business, and it needs to be run by one. You are all employed by the taxpayers. Our operating procedure for the City is our Charter. Not following it or breaking those rules is unacceptable. There must be accountability. If you cannot respect the truth and the law, you should resign or be fired. If a person comes to an architectural meeting and it is canceled due to no quorum, that is part of the process. Unfortunately, sometimes a hearing must be postponed a couple of weeks, but that delay does not diminish the importance of following the rules. Thank you.
- **Jenna Bing 36951 Beech Hills Dr:** I wanted to thank Vicki Miller for her great idea to have the residents help the Willoughby Hills Lion's Club collect plastic film. Residents, please keep giving us plastic. The program is called "Bags to Benches." The Lions club is concerned about the environment and this will get us a bench to put someplace.
- Regarding Airbnb's, I just looked online. Could the Law Director please look and see? I can still rent the Airbnb's on Bates Lane, I can still rent one on Dodd Road, and there are two rooms that you can rent in a house right south of Chardon Road on River Road.
- I wanted to congratulate Julie Belich for putting her hat in the ring for State representative in this district. Since there is no other person opposing her, then she will just be going up against Dan Troy, who, I have to say, has done a pretty good job. The Mayor has said he liked what Dan Troy has done for us, but congratulations on putting your hat in, and good luck!

Public Portion #2 closed at 7:21 p.m.

- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** I stand by my statement that I made on March 12, 2026.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER/FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY (Audio 9:40)

- **Council President Kline** wished everyone a happy Easter and Passover season

ADJOURNMENT (Audio 43:30)

Motion made by Councilwoman Belich, seconded by Councilman Knecht to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: **AYES:** Sivo, Taylor Draper, Belich, Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, Knecht, Miller
NAYS: None
Vote: 7/0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

APPROVED: APRIL 9, 2026
Date


Michael Kline
President of Council

ATTEST: Nicholas Aiello
Nicholas Aiello
Clerk of Council