

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

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## Working Committee of Council and Rules & Legislation

### Minutes of February 24, 2025

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The Working Committee of Council and Rules & Legislation was called to order on February 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. **Council President Kline** presided.

**Call to Order 6:00 p.m. (0:08)**

#### ROLL CALL (Audio: 0:10)

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

**Also Present:** Mayor Hallum and Finance Director Bruce Scott

**Absent:** Councilman Knecht, Law Director Michael C. Lucas, and City Engineer DiFranco

#### BEGINNING DISPOSITION: (Audio 0:36)

#### ORDINANCE 2024-070- THIRD READING

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

- **Council President Kline:** The Finance Committee has concluded the second of the two budget meetings last week for the Fire Department and the Administration. Speaking as the Finance Chair, I think both meetings went well. All Department Heads did a good job demonstrating a grasp on their budgets. We should be voting on this Ordinance on Thursday.

#### ORDINANCE 2025-004-THIRD READING

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

- No comments were made.

#### ORDINANCE 2025-008-FIRST READING

**AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE BID OF MAJOR WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICES INC. FOR THE CITYWIDE SOLID WASTE, YARD WASTE, AND COLLECTION OF RECYCLABLES PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** Major Waste Disposal is different than we have now correct? Was there a big difference in the pricing?
- **Council President Kline:** We currently have Republic. Speaking for myself and looking at the numbers I would say yes. It looks like a substantial difference.
- **Mayor Hallum:** It definitely will cost our residents less and we will have a better service because they are providing larger recyclable cans as well as picking up recyclables weekly. The bag service was also less expensive and the other one continued to increase in price over the several years contract. Theirs remained the same. The dumpster prices also remained constant. They were less expensive than what we are paying currently. It was all around good for everyone. Not just for City Hall but for the residents. Even with all of that, including yard waste, they are still going to be paying less than we are with Republic.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** Is the yard waste set-up the same?
- **Mayor Hallum:** It is weekly.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** Does it have to be cut into 4-ft. sections and bagged?
- **Mayor Hallum:** Correct.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** Do they also offer large beds and couches wrapped up to be taken away?
- **Mayor Hallum:** Correct.
- **Councilwoman Belich:** Is everyone paying for that and charged for the yard waste?
- **Mayor Hallum:** Correct.
- **Councilwoman Belich:** That will continue, and there is no option around that? I realize that would be difficult with the number of residents and people. We have had many people ask and inquire.
- **Mayor Hallum:** Correct, it would be very difficult for the trash service to know because yard waste is just put out in bundles. You would have to provide something for them to denote that they actually paid for that service which could become difficult if they forget to put it on there or if they lose it. This could become quite confusing and difficult. The way I look at it is they are still getting the benefit of that service, should they decide to use it. They are paying less than they are currently and they are getting a lot more service beyond that for less than what they are paying for now. Hopefully they will be happy with that. Ultimately, they are reducing their costs.
- **Councilwoman Belich:** Are there any other communities that utilize this same service?
- **Mayor Hallum:** Yes. In fact, there are communities in Willoughby Hills that utilize Major Waste currently. Pebblebrook and Stratford Place. We spoke to them, and they were very happy with the service. We also did speak to some other people who were outside of the City using them that are very happy. I believe Pebblebrook has been using them for a long time. They said they have been very happy with them, and they have gone above and beyond many times without any additional cost to Pebblebrook.
- **Councilwoman Sivo:** Is it safe to assume schedules will change since it is a new company?
- **Justin Cutler:** Not as of right now. We would like to try to keep everything the same. We understand that switching companies can be a big feat itself. We try to be as minimally invasive as possible.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** What about the containers themselves? Will they be swapped out?

- **Mayor Hallum:** Yes.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** When and how will they be swapped out?
- **Mayor Hallum:** That will all have to be worked out.
- **Council Vice President:** It looks like our current contract expires at the end of March, is that correct?
- **Mayor Hallum:** That is correct.
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** I know the period with the switch around is time consuming. I am assuming that you are wanting us to wave the Three Reading Rule for this?
- **Mayor Hallum:** That would be very helpful to the servicer so they can start planning and putting resources in place. They need to know they actually have it before they start doing stuff. Ideally, yes.
- **Councilwoman Miller:** I just want to clarify with the provider that picking up the remaining parts of the City with the resources that you have, you don't foresee any possibility of having some issues in terms of enough equipment and enough people. Is that correct?
- **Justin Cutler:** Yes. Currently we operate with 58 trucks. In the 47 years we have been in business, we have only not provided service three days. If the landfill shuts down due to safety reasons, this holds us at a standstill. If that does happen, we would just be one day behind. We have actually acquired a pick-up truck. We got three more coming in. We are putting out a massive investment for projects.
- **Councilwoman Belich:** Going back to your point about adding to your fleets. You said you have a fleet of 58 trucks and you are adding on to that. You said the three days that service has not been provided was due to the Lake County landfill not being open. Have you had issues at all with personnel? Its hard to hire truck drivers. Is being behind or missing days due to lack of personnel an issue?
- **Justin Cutler:** No. I have been with the company for 7 years and we have never had that issue in my tenure there. We have 6 people in management. To be in management, you must obtain a CDL to be available to go out and drive if you need to. Our owner does the same thing. From an employee standpoint, we don't find it very hard to find people because we generally overpay slightly to get a good quality candidate that is not only efficient but safe for themselves, our trucks, the residents, and the areas we service. All of our vacation times and time offs are all scheduled in advance. We have a bunch of processes in place to safeguard us from a standpoint of being short on personnel. Having weekly staff we refer to as swing drivers, they know every piece of equipment and job. There sole job is to fill holes. From an operational standpoint, I feel like we are slightly ahead of some haulers because we are a family-owned company. We don't have investors to answer to. We are able to move about the way we need to, to operate properly.
- **Council President Kline:** Is the yard waste going to be picked up just for a certain time period during the year?
- **Justin Cutler:** Yes. I believe the bid-packet said April 1 to November 1. We would continue that for that same stretch of time for the yard waste.
- **Council President Kline:** I know there are residents that have complained and will continue to complain about paying for the trash service. But just looking at the history of our current provider and the current proposals now, if, five years ago, the residents were paying this cost for yard waste (\$21.33 a month), starting April with Major Waste, for non-seniors, the rates are \$22.75. This is about a dollar and a half more. During the same time-period the inflation rate has gone up almost 22%. That difference is minimal. If you are a senior, you are literally paying pennies more than the regular rate due to a senior discount. I think that

is very substantial considering how prices in general have gone over the last 5 years.

- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** Do you provide services for special pick-ups such as items that are bigger than a dumpster or too big to go on the side of it?
- **Justin Cutler:** Yes, absolutely. Couches, mattresses, beds, and furniture we can take appliance pick-ups. We just ask that the residents remove the freon from an employee safety standpoint. It is actually an EPA regulation as well. But yes we handle all of that.
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** Would they incur an additional charge from that?
- **Justin Cutler:** The only people that would, would be the bag service people. There's an additional fee per piece. Outside of that, no.
- **Councilwoman Miller:** When you get down to the senior, you can get a 96 or 64 gallon trash but you only get a 64 gallon recycling cart. As a senior citizen myself and my mom that's been using that, I always found that was small. I just wondered why?
- **Justin Cutler:** The recycling is 64 gallons because this is standard. I know I spoke with the Service Director and he asked if people can request a bigger recycling can. That is absolutely something that we would be able to provide the residents with.
- **Mayor Hallum:** Don't forget, it is also getting picked up every week now as well.
- **Councilwoman Belich:** For special pick-ups such as appliances or sofas, do residents need to schedule that?
- **Justin Cutler:** I pull my drivers together and show them what the contract is and what it says. We like to ask the resident to call it into our office so that way the special instructions can be given over the phone. Those instructions are simple for example, if it is a mattress please wrap it in a bag, if it is a couch, please wrap it up in plastic, if it is a fridge, take the freon out of it etc. They generally have been very good for a long time about just taking it.

#### **ORDINANCE 2025-009-FIRST READING**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART 3-TRAFFIC CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS, CHAPTER 339 CAPTIONED "COMMERCIAL AND HEAVY VEHICLES," SPECIFICALLY, SECTION 339.02 TITLED "USE OF LOCAL STREETS; LOCAL PERMIT AND CONDITIONS," AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

- **Mayor Hallum:** With the recent upgrade of the bridge on Bishop Road, which can now handle normal and commercial trucks and traffic, we wanted to update our code. The code was written a long time ago and limited 6000 lbs. as a limit on all of our roads. It doesn't make sense anymore. The bridges can handle it so we are not going to have an issue any longer. They want to correct the ordinances to suit what matches today and what matches with what are bridges can withstand to make it simpler for commercial traffic to go through.

#### **RESOLUTION 2025-004-AMENDED-FIRST READING**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS' PARTICIPATION IN THE NOPEC 2025 COMMUNITY EVENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM AND AWARD ACCEPTANCE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

- No comments were made.

**PUBLIC PORTION: (Audio 21:25)**

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

- Public Portion opened at 6:22 p.m.
  - **Laurie Feltham 2605 Timberline Drive:** Where does the yard waste go to when it gets picked up?
- Public Portion closed at 6:22 p.m.
- **Justin Cutler:** Currently, with the yard waste collection, this will go to a company called Green Vision Materials. They have 2 locations. One is in Wickliffe off of 283<sup>rd</sup> and they also have another collection site in Newbury.
- **Councilwoman Belich:** That was closed this past year. Consequently, whatever was picked up probably had to go to Newbury. Is that something that would slow up the process or create a backlog for us in the City if that were to happen again?
- **Justin Cutler:** As of right now, no. Typically, we have our subscription customers in Lake County that we offer yard waste to as well. Generally, if that becomes an issue, we take it back to our yard, dump it in our yard, and put it in a roll off container truck and that truck takes it to Newbury for us. If you can't go to Wickliffe and have to go to Painesville, it would probably add another 45 minutes to the route.

**LEGISLATION: (Audio 24:11)**

- No comments were made.

**ADJOURNMENT: (Audio 24:36)**

- **Motion** made by **Councilwoman Belich**, seconded by **Councilwoman Miller** to adjourn the February 24, 2025 Working Committee of Council and Rules & Legislation.

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

**The meeting was adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.**

**APPROVED:** MARCH 13, 2025  
Date

Michael Kline  
**Michael Kline**  
*President of Council*

**ATTEST:** Ni Aiello  
**Nicholas Aiello**  
*Clerk of Council*