

President of Council
MICHAEL KLINE
Vice President of Council
TANYA TAYLOR DRAPER
Council Clerk
NICHOLAS AIELLO

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

City of Willoughby Hills

Working Committee of Council and Rules & Legislation

Minutes of March 26, 2026

The Working Committee of Council and Rules & Legislation was called to order on **March 26, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.** in Council Chambers. **Council President Kline** presided.

Call to Order 6:15 p.m. (0:05)

ROLL CALL (Audio: 0:16)

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

Also Present: Finance Director Bruce Scott and Law Director Michael A. Kenny Jr.

Absent: Mayor Christopher Hallum

BEGINNING DISPOSITION: (Audio 0:45)

- **Council President Kline** opened the meeting stating he wanted to discuss Ordinance 2026-019 first because Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss was present for questions.

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.

- **Council President Kline** asked Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss to explain what transpired and why we have switched to purchasing this as opposed to the leaf truck that was discussed prior.
- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss** emphasized he waited a long time for this pricing to come back. He noted that there were a few options and different pieces of equipment they could go with. The first one was a leaf collector mounted to a truck. The cost of that alone was around \$300,000.00. That particular vehicle would only do leaves. So, if this were to be purchased, it would sit in the backyard until the leaves fall. He expressed that he didn't think that was a good idea.

- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss** proposed the idea of purchasing a hook lift truck instead of the leaf truck. This truck is multifunctional, and is compatible with dumpster hook-up, flat beds, and leaf machines. He explained that the City could get a hook truck for \$62,187.08 more than this leaf truck, which would just sit until the leaves fall. Road Superintendent Grubiss emphasized that this hook truck could be utilized for many other things besides leaf pick up, such as hauling equipment with a flat bed, attaching a salt spreader to it, and mounting dumpsters on it. He noted that with what is coming up with the service yard, they are going to have a lot of demos that they can do in-house to save money. He thought it would be more enticing to go the route of having a multi-functional truck, and possibly purchase a couple of dumpsters. He noted that with this new truck and additional dumpsters an added benefit would be that they could take them wherever they need and they would not be paying rent. There would be some dump fees, but it is work that is being done in-house.

Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss presented pictures of salt spreaders and leaf boxes that would be compatible with this truck.

- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss** stated that they demoed this truck last week, and the leaf machine can be offloaded in about four minutes. What's nice about these is that the leaf machine can be set on the ground and then they can use the truck for other purposes, such as to grab a dumpster if need be. They could also set up a flat bed and haul equipment to a job site.
- He expressed that the more he thought about this, the more he thought this hook lift would be the better way to go, in order to avoid having a vehicle sitting here all summer and winter. The leaf truck would only be capable of picking up leaves.
- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss** mentioned that he did talk with Finance Director Scott and found half the money in his budget for the overage. There could be more in there, but it is too early in the year to tell. The Finance Director said they could probably make this happen.
- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss** stated that he received a quote of \$357,187.08. He emphasized they would be locked in with this price if this was approved by Council.
- He got a second quote yesterday of \$407,000.00 for the same exact truck. Mark explained that there is a slight difference in the machinery. ODB makes one box, and ARM makes the other box. ODB bought ARM out. It is the same company providing basically the same piece of machinery, but he explained the ARM one has a logan clutch, which is hydraulic, whereas the other truck is manual and belt driven.
- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss** mentioned that having this vehicle would free up some of the service guys because the current leaf system requires four guys, whereas utilizing this truck can bring that down to only one or two. This, in turn, could prevent potential injuries. This truck can be taken out by one person.
- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss** emphasized that this is a good option at this time. He mentioned that they may purchase two dumpsters with some of the old salt dome funds. If they tore down the salt dome, they would be able to utilize those funds.

Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss opened for questions.

- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz** asked if this came with both the leaf collector and the truck.
- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss** confirmed.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz** asked if this option could be taken off, and if other options could be purchased later.
- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss** confirmed. He explained to Council that it would be nice to have their own dumpsters because they could use them for many different scenarios such as City events like Music Fest, disasters such as potential floods, or other situations where they may need them.
- **Council President Kline** asked if **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss** preferred that this ordinance be passed tonight. He confirmed, emphasizing that they only have one of these trucks in stock, and this has his name on it until tomorrow when Council decides to either approve this or not.
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper** asked if the \$290,000.00 was budgeted for this and if the rest of the money would be coming out of the salt budget. **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss** responded saying that it was coming out of his service budget, and the other half would have to be found. He said that while there was a lot of money left in the salt budget, we may need this for winter of 2026.
- **Finance Director Scott** believed that we would get this overage from the salt fund. He complimented **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss** for his conservative approach towards the budget. He followed up explaining to Council that if we had to reallocate some money at the end of the year, this could be done within Mark's budgets. He concluded saying he felt confident that we would be able to get this with the existing budget.
- **Councilwoman Belich** asked if there were any other local communities that utilized this setup. **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss** responded saying he was unaware of other communities having this setup, but Willoughby has one that is mounted to a truck. It used to be a trailer mounted one and it is a full manpower machine.
- **Councilwoman Belich** stated she believed this was a smart acquisition and that she supported this ordinance going through.
- **Council President Kline** thanked Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss for coming in tonight to answer questions.

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.

- **Council President Kline** stated that this is an annual ordinance that deals with the excess sewage that is charged through Willoughby. Willoughby requests that we update our ordinances when they send out the notice of what the change in rates are. This is something that we do on an annual basis.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz** asked if this ordinance simply updates our Codified Ordinances to

reflect that amount being charged for sewage.

- **Finance Director Scott** stated he was unsure how this ordinance affected our rates.
- **Councilman Knecht** stated this was only for extra strength sewage and that this is only for surcharges for businesses that are discharging anything that's above normal sewage. This breaks down the cost per pound for each of those. This is not something that the average house would be charged for. This is such a small section of the City and only affects all businesses at 91 and Maplegrove.
- **Councilwoman Belich** asked if there was a time constraint on passing this.
- **Council Clerk Nicholas Aiello** stated this had been passed on first reading in the past, but it does not need to be if Council does not feel comfortable.

RESOLUTION 2026-004 – FIRST READING

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

- **Council President Kline** stated this Resolution has been passed yearly for quite some time.

PUBLIC PORTION: (Audio 17:25)

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

Public Portion opened at 6:48 p.m.

- Nobody for Public Portion.

Public Portion closed at 6:48 p.m.

LEGISLATION: (Audio 17:45)

- No discussion.

ADJOURNMENT: (Audio 18:17)

- **Motion** made by **Councilwoman Belich**, seconded by **Councilwoman Miller** to adjourn the March 26, 2026 Working Committee of Council and Rules & Legislation.

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

The meeting was adjourned the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

APPROVED: APRIL 9 2026
 Date


Michael Kline
President of Council

ATTEST: Nicholas Aiello
 Nicholas Aiello
 Clerk of Council