

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 January 22, 2026

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 7:20 p.m. in Council Chambers. **Council President Kline** presided.

Call to Order 7:00 p.m. (0:06)

Cell Phone Reminder to Turn off Devices

Pledge of Allegiance (Audio: 0:15)

SWEARING IN OF JEFF PLANISEK – FULL TIME LIEUTENANT AND NATE BIRTLEY - FULL TIME FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC [Audio 0:50-7:45]

ROLL CALL (Audio: 7:50)

Members Present: Councilman Joe Jarmuszkiewicz, Council President Michael Kline, Councilman Dan Knecht, Councilwoman Kathleen Sivo, 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

Motion made by **Council Vice President Taylor Draper**, seconded by **Councilwoman Belich** to excuse **Councilwoman Miller** from tonight's meeting.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion

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

Councilwoman Miller was excused from the January 22, 2026 Regular Council Meeting.

DISPOSITION OF THE JOURNAL (Audio: 8:38)

Approval of the December 8, 2025 Working Committee of Council and Rules & Legislation Minutes
Approval of the December 11, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
Approval of the December 29, 2025 Special Council Meeting Minutes
Approval of the January 5, 2026 Organizational Meeting of Council Minutes

Motion made by **Council Vice President Taylor Draper** seconded by **Councilwoman Sivo** to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2025 Working Committee of Council and Rules & Legislation.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion

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

Motion passed to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2025 Working Committee of Council and Rules & Legislation.

Motion made by **Councilman Knecht** seconded by **Councilwoman Belich** to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2025 Regular Council Meeting.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

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

Motion passed to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2025 Regular Meeting of Council.

Motion made by **Councilwoman Belich** seconded by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz** to approve the minutes of the December 29, 2025 Special Council Meeting.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

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

Motion passed to approve the minutes of the December 29, 2025 Special Council Meeting.

Motion made by **Councilwoman Belich** seconded by **Councilman Knecht** to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2026 Organizational Meeting of Council.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

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

Motion passed to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2026 Organizational Meeting.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE

Email dated 1/13/2026 from Lloyd, Katherine RE: Dollar General
Email dated 1/13/2026 from Michney, Sharen RE: FIRE EXTINGUISHER MAINTENANCE
Email dated 1/13/2026 from Pietro DiFranco Zoning Verification - 28101-28131-28151 Chardon - WillHills
Email dated 1/13/2026 from Naegele, Matthew PD Awards
Email dated 1/13/2026 from Computer Owner Swearing in for caretaking at the Maplegrove Grange
Email dated 1/13/2026 from Regan Packowski Grocery Outlet - 28241 Chardon Rd.
Email dated 1/13/2026 from Rice, Clark RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Dollar General Summons
Email dated 1/13/2026 from Tanner Stewart RE: Fire Code Violation Help
Email dated 1/12/2026 from G Pratt Re: NAC swearing-in
Email dated 1/12/2026 from Mehollin, Karen Swear-Ins for 1/22/26 meeting
Email dated 1/13/2026 from Mehollin, Karen Dollar General lawsuit – refile
Email dated 1/12/2026 from Pietro DiFranco RE: Records Request Additional Parcels
Email dated 1/12/2026 from Mehollin, Karen Re: AFSCME
Email dated 1/12/2026 from Michney, Sharen FED EX RECEIVED
Email dated 1/12/2026 from Michael C. Lucas FW: PTV 1398 LLC v Planning and Zoning Commission Willoughby Hills, Lake County Common Pleas Court
Email dated 1/11/2026 from Jarmuszkiewicz, Joe Recreation sanctions
Email dated 1/09/2026 from whdrane1@aol.com Re: Willoughby Hills Charter Typo
Email dated 1/09/2026 from Thomas Lobe Re: Charter Certification
Email dated 1/09/2026 from Gomillion, Stephanie RE: Fire Contract
Email dated 1/09/2026 from Shelby England RE: Request for Ordinance 1997-166 Pertaining to Consent Agendas
Email dated 1/09/2026 from Pietro DiFranco RE: 7-Eleven Liquor License - 2865 Bishop
Email dated 1/08/2026 from Tom Majeski Re: Contact Information for Grange Caretakers
Email dated 1/08/2026 from Lloyd, Katherine FW: WH BZA Meeting 1-13-2026 - NOT CALLED
Email dated 1/08/2026 from Pietro DiFranco Willoughby Hills City Engineer Report 260108
Email dated 1/07/2026 from Nardo, Celia S. Ordinances ...
Email dated 1/07/2026 from Pietro DiFranco RE: Engineer @ Council Meetings
Email dated 1/07/2026 from Scott, Bruce Acceptance of Gift - \$10,000 from Anonymous Donor (SECOND DONATION)
Email dated 1/07/2026 from Hallum, Chris Engineer @ Council Meetings
Email dated 1/07/2026 from Mehollin, Karen For the Jan. 22nd agenda...
Email dated 1/07/2026 from Michney, Sharen OLD COPIERS
Email dated 1/07/2026 from Michney, Sharen RE: Copier ready to go at community center
Email dated 1/06/2026 from Thomas Lobe Dispatch CBA
Email dated 1/06/2026 from Mehollin, Karen Re: AFSCME Contract
Email dated 1/06/2026 from Lloyd, Katherine Civil Service Meeting 1/7/26 Wednesday - 4:00 PM
Email dated 1/06/2026 from Lloyd, Katherine FW: Complaint - 36400 Chardon - Dead trees, Pests, Unlicensed Vehicles, Building Decay
Email dated 1/06/2026 from Lloyd, Katherine FW: Dollar General Lawsuit 2026 Tue 01/06
Email dated 1/06/2026 from Lloyd, Katherine RE: Conditional Approval - Temporary Signage - Burlington - 28301/28221 Chardon Rd
Email dated 1/06/2026 from Lloyd, Katherine FW: Zoning questions
Email dated 1/06/2026 from Bushman, Lindsey Liquor Permit
Email dated 1/06/2026 from Jordan Berns Lake County Court - PTV 1398 LLC v. Planning and Zoning Commission and Architectural Board of Review, City of Willoughby Hills, Ohio
Email dated 1/05/2026 from J Garrett Oath CRWP
Email dated 1/05/2026 from J Garrett Re: Chagrin River Watershed Partners Annual Swearin-in Oath Ceremony
Email dated 1/05/2026 from Lloyd, Katherine PCABR Notice
Email dated 1/05/2026 from Bushman, Lindsey Re: Public Records Request
Email dated 1/05/2026 from Gloria Majeski Re: Waive residency requirement for Council Clerk
Email dated 1/02/2026 from Lloyd, Katherine RE: Civil Service Minutes
Email dated 1/02/2026 from Lloyd, Katherine 1/7/26 draft Agenda
Email dated 1/02/2026 from Mehollin, Karen Re: Gary Pratt Cuyahoga County Noise Abatement Term
Email dated 1/02/2026 from Lloyd, Katherine RE: Commission members whose terms have expired

Email dated 1/02/2026 from Hallum, Chris FW: Update Law Director Ordinance as of 12/14/25
Email dated 1/02/2026 from Kate Bayer Re: Software update
Email dated 12/31/2025 from Kline, Mike Re: Organizational Meeting of Council Agenda
Email dated 12/31/2025 from Laurie.Scarmuzzi@dot.ohio.gov RE: PID 105894 LAK SR 174 0.00;
Email dated 12/31/2025 from Willoughby Hills; Final Legislation - Receipt/Fully Executed
Email dated 12/30/2025 from Lloyd, Katherine FW: WH PCABR Meeting 1/15/2026 - THURSDAY - 7:00 pm
Email dated 12/30/2025 from Stergar, Jeff Changes to Medical Benefits
Email dated 12/30/2025 from Scott, Bruce Ordinance 2026-001 - 2026 Budget
Email dated 12/30/2025 from Lloyd, Katherine CSC Meeting 1/7/26
Email dated 12/30/2025 from Lloyd, Katherine RE: 2026 Civil Service Website
Email dated 12/30/2025 from Jarmuszkiewicz, Joe Last night's resolutions
Email dated 12/30/2025 from Scott, Bruce Swagelok Foundation Donations - \$1,000 to Fire and Police
Email dated 12/30/2025 from Nardo, Celia S. program
Email dated 12/30/2025 from JAB Supply Re: FW: Swearing in Ceremony Agenda Thursday, January 1st
Email dated 12/30/2025 from Aiello, Nicholas RE: Organizational Meeting Draft Agenda
Email dated 12/29/2025 from Lloyd, Katherine FW: WH Civil Service Meeting 1/7/2026 - Wednesday- 4:00 pm
Email dated 12/29/2025 from Mehollin, Karen Time Off Request form
Email dated 12/29/2025 from Forgas, Joleen Re: Swearing in Room Layout
Email dated 12/29/2025 from Kate Bayer Re: Upcoming site changes
Email dated 12/29/2025 from Michney, Sharen RE: NEW COPIER TRAINING
Email dated 12/29/2025 from Lloyd, Katherine FW: PCABR Work Session - Pool House - 32101 Miller - Land Use Change Request 12/29/2025
Email dated 12/29/2025 from Naegele, Matthew Civil Service Meeting -Certification
Email dated 12/26/2025 from Michael C. Lucas Proposed redlined revisions to attached documents.
Email dated 12/26/2025 from Mehollin, Karen Agenda and Legislation for 12/29 Special Meeting
Email dated 12/26/2025 from Michael C. Lucas Second Resolution and Exhibit to be immediately passed after Resolution rescinding Resolution No. 2025-017
Email dated 12/26/2025 from Michael C. Lucas Please see first of two Resolutions regarding this matter.
Email dated 12/23/2025 from Scott, Bruce RE: Resolutions re Tax Levy
Email dated 12/22/2025 from Jarmuszkiewicz, Joe Re: URGENT: Special Meeting Needed Before December 30th
Email dated 12/22/2025 from Scott, Bruce FW: resolution accepting amounts and rates
Email dated 12/19/2025 from Pietro DiFranco RE: Ordinance 2025-059
Email dated 12/19/2025 from Pietro DiFranco RE: 2025-059 Amended Bowen Zoning Services
Email dated 12/19/2025 from Falcone, Nicholas Re: NEW COPIER DELIVERY AND INSTALL
Email dated 12/19/2025 from Pietro DiFranco Res 2025-018 Exhibit B
Email dated 12/18/2025 from Lloyd, Katherine RE: PCABR Minutes 11/20/25 Draft for Review - plus update
Email dated 12/17/2025 from Zachary Miller Concerns Regarding Handheld Traffic Citations and Appeal Procedures
Email dated 12/17/2025 from Stergar, Jeff Medical Benefits
Email dated 12/16/2025 from Michney, Sharen RE: Charter Updates
Email dated 12/15/2025 from Craft, Heather RE: [EXTERNAL] Willoughby Hills City Charter and Amendments
Email dated 12/15/2025 from Michney, Sharen RESOLUTION NO. 2025-018 - EXHIBIT B
Email dated 12/15/2025 from Stergar, Jeff Medical Benefits for 2026
Email dated 12/15/2025 from Mehollin, Karen Fw: Mayor's Report - December 12, 2025
Email dated 12/15/2025 from Laurie.Scarmuzzi@dot.ohio.gov FW: Signed River Road (SR-174) Documents
Email dated 12/12/2025 from DiFranco, Pete RE: Final Resolution SIGNED
Email dated 12/12/2025 from Applications for Sheetz and Wine & Spirits LLC for Willoughby Hills
Email dated 12/11/2025 from Naegele, Matthew RE: Liquor License Confirmation
Email dated 12/10/2025 from Mehollin, Karen Fw: 2 WH Public Hearings 7/1/25
Email dated 12/10/2025 from Scott, Bruce RE: FINAL APPROPRIATION CHANGE
Email dated 12/10/2025 from Lloyd, Katherine FW: WH PCABR Meeting on Thursday, December 18. 2025 - Called
Email dated 12/10/2025 from Mehollin, Karen sanction list
Email dated 12/10/2025 from Stergar, Jeff Deferred Comp Visit
Email dated 12/09/2025 from Lloyd, Katherine Case 2025-09 Approved & Signed Application for 37520 Eagle Rd
Email dated 12/09/2025 from Thomas Lobe Re: Willoughby Hills CBA
Email dated 12/09/2025 from Scott, Bruce FINAL APPROPRIATION CHANGE

Email dated 12/09/2025 from Scott, Bruce Ordinance 2025-066 - Final Appropriations
Email dated 12/09/2025 from Lenette Beasley RE: Invoice 47189 from American Legal Publishing
Email dated 12/09/2025 from Mehollin, Karen Re: WHISPER
Email dated 12/09/2025 from Michney, Sharen RE: Agenda
Email dated 12/05/2025 from Michael C. Lucas Re: Council Clerk Designation
Email dated 12/05/2025 from Michael C. Lucas RE: IMPORTANT: Collective Bargaining Agreement Ordinances
Email dated 12/05/2025 from Michael C. Lucas Revised ODOT River Road Resurfacing
Email dated 12/05/2025 from Michael C. Lucas RE: Ordinance 2025-059 Needs Review and Amendment to Printer Proposal
Email dated 12/05/2025 from Mehollin, Karen Re: Revised Ordinance No. 2025-XXX

PUBLIC PORTION #1 (Audio: 12:00)

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

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

- **Jen Varro 2890 SOM Center Road:** I am just looking for clarification on justifying three law directors part-time or not. I think it is wasteful spending. That is my opinion. I think many residents might feel the same way. I don't think our City is that troubled that we need three law directors. I think one is sufficient. If you need to hire somebody additionally for hourly, as stated, that can be possibly practical, but for what they are paid, I think a full-time law director in one City for this size is more than sufficient.
- In addition, I came in when you guys were doing the discussion before this and am a little shocked on the amount for the Service Department. It seems ludicrous that we would spend that kind of money to house a bunch of trucks and equipment when the Police Department might need some improvements. More importantly, I think the Fire Department needs more improvements. They live here and they spend a lot of time here. There is nothing to discuss that and that building is in pretty rough shape. That is just something to think about. It's a big ticket item and seems like a lot of money for something we are just going to store vehicles in. Thank you.
- **Jenna Bing 36951 Beech Hills Drive:** Will there be a hard copy of the budget available for the citizens to look at? I know it's online, but sometimes it is just easier to go through a hard copy. There's a lot of money coming in from the speeding tickets. If you could enlighten me on where I can find that. Is it going to be clear what that money is used for in the budget? I would appreciate to know that. According to the news, it's like \$10,000,000.00.
- I thought that the police and service project was in total around six or seven million dollars to add on stuff. I did not realize. The fees for the architecture are probably not bad considering the police project is 7.2 million. They are planning for a 7.2 million dollar police project and a 17.5 million dollar service garage. I would really like to understand the scope of what is going to be happening before you sign up for an architecture to plan for that size. If you are not going to go anywhere near that size of building, then you don't want to spend those kinds of architectural fees to plan that. I am a little confused about that. Is there planning in our Capital Plan to improve the Fire Department building? It has been around for a long time and I don't remember if we have put any money into the building there itself. Is that in the plan for three years down the road? Thank you.

Public Portion #1 closed at 7:35 p.m.

- **Mayor Hallum:** I want to respond to the three law directors comment. We are only paying for two of them and they are both part-time. The third one is not on a retainer. They will be paid hourly as

needed. We really only have two, technically, but we have an additional one that we could call on should we need him.

MAYOR'S REPORT (Audio: 17:00)

- **Mayor Hallum:** Good evening! As winter continues to blast northeast Ohio, please remember that our Service department is hard at work clearing snow and salting roads. Salt supplies are still low, and this means that we will continue to be strategic about where salt is being spread. Primarily we will have it on our major thoroughfares, intersections, and hills. It's helpful when cars are not parked on the roadways, so please keep that in mind when the snow is falling. If a snowstorm gets bad enough, I may call for a snow emergency which requires all parked cars to be kept off of our roadways. If this occurs, we will alert the media outlets, post to the city's website, Facebook, and distribute to everyone who is on the newsletter distribution list. If you, or someone you know is not currently on the list for the e-newsletter, please send an e-mail to newsletter@willoughbyhillsohio.gov and you'll be added to the list. If you are a new subscriber, please be sure to add the above e-mail address to your safe sender file. If you find that you are not receiving the newsletter after you subscribe, be sure to check your spam and trash folders as often, that's where it can go until you indicate that it is not spam.
- The 2026 City budget will be presented to council at tonight's Council meeting. Council President Kline will be scheduling Finance committee meetings over the next few weeks to review the budget. If you're interested in learning more about the City budget, or have questions, please watch the calendar on the City's website for dates and times. If you have questions about the budget, we ask that you submit them ahead of the meeting to give the department heads time to prepare a response. A copy of the draft budget is available for inspection by the public at city hall.
- On behalf of the City, I want to acknowledge and congratulate Law Director Michael Lucas on his retirement as our Law Director. Mike has been the city Law Director since 2020 and has been a true asset to the City. His expertise, knowledge, and advise have been instrumental in protecting and strengthening the City. Council will be considering an ordinance that will replace Mike and restructure the law department. If approved, Mike Lucas would stay on as an Assistant Law Director. We plan to present a proclamation and resolution to Mike at an upcoming council meeting in March.
- Tonight, I support passage of ordinance 2026-002 confirming my appointment of Michael Kenny as our new Law Director with Tom Lobe and Michael Lucas as our Assistant Law Directors. I believe this will provide continuity and a long term plan for the city's law department. Michael Kenny has been the City's prosecutor since May of 2022 and has performed admirably in that role. Mike is well respected and is familiar with the city and administration. He will be a great addition to the administrative team as well as council's attorney. I support passage of ordinance 2026-004 approving the new contract with the AFSME union. Both sides believe the terms to be fair and reasonable. I want to thank the AFSME union for working with administration to reach agreement. It was my intent to reach agreement with all of our unions before the current contract expired, and we've been able to accomplish that with 3 of the 6 unions. To that end, I also support passage of Ordinance 2026-005 and 2026-006 for the Teamsters Local 436 Service union and Patrolman's Benevolent Association – Dispatcher's union and extend my appreciation for their work and compromise with administration to reach fair and reasonable agreements with the City. I look forward to working with the remaining 3 unions to reach agreements.
- That ends my report and I stand open to questions.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- No report.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Audio: 19:50)

- **Finance Director Scott:** There has been a lot of time and effort that has been put into the budget in front of you. I know it is not perfect, so I do anticipate a few changes between now and its final passage. We are still waiting on some significant revenue figures from the county. Once those go in, I will let everybody know.
- Also, as far as year-end, I am ready to push the button and close 2025. I am giving it another day or two just to make sure that we don't get any surprises that we can still put back into 2025. I am hoping I am done. The monthly financial statements have already been submitted. Barring any changes, those will be on the website on Monday. I am open for questions.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** What effect would the proposals going around for property taxes from the State have on City Revenue for collection of property taxes? Would that reduce our total revenue coming in?
- **Finance Director Scott:** It would be devastating. It would be two and a half million dollars at least.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** Is that an estimate? Do we know exactly how much?
- **Finance Director Scott:** A couple things with the County. They have already passed the "Piggyback Exemption." Those are some of the numbers I am waiting on from the County. We anticipate an approximate \$80,000.00 decrease from last year on property taxes. I certainly don't want to lose \$80,000.00 but we can find a way to get around that.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** Is that something that we have already figured into this year's budget?
- **Finance Director Scott:** I have estimated numbers expecting an \$80,000.00 decrease. Once I get more information from the County, I will confirm it.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** Thank you.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT (Audio: 22:15)

- **City Engineer DiFranco:** ODOT is going out to bid for the River Rd. Resurfacing project hopefully starting in Spring. ODOT is also planning to start the Chardon Road Bridge Rehab project over I-271, also this spring.
- I have reviewed a few plans from AT&T who is installing fiber on several streets throughout the City. That should be proceeding; they started last fall and will be continuing in the spring.
- I have been working with ODOT and NOACA to get through some administrative procedures for the State Route 91 path project.

That concludes my report.

- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** Pete, is there an estimated loss of use for the I-271 bridge? Do we know how many dates that is going to be down?
- **City Engineer DiFranco:** They are anticipating it will start in the Spring and go through Fall.
- **Council President Kline:** For the fiberoptics, do you know the roads involved?
- **City Engineer DiFranco:** They have already installed fiber on Cricket and a couple of streets in that area. They are planning to install it along Rodgers Road and a couple of streets in that area. There was another project. I don't recall it off the top of my head.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** When Chardon Road is closed, the traffic is going to be directed down White Road or Eddy Road. Is that going to cause any problems with the volume of traffic on Chardon Road?
- **City Engineer DiFranco:** Not that I am aware of. Those are the only options.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** I remember when they closed Eddy Road for about six to eight months. It was nice when it was closed. There were no cars and there were deer walking around. There wasn't nearly the amount of traffic traveling up and down as there is on Route 6 every day. Now, those are going to be diverted up and down. Eddy Road is more up and down. White Road, I don't go down too often but we may have to have police monitor that a little better for speeding and the congestion on it.

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

PC-ABR reported by Council Vice President Taylor Draper

- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** Since the last time we met, the Planning and Zoning Architectural Board of Review met twice.

At the December 18 Planning and Zoning Architectural Board of Review, during the Architectural Board portion, we approved the following:

- Signage package at Zips dispensary. This is a medical marijuana place.
- We approved a roof addition over a deck at 37520 Eagle Road

There was no business for the Planning Commission portion of the meeting.

At the January 15, 2026 Planning and Zoning Architectural Board of Review, during the Architectural Board portion, we approved the following:

- A new single family house at 3035 Andrews Lane
- A new single family house at 31200 White Road
- Temporary signage for the Burlington that is going in at the Shoppes of Willoughby Hills at

28301 and 28221 Chardon Road. Basically, the temporary signage was a “coming soon” sign, a “now hiring” sign and an ”open now” sign at various points of the construction.

There was no business for the Planning Commission portion of the meeting.

- There was a work session for 32101 Miller Avenue for a pool house/guest house. That is a topic that I am sure is going to be coming up this year. The resident is wanting to put a second dwelling pool house for an older child. I am hearing that a couple meetings prior to this, a family was wanting to put a second dwelling on the house. The idea behind this is that a lot of our residents have elderly parents or adult children that they would like to live on the property. With the passage of our zoning updates last fall, this is something that we are being asked to consider. Since we are 1-acre zoning, there would be ample possibility for that. That is something I am sure we are going to be discussing in the coming months. That was something that was discussed at that meeting. I am open for questions.

Beautification Committee reported by Council Vice President Taylor Draper

No report.

Recreation Commission reported by Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz

- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz** reported on the following:
 - Applications for sanctions are going out soon and we would like to see them returned as soon as possible with the understanding that there would be 4 hours of volunteering required for City events.

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: 27:10)

No unfinished business.

LEGISLATION: (Audio 27:20)

ORDINANCE 2026-001 - FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN CITY SERVICES FOR THE FISCAL PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1ST THROUGH DECEMBER 31ST OF 2026; REPEALING ALL LEGISLATION INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

- Remains on First Reading.

ORDINANCE 2026-002 - FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF MICHAEL A. KENNY, JR., AS DIRECTOR OF LAW, THOMAS G. LOBE, AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LAW, AND MICHAEL C. LUCAS, AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LAW, FOR THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS, AND ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION THEREFORE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz seconded by Councilwoman Sivo to adopt Ordinance 2026-002.

Discussion on the Motion:

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

The Three Reading Rule on Ordinance 2025-002 has been waived.

Motion made by Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz seconded by Councilwoman Sivo to adopt Ordinance 2026-002.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

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

Ordinance 2026-002 has been adopted.

ORDINANCE 2026-003 – AMENDED-FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS, OHIO AND RICHARD L. BOWEN + ASSOCIATES, INC. TO ACCEPT THE ARCHITECTURAL FEES PROPOSAL FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT RENOVATION AND EXPANSION PROJECT AND THE SERVICE GARAGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- Remains on First Reading.

ORDINANCE 2026-004 - FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS AND THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES LOCAL 3058-2 AND OHIO COUNCIL 8, AFL-CIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz seconded by Councilman Knecht to waive the Three Reading Rule on Ordinance 2026-004.

Discussion on the Motion:

- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** This is a negotiated contract settled between the City and the Union. It is retroactive since the beginning of the year, so this is just a matter of getting this passed and in place.

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

The Three Reading Rule on Ordinance 2026-004 has been waived.

Motion made by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz** seconded by **Councilman Knecht** to adopt Ordinance 2026-004.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

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

Ordinance 2026-004 has been adopted.

ORDINANCE 2026-005 - FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS AND THE TEAMSTERS LOCAL 436, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by **Councilman Knecht** seconded by **Councilwoman Sivo** to waive the Three Reading Rule on Ordinance 2026-005.

Discussion on the Motion:

Councilman Knecht: Again, this is a negotiated contract between the City and the Union. They both thought this was a fair deal.

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

The Three Reading Rule on Ordinance 2026-005 has been waived.

Motion made by **Councilman Knecht** seconded by **Councilwoman Sivo** to adopt Ordinance 2026-005.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

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

Ordinance 2026-005 has been adopted.

ORDINANCE 2026-006 - FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS AND THE OHIO PATROLMEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION-DISPATCHERS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz** seconded by **Councilman Knecht** to waive the Three Reading Rule on Ordinance 2026-006.

Discussion on the Motion:

Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz: Again, this is a negotiated contract that affects one employee in our City.

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

The Three Reading Rule on Ordinance 2026-006 has been waived.

Motion made by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz** seconded by **Councilman Knecht** to adopt Ordinance 2026-006.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

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

Ordinance 2026-006 has been adopted.

NEW BUSINESS (Audio#2 6:25)

Motion made by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz**, seconded by **Councilwoman Belich**, to accept a \$10,000 donation from an anonymous doner to be used by the Police Department for the support of the K-9 program.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

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

The aforementioned **motion** has passed.

Motion made by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz**, seconded by **Councilwoman Belich**, 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 the Liquor Agency license transfer from Mannat Inc. 2865 Bishop Road Willoughby Hills OH 44094 to 7-Eleven Store #36233J 2865 Bishop Road Willoughby Hills OH 44092 under transaction number OCT TRFO 08003607-26.

Discussion on the Motion:

- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** This is transferring the liquor license from the previous owner to the new owner of the 7-Eleven Store on Bishop Road.

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

The aforementioned **motion** has passed.

Motion made by **Council Vice President Taylor Draper**, seconded by **Councilman Knecht**, authorizing the Clerk of Council to confirm with the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of Liquor Control, that the City agrees & accepts the transfer of the liquor permit from Sheffield Road LLC 128 E Front ST STE B Perrysburg OH, 43551 to Fischer Family Markets LLC Willoughby Hills Grocery Outlet 28241 Chardon Road Willoughby Hills, OH 44094 under the permit number OCT TFOL 10011041-1 as an economic development project; and the application is hereby approved in accordance with factors outlined in ORC 4303.29(B)(2)(b).

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

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

The aforementioned **motion** has passed.

Motion made by **Councilwoman Belich**, seconded by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz**, to formally designate the Council Clerk as the City Council's official representative and custodian of records for the purpose of administering all requests made under the Ohio Public Records Act and ensuring compliance with all applicable Sunshine Laws.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

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

The aforementioned **motion** has passed.

NEW BUSINESS: (Audio#2 11:35)

- **Council President Kline:** At our Organizational Meeting, we did talk about use of a consent agenda. We will have, before Council, at the next Council meeting, an ordinance which will permit the City to use a consent agenda. At the organizational meeting, I thought I had all the information to properly understand it. One aspect that I got wrong and incorrectly passed to Council was regarding ordinances being on third reading. I made the comment that ordinances going onto the consent agenda must be on third reading. That is an incorrect statement. The confusion came from a discussion I had with Assistant Law Director Lobe. I asked him if we could waive the Three Reading Rule on a consent agenda. He said the answer was absolutely no. I then thought that the only way something can be put into the consent agenda was if it was on third reading, but I was told by others this is incorrect. I conferred back with Assistant Law Director Lobe.
- The confusion was that any ordinance, regardless of the reading, once it goes onto the consent agenda, (which is a yes or no vote for passage), the three reading rule is removed by passing this ordinance or resolution. Anything on first or second reading can go on the consent agenda. The reason I wanted to bring this up this evening is to use this as an example of the benefit that consent agenda could give us. All the approval of the journal and all the motions we went through this evening could have gone into a consent agenda. And ordinances that are being passed on third reading could easily go into a consent agenda. You are combining all that into one vote. That is the benefit, and that is what we will have for consideration at Council's next meeting.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** If there are still questions on one of the items on the consent agenda, could it still be pulled out of it?
- **Council President Kline:** Any Councilperson -- if there is one thing that you don't feel comfortable with, you can request that it be removed, and it is gone off the consent agenda and placed on the regular agenda to be dealt with separately.

PUBLIC PORTION #2 (Audio#2: 15:45)

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

Public Portion #2 opened at 8:07 p.m.

- **Jen Varro 2890 SOM Center Road:** I am here to address the excessive speed of our City's snowplows in our neighborhoods. Over the past winter, there have been multiple incidents that have clearly demonstrated the impact this is having. Mailboxes have been obliterated, and curbs have been struck with such force that they have been hurled 10-15 ft. into people's yards, including mine. These are not minor inconveniences; they represent real safety hazards and costly property damage. In the interest of public safety, I respectfully request that the City establish a maximum speed limit of no greater than 35 mph for snow plows. Slower speeds would reduce the risk of damage to property, improve safety for residents, and also help reduce the wasteful amount of salt being thrown onto our roads. Slowing down is more efficient, as the snow blades can push the snow and allow for fewer pushes down the same road.
- Additionally, I would like clarification from the City regarding mailbox damage that is caused by snow plowing. Specifically, who is responsible for repairing or replacing damaged mailboxes, and what is the proper process for the residents to submit a claim or request repair? Clear guidance on this would help residents understand their options and assure accountability. I have appreciated the

City's efforts during winter weather events and my hope is that these concerns can be addressed proactively to improve safety, reduce waste, and better support our residents.

- In addition, in the Mayor's newsletter from January 9, he mentioned cost savings to residents and I would appreciate more detail and transparency on what those savings are. It is crucial for residents to understand the impact on our daily lives and finances. Finally, regarding the \$10,000,000.00 collected from speed cameras that Chief Naegele alluded to in our news report, I believe it is vital for the City to clarify how these funds will be used. Transparency in this matter is essential to maintain public trust, and assure that these funds are used effectively for the benefit of all residents. Thank you.
- **Mark Belich 37200 Chardon Road:** Maybe we can post in the newsletter – I remember sitting in a meeting where the architects came in and went over the development plan and drawings. I just wanted to make sure that got posted for everybody to see in the City. I know this was a big thing. Thank you.

Public Portion #2 closed at 8:10 p.m.

- **Mayor Hallum:** My understanding of the mailbox replacements are that if the plow itself strikes it and knocks it down, we are responsible and if snow coming from the plow blade knocks it down, that is not the responsibility of the City. It is only if the plow blade or the plow truck itself takes the mailbox out by actually hitting it.
- In regard to the traffic cameras, while \$10,000,000.00 is the amount that is collected, that is not the amount the City receives. It is more like \$6,000,000.00. This Council passed last year that those funds are going to be used for capital expenses. For example, these funds will be used for the updates to the police station and service department project.
- **City Engineer DiFranco:** A feasibility study was performed for the police station and service department. I believe that report is already on the website but I will check tomorrow and work with Karen to get that posted if it is not.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER/FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY (Audio#2 20:27)

- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** If I may have a quick opportunity to amend my report for the Architectural Board of Review. During the December 18, 2025 Architectural Board of Review Portion, I wanted to correct myself. The signage update was from INSA and the new business is named Zips Dispensary. That sign at 2771 Chardon Road is the signage we approved for Zips Dispensary.
- **Council President Kline** gave birthday wishes to Karen Mehollin and Council Vice President Taylor Draper

ADJOURNMENT (Audio#2 22:45)

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

APPROVED: FEB 12, 2026
Date


Michael Kline
President of Council

ATTEST: Nicholas Aiello
Nicholas Aiello
Clerk of Council