

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 February 13, 2025

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order on Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. **Council President Kline** presided.

Call to Order 7:00 p.m. (0:03)

Cell Phone Reminder to Turn off Devices

Pledge of Allegiance (Audio: 0:18)

ROLL CALL (Audio: 0:45)

Members: Councilman Joe Jarmuszkiewicz, Council President Michael Kline, Councilman Dan Knecht, Councilwoman Vicki Miller, Councilwoman Kathleen Sivo, Council Vice President Tanya Taylor Draper

In Attendance: City Engineer Pete DiFranco, and Finance Director Bruce Scott

Absent: Councilwoman Julie A. Belich and Mayor Hallum

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

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

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

- **Motion** to excuse **Councilwoman Belich** from tonight's meeting has passed.

DISPOSITION OF THE JOURNAL (Audio: 1:53)

- **Motion** made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by **Councilwoman Sivo** to approve the **January 20, 2025** Working Committee of Council and Rules & Legislation Minutes.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

Roll Call: **AYES:** Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, Miller, Sivo, Taylor Draper
 NAYS: None
 ABSTIAN: Knecht
 Vote: 6/0/1

Motion passed to approve the **January 20, 2025** Working Committee of Council and Rules & Legislation Minutes.

- **Motion** made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by **Councilwoman Sivo** to approve the **January 23, 2025** Regular Meeting of Council Minutes.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

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

- **Motion** passed to approve the **January 23, 2025** Regular Meeting of Council Minutes.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE (Audio 3:40)

Email dated 1/20/25 dated from Gloria Majeski Re: Ordinance 2025-005
Email dated 1/20/25 dated from Naegele, Matthew RE: Ordinance 2025-005
Email dated 1/20/25 dated from Dan Knecht January 20 Meeting
Email dated 1/18/25 dated from Julie Belich Working Committee Meeting
Email dated 1/18/25 dated from Ryan Caudill FW: USDA Forestry Grant Opportunity for Tractor and Boom Mower
Email dated 1/18/25 dated from Purchases – Deadline Approaching! Sat 01/18
Email dated 1/17/25 dated from Michael C. Lucas Ordinance No, 2025-xxx Amending Chapter 139. Section 130.02
Email dated 1/17/25 dated from Willoughby Hills Finance Dept. 1/17/25 MAIL HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED!!
Email dated 1/16/25 dated from Michael C. Lucas RE: Ordinance 2025-004
Email dated 1/16/25 dated from Stephanie Kellner VM Thu 01/16
Email dated 1/16/25 dated from Karen Mehollin RE: waste and recycling bid
Email dated 1/16/25 dated from Mayor Hallum FW: Airport meeting report 1/9/25
Email dated 1/15/25 dated from Crawford, Vince RE: waste and recycling bid
Email dated 1/15/25 dated from Karen Mehollin RE: Thursday Agenda
Email dated 1/15/25 dated from Karen Mehollin RE: Airport meeting report 1/9/25
Email dated 1/15/25 dated from Finance Director RE: Ordinance 2025-004
Email dated 1/15/25 dated from Assistant Finance Director RE: Equitable Lunch and Learn
Email dated 1/15/25 dated from Mehollin, Karen Re: PASSWORD RESET - THURSDAY, 8:30 A.M.
Email dated 1/15/25 dated from Assistant Finance Director RE: Equitable Lunch and Learn
Email dated 1/14/25 dated from Mike Kline Re: COUNCIL CHAMBER MICS
Email dated 1/14/25 dated from Karen Mehollin RE: Photo enforcement pay ordinance
Email dated 1/14/25 dated from Seth Stern Comments re: Republic Services
Email dated 1/14/25 dated from Cathleen Nagorski Photo enforcement pay ordinance

Email dated 1/14 /25 dated from Finance Director RE: COUNCIL CHAMBER MICS
 Email dated 1/13/25 dated from Karen Mehollin RE: Emerald Glen Resolution
 Email dated 1/13/25 dated from Karen Mehollin RE: Financial Disclosure Statement
 Email dated 1/13/25 dated from Willoughby Hills Finance Dept. 1/13/25 MAIL HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED!!!
 Email dated 1/13/25 dated from Karen Mehollin RE: Trash and Recycle Program
 Email dated 1/13/25 dated from Assistant Finance Director Equitable Lunch and Learn
 Email dated 1/12/25 dated from Bza PACKETS for BZA Mtg 1/4/25 Tuesday at 8:00 PM
 Email dated 1/10/25 from Bob K Feedback on garbage recycling contract renewal
 Email dated 1/10/25 Finance Director RE: Minute Audio
 Email dated 1/10/25 from Mayor Hallum FW: Airport meeting report 1/9/25
 Email dated 1/10/25 from Kathy Longo Re: Emerald Glen Resolution
 Email dated 1/08/25 from Mayor Hallum Mayor's Report - 01-09-2025
 Email dated 1/09/25 from Kathy Longo RE: Emerald Glen Resolution
 Email dated 1/09/25 from Pietro DiFranco Willoughby Hills City Engineer Report 250109
 Email dated 1/09/25 from Karen Mehollin RE: Emerald Glen
 Email dated 1/09/25 from Karen Mehollin FW: Airport meeting report 1/9/25
 Email dated 1/09/25 from Willoughby Hills Finance Dept. RE: APPRECIATION LUNCH - JOE CIRESI (New Owner of the Old Tavern)
 Email dated 1/08/25 from pc-abr WH PCABR Meeting 1/16/25- THURSDAY 7:00 PM
 Email dated 1/08/25 from Rick Gleeson Re: Dave Reichelt's Contact number
 Email dated 1/08/25 from Willoughby Hills Finance Dept. RE: Walter Drane Co - 2024 update
 Email dated 1/08/25 from Lenette Beasley Invoice from American Legal Publishing
 Email dated 1/08/25 from Willoughby Hills Finance Dept. 1/8/25 MAIL HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED!!!
 Email dated 1/08/25 from Tracy Simons Welcome Letter from OMCA President, OMCA Membership Application & NEOMCA Membership Application

PUBLIC PORTION #1 (Audio: 3:51)

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

Public Portion #1 opened at 7:04 p.m.

- **No one spoke.**

Public Portion #1 closed at 7:04 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT (Audio: 4:19)

- **No report.**

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Audio: 4:25)

- **Law Director Lucas:** Good evening ladies and gentleman. I want to briefly discuss this Resolution that I got in later than I should. I apologize to the Clerk for that. This is Resolution 2025-003. This is the CRA agreement that we have been working on. Al Hehr has been working on behalf of Queen's Gambit LLC to get this started in a timely fashion. This deals with the Chipotle at the 28301 Chardon Road address. Everything is in order paper work-wise and legal description-wise. We drafted the agreement subject to Al's approval. That is fine

from a legal acceptance standpoint. I would ask Council, at their discretion always, if they could pass this tonight. There is a certain time sensitivity to getting the construction project started with an end date that if not timely met would have some adverse consequences. I would recommend and ask Council's indulgence to sign this tonight as an emergency measure. I also want to bring to your attention that we will have to wave the 48-hour rule on this legislation. I have nothing else to report and am open to questions.

- **Council President Mike Kline:** I did speak with the Mayor earlier today when I heard about this Resolution. He did express the same sentiment and concern to me that he would like to see this pass this evening because there is a desire that construction be started as quickly as possible.
- **Law Director Lucas:** That is an accurate statement.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Audio: 6:56)

- **Finance Director Scott:** The January statements have all been completed and posted online. We are finished with January and moving on to February. If you have any questions on the reports, please let me know. As you all know, we had a good budget meeting the other night. I did have some interesting conversations today with the Fire Department. They are looking to make some changes. It will be good to see Chief Gandee next week. This mainly concerns the part-time firefighters and the fact that they are having such a hard time keeping them. They want to try to look at doing some change, help incentive wise, to getting more people and keeping them on the payroll. Other than that, I am not aware of any changes. Lastly, there was talk about Ordinance 2025-004; that can go three readings, so we do not have to worry about this tonight.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** How did the tax revenues end up for last year? I know we were behind towards the end of the year but you didn't have the final numbers in.
- **Finance Director Scott:** We were down almost half a million. I think it was around \$480,000 but I can't remember the exact number but it was substantial.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** That was the final for the year?
- **Finance Director Scott:** That is correct.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** Did that include a notification of non-filers?
- **Finance Director Scott:** We received correspondence through RITA that there have been substantial non-filers. The more I looked into it, it seems like history is repeating itself. I cannot explain why the numbers are so high. We did have, back in 2022, a similar number. So, I haven't really seen any results.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** Are those just people that didn't file a City income tax?
- **Finance Director Scott:** The way it was explained to me was that it was first time non-filers. We are in the subpoena program again this year, so I think those notices will have a little bit

more of an effect this year. Only time will tell.

- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** Thank you.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT (Audio: 9:35)

- **City Engineer DiFranco:** We are finalizing the road and sewer bid projects. We request motions authorizing the City to solicit bids under "New Business."

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS REPORTS / COMMITTEE REPORTS (Audio: 10:02)

PC-ABR reported by Council Vice President Taylor Draper

- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** The Planning and Zoning Architectural Board of Review group met last Thursday, February 6. There was no business for the Architectural Board of Review portion.
- During the Planning Commission portion, there were two projects on the agenda. The first was 29007 Chardon Road. This is the former local tavern. There is a new owner named Joe Ciresi. He is a resident of 25+ years. He raised his family here and would like to have a steak restaurant here. He is currently the president and founder of the Zeppe's Pizza in the City and surrounding areas. He was granted a 6-month extension to formalize his plans. He is going to be coming back around August, if not beforehand to deliver his formal plans for the restaurant. It is going to be called Jardee and Moe's. He is so excited and looking forward to starting this up. That is something to look forward to in that area along with the Premier Rehabilitation Center there.
- Second, there was the proposed Dollar General at 33901 Chardon Road. They were seeking preliminary approval for the proposed Dollar General store. Unanimously, it failed to gain that preliminary approval. We had the residents and the City Engineer all feel that the quality of the building, the location, the traffic concerns, and safety matters was not something that was good for that area and good for the City. We also found out that the actual Dollar General does not own the building or the land. They would be acting as tenants. I think that part was not disclosed and if it was, it was not too clear to the Board at that time. We just felt that it didn't suit and was not up to preliminary approval.

Senior Board reported by Councilwoman Miller

- **Councilwoman Miller:** The Senior Board is establishing monthly meetings. They met on January 31 and discussed what they want the Senior Center looking like going forward. They talked about assignments and tasks by each of the Board members, yearly scheduled, as well as what activities they will be looking into. The next senior luncheon will be on February 18 with pizza being served. They are also looking for different instructors in various areas who might want to hold classes for senior citizens. We are looking forward to expanding offerings. The applications for joining the Senior Center went out recently. If you are interested please call our Recreation office if you did not receive one and the next meeting of the Board will be February 21.

Beautification Committee reported by Council Vice President Taylor Draper

No report.

Recreation Commission reported by Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz

- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** The softball and baseball registrations are still ongoing. They should be ending pretty soon. The teams are filling up quickly. If people are interested, they need to get registration in as soon as possible.
- March 9 is the Willoughby Hills pancake breakfast. There are tickets in everybody's mailbox. We are trying to sell as many presale tickets as possible. This year, the presale tickets will be \$9.00. At the door, it will be \$10.00. Children ages 5-12 are still \$5.00 and 4 and under are free. We will be having all you can eat pancakes, blueberries, and French toast as well as other sides. We are looking for volunteers and as many ticket sales as we can get. We appreciate any help.
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** I know that the fees for the rentals had been increased for this year. Has that slowed things down or is business still booming over there?
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** I am not sure if they have started rentals yet. Laura was getting it ready to start this year. In recreation, we don't really speak about the rental part of it. That is more of the Community Center. This is just part of the Recreation Commission Program and is one of the events we put on to try to raise money. We spend this on improvements in the recreational areas of the City.
- **Finance Director Scott:** Rentals went live on February 15. Laura did a great job putting together a website where people can go and get information before coming and renting. They have been extremely busy booking rooms since it opened.

Finance Committee Report by Council President Kline

- **Council President Kline:** Tuesday evening, we did the first of two budget hearings for the 2025 budget. We had Police and Service in. I think Police Chief Naegele and Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss did an excellent job presenting their departments and their plans for 2025. We look forward to having Fire Chief Gandee and the representatives of the administration to complete that. We will be in position at our next Council meeting to move forward on the budget.

WHISPER reported by Councilwoman Miller

No report.

Deer Management Committee reported by Councilwoman Belich

No report.

Business Subcommittee – reported by Councilwoman Sivo

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (Audio: 17:24)

- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** I have an update on the microphone purchases. I have talked to some IT people that I work with to get an idea if the price on the quote was too high and good quality. I talked to three separate people and they told me that these microphones are very good quality. They are rated very high. They are used in a lot of churches and schools so it would fit we have going on here. They said it was a bit pricey for each one. \$565 per microphone is a bit pricey according to them. They also wondered if there was a warranty that came along with the deal. I just wanted to get an idea of what we are looking at. They deal with this stuff all the time. This was their assessment of what we have going on here. These are very good quality but I just wondered about the price. Thank you.
- **Council President Mike Kline:** at the last Council meeting, Mrs. Bing again presented information regarding the compensation of Council. She had requested data from various cities in western lake county. By coincidence, we had been gathering the same data. In any event, we thank Mrs. Bing for her effort.
- I don't dispute any of the data Mrs. Bing submitted regarding these other cities. I do not agree with her conclusions. She stated that she had not seen 2024 info and that Mr. Scott would be addressing budget increases. But, yet, she knows, because she said so, that Council would be getting a raise bigger than what the department heads received, that is, a higher percentage increase. The department heads received a 3% COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) and a \$0.75 an hour market adjustment. She concluded saying Willoughby Hills Council is getting paid way more than anyone in the area.
- Wow, where do I begin.
- First of all, Mrs. Bing said Willoughby Hills City Council members made \$10,140 a year in 2023. I have no idea where Mrs. Bing got this information from. In 2023, Council salary was \$7,817.82. That's what my W2 showed. For 2024, Council salaries rose to \$7,992.44. That was, by the way a 2.23% increase.
- As far as these comparisons to other cities, let me preface my comments by saying, I'm only mentioning cities by name since Mrs. Bing brought this up and nothing I'm saying should be taken in any negative or derogatory way regarding these cities.
- In 2024, a Willowick Councilperson earned over \$2,000 more annually than one in Willoughby Hills. The same for Willoughby. An Eastlake council member received \$665 more. Wickliffe Council did receive less than Willoughby Hills in 2024, \$392 less or \$33 a month. Kirtland's salary scale is significantly below all the other cities and as such greatly skews any comparison and anyone who analyzes data will tell you, you disregard such wide variances.
- But, as I read this information now, I'm having an epiphany. Willoughby Hills Council members are actually being underpaid. I want to thank Mrs. Bing for bringing this information to our attention.

- We encourage people to come forward in public portion and express their opinion. You can say whatever you want. However, as I have said many times, you are entitled to your own opinion, but not your own facts. As long as I am sitting on this dais, we will fact check statements made and respond accordingly.
- This Council has a lot of work to do. We don't really have the time to check and recheck the same comments made and disproved time after time. But we will.
- I have an addendum to my comments. For full disclosure just yesterday, the consumer price index as of January 1, 2025 was released. This is the index used to determine Council salary increases. The index is 3.38%. Council's increase is 0.38%, a little more than 1/3 of 1% greater than what the department heads received. This additional percentage amounts to approximately \$31 for the year or \$0.61 a week. That \$0.61 plus \$0.12 out of a Councilperson's pocket will buy a first class postage stamp.

LEGISLATION: (Audio: 23:29)

ORDINANCE 2024-070- THIRD READING

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN CITY SERVICES FOR THE FISCAL PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1ST THROUGH DECEMBER 31ST OF 2025; REPEALING ALL LEGISLATION INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

- Ordinance 2024-070 remains on Third Reading.
- **Council President Mike Kline:** This is the 2025 budget, which we have talked about and will be talking about over the next couple of weeks.

ORDINANCE 2025-002- SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PUBLICATION OF CERTAIN NOTICES ON THE CITY WEBSITE AND THEREBY AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGARDING PUBLIC NOTICES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- **Motion** made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by, **Councilman Knecht**, to adopt Ordinance 2025-002.

Discussion on the Motion:

- **Councilwoman Miller:** Though this ordinance looks long, it is just updating a section in the ordinances alleviating the newspaper and adding social media and the City website to it.
- **Council President Kline:** This will not result in any change to the weekly notifications of meetings that appear in the News Herald. Those will continue to appear in the News Herald in the sidebars. There are other areas of notifications that this will effect.

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

- Ordinance 2025-002 was adopted.

ORDINANCE 2025-004-SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE NEW SANITARY SEWERAGE RATE FOR THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2025, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- Ordinance 2025-004 remains on Second Reading.

ORDINANCE 2025-005-AMENDED- SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE FIVE, “ADMINISTRATION,” CHAPTER 139 CAPTIONED “POLICE DEPARTMENT”; SPECIFICALLY, SECTION 139.02 TITLED “RULES, REGULATIONS, AND COMPENSATION,” TO ESTABLISH A PART-TIME CLASS 5 PATROL OFFICER POSITION AND RATE OF COMPENSATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- **Motion** made by **Council Vice President Taylor Draper**, seconded by, **Councilwoman Sivo**, to wave the Three Reading Rule on Ordinance 2025-005 Amended.

Discussion on the Motion:

- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** I want to make sure that it is very clear what this is about. It is simply that the Chief feels there are holes in filling the slots that are available for handheld photo enforcement. It is still going to be offered to Willoughby Hills part-time officers first. This is just a part-time position to fill that hole only. This has nothing to do with taxpayer dollars. This is being paid from the monies that are being collected from the speeders. Our Chief does not ask for much, and when he does, it is something that he truly needs. I feel this is something that he truly needs. I feel that this is something that is necessary for him to run the Department effectively and efficiently.
- **Council President Kline:** This change is already reflected in the 2025 budget.

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

- **Motion** passed to wave the Three Reading Rule on Ordinance 2025-005 Amended.
- **Motion** made by **Council Vice President Taylor Draper**, seconded by, **Councilwoman Sivo**, to adopt Ordinance 2025-005 Amended.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

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

- Ordinance 2025-005 Amended was adopted.

ORDINANCE 2025-006 AMENDED-FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE TO DECLARE A CITY VEHICLE AS SURPLUS PROPERTY AND GRANTING AUTHORIZATION TO SELL SAID SURPLUS VEHICLE ON THE OPEN MARKET UPON SUCH TERMS AND AT SUCH PRICES AS ARE DEEMED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- **Motion** made by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz**, seconded by, **Councilwoman Miller**, to wave the Three Reading Rule on Ordinance 2025-006 Amended.

Discussion on the Motion:

- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** This vehicle that we are going to be selling surplus is a 2013 Freightliner Model that has lived out its life. We have a new Mack truck brought in to replace it and it will be upgrading our Service Department's ability to keep the roads clear.

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

- **Motion** passed to wave the Three Reading Rule on Ordinance 2025-006 Amended.
- **Motion** made by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz**, seconded by, **Councilwoman Miller**, to adopt Ordinance 2025-006 Amended.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

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

- Ordinance 2025-006 Amended was adopted.

ORDINANCE 2025-007-FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) 2025 ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- **Motion** made by **Council Vice President Taylor Draper**, seconded by, **Councilwoman Sivo**, to wave the Three Reading Rule on Ordinance 2025-007.

Discussion on the Motion:

- **Council Vice President:** This is a grant totaling \$24,600 for the City. In the past, it has done a lot of good for exterior door replacements, HVAC door replacements, and repairs at the Grange and Community Center. We are ready to accept that money.

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

- **Motion** passed to wave the Three Reading Rule on Ordinance 2025-007.
- **Motion** made by **Council Vice President Taylor Draper**, seconded by **Councilwoman Sivo**, to adopt Ordinance 2025-007.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

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

- Ordinance 2025-007 was adopted.

RESOLUTION 2025-002 AMENDED-FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE CITY TO UTILIZE PROCEEDS IN THE AMOUNT OF THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$35,000.00) FROM THE FY 2025 SENIOR LEVY FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPORT OF SENIOR CITIZENS SERVICES OR FACILITIES FOR THE WILLOUGHBY HILLS SENIOR CENTER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- **Motion** made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by, **Councilman Knecht**, to wave the Three Reading Rule on Resolution 2025-002 Amended.

Discussion on the Motion:

- **Councilwoman Miller:** I am excited to see the addition of \$35,000 coming in from the Senior Levy. I am excited to see what our Recreation Coordinator and Senior Board can put together in terms of new programs for the City, as well as updates of facilities.

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

- **Motion** passed to wave the Three Reading Rule on Resolution 2025-002 Amended.
- **Motion** made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by, **Councilman Knecht**, to adopt Resolution 2025-002 Amended.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

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

- Resolution 2025-002 Amended was adopted.

RESOLUTION 2025-003-FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT AND EXECUTE A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT AND COMPENSATION AGREEMENT WITH QUEENS GAMBIT, LLC. AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- **Motion** made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by, **Council Vice President Taylor Draper**, to wave the 48 Hour Notice on Resolution 2025-003.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

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

- **Motion** passed to wave the 48 Hour Notice on Resolution 2025-003.
- **Motion** made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by, **Council Vice President Taylor Draper**, to wave the Three Reading Rule on Resolution 2025-003.

Discussion on the Motion:

- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** These Community Reinvestment Agreements are used in our City to bring businesses in which will increase payroll taxes and attract other businesses to our area. It's a slight discount on their taxes for so many years, but they agreed to keep their buildings up and the property up in accordance to the agreement for the term set.

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

- **Motion** passed to wave the Three Reading Rule on Resolution 2025-003.
- **Motion** made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by, **Council Vice President Taylor Draper**, to adopt Resolution 2025-003.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

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

- Resolution 2025-003 was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS (Audio 38:47)

1. **Motion** made by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz**, seconded by **Councilman Knecht**, for the City to go out to bid for asphalt.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

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

Motion passed for the City to go out to bid for asphalt.

2. **Motion** made by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz**, seconded by **Councilman Knecht**, for the City to go out to bid for limestone.

Discussion on the Motion:

- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** The limestone and the asphalt that we are going out to bid for is for the Service Department to continue road improvements and repairs after the winter. The sooner we get the bids out the sooner we can get the product in and get the roads repaired.

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

Motion passed for the City to go out to bid for limestone.

3. **Motion** made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by **Council Vice President Taylor Draper** authorizing the City to solicit bids for 2025 Street Rehab.

Discussion on the Motion:

- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** These bids will be for the rejuvenation of the roads that were paved for last year. It will make sure they have a longer life to the asphalt.
- **City Engineer DiFranco:** Just for clarification, this is just to mill and fill the roads. We are holding off on rejuvenation of the roads from last year. Since there were only two roads, it was a small quantity so we are going to do those next year with other roads to get a better deal on quantity. This year, we are just milling and filling.

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

Motion passed authorizing the City to solicit bids for 2025 Street Rehab.

4. **Motion** made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by **Councilman Knecht** authorizing the City to solicit bids for 2025 Sewer Rehab

Discussion on the Motion:

- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** The sewer rehab is a project we have ongoing. One tenth of the City's sewers will be inspected every year for a ten-year period. After ten years, the whole City will be done and they will start over again to constantly keep the sewers upgraded so that we do not have any major problems with the sewer system.

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

Motion passed authorizing the City to solicit bids for 2025 Sewer Rehab.

5. **Motion** made by **Councilman Knecht**, seconded by **Councilwoman Sivo** authorizing the City to solicit bids for 2025 Pavement Markings.

Discussion on the Motion:

- **Councilman Knecht:** This will allow us to go out to bid for the pavement markings across the City. The earlier we go out to bid, the better chance we have at getting on the schedule in a timely manner.

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

Motion passed authorizing the City to solicit bids for 2025 Pavement Markings.

PUBLIC PORTION #2 (Audio: 43:58)

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

Public Portion #2 opened at 7:44 p.m.

- **Don Akins 38195 Dodd's Hill:** I figure I am 1 of 1,000+ people at the east end of the City and at Wade Hill including the safety crews and utility crews that have poor cell service that is not completely safe and dependable. Going back to when I started paying more attention to this 4 or 5 years ago, the cell site was proposed to be on the Grange property that the City owns. When I get the regulations, the bulk of that is for an outside property. I would like to get updated as to why we are not utilizing the City owned property. That I have been told is a good site for the cell service. I think some of it falls back on you Pete. This is what I have been told in the past. I would appreciate an update on that.

Public Portion #2 closed at 7:46 p.m.

- **City Engineer DiFranco:** There was a cell tower proposed at the Grange. There were a couple code sections that they did not meet. One was the fall zone and perhaps some setbacks. There was

a lot of concern from several residents. But, the cell people could have applied for a variance for those code sections and they did not. That would have then gone to the BZA for variances. That isn't a possible route. That proposal died. My guess is they did not want to pursue it. That is where it stands.

- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** Who makes the proposal to put the tower there, the cell companies or the City?
- **City Engineer DiFranco:** The cell company.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** Do they actually make their recommendation and say they want to put their tower there?
- **City Engineer DiFranco:** They submit the applications with the plans so that they are the applicant.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER/FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY (Audio: 48:05)

- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** I would like to address comments (about Council pay) made by Mrs. Jenna Bing a few weeks ago.
- She usually says her comments are meant to inform - that she speaks for some. I'd like to inform our residents that her comments are untrue, not based in fact and many times cruel-all of which are meant to daze and confuse. In my opinion, she wants you/our residents to be mad at this Council & Mayor. So, when she steps to the microphone and proceeds to denigrate this body, criticize us, trying to make us feel ashamed of taking our salaries, telling us to create an ordinance to refuse raises—which have nothing to do with us or anything we are legislating—the consumer price index is in charge of that. Ask yourself one simple question: did she demand that of the previous Council (Nancy Fellows, John Plecnik, Janet Majka- etc?) Did she call them out for not refusing their raises and salaries? I bet you know the answer - these are her friends and her objective is to make you think we are doing something wrong.
- We are here because you put us here - all elected officials - and you expect us to show the dignity and respect for this office, these chambers and this City - so we won't dignify the pettiness but we will tell you the truth. We are not doing anything differently than any other City Council- we have brought this City back from a very dark place and we continue to move forward. As our Council president mentioned, we have had six consecutive years of surplus. We have new police cars, fire engines, and service trucks. We plan City events for your families. We have more employees now than when we came into office. Our minimal salaries are not taking anything from this City - that is the truth. Please ignore the noise because that is exactly what it is. If you have any questions please call us directly. Thank you.
- **Council President Kline:** Wished Council Vice President Taylor Draper and Law Director Lucas happy belated birthdays.
- **Al Hehr:** I want to express our gratitude. The things that Council does to enhance business partnerships within the Community has been absolutely phenomenal and we are so grateful that you are willing to work with us and help us develop the appropriate

businesses. The things that have been addressed to Council by other residents I believe are inappropriate because of the advancement of the Community that you have made. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT (Audio: 53:42)

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

APPROVED: FEBRUARY 27, 2025
Date



Michael Kline
President of Council

ATTEST: Nicholas Aiello
Nicholas Aiello
Clerk of Council