

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

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## Regular Council Meeting Minutes of May 14, 2026

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The Regular Council Meeting was called to order on Thursday, May, 2026 at 7:27 p.m. in Council Chambers. **Council President Kline** presided.

**Call to Order 7:27 p.m. (0:05)**

**Cell Phone Reminder to Turn off Devices**

***Pledge of Allegiance (Audio: 0:15)***

### **ROLL CALL (Audio: 0:32)**

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

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

**Absent:** Councilwoman Kathleen Sivo

**Motion** made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by **Councilwoman Belich**, to excuse **Councilwoman Kathleen Sivo** from tonight's meeting.

### **Discussion on the Motion:**

No discussion

**Roll Call:** **AYES:** Belich, Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, Knecht, Miller, Taylor Draper  
**NAYS:** None  
**Vote: 6/0**

The aforementioned motion has carried to excuse **Councilwoman Sivo** from the May 14, 2026 Regular Council Meeting.

## **COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE (Audio 1:35)**

Email dated 5/04/2026 from Jenna Bing Re: Motorcycle  
Email dated 5/04/2026 from council.clerk Re: Short Term Rentals and Historical Sites  
Email dated 5/04/2026 from Scott, Bruce RE: Legislation Pertaining to Insured Cash Sweep Account  
Email dated 5/04/2026 from Scott, Bruce Appropriation Ordinance 2026-035 Draft  
Email dated 5/04/2026 from Scott, Bruce Appropriation Adjustment Ordinance  
Email dated 5/04/2026 from Scott, Bruce RE: Foia request, new one  
Email dated 5/04/2026 from Jenna Bing  
Email dated 5/04/2026 from Novak, Alisa RE: Short Term Rentals and Historical Sites  
Email dated 5/04/2026 from Jenna Bing Re: budget questions from last nights council meeting  
Email dated 5/04/2026 from Mehollin, Karen Service MOU - signed  
Email dated 5/04/2026 from Scott, Bruce FW: Huntington Bank / Star Ohio  
Email dated 5/01/2026 from Fink, Sandra RE: Short Term Rental  
Email dated 5/01/2026 from Pietro DiFranco RE: Liquor License - 2749 SOM Center - Persimmon  
Email dated 5/01/2026 from Dana Skully RE: Short Term Rentals and Historical Sites  
Email dated 5/01/2026 from Hallum, Chris RE: Records Commission Meeting  
Email dated 5/05/2026 from Lloyd, Katherine RE: CSC Meeting 4/29/26 - WEDNESDAY - 4:00 P  
Email dated 4/28/2026 from Scott, Bruce RE: budget questions from last night's council meeting  
Email dated 4/27/2026 from Jenna Bing Re: budget surplus  
Email dated 4/27/2026 from Hallum, Chris RE: Route 91 walking trail  
Email dated 4/27/2026 from Mehollin, Karen Electronic & Shred Days  
Email dated 4/27/2026 from Mehollin, Karen Re: Dates  
Email dated 4/26/2026 from Jarmuszkiewicz, Joe Disc golf  
Email dated 4/24/2026 from Hallum, Chris Mayor's Report - April 23, 2026  
Email dated 4/23/2026 from Mehollin, Karen MOU signed by Union 04/23/2026  
Email dated 4/23/2026 from Mehollin, Karen MOU updated for ordinance 2026-028  
Email dated 4/23/2026 from Taylor Draper, Tanya Re: Employees  
Email dated 4/23/2026 from Scott, Bruce Patrol / Sergeants  
Email dated 4/23/2026 from Mehollin, Karen Sergeants CBA TA – signed 04/23/2026  
Email dated 4/23/2026 from Nardo, Celia S. District Mtng  
Email dated 4/23/2026 from Taylor Draper, Tanya Employees  
Email dated 4/22/2026 from Miller, Vicki Re: Correspondence  
Email dated 4/22/2026 from Grubiss, Mark Re: District Meeting Signs for District 2 and 3 Meetings  
Email dated 4/22/2026 from Lloyd, Katherine WH Civil Service Meeting 4/29/26 - Wednesday - 4:00 PM  
Email dated 4/22/2026 from Mehollin, Karen Signed Patrol TA  
Email dated 4/22/2026 from Mehollin, Karen Re: AFSCME MOU for Ord. 2026-028  
Email dated 4/22/2026 from Mehollin, Karen MOU for 2026-028  
Email dated 4/22/2026 from Taylor Draper, Tanya Tanya's slides  
Email dated 4/21/2026 from Miller, Vicki Correspondence  
Email dated 4/21/2026 from Grubiss, Mark service garage  
Email dated 4/20/2026 from Jarmuszkiewicz, Joe Re: District Meeting Dates  
Email dated 4/20/2026 from Jarmuszkiewicz, Joe Re: Agendas, Minutes, and Legislation for next week  
Email dated 4/20/2026 from Scott, Bruce RE: District Meeting Numbers  
Email dated 4/20/2026 from Mehollin, Karen Re: Senior Levy  
Email dated 4/20/2026 from Mehollin, Karen Re: Senior Room photos  
Email dated 4/20/2026 from Gomillion, Stephanie memo  
Email dated 4/20/2026 from Gomillion, Stephanie RE: MEMO - 2026 Apr 15 - Request to Purchase a 2026 Braun Ambulance  
Email dated 4/17/2026 from Mehollin, Karen Re: Fire Squad Truck Ordinance

Email dated 4/17/2026 from Sivo, Kathleen Spring District Slides  
Email dated 4/17/2026 from Gandee, Robert FW: Updated Purchase Agreement  
Email dated 4/16/2026 from Gandee, Robert Draft Memo for 2026 Ambulance  
Email dated 4/16/2026 from Susnik, Christine A. RE: District Meeting Signs  
Email dated 4/16/2026 from Scott, Bruce RE: Part-Time Employee Pay Rate Increase Impact  
Email dated 4/16/2026 from Taylor Draper, Tanya Re: Burlington Coat Factory Store Relocation Information Needed-Willoughby Hills  
Email dated 4/16/2026 from Lloyd, Katherine FW: WH PCABR Meeting 5/7/26 THURSDAY  
Email dated 4/16/2026 from Scott, Bruce RE: FT Budget Impact  
Email dated 4/16/2026 from Scott, Bruce FW: AFSCME RATES  
Email dated 4/16/2026 from Taylor Draper, Tanya Re: PCABR Meeting for 4/16/26 - CANCELLED

### **PUBLIC PORTION #1 (Audio: 2:05)**

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

Public Portion #1 opened at 7:29 p.m.

- **Jenna Bing 36951 Beech Hills Drive:** Regarding Ordinance 2026-035, as I spoke at Working Committee of Council, all these people are getting \$3,000.00 bonuses. It's not everybody, but an awful lot are. According to the attachment that was on there, it's around \$180,000 that is being spent on signing bonuses in total. We are spending \$180,000.00 on signing bonuses and I just wanted to make sure that everybody was aware of that. It was a little hidden in a lot of stuff there. When I asked about this, I was told to go to the budget. It is hard enough to figure out what is going on in some of these reports, or ensuring that I am reading them right. The more transparent you all could be at covering all the points, the more it would probably help all the people sitting here and sitting at home.
- **Jen Varro 2890 SOM Center Road:** Regarding the ballistic vehicle, I just wanted to know if there was some clarity on the school funding versus the regular ticket money. Again, if there was a true emergency in our City, are we allowed to use the vehicle, or is it for school safety services only? I think it is important that we address that. Thank you.
- **Mark Belich 32700 Chardon Road:** I think the budget is great. You do a great job with the budget. I have no problem looking in there and seeing what is going to be spent or not spent. I really want to take the time to thank everybody for making the effort to post that on the public website and giving us all a hard copy. Thank you.

Public Portion #1 closed at 7:31 p.m.

- **Mayor Hallum:** The signing bonus of \$3,000.00 was included on the summary page with the ordinance with regard to every single one of the ordinances that were passed. It was specifically called out with all the changes that were made.
- **Mayor Hallum:** With regards to the B.A.T.T. it can be used beyond just the school uses; it can be used for anything, but the primary use and purpose are to make schools safer if we are dispatched to some incident there.

## MAYOR'S REPORT (Audio: 5:50)

- **Mayor Hallum:** Good evening!
- Good afternoon! Now that the asphalt plants are open, our road crew has been out patching the worst areas following the harsh winter. Please drive carefully when traveling through road-work zones. ODOT's paving project on River Road is also continuing. We were originally told the work on the south side of Chardon Road would be completed early this week, but due to delays, the new estimate places completion of the south side—and the start of work on the north side—on May 19th. Travel in the construction zone will remain northbound only until the project is finished. ODOT currently estimates approximately three weeks of work, but delays could extend that timeline. If you do not live on River Road, I recommend using alternate routes to avoid potential delays.
- Our seniors have planned an Ice Cream Social for Thursday, June 18th, from 2–5 p.m. in the Senior Room. If you are 55 or older and would like to get the “scoop” on what's new, mark your calendar and stop by for ice cream in the Community Center's lower level.
- Another great event is Lake County Senior Day at the Great Lakes Mall on Tuesday, May 19th. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. with a goody bag and breakfast. The day will include Bingo in the food court, activity stations, vendors, entertainment, and the Outstanding Senior Citizens Awards. Festivities will wrap up at 1:30 p.m. with a door-prize drawing.
- This week, I also created a YouTube channel for the City. We began broadcasting council meetings simultaneously to Facebook and YouTube tonight, and we'll continue adding other videos and content. Be sure to subscribe to the channel when you have a chance.
- I mentioned this in last week's newsletter, but I want to provide an update on the status of the cell tower tonight as well. I received some disappointing news from the cell tower company: AT&T and Verizon shared that the Grange location is not currently a funded site-build area for residential coverage. The good news is that it remains in their long-term plan as an unfunded site. Because the city participates in AT&T's FirstNet program, they will also explore whether the Grange location can be advanced through the FirstNet side of the business for possible funding which could expedite a tower there.
- One more reminder that Saturday, May 23rd from 10-12 Zoom Car Wash is sponsoring the City's Electronic Recycling Day. The event will be held in Marc's parking lot in The Shoppes of Willoughby Hills. Bring all your old electronics, Christmas lights, cables and cords. A small fee may apply to larger items. A list of accepted items (free and those with a fee) can be found in this newsletter. Have a great weekend!

## LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- No Law Director's report.

## FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Audio: 8:55)

- **Finance Director Scott:** April financials were put on the website early last week. If you have any questions, please get back to me once you have had a chance to look at them. Next Council meeting, we are going to be introducing the tax budget. Look for that shortly. I am open for questions.

## CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT (Audio: 9:30)

- **City Engineer DiFranco:** AT&T continues to install fiber in various locations in the City. I think they are substantially complete with construction in the Lareto development and Lamplight Ln. They started in Pebblebrook, and will be doing Sayle Dr. shortly. I received plans for work on Kennelly Dr., Dodd's Hill, and Dodd's Landing. That completes my report.
- **Mayor Hallum:** Prior to the bridge being taken out on Chardon Rd. near the School of Innovation, the gas company Enbridge put a new shut off down by the church on Chardon Rd. When they did that, it was getting into winter, and the asphalt plants closed, so they did what they could to make the road in an okay condition. Some of that has started popping loose. As people are driving over it, you hear loud noises at all hours of the day and night. We have contacted Enbridge, and they have assured us that they have not forgotten, and they need to properly put asphalt in there. We have made them aware that it does affect our residents that live nearby, hearing that all through the night. If anyone is listening and has concerns about that, it is being addressed and will be taken care of soon.
- **City Engineer DiFranco:** I did receive an email today, and they are planning to do that this weekend.
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** Is this by Calvary Church?
- **Mayor Hallum:** Yes.
- **Councilwoman Belich:** Can you speak to short-term rentals and where we are with them? We have recognized that there were some that were still up and running. Have there been ongoing building inspections or follow-ups on those locations, which should not be in business nor should be up for advertising?
- **Council President Kline** noted that this would be brought up during Old Business.
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** Are you able to share anything going on with the Dollar General lawsuit?
- **Mayor Hallum:** Yes, they dropped it, again. At this point, there is no lawsuit against us from Dollar General. That doesn't mean that they wouldn't come back, or couldn't come back again. It is certainly their right to do that, but, at this time, there is no lawsuit with Dollar General.
- **Councilwoman Belich:** With regard to the site that is next to Cleveland Clinic, is there any more information that can be provided? When the PCABR meeting occurred, there was no audio on that, so, if there was commentary with that, I did not get to hear that information.
- **Mayor Hallum:** For those of you who would like to hear that, this is on the audio recording for that meeting. This meeting was a work session and discussion about it. What the Classic Auto is wanting to do is put a detail center across the street, next door to the Cleveland Clinic. They have two properties immediately next to it and have pending determination by PCABR and by Council as to whether they would permit a zoning change for that, per the new required process following the repealing of referendum zoning.

- The next step is a public hearing, which will be announced. I think they are shooting for the first meeting in June. I would encourage anyone who wants to have a better understanding or has questions or concerns to attend that meeting. This will be the first step in this new process.

**BOARDS & COMMISSIONS REPORTS / COMMITTEE REPORTS (Audio 14:25)**

**PC-ABR reported by Council Vice President Taylor Draper (Audio 15:25)**

- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** I would like to report on Planning and Zoning Architectural Board of Review. The group met on May 7. During the Architectural Board portion of the meeting, we approved:
  - A new home at **34240 Giovanni S/L 10**
  - A garage addition and deck at **2837 Orchard Dr.**
  - A new house at **31100 S/L 1** at the Maypine Park LLC
  - An Iafelice House approved at **2790 Worrell Rd.**
  - A detached garage at **26601 White Rd.**
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** The mayor already discussed the work session that occurred with Classic during the Planning portion of the meeting.
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** There was a discussion with the group about small box discount stores. We are requesting that the Law Director attend these meetings in order to provide us with a basis for this. There was a healthy discussion on it. The group wants to put guard-rails on what is considered a small box store, and where it can be in order to protect our residents from situations we have avoided, such as with Dollar General. That was it, and I stand open for questions.

**Recreation Commission reported by Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz**

No report.

**Beautification Committee reported by Council Vice President Taylor Draper (Audio 14:35)**

- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** The representatives met with Mayor Hallum last week and discussed a few city-wide improvements, such as:
  - The purchasing of the new city limit signs and removing the plant boxes at the foot of these signs
  - Possible upgrades with our front entrance signs
  - Improving our City Hall garden with additional perennials

- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** We also discussed the upcoming celebration of America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday and how the City can celebrate. We would be encouraging our residents and businesses to decorate as well.

**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.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (Audio: 17:30)**

- **Council President Kline** asked Mayor Hallum if he had any updates on the flooding that has occurred in the last month.
- **Mayor Hallum:** I have my first meeting scheduled with Mayor Bodnar next week. We will be sitting down with her city engineer, as well as with Pete and Mark to look at what happened, and see if we can identify if there are any issues, and potential solutions. I will know more after we sit down to look at the situation.
- **Council President Kline** asked Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz if he had met with Dave Walters to walk the proposed disc golf course in Campbell Park.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** I emailed Dave, and he hasn't set a specific date to do this yet. I can reach out again to see when he would be willing to meet with the Mayor and Council to walk through the course.
- **Council President Kline:** Moving on to short-term rentals, we are still gathering information from communities close and further away, to see if they have any ordinances related to short-term rentals, specifically in regard to historical homes/historical structures. We want to get as much information as we can before presenting an ordinance to council. This ordinance would provide a definition for homes that could qualify as short-term rentals, in terms of uniqueness of design, and architectural significance, while also excluding properties that have gotten a plaque, which is unrelated to anything of significance or truly unique, historical nature. Hopefully, by the next meeting, we will have information that can be discussed in the Working Committee.
- *Discussion regarding traffic problems on Bishop Rd. (Audio 20:35-49:25)*
- **Council President Kline:** The last thing I wanted to bring up is an update on the Bishop Road traffic problems. Last fall, Council met with the Chief of Police and Captain Leonbruno to discuss the area on Bishop Rd. where it narrows from two lanes to one lane going south. At the time, we all thought we could put down some cross striping where it would push the traffic from right to left and take care of the two lanes merging problem. Unfortunately, we found out from the City Engineer that we cannot do cross striping on Bishop Rd. We have done a lot of reviewing of that situation in the fall.

*Council presentation and discussion on pictures of Bishop Road (Audio 21:50-26:40)*

- **Council President Kline:** Another problem noted pertains to vehicles not adhering to the law and accelerating around school buses that have stopped, or coming toward school buses and not stopping even when the red light is up. When talking with the Chief of Police, we were told the bus drivers hold responsibility of trying to get as much information as they can about people that are violating the law, whether that pertains to license plates, car descriptions, driver descriptions, etc. They are then supposed to turn that in to the school districts, who, in turn, is supposed to get the information to the police. Willoughby Hills has not been getting reports of this at all. Either there are no violations, or they are not being reported to us. If they come to us, they are certainly investigated.
- **Council President Kline:** The third issue with this area pertains to heavy trucks on Bishop and White Rd. We are looking at the feasibility of some type of security cameras being put up on Chardon or White Rd. to try to capture anyone that may be violating it. Before that, I would like to ask the residents of Bishop and White Rd. to try and take pictures or videos of these vehicles, and pass this along to Council. We will go forward with this, until, and if we can get some type of surveillance.
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** I understand that our Police Department is saying that these incidents are not occurring. However, I am in contact with residents who say it is. I am not sure where to go from here. We have people living in a spot 24/7 who say that they do see semi-trucks, people speeding, and people violating school bus stop signs. There needs to be an eye showing what is going on.
- I did speak with Steve Monte, who is the director of transportation for the City of Willoughby-Eastlake Schools. He said that this happens all the time. Buses are being passed by, and cars are not stopping when kids are exiting and entering buses. They have cameras on some of the buses, but they're hoping to get cameras on all the buses. My question to him was why his bus drivers weren't reporting this. He told me that their focus is on the child when they are exiting or entering the bus. If they see a car that is coming around, and shouldn't be, they are not writing down license plate numbers or taking pictures of the driver to get a description, their focus is on the child. In talking with the Police Chief, we are going to make sure that these pictures and videos that they have from the cameras on these school buses are getting to our Police Department. We need to be going after these folks who are violating our laws and endangering our kids who are exiting and entering buses. This is something that I do plan to pursue with Mr. Monte to make sure that this information is getting to our Police Department.
- There are several issues on Bishop Rd. As you mentioned, there are bus issues, speeding, and, according to people I have talked to who live on White Rd., semi-trucks coming down their street every day. These are two different people who live on two different areas on White Rd. This is what they see on a day in and day out basis. Our police may not always see that because they may just be driving through. Our residents who live there on an everyday basis are telling me that this is what is happening. We have people violating our laws. We do have things that we need to pursue and try to stop this. I am not saying that this isn't something that happens in every city; I am not worried about every city, I am worried about our residents. I want to make sure that they feel safe in their homes and that their children are safe when they send their children on school buses.

- In the darkness of the winter, and when there are no street lights or sidewalks those kids are on the edge of that road and we have people speeding through. Luckily, by the grace of God, we have had nobody who has gotten hurt. Things can happen like that. We should not allow that in our city. I don't want people to speed in our City. As I have mentioned, we don't have sidewalks and streetlights in a lot of places, and it is endangering our people. If we have residents who are telling us that this is happening, I want to believe that it is. I spoke to a gentleman on White Rd., and asked him why he isn't reporting these things to the police. His words exactly were, "It is useless to call because you guys are not going to do anything about it." This is something that I have been hearing. People question why they should call or come to meetings if they feel we are not going to do anything. That saddens me because we are in the position to do something. This deserves more conversation.
- It is on the Willoughby Hills schools to make sure that their drivers are reporting this, or making some kind of documentation. I am going to make sure that Mr. Monte is doing that. We need to do something because people do not feel safe, and that is a major issue for me.
- **Council President Kline:** It is my understanding that large vehicles can come in using White Rd. If they have to make a delivery there. They are permitted to come in. They are not supposed to use it as a through road, going from Richmond to SOM Center Rd., but if there is a house along the way or a side street along the way, they can enter as part of their normal delivery schedule.
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** Right. There is a sign as you turn on from White Rd. to 91 that prohibits trucks from going through. They can't just be going through; they have to be making deliveries or something. That is not what these residents are saying; they are saying these big semitrucks go down the street. I don't believe they are making this up. I think there should be a better way of capturing what is going on. Whether it is happening or not happening, we need to know this.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiwicz:** In the past, we have talked about a traffic study. Does that measure how many trucks and cars go down the road, and at what speeds they go at? I am not exactly sure how they work, but I believe the last one that was done was in 2025 and it predicted how much traffic would be in the area based on statistics, growth, development, businesses, etc. I wonder if it is time for another traffic study to see what the problem is. This way, we would have a report of what is going on.
- **City Engineer DiFranco:** A traffic study could be tailored to whatever you want to determine. In a simple traffic study, they would put those wires across the street and count cars. Or, they can have someone sitting on the corner and counting trucks, cars, pedestrians, etc. It all depends on the scope that you define, and what you are trying to solve. Bishop was widened by ODOT 20 years ago. At that time, they knew the traffic counts and also projected 20 years ahead. That is what this is designed for. This has been designed for a certain amount of volume. I looked at it; it meets all the standards. I don't see anything wrong with it (the taper, signs, pavement markings). If they determine that their projections from 20 years ago have significantly increased, then, it may result in a recommendation that Bishop Rd. should get widened further south to allow more vehicles to pass through so there is not a bottleneck.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiwicz:** They just redid that bridge for a two-lane road. I see that as one problem. But extending the merging lane or somehow controlling the truck traffic coming through there—I don't know what the situation with that could be.

- **City Engineer DiFranco:** There are already signs out there that prohibit trucks.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiwicz:** Do we actively enforce the laws on that?
- **City Engineer DiFranco:** It is an enforcement issue. Putting up more signs or pavement markings is not going to solve it.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiwicz:** Maybe we need to have a little more enforcement or more warnings to make people aware of the laws of that road, and that they could get ticketed.
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** What factors are used in their projections? What are they basing that on?
- **City Engineer DiFranco:** They are basing this on development. They consider the shopping development nearby, the apartment buildings, and all those things that generate traffic.
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** Since then, we have had the senior homes, the apartments they are thinking of putting in Richmond Heights, Westpines, Maypines, etc. It is not just the apartments. There's quite a large number of homes, people, and traffic that have come since this study has been done. Also, the businesses coming in. They projected these, but did they project all the homes, apartments, and senior living facilities going on around there?
- We need to determine if the addition of all these homes and apartments are going to affect the residents who live on Bishop Rd. and new businesses. Long term, we need to figure this out. If things go the way that they are supposed to be going, there's going to be a whole lot of traffic for people in Bishop Rd. to get in and out. Is that safe for them? I think the objective of a traffic study would be to determine if all of this is going to cause any hardship for the people who live on that street.
- **City Engineer DiFranco:** The objective would be whether or not you want to widen Bishop Rd. That would be the solution. What other option is there?
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** You are saying that would be what the traffic study would determine?
- **City Engineer DiFranco:** Correct.
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** I think that would be up to these residents.
- **City Engineer DiFranco:** Once the traffic study is done, and that is the recommendation, then it is up to Council to determine if you want to proceed.
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** I would want to hear from the residents. I don't know if they would want to give up property frontage for safety. This would have to be something that they would have to decide.
- **Councilwoman Miller** referred to one of the pictures displayed on the screen, and noted that she felt that merging was confusing because the right lane looks like a natural flowing road that wants to continue, rather than merge.

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- **Councilwoman Miller** referred to one of the pictures displayed on the screen, and noted that she felt that merging was confusing because the right lane looks like a natural flowing road that wants to continue, rather than merge.

- **Councilwoman Miller:** I was out there for about 15 minutes around 10:30 a.m. and witnessed about six different incidents within that time. One was where a car did the correct thing, and went into the left lane where the right lane ends. They were going to make a right turn on Evergreen, and a car just continued to follow that curb lane, and ended up turning in front of them. That was kind of a weird situation. I also witnessed three races within 15 minutes. There was a police officer sitting in the CVS parking lot watching. Shortly after, they left. During that same period, police had been dispatched both to the towers and to Bishop Park.
- Regarding the buses, is there something that we can do to help with the cameras so that they are able to make reports? It is getting really crazy out there. I watch it every morning. I have seen cars blow pass school buses on River Rd. that are stopped. I know that bus driver, and she tries to pull over and then sits there and stops to wait before she even allows the kids to cross the road. It is taking longer for the kids to board the bus because they are very concerned for their safety. I have seen cars coming when she is at a full stop and they just keep coming. Is there a way to use some of our school zone fines to help support our schools with that?
- **Mayor Hallum:** We did meet with the school, and we did explain to them that there is a program similar to our traffic enforcement program, that is available to the schools. They can have their own program where they can attach cameras to the sides of their mirrors, and tickets can get mailed out to violators. They are looking into this. I think that is the quickest and most effective way of handling that situation.
- This should also potentially help some of their funding problems, by catching these folks that are breaking the law at the time they do it. They are guaranteed to get them every time because it will capture a picture and mail them a violation. I am hopeful the schools will do something like that because it is their issue to resolve. We have helped them by making them aware of this program. I hope they will seriously look into this to make it safer for our children.
- **Mayor Hallum:** I did not get to speak to the police vehicle that was brought up tonight. I just wanted to speak to the short period of time comment that Council Vice President Taylor Draper brought up. This has been looked into for a while. It was planned to bring this to Council, and there was no concern about how long Council would have to look at it until we spoke to a gentleman at this business. He informed us about all this information related to the HSI and other countries that are placing orders.
- It is not to say that we need to do this quickly, it is just to provide you with all the facts. If we decide to wait on this, there is a risk that it could be years before we get this vehicle. It would be improper for the police not to share with you all the information. This does not mean that you need to do something this instant. What it does mean is that, we don't know when a potential school situation could happen, and this vehicle may be helpful to have. It is incumbent upon you all to make this decision. I want you to understand that the intent here is to give you all the information.
- I know we have had conversations before about not wanting to get things urgently. We are very cognizant of that, but I did not want to *not* share that information with all of you.
- **Council President Kline:** I will pass along Pete's comments to Mark Grubiss about the signs on Bishop Rd. being too close together. To me, there was definitely not enough warning that you have to merge. Hopefully, this will give people some more distance and information.

**CONSENT:**

**DISPOSITION OF THE JOURNAL**

Approval of the April 23, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Approval of the April 23, 2026 Working Committee of Council and Rules & Legislation Minutes

**ORDINANCE 2026-035-FIRST READING**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1 OF ORDINANCE NO. 2026-001 TO COMPLY WITH STATE BUDGETARY LAWS REQUIRING MUNICIPALITIES TO MAINTAIN POSITIVE ACCOUNT BALANCES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR; REPEALING CONFLICTING LEGISLATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**RESOLUTION 2026-005-FIRST READING**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF MAY AS “OLDER OHIOANS MONTH” IN THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS.**

**RESOLUTION 2026-006-FIRST READING**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ESTABLISH AN INSURED CASH SWEEP ACCOUNT WITH HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**RESOLUTION 2026-007-FIRST READING**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ESTABLISH A CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT ACCOUNT REGISTRY SERVICE WITH HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**RESOLUTION 2026-008-FIRST READING**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE OFFICIAL INTENT AND REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE BORROWER) TO REIMBURSE ITS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS FUND FOR THE CG46AC / CG47AC, LAK-SR 174-00.00 RESURFACING WITH THE PROCEEDS OF TAX EXEMPT DEBT OF THE STATE OF OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**RESOLUTION 2026-009-FIRST READING**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF PAINESVILLE TO ALLOW PAINESVILLE TO BENEFIT FROM THE TRASH SERVICE CONTRACT THAT WILLOUGHBY HILLS HAS WITH MAJOR WASTE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

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

**Roll Call:**     **AYES:** Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, Knecht, Miller, Taylor Draper, Belich  
                  **NAYS:** None  
                  **Vote:** 6/0

The aforementioned motion has carried to adopt the items in the consent agenda.

**LEGISLATION:**

**ORDINANCE 2026-036-FIRST READING**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN ANY AND ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO SECURE THE PURCHASE OF A BALLISTIC ARMORED TACTICAL TRANSPORT (B.A.T.T.) ARMORED RESCUE VEHICLE FOR THE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM THE ARMORED GROUP, 5221 N. SADDLE ROCK DRIVE, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85018 FOR THE ESTIMATED PURCHASE PRICE OF \$381,140.00 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

- Ordinance 2026-036 remains on First Reading.

**NEW BUSINESS (Audio 57:20)**

- **Motion** made by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz**, seconded by **Councilwoman Miller**, authorizing the Clerk of Council to confirm with the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of Liquor Control, that no objection and need for hearing is requested by the City regarding Persimmon Lane LTD 2749 B Som Center Road Willoughby Hills OH 44094 under transaction number OCT NEW 10015776-1.

**Discussion of Motion:**

No discussion.

**Roll Call:**     **AYES: Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, Knecht, Miller, Taylor Draper, Belich**  
                  **NAYS: None**  
                  **Vote: 6/0**

The aforementioned motion has passed.

**PUBLIC PORTION #2 (Audio 58:30)**

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

**Public Portion #2 opened at 8:25 p.m.**

- **Jen Varro 2890 SOM Center Road:** I would like to once again address the ongoing flooding concerns affecting our residents. During the last significant storm event, many homeowners experienced flooding issues, property damage, overwhelmed drainage systems, and water intrusion in yards and basements. Streets such as Lamplight Ln., where there are only sanitary sewer lines, may need to consider installing dedicated storm water infrastructure in the future. While projects of this nature are costly, and assessments are commonly part of those improvements, it may be the most cost effective way to solve the flooding effects. Many other residents throughout our City have previously had to contribute toward infrastructure projects benefitting their neighborhoods. These are difficult conversations, but they are necessary. If we are serious about addressing long-term flooding concerns, this would be better than continuing with temporary fixes. Protecting our residents in our homes should be one of the highest priorities.
- In regard to the current referendum zoning discussion with the Classic Auto Dealerships at the corner of 91 and I-90, we, as a City, need to determine what is truly the end goal of this proposal. It is vital that the benefit to the City is a benefit, not the business trying to relieve current congestion

on their current lot with a detail shop, or, ultimately moving one of their brands across the street. We do not need another car dealership in the area. This proposal is not creating any additional income to our City, and will be an eye sore for our neighbors. They are proposing 288 parking spots for a detail shop that really only needs 23 spots. It is important that this is taken into a great consideration.

- Also, I hope that we are careful on the preliminary approval after what we saw happen with the Dollar General. We need to be very thorough on this. The Mayor had suggested creating a possible zoning category that would limit specific use and protect residential areas that neighbor our new developments. I think this is a really great idea.
- Finally, in reference to the ballistic truck proposal, I thank the Mayor for saying we need to take the time on it. I think we have been okay all this time, and we know that the County does have a truck if it were to be needed. In reality, if you all did approve it, and it was ordered, something could happen the next day and we wouldn't have that truck. I think it is important that this is really thought about thoroughly and discussed. This is a huge sum of money for a vehicle, and I don't know how often it would be used. We already have some in the area. Thank you.
- **Jenna Bing 36951 Beech Hills Drive:** I would really ask that you consider some kind of ordinance about how to deal with our Rainy Day Fund. I believe Ohio put in the 40% of operating budget as the upper limit of how much rainy day funds they could have, because they were hoarding a lot of money. We don't have one. When I asked what should be a good number, I was told that if I were to ask eight people, I would get different answers. I don't think we have a guideline for our surpluses. I think that would be a very good thing to put in place, because we probably will continue to have surpluses for a while.
- I wanted to let you all know, I sit on the Senior Tax Levy Board, and a consultant happened to share with us some facts across the country, and definitely pertaining to Lake County. Senior Housing is a huge problem. He had some information about a solution, which includes changing the zoning so that it will allow small accessory dwelling units for family members. For example, if I had a mother-in-law and I needed her close, I could build an accessory unit for dwelling, for her, on my one acre. Most of these places have room for it. I am going to be bringing this up with zoning for them to consider as a zoning change. I just want to give you guys a heads up. If you are interested in this, you should talk to them also. I think there is an interest in our community for this, and I think there are a lot of people who would welcome the ability to have this. The goal is to help seniors, and I thought I would bring this up.

Public Portion #2 closed at 8:31 p.m.

- **Mayor Hallum:** Just for clarification purposes, the detail shop that they are proposing *will* add income to the community. Not only is this a detail shop, but they will also be putting their internet sales group in there. There will be some additional revenue coming in from that location. If we decided to move forward with this and get your approval, it also solves the issue of their trucks unloading on SOM Center Rd. All of their trucks would now go onto that property. There is enough space for them to come all the way around and unload on that property. Even though they are not supposed to, they still do. This would resolve a safety issue for the City.
- I have had some discussions with Classic. If this is to move forward, one of the things I would like to see happen would be the inclusion of a reader board in front of this to allow us to communicate more information about events going on in the City.

- They are receptive to turning over some of that property closer to the highway to us to enable us to install a cell tower off the highway. I am hopeful this will help us also get a tower on our east end to cover many residents who don't have access now. There would be significant benefits to the City by doing this project down the road.
- Regarding additional accessory dwelling units, I did bring this in front of PCABR a month or so ago. Everyone was receptive to it. This is something that PCABR plans to have a conversation on. Part of this process includes site visits, to see what the needs of some of our residents are, as a couple of residents have come forward. This is a conversation PCABR has already had and plans to continue.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER/FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY (Audio 1:08:14)**

- **Councilwoman Miller:** I want to ask the public for some respect during meetings. There were a lot of side conversations going on that made it difficult for me to comprehend some of the things that were being said by the Police Chief and the Sergeant today. Please try to keep your conversations to a minimum when there is a presentation going on.
- **Councilwoman Miller** wished everyone a safe Memorial Day weekend.
- **Councilwoman Miller:** With school being out, please be aware of speeds, especially in the detour areas. We have 25 mph speed limits on Eddy Rd., which is a detour around the bridge. There is also going to be a long detour on River Rd. Please use alternative routes if you do not have to be on River Rd.
- **Mayor Hallum:** We did order, and are in the process of installing solar speed signs. We are putting them temporarily in the detour areas right now to try to make people more aware of their speeds and slow them down. Once the detour is over, we will put these in other locations where we may need them.
- **Mayor Hallum:** As a part of America 250's celebration, some of you may have heard of the Revolutionary War soldier that is buried in the cemetery behind where the old Local Tavern is on 6. There has been an effort by Linda O'Brian, who runs Liberty Camp, along with Men of Honor, and my non-profit Hallum's Heroes, to raise funds to be able to renovate, refurbish, and replace the Revolutionary hero's headstone, as well as a Civil War veteran's headstone. The Civil War veteran was not buried there, but he has a headstone there. We have raised those funds. Sometime in June, all the work will be done, and we will have a ceremony and unveiling of the cleaned up and revitalized cemetery. It will have fencing around it, and should be a very beautiful and nice memorial to America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- **Council President Kline:** On Memorial Day, at 11:00 a.m., there will be a program across the street. Memorial Day is a celebration honoring those who have paid the ultimate price.
- **Council President Kline** reminded everyone in congruence with the passage of Resolution 2026-005, 30% of Lake County's population is classified as older Americans.

**ADJOURNMENT (Audio 1:14:00)**

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

Roll Call: **AYES:** Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, Knecht, Miller, Sivo, Taylor Draper, Belich  
**NAYS:** None  
Vote: 6/0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

APPROVED: 5/28/26  
Date

  
Michael Kline  
President of Council

ATTEST: Nich Aiello  
Nicholas Aiello  
Clerk of Council