

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

Regular Council Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2024

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order on Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. **Council President Kline** presided.

Call to Order 7:00 p.m. (0:02)

Cell Phone Reminder to Turn off Devices

Pledge of Allegiance (Audio: 0:19)

ROLL CALL (Audio: 0:45)

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

In Attendance: Law Director Michael Lucas, City Engineer Pete DiFranco, and Finance Director Bruce Scott, Mayor Hallum

Absent: Councilman Dan Knecht

SWEARING IN OF FULL-TIME FIREFIGHTERS

PATRICK BEHM

Motion made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by **Councilwoman Belich** to excuse **Councilman Knecht** from the September 12, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council.

Discussion on the Motion:

Council President Kline stated that Councilman Knecht did notify Council of his absence.

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

Motion passes to excuse **Councilman Knecht** from the September 12, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council.

DISPOSITION OF THE JOURNAL (Audio : 5:50)

Motion made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by **Councilwoman Sivo** to approve the August 20 Special Meeting of Council minutes.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

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

Motion passed to approve the August 20 Special Meeting of Council minutes.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE (Audio 6:30)

09/09 /24 pc-abr FW: WH PCABR Meeting 9/5/24 - THURSDAY 7:00 PM
09/09 /24 Elizabeth Rothenberg agendas
09/09 /24 Katherine D. Lloyd BZA Meeting September 10, 2024
09/09 /24 Gloria Majeski Re: Upload errors on Ordinances 38 and 39 on website
09/09 /24 Tanya Taylor Draper Please print for each Council member for dias
09/09 /24 Stephanie E. Landgraf Fwd: 27853 Chardon Road, Willoughby Hills - Assignment of CRA Agreement
09/09 /24 Dan Knecht Committee and Council Meeting week of 9/9
09/07 /24 Karen Mehollin Fwd: Brewer Garrett
09/06/24 Katherine D. Lloyd Re: BZA minutes
09/06/24 whdrane1@aol.com Re: Correction
09/06/24 Willoughby Hills Recreation Dept.
09/05/24 Pietro DiFranco RE: Agenda and Legislation for Working Committee of Council and Rules and Legislation
09/05/24 Pietro DiFranco RE: Maypine Legislation - Ord 2024-039
09/05/24 Michael C. Lucas RE: Legislation, HVAC
09/05/24 Karen Mehollin FW: Brewer Garrett
09/05/24 Finance Director RE: FRAUD TRAINING
09/03/24 pc-abr FW: BZA Minutes 8/13/24
09/03/24 Julie Belich Re: Gardner Resolution (signing and presentation info)
09/03/24 Mark Grubiss RE: Sidewalk Feedback - Iafelice
08/29/24 bza WH BZA Meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 - 8:00 PM
08/29/24 Stephanie Kellner Re: August Legislation
08/29/24 Pietro DiFranco RE: Maypines Legislation for September 12 Meeting
08/29/24 Robert Gandec Auto Extrication Training
08/27/24 Willoughby Hills Finance Dept. FW: Meter reading request - SHAREN MICHNEY, CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS - CITY HALL
08/27/24 Bza FW: September bza meeting
08/27/24 Karen Mehollin Updated Roster
08/27/24 Mayor Hallum RE: Thank you
08/26/24 Thomas Lobe Re: 2890 SOM Center Road Letter from Atty Rothenberg for Varro residence and Assessment Area B.
08/26/24 nfellowsobn@gmail.com RE: Dollar General Store

08/23/24 Willoughby Hills Finance Dept. 8/23/24 MAIL HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED
08/21/24 Vicki Miller Re: Audio on Facebook Live
08/21/24 Finance Director RE: Minutes for Special Council
08/20/24 Nathan Bevil RE: Certified Local Government Grant
08/20/24 Seams To Bee Re: Fall Craft Show
08/20/24 pc-abr WH PCABR Meeting 9/5/24 - THURSDAY 7:00 PM
08/20/24 Pietro DiFranco RE: Legislation and agenda for Special Meeting of Council Tuesday, August
08/19/2024 Willoughby Hills Finance Dept. 8/19/24 MAIL HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED
08/19/2024 Finance Director Ordinance / Resolution Revisions
08/19/2024 Karen Mehollin Evolve visit this week
08/19/2024 Katherine D. Lloyd Re: Public Portion BZA Meeting
08/18/2024 Mike Kline Re: Resolution for Andy
08/16/2024 Dan Knecht Re: Special Meeting of Council
08/16/2024 Michael C. Lucas RE: Legislation for Tuesday
08/16/2024 Finance Director FRAUD TRAINING
08/15/2024 Lenette Beasley Invoice 35945 from American Legal Publishing
08/15/2024 Mike Kline Re: Resolution for Andy
08/15/2024 Finance Director THEN AND NOW RESOLUTION
08/15/2024 Nico Viola Re: Bauccho Follow-up - BZA meeting of August 13, 2024
08/15/2024 Finance Director APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE
08/13/2024 Willoughby Hills Fire Rescue RE: Karen
08/13/2024 Pietro DiFranco RE: Legislation for Tuesday's Special Council Meeting
08/12/2024 Willoughby Hills Finance Dept. RE: Walter Drane Co - 2024 update
08/12/2024 Willoughby Hills Court RE: Karen
08/12/2024 Bushman, Lindsey RE: Karen
08/12/2024 Building Dept. RE: Karen
08/12/2024 Katherine D. Lloyd Fw: PCABR Meeting on Thursday, 8/15/24 at 7:00 PM.
08/12/2024 Willoughby Hills Recreation Dept. Karen
08/12/2024 Katherine D. Lloyd Re: BZA Meeting 8/13/24 Tuesday at 8:00 PM
08/12/2024 Pietro DiFranco RE: Maypine Park 2-Legislation for Final Plat & Andrews Ln Dedication
08/12/2024 Building Dept. RE: BZA Meeting 8/13/24 Tuesday at 8:00 PM
08/12/2024 whdranel@aol.com 2024 REPLACEMENT PAGES
08/12/2024 whdranel@aol.com Walter Drane Co - 2024 update
08/12/2024 Willoughby Hills Recreation Dept. BZA Meeting Audio
08/10/2024 Katherine D. Lloyd Re: BZA Meeting 8/13/24 Tuesday at 8:00 PM
08/09/2024 Fink, Sandra RE: Had to at least share with my sister cities!!! <3
08/09/2024 Pietro DiFranco Res 2024-018 Exhibits - West Pines
08/08/2024 Katherine D. Lloyd Re: Conditional Approval - Accessory Structure - 37250 Chardon
08/07/2024 Tammy Wagner 5145605 WILLOUGHBY HILLS, CITY OF / Omnia OH Contract / MicroTech
08/07/2024 Julie Belich Re: Sunshine Training Reminder
08/06/2024 Seams To Bee Re: Fall Craft Show 08/06/2024
08/06/2024 Mike Kline August 20 Special Council Meeting
08/06/2024 Ohio History Fund grant program Ohio History Connection: Registration for Online Application
08/06/2024 Gomillion, Stephanie FW:
08/05/2024 Finance Director FW: Payment confirmation: Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Assistance to Firefighters Grants
grant number EMW-2021-FG-00423
08/02/2024 Tanya Taylor Draper Re: Fall 2023 District Meetings
08/02/2024 Tanya Taylor Draper Re: Special Meeting of Council
08/01/2024 Karen Mehollin RE: minutes - finance director
07/31/2024 Stephanie Kellner Re: Adopted Legislation for July and August Schedule
07/30/2024 Pietro DiFranco RE: Lake County Ohio Discovery Meeting (City of Willoughby Hills)

07/28/2024 Pat Perrino Re: West Pines subdivision
07/26/2024 Stephanie Kellner Re: Adopted Legislation for July and August Schedule
07/26/2024 CemeteryGrants@com.ohio.gov RE: Cemetery Grant Application for Willoughby Hills OH
07/26/2024 Pietro DiFranco RE: Street name - Giovanni Avenue - West Pines
07/25/2024 Pat Perrino West Pines subdivision
07/25/2024 pc-abr FW: WH PCABR Meeting 8/1/24 at 7:00 PM - CANCELLED
07/25/2024 Thomas Lobe Re: cemetery app from OH.gov
07/25/2024 Mike Kline 7-08-24 Working committee minutes
07/25/2024 Michael C. Lucas Amended Ordinance re Street Name Change
07/24/2024 Pat Perrino West pine street naming
07/24/2024 Tanya Taylor Draper Re: Minutes for Regular Council 7/11/24 and Working Com 7/8/24
07/23/2024 Joe Jarmus Re: Agenda and for 7/25/24
07/23/2023 Willoughby Hills Finance Dept. 7/22/24 MAIL AND APPROVED POs HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED
07/22/2024 Michael C. Lucas Engineering RFQ Ordinance
07/22/2024 pc-abr Celebration of Life for Carol Lillich
07/22/2024 Mike Kline Working Committee Agenda
07/22/2024 Michael C. Lucas RE: Engineer RFQ - US6 & SR 91 Sidewalks -ODOT HSIP Funding
07/22/2024 Karen Mehollin RE: Ordinance No. 2024-035 mcl revised
07/22/2024 Michael C. Lucas RE: FEMA AFG Grant Legislation
07/22/2024 Karen Mehollin ORD 2024-037 Chardon Rd and Route 6 Sidewalk Grant

PUBLIC PORTION #1 (Audio: 6:47)

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

Public Portion #1 opened at 7:07 p.m.

No one spoke.

Public Portion #1 closed at 7:07 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT (Audio: 7:20)

- Good evening. It looks like Mother Nature is going to give us a gorgeous day for Touch-a-Truck Saturday. I hope to see many of you at the event that is from 10am to 2pm Saturday at City Hall. In addition to vehicles from the WHFD, WHPD and Service Department, we are expecting vehicles on display from the Lake County Sheriffs Department, the Ohio Highway Patrol, the Western Lake County SWAT Team and other area agencies as well as medical helicopters from University Hospitals and MetroHealth, the first of which expected to arrive at City Hall at approximately 10:30 AM and depart around 11:30 AM. The second helicopter is expected around 12:00 PM and will depart at 1:00 PM (please note that their appearance is tentative based upon a number of factors, including if they receive a call for service). The Fire Department will also be demonstrating the tools and techniques used to extricate a victim trapped in a damaged vehicle following an accident. This demonstration is expected to start around 1:00 PM. Parking will be available in the Community Center and Roemisch Fields parking lots. As a quick reminder, pickle ball and tennis players who wish to enter or exit Campbell Park during those hours should park in the Eddy Road parking lot. Please do not attempt to drive through the event or use the Police Department emergency access driveway.

- Road paving continues on Chardon Rd between Rockefeller and SOM Center Rd. Traffic in that area continues to be West bound only. Please do not attempt to travel East bound for any reason (even for a short distance). Officers are patrolling the area and will issue citations for this risky behavior. The paving is still on schedule and is expected to be completed in the next few weeks.
- The base layer and striping are complete. East bound traffic will continue to be closed. The construction company will begin working on the metal work, storm sewers, and traffic light sensors. Please drive carefully when entering, exiting, and driving through the construction zone. Saving a few minutes of time is not worth your life, the life of a road worker or passengers of another vehicle.
- Tonight, I support passage of ordinance 2024-32 to cleanup inactive funds in our finance system. I support passage of ordinance 2024-40 to execute the agreement with Brewer Garrett to maintain our HVAC at City Hall, the Police Station, and Community Center. We believe the service from Brewer Garrett will be an improvement from the current servicer. The City paid over \$50,000 last year to our current provider to service the same facilities that, under this contract, will cost the city approximately \$35,000. Lastly, I support passage of Resolution 2024-22 which will enable the city to apply to be part of the Ohio Public Works Capital Improvement/Local Transportation Improvement Program. Specifically, this will provide for a \$150,000 grant and \$50,000 loan to the City in order to resurface River Rd. ODOT is funding 80% of the construction costs. The City would be responsible for 20% of the construction cost and the engineering cost. The estimated cost of the entire project is approximately \$600,000 to which the \$150k grant 50K loan would be applied to the City's share.
- Thank you to the school of Innovation for the 9/11 ceremony for our first responders yesterday. Thank you to our First Responders for all they do to keep us safe. We should never forget the dedication of our First Responders to protectors.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Audio: 11:30)

- **Law Director Lucas** had no report but was open to questions.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Audio: 12:02)

- The August financials were completed earlier this week and should be posted to the website in the morning.

A few quick revenue highlights:

Income Tax Revenue – \$130,900
 Other Key Revenue – \$306,459
 Net increase – \$175,559

- Looking at projected numbers based on receipts to date revenue in these areas should be slightly higher than 2023, but nothing to get excited about.

- Expenses unfortunately are higher due to everything being more expensive, but most departments appear to be on track to get through the year without any issues. Fire is having some budget fatigue due to a number of large vehicle repair bills that have eaten into their operating budget. Their payroll and benefit budgets are on track but we will continue to monitor operating expenses.
- Finally, I sent out several emails yesterday concerning some upcoming legislation, and if you have any questions or concerns please contact me at your convenience.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT (Audio: 13:48)

- **City Engineer DiFranco** expressed his support for the passage of Ordinance 2024-033 which related to the acceptance and dedication of Giovanni Avenue in the West Pines Subdivision, as a road for public use. He urged Council to keep Ordinance 2024-039 on the agenda, which relates to the acceptance and dedication of Andrews Lane, as he works with the developers to finalize details. Resolution 2024-020, which was the acceptance of the final plat for Maypine Park subdivision no. 2 should be kept on the agenda for at least one more reading. Finally, Resolution 2024-022, regarding the grant for River Rd should be passed tonight.
- In May, they had submitted this application (the grant for River Rd. application), and were recently notified that we're on the preliminary slate in August. This is selected by the Lake County Committee. From there, it goes to a district committee, which covers several counties. They were supposed to have a meeting yesterday but it got postponed. This meeting will happen soon. but we will not be notified until that meeting happens. We have not gotten the official notice yet. Final applications are due at the state on October 11. Because of this, he wanted to keep this on the agenda for more Council readings. He concluded saying design is planned for 2025 and construction for 2026.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS REPORTS / COMMITTEE REPORTS (Audio: 13:57)

PC-ABR reported by Council Vice President Taylor Draper

- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper** Planning and Zoning Commission and Architectural Board of Review reported that the group met August 15. During the Architectural Board of Review portion of the meeting, they approved a house addition. At 29205 White Rd, they approved an additional family room, deck, and kitchen renovation. During the planning portion of the meeting, they approved a split lot at 36495 Chardon Rd. They want to split this parcel so they can have a house on one side and a barn on the other. This is the property of the former Mayor of the City. The other part of the work session for that meeting was a workshop for the Dollar General for 33901 Chardon Rd. The representatives for Dollar General came and presented their construction ideas to the Board. This would contain 43 parking stalls and the building would be 10,640 ft. She noted that the Commission had many issues with this, from the landscaping to the effects on the residents close by to this. They will be coming back for another workshop.
- She mentioned that during the September 5 meeting, they approved a pool barn at 37250 Chardon Rd, and at 37950 Rogers Road. In addition to this, there were 2 homes approved

for construction at the West Pines homes. One at 34180 Giovanni Avenue at sub-lot B, and the other at 34330 Giovanni Avenue sub-lot 13.

- The Perrino Homes and the Maypine homes are homeowner associations. This means that these are deed-restricted properties, where the residents are governed by these deeds under the Declaration of Covenants. She strongly encouraged the residents to read these Declarations of Covenants because this will govern aspects of their way of life. A lot of people don't and it often becomes problematic.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz** commented that he had initially thought there were 12 lots at the Perrino property.
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper** clarified there were 13.
- **Councilwoman Belich** expressed her concern for the residents regarding the potential building of the Dollar General in the future, following the discussion of noise complaints and over-night and early morning commercial deliveries.
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper** assured her this was being discussed.

Beautification Committee reported by Council Vice President Taylor Draper

No report.

Recreation Commission reported by Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz

- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz** reported a delay in the pickle ball courts' renovation due to weather and unforeseen circumstances. These will hopefully be completed by spring of next year. The materials are going to be ordered in fall. They will focus on fixing cracks in the ground.
- Touch a Truck is this weekend, and flag football scrimmages will be starting this weekend at Romish field. Games for 6-14 years old will be starting the following Saturday.

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: 23:34)

There was no Unfinished Business.

LEGISLATION: (Audio: 23:44)

ORDINANCE 2024-032-THIRD READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ELIMINATE INACTIVE FUND ACCOUNTS WITH A ZERO BALANCE THEREBY REMOVING THEM FROM THE MONTHLY REPORTING STATEMENTS AND REPEALING CONFLICTING LEGISLATION.

Motion made by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz** seconded by **Councilwoman Belich** to adopt Ordinance 2024-032.

Discussion on the Motion:

- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz** though it was important to remove old, inactive accounts and clean this up a bit.

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

Motion carries to adopt Ordinance 2024-032.

ORDINANCE 2024-033-THIRD READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE AND DEDICATION OF GIOVANNI AVENUE, LOCATED IN THE WEST PINES SUBDIVISION, AS A STREET FOR PUBLIC ROAD PURPOSES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by **Councilwoman Miller** seconded by **Councilwoman Belich** to adopt Ordinance 2024-033.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

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

Motion carries to adopt Ordinance 2024-033.

ORDINANCE 2024-039-FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE AND DEDICATION OF ANDREWS LANE, LOCATED IN MAYPINES PARK SUBDIVISION NO. 2, AS A STREET FOR PUBLIC ROAD PURPOSES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- Remains on first reading.

ORDINANCE 2024-040-AMENDED-FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS REQUIRED TO THEREBY ENTER INTO A SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE BREWER-GARRETT COMPANY REGARDING HEATING, VENTILATION, AND AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC) SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by **Council Vice President Taylor Draper**, seconded by **Councilwoman Miller** to waive the Three Reading Rule on Ordinance 2024-040-Amended.

Discussion on the Motion:

- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper** appreciated that this would be saving the City money, and recognized the importance of letting the new services start as soon as possible.
- **Councilwoman Miller** asked Law Director Lucas to clarify what part of this Ordinance was amended.
- **Law Director Lucas** stated that the Building Service Fund had the wrong account number, and this was corrected under Section 1.
- **Mayor Hallum** expressed his appreciation for Council passing this tonight, as they do not know when they will have an emergency that requires these services. He stated that the Service Director and the Road Superintendent felt that this company was the right choice.

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

Motion passed to waive the Three Reading Rule on Ordinance 2024-040-Amended.

Motion made by **Council Vice President Taylor Draper**, seconded by **Councilwoman Miller** to adopt Ordinance 2024-040-Amended.

Discussion on the Motion:

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

Ordinance 2024-040-Amended has been adopted.

RESOLUTION 2024-020-FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE FINAL PLAT FOR MAYPINE PARK SUBDIVISION NO. 2, A SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION LOCATED ON WHITE ROAD, WILLOUGHBY HILLS, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN

EMERGENCY.

- Remains on First Reading.

RESOLUTION 2024-022-FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- Remains on First Reading.

NEW BUSINESS: (Audio: 31:42)

- **Mayor Hallum** stated that he was working on the sixth and seventh potential location for cell towers to solve problems on the east end. While it is too early to say much about this, he emphasized that these locations look more promising than anything he has seen so far. He is hopeful, and will share more information as he finds out more.

PUBLIC PORTION #2 (Audio: 32:21)

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

Public Portion #2 opened at 7:32 p.m.

- **John Disabato 2536 Maple Hill Rd:** I came here to talk about cell service, or more accurately, lack of cell service. I cannot make a phone call if I am sitting on my patio. In order for me to make a call, it must be connected to a booster unit connected to my router through Wi-Fi. The Maple Valley Subdivision is a black hole for cell service. I have T-Mobile as a carrier, and I cannot make a phone call unless I am in range of my Wi-Fi. During the most recent power outage, we did not have power or internet for our cell service for 5 days. During that time I was very concerned that I could not get emergency services if I needed them, for 5 days. Unfortunately, a year ago, power was also disrupted for several days. There isn't any reason that a City like Willoughby Hills, in a Cleveland Metropolitan area, does not have adequate cell service in this sector. We are less than 1 mile from interstates and commercial activity. This is not a rural area. My understanding is that there were previously discussions about getting towers in the area. Those discussions need to be revisited. These are different times. We have different residents. Our needs have also changed. We not only make calls, but we work at home. City administration, please try to solve this problem for our residents. Thank you.
- **William Zelei 2518 Maple Hill Rd:** I'm here this evening to address the ongoing cell phone connectivity issues that exist in the City of Willoughby Hills. Unfortunately, we were unable to make the July 25 meeting, but listened with great interest to the public comment. I also thank Council President Kline and Mayor Hallum for their work on the issue. We have been residents of Willoughby Hills for 5 years, and I have never experienced such poor cell phone connectivity. Unfortunately, while our initial experience in 2019 was not great, the issue has

continued to get worse. Interestingly, in 2007, I was able to make a phone call from the Great Wall of China to my home in Hinckley Ohio with absolutely no difficulty. In 2010 and 2015, I was able to make a call from Budapest Hungary, Austria, Nuremburg, Germany, and Rome, Italy, and Florence Italy, to my home in Ohio, with no difficulty at all. Yet today, in 2024, I am unable to consistently and reliably call from our home in Willoughby Hills to that residence in Euclid Ohio where my daughter and son currently live. We are interested in concerns of residents who express fear and frustration related to public safety, as this is a public safety issue. Our residents regularly receive 3-4 notifications each months, involving security systems unable to connect with Central Station because of cell phone issues. And we drop calls regularly. For personal safety, I wear an apple watch, which is connected to my cell phone. Without reliable cell phone service, it is an unattractive and expensive timepiece. Having served a school board member for 16 years, and the school administrator and superintendent for over 25 years, I can appreciate the computing interests that you as public officials deal with on a regular basis. I can also appreciate the fact that sometimes, one may desire to take no action in the hopes that the problem will resolve itself without any action of the public body. However, at this point, allowing a serious issue of public safety to persist for over 10-20 years has been recently described by residents as totally unacceptable.

- **Rosemary Gornik 2518 Maple Hills Rd:** We listened with interest to Mayor Hallum's explanation at the July 25 meeting and your search for a suitable cell tower site, the concern related to potential collapse of a tower, and the explanation of the zoning code related to the cell phone towers, the purpose of the code, and the desire to provide for public safety. As Council in the administration weigh public safety, it would seem to us, to be extremely important to understand the specific risk related to potential collapse of a cell phone tower in relation to the risk involved. With the inability of residents to access safety services, it is very, very scary. The number of times we drop calls, whether we are on with a doctor or 911; I don't think anybody would want that on their conscience. It's a safety issue and so that's why we are here tonight. We're asking that you address this safety issue as soon as possible. Having been an administrator for many years, I know that data driven decision-making is important. Obtaining and comparing data regarding 2 things and having 2 metrics is important. I don't know if I have ever heard of an instance and cause of a cell phone tower collapse in the Cleveland area but it's in our zoning code. That's one metric. And the other one is the frequency of safety service emergency responses to neighborhoods with poor cell connectivity. Those are 2 very specific pieces of data that you could use to make an informed choice, which is what you are called to do as elected officials.
- **William Zelei 2518 Maple Hill Rd:** The aspects of modern life come with tremendous benefit and some risk. Electric poles located within a few feet of the road and overhead traffic signals present a danger if they collapse. Even streets without sidewalks, while economical, can present danger to pedestrians. And yet, I'm guessing that the City is not looking to bury electric lines, remove electric poles, or put in sidewalks. We believe the time has come for the administration and Council to resolve these serious issues. We look forward for the opportunity to work with Mayor Hallum, Council President Kline, and the other members of Council to resolve this most serious issue. And we thank you for all that you have done recently. But we just want to make sure that this was on the front burner, and it gets resolved quickly. Thank you.

Public Portion #2 closed at 7:43 p.m.

Response to Public Portion

- **Councilwoman Miller** stated that the concerns and voice of the residents are heard. She herself had to go through 3 cell providers before she found one that was the most reliable. She lives right down in the area of the Metroparks and she knows that many people down there do not have cell service. She often urges residents to go to the Garfield Lot up the hill for service. She emphasized the importance of this issue and that the residents are being heard. She also noted that she has the Regulations for the Wireless Telecommunications Services with her now and is in the process of reviewing these and discussing with Mayor Hallum.
- **Mayor Hallum** thanked the residents for coming to speak on this issue. He emphasized that this was a pressing issue when he ran for Mayor, and he is on his sixth and seventh location to build a cell phone tower. Cell phone companies do not want to build a cell tower anywhere along the highways. They have provided 2 very specific areas that they had given to him that they are interested in. He noted that he is constrained between these locations, and that the property of the cell tower must be owned by the City. Zoning issues also proves to be challenging. Another issue that has exasperated is that the diameter of area that the cell tower can handle for 5G and 4G is smaller than what is was with 3G and everything prior. He greatly understands the urgency of this issue, and keeps the Lake County GIS, a topographical map, and map of 2 cell phone tower locations open on his computer. A cell phone company has reached out to him and said they would be interested in construction, and they're waiting to hear back from another one. It then comes down to whether the City is able to purchase this property. This will not be quick fix because a lot of work will have to be done with government agencies and the approval of the area and its conditions. This also includes our own planning and zoning. He will keep them informed going forward and thanked the residents for their willingness to work with him on this issue. This Council agrees that this is a very important and critical issue, and believes that they are interested in what will benefit the masses.
- **Councilwoman Miller** praised the work **Mayor Hallum** has done on this issue in just 8 short months.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER/FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY (Audio: 48:50)

- **Mayor Hallum** urged the residents to come to Touch a Truck on Saturday from 10:00am-2:00pm. Also, Shred day is coming up on October 12th on the West end.
- **Councilwoman Miller** also urged the residents to come to Touch a Truck and have lunch with them.
- **Council President Kline** gave the dates for the Fall District meetings and encouraged the residents to join them for these meetings. (October 1th, October 8th, and October 14th).
- **Council President Kline** complimented the beautification committee on the fall decorations.

ADJOURNMENT (Audio: 51:14)

Motion made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by **Councilwoman Belich** to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

APPROVED: SEPTEMBER 26, 2024
Date


Michael Kline
President of Council

ATTEST: 
Nicholas Aiello
Clerk of Council