

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 October 23, 2025

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order on Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. **Council President Kline** presided.

Call to Order 7:00 p.m. (0:07)

Cell Phone Reminder to Turn off Devices

Pledge of Allegiance (Audio: 0:17)

ROLL CALL (Audio: 0:44)

Members Present: Councilman Dan Knecht, Council Vice President Tanya Taylor, Councilwoman Belich, and Council President Michael Kline

Also Present: Mayor Christopher Hallum, Law Director Michael Lucas, City Engineer Pete DiFranco, and Finance Director Bruce Scott

Absent: Councilwoman Vicki Miller, Councilwoman Sivo, and Councilman Joe Jarmuszkiewicz

Motion made by Councilman Knecht, seconded by Councilwoman Belich to excuse Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz, Councilwoman Sivo, and Councilwoman Miller from tonight's meeting.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

Roll Call: **AYES:** Knecht, Taylor Draper, Belich, Kline
NAYS: None
Vote: 4/0

Motion passes to excuse Councilwoman Sivo, Councilwoman Miller, and Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz from tonight's meeting.

DISPOSITION OF THE JOURNAL (Audio: 1:46)

Motion made by Council Vice President Taylor Draper seconded by Councilwoman Belich to approve the minutes of the October 6, Working Committee of Council and Rules & Legislation.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion

Roll Call: AYES: Taylor Draper, Belich, Kline
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Knecht
Vote: 3/0/1

Motion does not pass to approve the minutes of the October 6 Working Committee of Council and Rules & Legislation Minutes.

- **Mayor Hallum:** Could the minutes still pass with three votes?
- **Law Director Lucas:** No, it is not a majority. I am assuming the abstention is based on the fact that there was an absence. That is a municipal “urban legend” to some extent. If you are comfortable, you can still abstain and pass the minutes at the next meeting. If you are comfortable that the clerk has accurately taken down the minutes, you are making a motion to affirm the clerk’s transcription of the minutes. In the absence of this, you cannot pass the minutes.
- **Mayor Hallum:** Unless I am mistaken, they are actually approving the audio minutes, not even the transcription.
- **Law Director Lucas:** I think so.

Councilman Knecht withdrew his abstention and voted AYES to approve the minutes.

Roll Call: AYES: Knecht, Taylor Draper, Belich, Kline
NAYS: None
Vote: 3/0/1

Motion passes to approve the minutes of the October 6 Working Committee of Council and Rules & Legislation Minutes.

Motion made by **Council Vice President Taylor Draper** seconded by **Councilman Knecht** to approve the minutes of the October 9, Regular Council Meeting Minutes.

Discussion on the Motion:

- **Councilwoman Belich:** I was not present at the last meeting so I just want to make sure that we are following the correct protocol as was just described.
- **Law Director Lucas:** When you make a motion and we call vote to approve the minutes, your absence doesn’t preclude you from voting in the affirmative or the negative.

Roll Call: AYES: Knecht, Taylor Draper, Belich, Kline
NAYS: None
Vote: 4/0

Motion passed to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2025 Regular Meeting of Council.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE AND MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS (Audio: 5:40)

Email dated 10/20/2025 from Michael C. Lucas Notice of Noncompliance and Violation RE: Residential Room Rentals

Email dated 10/20/2025 from Gandee, Robert RE: Civil Service Meeting

Email dated 10/20/2025 from Taylor Draper, Tanya Re: Residential Room Rentals

Email dated 10/20/2025 from Belich, Julie Please see attached link regarding election day.

Email dated 10/20/2025 from Russo, Kathleen Location for Monday October 27, 2025 (Taxing District Roundtable)

Email dated 10/20/2025 from Hallum, Chris Townhall Slides

Email dated 10/20/2025 from Hallum, Chris FW: Oct. 27th meeting space

Email dated 10/18/2025 from Andy Macek Re: Civil Service Meeting

Email dated 10/17/2025 from Lloyd, Katherine RE: CSC Minutes 9-16-25

Email dated 10/17/2025 from Russo, Kathleen RE: Attendees

Email dated 10/17/2025 from Michael C. Lucas RE: All Legislation Needed for Next Week

Email dated 10/17/2025 from jmski FW: Gulick letter for Council

Email dated 10/17/2025 from jmski Gulick Family

Email dated 10/16/2025 from Hallum, Chris FW: NAC meeting report - 10/9/25

Email dated 10/16/2025 from Hallum, Chris RE: Residential Room Rentals

Email dated 10/16/2025 from Miller, Vicki Re: Lake County Tax Revenue Meeting

Email dated 10/16/2025 from Tony Bondra Re: Proposed Dollar General store/market

Email dated 10/16/2025 from Scott, Bruce Appropriation Ordinance

Email dated 10/16/2025 from Gloria Majeski Re: Resolution Honoring Gulick Family

Email dated 10/16/2025 from Pietro DiFranco RE: River Road Legislation - 2025-057

Email dated 10/15/2025 from Scott, Bruce RE: Gulick Family Charitable Remainder Unitrust

Email dated 10/15/2025 from Bushman, Lindsey Re: Retention Schedule

Email dated 10/15/2025 from Taylor Draper, Tanya Re: Renewal Levy

Email dated 10/14/2025 from Naegele, Matthew Surplus Computers

Email dated 10/13/2025 from Mehollin, Karen Re: Updated City Roster

Email dated 10/13/2025 from Molly Purcell Re: Qdoba Ribbon Cutting Invitation

Email dated 10/10/2025 from McFarren, Darlene RE: BOARD OF BUILDING AND ZONING APPEALS

Email dated 10/09/2025 from Pietro DiFranco RE: WH PCABR MEETING FOR OCTOBER 16, 2025

Email dated 10/09/2025 from McFarren, Darlene RE: BZA Notice

Email dated 10/09/2025 from Belich, Julie Re: Agenda and Legislation for Thursday

Email dated 10/09/2025 from Michael C. Lucas RE: Residential Room Rentals

Email dated 10/08/2025 from Michael Tobin RE: City Roster

Email dated 10/08/2025 from Mehollin, Karen Updated City Roster

Email dated 10/08/2025 from Mehollin, Karen Fw: Mayor's Report - October 10, 2025

Email dated 10/07/2025 from Pietro DiFranco FW: PID 105894 LAK-174-00.00; Willoughby Hills; Preliminary Legislation & LPA Agreement (Due 10/27/2025)

Email dated 10/07/2025 from McFarren, Darlene RE: WH PCABR MEETING FOR OCTOBER 16, 2025

Email dated 10/07/2025 from Fink, Sandra RE: Marijuana Legislation

Email dated 10/07/2025 from Aiello, Nicholas Agenda and Legislation for Thursday

Email dated 10/06/2025 from Miller, Vicki Re: Agenda, Draft Legislation, and Minutes for Next Week

Email dated 10/06/2025 from Michael C. Lucas Revisions to legislation

Email dated 10/06/2025 from Mehollin, Karen Re: Town Hall Meeting Presentation

PUBLIC PORTION #1 (Audio: 5:50)

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

Public Portion #1 opened at 7:06 p.m.

No one spoke.

Public Portion #1 closed at 7:06 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT (Audio: 6:10)

- **Mayor Hallum:** Good afternoon! Those of you who use Chardon Rd. to head east toward Kirtland will be happy to know that, according to the construction crew, the bridge is scheduled to open early next week. I hope that those of you that live in the area near the bridge have enjoyed the quiet, but all good things must come to an end. The next bridge to be replaced is the Chardon Rd. bridge that goes over I-271. That one is scheduled to begin construction next spring and is expected to be closed until sometime in November 2026. You may have noticed some work being done on Chardon Rd. near Calvary Assembly of God. Enbridge Gas is installing a new shutoff in that area in preparation for the bridge work next year.
- I have great news regarding the multi-use path extension project on the east side of SOM Center Rd. from Mayfield Village to Chardon Rd. We have received nearly 2M dollars in grant money, the Metroparks is covering the expense through their property, and the city will be covering approximately \$125K of the remaining cost. Thanks to Governor DeWine for approving the 1.2M dollar grant, ODOT for approving a grant for engineering of just under \$500k, and the Metroparks for being such great partners. We have not held the scope meeting yet, but hope the project will be completed in the summer of 2026. We will also be applying for grants to cover the remaining path extension planned to head east on Chardon Rd. to Buttermilk Falls Pkwy in the coming year.
- The Service department continues leaf pickup throughout the city. Please remember that it takes them approximately 2 weeks to circle back once they have been down your street. That assumes no equipment problems, or personnel shortage. They follow the snow plow routes which are posted on the city website on the Service department page. Please be patient, they will eventually be by to pick up your leaves. We do not accept special leaf pickup requests as they throw off the orderly route schedule, so please do not call with these type of requests.
- This week I spoke at the Senior potluck lunch and provided an overview of the city's ballot issues, answered questions, and had a nice lunch with them. Thanks also to Councilwoman Miller who shared information regarding the school board candidates. Please be sure to review the candidate list prior to voting as there are some write-in candidates for you to consider. Please remember that if you vote by absentee ballot, you must properly spell the name of any write-in candidate and fill in the bubble next to the line where you entered their name, or that candidate will not receive your vote.
- That ends my report and I stand open for questions.
- **Councilwoman Belich:** Going back to the point about the opening of the Chardon Road bridge, there is wildlife over there that has taken up residency as a result of the lack of ack and forth traffic. There are deer, wild turkey, and coyotes. I have seen them early in the morning. As the bridge

reopens, please be cautious as you are headed that way east of River Road. There is a lot more wildlife that wouldn't typically be in the road.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Audio: 9:40)

- **Law Director Lucas:** There are only four members of Council here. Because of this, any emergency legislation cannot be passed tonight because it requires two-thirds under our Charter to pass it. Procedurally, act accordingly. I am open for questions.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Audio: 10:14)

- **Finance Director Scott:** As you all know, we are currently working on collective bargaining, which is taking up a large amount of my time. Last year, I was working on the 2025 budget at this time. What I am thinking for 2026 is that I won't be submitting anything until after the first of the year. Hopefully we can pass it with a few readings and some hearings and still have it done by February.
- **Mayor Hallum:** Next year, the engineering will take place for the multi-use path and it will be 2027 when they start on the actual work.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT (Audio: 11:25)

- **City Engineer DiFranco:** I know that you cannot pass Ordinance 2025-057 tonight regarding the ODOT River Road preliminary legislation because you don't have a quorum, but I would request that you pass it as soon as possible. ODOT needs the legislation to precede, but they provided it to use late.
- **Council President Kline:** The Council Clerk will be contacting members of Council tomorrow to get a date for a Special meeting where the critical pieces of legislation that need to be passed will be passed hopefully next week.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS REPORTS / COMMITTEE REPORTS (Audio 12:30)

PC-ABR reported by Council Vice President Taylor Draper

No report.

Beautification Committee reported by Council Vice President Taylor Draper

No report.

Recreation Commission reported by Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz

No report.

Finance Committee Report by Council President Kline

No report.

WHISPER reported by Councilwoman Miller

No report.

Deer Management Committee reported by Councilwoman Belich

No report.

Business Subcommittee – reported by Councilwoman Sivo

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (Audio: 12:55)

- No unfinished business.

LEGISLATION: (Audio 13:00)

ORDINANCE 2025-052-AMENDED-SECOND 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. FOR CITY ENGINEERING SERVICES AND REPEALING CONFLICTING LEGISLATION.

- Ordinance 2025-052 remains on Second Reading.

ORDINANCE 2025-056-FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE TO DECLARE POLICE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING ITS DONATION TO PCS FOR PEOPLE, A CLEVELAND-BASED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- Ordinance 2025-056 remains on First Reading.

ORDINANCE 2025-057-FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO SIGN ANY AND ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) PROJECT NO. 105894 PROVIDING FOR THE RESURFACING OF RIVER ROAD (SR-174) FROM THE COUNTY LINE TO THE NORTH CORPORATION LINE IN THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- Ordinance 2025-057 remains on First Reading.

ORDINANCE 2025-058-FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1 OF ORDINANCE NO. 2024-070 TO COMPLY WITH STATE BUDGETARY LAWS REQUIRING MUNICIPALITIES TO MAINTAIN POSITIVE ACCOUNT BALANCES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR; REPEALING CONFLICTING LEGISLATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- Ordinance 2025-058 remains on First Reading.

RESOLUTION 2025-016-FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE GULICK FAMILY FOR THEIR DONATIONS TO THE WILLOUGHBY HILLS ISOLATED SENIOR PROGRAMS FOR EVERY DAY RELIEF (W.H.I.S.P.E.R.).

- Resolution 2025-016 remains on First Reading.

NEW BUSINESS (Audio 14:55)

- No new business.

PUBLIC PORTION #2 (Audio: 15:05)

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

Public Portion #2 opened at 7:15 p.m.

No one spoke.

Public Portion #2 closed at 7:15 p.m.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER/FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY

- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the Vincent and Miller family. As many may know, Councilwoman Vicki Miller lost her mom last night. We are praying for Vicki and her family.
- **Mayor Hallum** gave his condolences to Vicki Miller
- **Mayor Hallum:** Our new Recreation Coordinator will be starting on Monday. Her name is Ceilia Nardo. If you see her around, please introduce yourself and welcome her.

ADJOURNMENT (16:20)

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

Roll Call: AYES: Knecht, Taylor Draper, Belich, Kline
NAYS: None
Vote: 4/0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

APPROVED: Nov 13 2025
Date



Michael Kline
President of Council

ATTEST: 

Nicholas Aiello
Clerk of Council