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VICKI MILLER
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Minutes

Council Finance Committee Meeting February 11, 2025 | 6:00 p.m.

The Council Finance Committee Meeting Council was Called to Order on Thursday, Tuesday, February 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. **Council President Kline** presided.

Call to Order 7:00 p.m. (0:05)

Cell Phone Reminder to Turn off Devices

ROLL CALL (Audio: 0:18)

Members:

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

Others Invited:

Mayor Christopher Hallum, Law Director Michael Lucas, Finance Director Bruce Scott, Fire Chief Robert Gandee, and Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss

- **Council President Kline:** Councilwoman Miller is in route. She had to drop her husband off at the airport but she is on her way. This is a Finance Committee meeting. We presently do not have a quorum. We will when Councilwoman Miller gets here. But, we technically are not conducting business. We are not doing any voting or making any decisions. All we're doing is providing information from our guests here tonight: Police Chief Naegele and Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss. This does not constitute doing business so we're not in violation. Before getting started I would like to comment and acknowledge that we are talking the 2025 budget tonight but of course that means the 2024 year has concluded and I just wanted to acknowledge that 2024 has ended up with a budget surplus. This is the sixth year in a row that we've had a surplus. Now you can say that that's significant but speaking as a retired CPA and financial advisor I would say that's a bit of an understatement. Six years of surpluses are outstanding. This is due to the effort put in by the Gardner administration and the current Hallum administration, all the department heads, and Council all working for the betterment of the City, residents, employees and businesses. This is just simply outstanding. To get into the budget, we've had the program split into 2. Tonight we have the Service Department and the Police Department and next week is Fire Department and the Administration. We will have each department head open up with just a few minutes with an update on what's going on in their department, changes, personal equipment procedures, etc. to give Council and the public an idea of what is going on. Members of the Finance Committee will have an opportunity to ask questions and express comments to the Department heads. Then we will be opened up to the Council and then to the public if anyone wishes to ask questions. Since there

were no previous questions turned in, you will certainly have an opportunity to ask all your questions. Then public portion will close and the department heads, Council members, Finance Director or Mayor can answer. With that, we will get started. I would like to ask Mark if he could just give us a brief overview of his department and what is coming up for this year.

- **Mayor Hallum:** Before Mr. Grubiss starts, I want to make sure that it is known that any questions that are brought up tonight, we may or may not have the answers to, as a result of whatever the questions might be. We may have to get back to you at a later date.
- **Council President Kline:** That is exactly right, and that is why we asked for questions to be submitted in advance so that you would not have to wait for an answer. If the department heads cannot answer questions coming in anew tonight, we do not want to put them on the spot and have to think of something that may not be what they really intended. If you are asking questions, the answer will be provided. If not, at a Council meeting on Thursday and if not then, at next week's Finance Committee Meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEM (Audio 5:35)

1) 2025 Proposed Budget (Service Department) – Ordinance 2024-070

- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss:** We had two guys retire—one early in the season and one just last week—and we've been struggling all summer to find help. As a result, we've been running really lean. We got a lot of work accomplished this year with very few guys. I helped out, and we have some great guys who work well together and get projects done. This included a number of projects, including a few storm sewer jobs and a lot of asphalt patching.

As of now, we've replaced one guy in December, and we hired another who started this Monday, so we're currently at full staff. However, there will be some training and a bit of a learning curves for the new guys since they're very new at what we are doing and what's coming up this Spring. We've got some big projects coming up this Spring, including asphalt, pipe projects, and baseball fields.

We have had a very busy year with the tornado, but we fared pretty well with the resources we had—both manpower and equipment. There's a lot of improvement we can do. Hopefully, every year we won't have a tornado but it set us back about a month with cleanup. I appreciate everyone being patient. I know people want to get their yards cleaned up right away, but unfortunately it didn't work like that. It probably won't when there is that kind of catastrophic event. My guys did very well. We were as prepared as we could be for something like that but we will do better. There is a piece of equipment that I am going to try to replace in the budget this year that's really going to help us out. Now that we will be fully staffed this year, I'm excited to work with a younger group of guys who I think will be with us for a while. My goal is to keep doing what we can in-house to save the City money and keep moving forward.

- **Council President Kline:** Mark, you did mention one piece of equipment. Is there other equipment in your budget for this year?
- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss:** This year, in the budget, you'll see a backhoe listed. The one we currently have is a 2013 Case, and it is in very rough shape. The hood is rotted off of it and the valve body is in very rough shape. This particular piece of equipment is our back-up for loading trucks if the loader goes down. Furthermore, we are going to put some upgrades to it this year. Right now, it doesn't have a four-in-one bucket, which is a bucket that can open and grab logs. Same with the back of it. It doesn't have a thumb, so we're going to install both a four-in-one bucket and a

thumb. It's on rubber tires, so we can drive it around a lot easier than our track machines, which we had load onto a trailer and haul them to whatever job we were going to, and then unload them. You don't really track excavators down the road, because it is not good for the tracks and drive gears, though it's possible to drive them down one street.

We also have a new plow truck in this budget for this season, which will replace another Freightliner that we have which is a 2012 model. The reason we're replacing the 2013 before the 2012 is because the 2013 has more issues. The truck we'll surplus is truck #6, and we just received a new Mack truck last Friday, from the 2024 budget, to replace it. If we get this truck this year, it will replace one of our older Freightliners, which has been having significant issues. Some of you may be familiar with DEF (Diesel Exhaust Fluid). It's an afterburning exhaust system for emissions, but it's in the realm of \$10,000 for this muffler that has filters in it and segments. It burns very hot. It burns the exhaust before it leaves out of the exhaust pipe.

Both of these trucks are in rough shape, with a lot of parts rotting. I want to stick to our 10-year capital plan, which is why you'll see a new plow truck in this budget. On a good note, once we purchase this new vehicle, our next plow truck won't be needed until 2030. In 2030, we'll replace the 2016 Mack truck we bought back then. I know it's a 10-year plan, but we bought better trucks and better updated equipment. With this particular truck in 2030, we are going to take the bed off the 2016 truck and move that to a new cabin chassis. We are only going to be purchasing a cabin chassis. Let's say it's \$120,000 versus \$230,000-250,000. That's the reason we went with the stainless steel bodies and equipment for our salting and ice removal systems.

We also have a 1-ton truck that will be replacing what used to be my predecessor's truck. It's rotting out very badly, and the frames are rotting. We'll be moving some vehicles around—our foreman got his truck, and I'll take another truck for myself that can hold a lot more stuff, especially for when we have storms. The pickup truck works but there is no way you can haul enough equipment. So, we are going to move some things around and we'll be surplus-ing two pickup trucks this year: one I call the 'gold one' and a black Chevy we have that's showing a lot of rust too. We're only going to purchase one new truck, but once we do, we'll be in great shape with small trucks for the next few years.

I'm really excited about the 10-year plan. If we can keep it going as long as we can, we'll do that. But I realize if we can't do it then we can't do it. The things we're trying to get rid of should've been gone a long time ago. If we're forced to keep them, we'll need to invest money into them, and it's going to be expensive.

- **Council President Kline:** At this point, I would like to ask Council Finance Committee member Councilwoman Miller if she has any questions she would like to address to Mark.
- **Councilwoman Miller:** That is a lot to take in with the different trucks and trying to understand this. As far as the overall for our building maintenance, what are our plans there? I know there is work on several buildings that needs to be done.
- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss:** As far as the tornado, we have had some roofs get damaged. The snack bar roof has been replaced, and the bathroom roof at Campbell Park has also been replaced. Soon, we are going to have the whole entire roof replaced on the Fire Station as well.
- **Councilwoman Miller:** Some of that is covered by insurance?

- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss:** All of it.
- **Councilwoman Miller:** All of it is being covered, even the full roof replacement?
- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss:** Yes, what I did was, for the pickle ball court fence that got damaged, they wanted \$2,000 to demo out the old steel and take down the fence. The same situation applied to the backstop on Field C. We did all the demo in-house, and we are going to get the money for the demo.
- What I did was, instead of putting a shingle roof on the snack bar and bathroom, we put a nice black steel roof on both buildings, which will last much longer. We are able to offset that by doing the demo. For example, we're estimating about \$1,200 over there, and maybe around \$800 for the work here, so it worked out in our favor. So far, everything has been covered.
- I'm also working with Mike Lucas on the Service Garage roof replacement, which is estimated to cost \$120,000. However, unbeknownst to myself, there is metal decking up there on top of bar joys. You can't see it from the bottom side but when the roof had gotten ripped off, the metal decking is all rotted. The workers were afraid to walk up there, so they used 75 sheets of plywood to get around the holes so they could make their patch. Overall, it is not safe on the roof.
- We're currently working on possibly building a new Service Garage. So, we're working through the process now and seeing how we are going to lay it out. For now, I am holding off on the roof replacement. The insurance company is willing to pay around \$108,000, so you are not getting the \$120,000 because \$19,000 is depreciation. We won't get that because we're not technically replacing the roof. I'm comfortable with the patching for now as it doesn't leak, though there are a few small leaks in the back that we'll fix it when the weather gets warmer. We will save or invest that money.
- In the Service Garage, the north elevation wall is cracked really bad because it was originally part of a salt dome wall that held back the salt, but it's actually the side of the shop now. There are a lot of issues which I have known. We have tried to fix what we can fix and just limp it along.
- One of the big plans in the future is addressing these issues at the Service Garage. We're currently working on that with engineers and architects and we will see where we end up money-wise I know it's not going to be cheap but we definitely have to do something.
- **Councilwoman Miller:** As far as the Community Center as a building, structurally, some of the other problems that we have had their include HVAC. How does that look?
- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss:** That has improved with Brewer-Garrett. We haven't had as many issues as we've had in the past. We just had one of the coils freeze this winter, but it was cold out for days. There was a free stat, and a wire that goes across the coil. This is when it was installed, as a safety net. When Brewer Garret came out, they told me that the safety wire was on the wrong side of the coil but they have since then fixed that. But like I said, it was really cold when that happened. As far as the building goes, it does need some work. We did get some estimates. They are high, so it's another thing we are going to have to look at, or try to do some of it ourselves. I know the Mayor and Laura are going back to the Board for the work that needs to be done in the senior room. We are only going to pay to have the ceiling done and Service is going to do the floor and build the wall because it was expensive to get that work done. These are some of the bigger projects. In addition, we do have a storm sewer projects this year we are going to do, which we will submit to the county and get reimbursed.

- **Councilwoman Miller:** Sounds like there will be a lot that is happening in Service this year, thank you.
- **Councilman Knecht:** Mr. Grubiss, you talked about employee retention and training for this year. As we look long-term do you think that there is going to be an opportunity for some of these young people to learn some of the skill sets that you have? As you get older maybe you can pass some of these things on so that we have somebody that knows how to do them?
- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss:** Yes, I teach them. They actually love doing all the different things. I am not sure if they actually liked it at first but once they did it and got it under their belt that changed. With the flooring, they are all really good at this and I can just cut them loose. Most all of them all. I teach as much as I can. The only thing that I can try to teach is the electrical but a lot of them don't want anything to do with it. I don't blame them because bad things can happen to you. But they are all willing to learn. We got a guy back there named Tim and he came from Kirtland and is a great asset. Matt also does a lot of stuff. I can tell him what we have to do and can leave whereas in the beginning I was helping them and teaching them but they have done really good. I am teaching every day. We are getting other guys on the excavators, loaders, and backhoes. My goal is that everybody can do everything. Moreover, we have done that with the sewer truck and with machines. We don't let certain people on them but if it's wide open there is nothing to worry about utility wise. We just put someone else in the seat and that is how you are going to learn. You can show somebody how to do it, but you can't make them feel it. I am teaching all the time.
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** Just for the benefit of our residents, how many staff do you have working?
- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss:** I have a total of 9. We have 1 mechanic who never leaves unless he has to, but he can. He is capable of plowing. The other 8 are just the everyday guys.
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** Are they all full-time?
- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss:** Yes, so when one is not here, I have to fill in and do my job. When 2 aren't here or if it's storming bad I am the fill in guy. So, I will work night or day if I have to but like I said, we are fully staffed not at 8 which I think is a great number. But, if more services need to be done we are going to have to look at hiring more people down the road. Right now, it is like a well-oiled machine.
- **Mayor Hallum:** There are basically 4 vehicles including the caterpillar that are for service this year. I just want to make sure that everyone knows that because we are going to have 4 things that we are going to be purchasing new. Often times, the ordinance comes up and we question if that was in the budget. I just want to make sure that we note that there are 4; 2 of them are fairly considerable items, the plow truck and the caterpillar. Then the 2 other trucks.
- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss:** There is only 1 other truck.
- **Mayor Hallum:** What about the Fire Department one?
- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss:** Fire has one; it is listed in their budget.
- **Mayor Hallum:** It's listed in this one that there is a split.
- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss:** It is a split because half comes out of 250 and half comes out of 610, which is the sewer fund. We split it because the truck gets used for both.

- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** So, three trucks?
- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss:** It's a plow truck, a small truck, and a piece of equipment. So two trucks and a piece of equipment and it's a backhoe. And really quickly, I want to clarify a mix-up on the truck at last night's meeting. We are getting rid of a 2013 Freightliner plow truck that is old because our new one just came last Friday and *that* is a Mack. We are not getting rid of a Mack we are getting rid of a Freightliner.
- **Councilwoman Miller:** I would like to have it in the budget here if you could point me to what page each of these are at.
- **Mayor Hallum:** The smaller truck is E57 and the plow truck is E62.
- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss:** It's E70 for the other half of the pickup truck.
- **Council President Kline:** When I review budgets, I review numbers between years and I always come away looking to see how the numbers match up from year to year and the Service and Roads' budget looks fine from my experience, it raises no questions or concerns in my mind. I think Mark speaks well in how he has his budget under control and knows exactly what is there.
- **Mayor Hallum:** For River Road and the Sidewalk project, do you see the Service Department getting involved in any of those?
- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss:** No, I do not. And like I said, the people and business are going to have to take care of their sidewalks. That is how it is written. If we start getting sidewalk complaints, we are going to have to reach out to them and reiterate the fact that it is their responsibility to keep their sidewalks free and clear. If way down the road it falls on us, that is when we need to look at hiring somebody else for the winter.
- **Mayor Hallum:** The sidewalks are only on commercial property so they are not on residential.
- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss:** Correct. However, if they are not getting cleaned, they are going to have to enforce that.
- **Councilwoman Miller:** I too compare the budget from last year to this year. I am impressed looking at the numbers, and I am quite comfortable.
- **Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss:** I try to run a tight ship and only get things I need, and not things I do not need.

PUBLIC PORTION (Audio 32:15)

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

Public Portion #1 opened at 6:32 p.m.

- No one spoke.

Public Portion #1 closed at 6:32 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEM (Audio 32:35)

2) 2025 Proposed Budget (Police Department) – Ordinance 2024-070

- **Police Chief Matthew Naegele:** Good evening Mayor and Members of Council. I appreciate the opportunity to be here with you tonight. I always look forward to this evening. My priorities are always to ensure the safety and well-being of the community. Our department is committed to serving with integrity, transparency, and dedication in all the neighborhoods we protect within the City here. As you know, as we have discussed this in years past the budget is more than just numbers on a page. It represents our shared vision for a safer, stronger community. It allows us to support our officers, invest in new technologies, and provide training for our officers. It also allows us to address the always-emerging challenges that are coming up year-to-year, which are numerous. With your support, we can continue to enhance our efforts in crime prevention, enforcement, and public safety innovation. The work ahead is not without challenges. We're operating in a rapidly changing environment where crime trends evolve, and the expectations of the community continue to grow year in and year out. To continue fulfilling our mission we must ensure that our department has the resources that it needs both for our officers in the field and for our strategic initiatives that help fulfill our mission. I know that you've taken the time to carefully review the budget in front of you and I look forward to discussing along with Finance Director Bruce Scott how we can work together to ensure a budget that addresses the needs of public safety while reflecting our collective goals. Again, I appreciate this thank you.
- I do have some questions that were presented ahead of time, but before we get to that just to let you know, I want to mirror a little bit of what Mark said. I think there's really not a lot of surprises in my budget for this year because I think year to year we've done a really good job of setting up a vision for the direction of not only the Police Department but collectively as a City. I could say it is refreshing and it's a good feeling to be able to sit down and not stress out because you know there's something that I'm not quite sure of. I think that's a testament to the work that we all do when we get together on this and in particular, it's a testament to Bruce, who does such a good job as our Finance Director. He would attest to the fact that he and I get together regularly. I visit with him probably 3-4 days a week just to pop in with him, address him with questions I may have, and check in on certain things to make sure everything is good to go. Part of the plan that we developed for this coming year and in years past, particularly with regards to police cars, is that we've done such a good job that I don't have police cars in the budget for this year. We were very fortunate to order it at just the right time last year. We have them in storage right now. They're already paid for and they'll be built probably around the second or third quarter of this year. We're going to be in a good position for the rest of this year and into next year. We may need to reserve cars for the following year, maybe near the end of 2025. It's just hard to know because you never know when the State contract is going to be released. When they release the pricing on the police cars, it's just kind of an unknown element for me so we'll see how things go as the year moves on. With that

said, we're in a really good position. Mark talked a little bit about the feasibility study that's being conducted. That's also in conjunction with the feasibility study that's being conducted for the Police Department as well. As you may remember, some legislation came before you in regard to the approval of having these feasibility studies conducted, one of which is addressing the needs of the Police Department for the possible expansion renovation of our existing facility. We're in the process of that right now in conjunction with the same study that Mark is having done with the same engineers and architects. The facility that we're currently in was built back in the early 80s. It was built at a time when the Police Department was a fraction of the size that it is now and was addressing different needs to the community that we address right now. This includes different manpower and different challenges. The challenge we're facing now is that of an aged building that we have not only grown out of, but are also having to address issues, as you have known year to year, with things breaking down and investments we need to make just to keep the current facility up and running, as well as efficiency of operations issues. As we move further into this year, that's one of the things that I will probably be bringing forward to you: the needs as are presented from the professionals that we contracted with to move forward on this project. I'll certainly keep you in the loop as we move forward on that. In regard to any other real budgetary issues that we have as far as challenges are concerned or things that are on the bend, as I said, we're doing pretty well right now as far as our major purchases with the vehicles; we are pretty good.

- I guess I could just kind of jump right into some of the questions that were presented earlier if it's all the same to you. One of the things that was brought up was whether or not the police budget factored and changes proposed for speed camera officers and the simple answer is yes. The budget presented includes all the proposed staffing needs. Page E24 of the budget 234, 235, 1234 Police Officers; the question was "What are the step one, two, and three police officer categories?" Those are those are collected bargaining classifications by contract. What that means is when an officer gets hired at the Police Department, they are a step one officer for the first year they're here and they make a certain hourly rate. Step two is their second year here, and then their third year of being full-time with us they go to step three. Those are the three different classifications that that we work under. That's all contractual collective bargaining obligations. Page E24 of the budget Part-Time Police Officers of the 2025 budget lists \$106,000 with a 2024 actual of \$10,429. The 2025 budget shows a breakdown of patrol (\$45,000) and photo enforcement (\$60,120). The question is "Would you explain how many part-time officers this would entail and how they would be utilized?" The patrol line currently is we have three part-time officers currently on staff performing various duties, including assisting with the courts, assisting from time to time with shift fill type needs, and assisting with outside of traffic enforcement duties. The photo enforcement portion of that reflects part-time officers; the plan is to bring in part-time officers from outside the department to cover open shifts after open shifts are made available to the current full-time officer. Full-time officers are always there. They are my priority to the department, and they always have the first crack and taking those details as they come up. Any of those shifts that are not filled within the supplemented by part-time personnel. The number of officers will only be covering available time slots for photo enforcement.
- One other question is "How will additional funds affect the Police budget and are anticipated revenues figured into the budget?" and "What are the additional funds primarily used for?" Current Projections are included in the safety forces fund revenue. Photo enforcement money is currently used to further public safety efforts, including capital improvements, any equipment needs that we may have, and long-term capital projects.
- **Council President Kline:** I will ask Councilwoman Miller if she has any questions or comments for Chief Naegele.

- **Councilwoman Miller:** At this time, most of my questions were pretty much covered. I see that we have some money set aside for desktop computer replacements. What would you be looking at there? What are you replacing?
- **Police Chief Matthew Naegele:** This is a capital need that we will address because it is relatively significant. We operate with a lot of computers in the Police Department. The computers that we have right now are at the end of their life cycle. You never want to go beyond that, especially with the work that we do. The last thing you need is your computer system shutting down because it is basically the lifeblood of how we operate. Generally, we purchase all those things through state contract prices. We organize the purchase of that through our County I.T. department with the sheriff's I.T. They already have some preliminary quote numbers over. We budgeted for that. Then, shortly after the budget is passed, we'll move forward with the project to upgrade the computers throughout the Police Department.
- **Councilwoman Miller:** There is also a K-9 replacement on here. Can you tell me a little bit about what you are looking to do with that?
- **Police Chief Matthew Naegele:** The Willoughby Hills Police Department has a long history of having a K-9 program here that dates back to around the early 2000's. We have had a lot of dogs here over the years. The latest and greatest is Maya. Maya has been with us for several years. She assigned to Sergeant Paul Cocanower. Who comes from a family of K-9 handlers. Maya is getting up there in age. I started talking about this with Paul earlier last year. A K-9 is a tool and age is a factor. You have to start thinking about the physical abilities of a dog when they get to a certain point in time. You don't want to push them beyond their limits. The time is now. The intention is to retire out Maya early this year. She will remain with Paul. We have a program in place, part of Paul's K-9 contract agreement with the City, where we would put legislation through where the dog would be retired with him, and he would purchase Maya for a dollar. Maya would live out the rest of her life with him at home. We already have early quotes for a dog replacement. There is a kennel located in western Pennsylvania where we'll send Paul to, and a new dog will be selected. We already have a vendor selected that is going to be handling training over the course of several months from him to get him up to speed and his certifications in order. We will be transitioning over to a new K-9 this year which will last us another number of years. This is very effective. A K-9 program is a great tool for locating narcotics, searching out suspects, and even helping to find lost people in the Metro Parks. It is a whole array of things that we utilize the dog for, so it's great.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** What is the extent of our drone program? I know we have some associated with Lake County. Do we have any specifically for our City?
- **Police Chief Matthew Naegele:** Yes, it is kind of part and parcel the same thing. We have a drone officer here, Tom McNamara. He was out on leave earlier this year for an injury, so he was out for a few months. We didn't get to utilize the drone as much as we would like. The drone program is relatively young here. It is in its infancy.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** Last year is the first year I have heard about it.
- **Police Chief Matthew Naegele:** We are in the third year of doing it. We are doing some upgrades on the drones this year. There have been some technological advancements and some shortcomings that we saw with one of the drones. We are addressing that this year and making replacements for it. Tom has been a great asset to the program and has really embraced it. He is a sworn full-time officer here. The benefit for us is that we have the ability to deploy a drone if a suspect escapes into

the woods. This has the capabilities of night vision. This is great for us. Not only that but he is also assigned to the Lake County Drone team which is a collective of police officers and firefighters from all around the country. If there is a major event in another city, we have the ability to lend that resource outside as well.

- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** Are you comfortable with the number of officers that you have? How many police officers do we have in the City (full-time and part-time)?
- **Police Chief Matthew Naegele:** Right now, we have 24 full-time uniform personnel. We have 3 full-time support personnel. This includes my executive assistant Lindsay Bushman as well as a Police Clerk and our Court Officer Jim Ours who fills in invaluable role as far as court transports and dealing with prisoner transports. Then we have 3 part-time officers that work more of a support role. They are full-time at other agencies and come here to help out in a limited capacity. To answer the question of whether we are comfortable with the personnel that we have, I would say that I believe we are in a good spot right now. I would be more than willing to accept four more full-time officers if you all are willing to sign off and fund them for me. Things are always changing and needs change over time. This year, I can say that I am comfortable, however, with that said, things change. As the years move on and the City grows, challenges change and increase. Perhaps in the next 5 years or so, I would say that we might need additional staffing here.
- **Mayor Hallum:** I want to make sure we acknowledge the way that the Chief has handled the car replacements because that is approximately 277 thousand dollars that we are not spending this year. That frees that money up to do other things. Those are the kind of things that we want to see. I appreciate the fact that he is looking out for the best interest of the City and the residents' money.
- **Police Chief Matthew Naegele:** Mark joked around that we only get what we need, but we do take that very seriously. I have grown up here. My entire police career has been here. I have had about 26 years of service to the City. I have been through highs and lows, and I understand fiscal challenges. I have a good understanding of what it means to get what you need and get the job done that way. We do it right. We don't do it small or cheap, we get things done the right way, but we are mindful of the costs that are associated with things. It would be out of character for me to suggest that we get new cars this year simply because we have the money to do so.
- **Council President Kline:** I want to make certain that the photo enforcement part-time officers that are brought on will be new hires.
- **Police Chief Matthew Naegele:** That is correct.
- **Council President Kline:** I also want to make sure that there is no concern regarding the Union on this?
- **Police Chief Matthew Naegele:** The Union is aware of this. They were notified about our intentions to do this. It is in the City Ordinances of the staffing levels of part-time officers so this isn't a created new position. These are positions to be filled. It will just be a specific job duty that these part-timers engage in when they come here. And just to reiterate, this is a supplement to the full-time officers having the preferential ability to schedule ahead of them.
- **Council President Kline:** Next Tuesday at 6, we will have Fire and the Administrative budget. If anyone has questions or comments, getting them in sooner will provide an assurance that they will

be answered and there won't be a delay in coming back from the department heads and we can conclude the budget review much faster.

PUBLIC PORTION #2 – **An opportunity for the public to address Council with any comments, issue or concern** Section 107.08 – Public Meetings of Municipal Bodies of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Willoughby Hills: (a) All meetings of any municipal body are declared to be public meetings open to the public at all times. All meetings shall provide a reasonable opportunity to hear public opinion.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by **Council President Kline** to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: **AYES:** Kline, Miller
 NAYS: None
 Vote: 2/0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
 Date

Michael Kline
President of Council

ATTEST: _____
 Nicholas Aiello
 Clerk of Council