

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 27, 2025

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order on Thursday, February 27, 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: 0:13)

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, and Councilwoman Belich

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

Absent: Law Director Michael Lucas

- **Council President Kline:** Law Director Lucas is unable to be with us due to some health issues. We wish him a fast and speedy recovery.

DISPOSITION OF THE JOURNAL (Audio: 1:46)

- **Motion** made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by **Councilman Knecht** to approve the **February 10, 2025** Working Committee of Council and Rules & Legislation Minutes.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

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

Motion passed to approve the **February 10, 2025** Working Committee of Council and Rules & Legislation Minutes.

- **Motion made by Council Vice President Taylor Draper, seconded by Councilwoman Sivo to approve the February 13, 2025 Regular Meeting of Council Minutes.**

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

**Roll Call: AYES: Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, Knecht, Miller, Sivo, Taylor Draper
NAYS: None
ABSTIAN: Belich**

Vote: 6/0/1

- **Motion passed to approve the February 13, 2025 Regular Meeting of Council Minutes.**

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE (Audio 3:30)

Email dated 02/11/2025 from Taylor Draper, Tanya Re: Board
 Email dated 02/11/2025 from Stergar, Jeff RE: Aflac Representative
 Email dated 02/11/2025 from Mehollin, Karen Slideshow from Mayors & Managers Mtg
 Email dated 02/12/2025 from Rick Gleeson quote
 Email dated 02/12/2025 from Lloyd, Katherine WH PCABR Meeting 2-20-25 at 7:00 PM
 Email dated 02/12/2025 from O'Donnell, Laura RE: Space Rental Opportunity
 Email dated 02/12/2025 from Michael C. Lucas RE: Please see amended legislation for tomorrow
 Email dated 02/13/2025 from Taylor Draper, Tanya Re: Delivered: Your Amazon.com order #113-3731940-1633837
 Email dated 02/13/2025 from Taylor Draper, Tanya Amazon
 Email dated 02/13/2025 from Legit Shot FOIA
 Email dated 02/13/2025 from Hallum, Chris RE: Amend Ordinance
 Email dated 02/13/2025 from Michael C. Lucas Resolution Approving CRA Agreement
 Email dated 02/13/2025 from Bushman, Lindsey RE: FOIA
 Email dated 02/13/2025 from Bushman, Lindsey Snacks
 Email dated 02/13/2025 from Taylor Draper, Tanya Re: Delivered: Your Amazon.com order #113-3731940-1633837
 Email dated 02/14/2025 from Kline, Mike Comments from 2-13-25 Council Meeting
 Email dated 02/14/2025 from finance director Ordinance 2024-055 Amended
 Email dated 02/14/2025 from Taylor Draper, Tanya Re: Shipped: "ECOGREDA Welcome Sign for..."
 Email dated 02/17/2025 from BJ's Notification An Important Member Notification Mon 02/17
 Email dated 02/17/2025 from Miller, Vicki Re: Urgent: Request for Assistance with Chagrin River Ice Jam and Erosion
 Email dated 02/17/2025 from Gauntner, Jenna @ Cleveland RE: Urgent: Request for Assistance with Chagrin River Ice Jam and Erosion
 Email dated 02/17/2025 from Miller, Vicki Re: Sunshine Training
 Email dated 02/18/2025 from Miller, Vicki Re: Urgent: Request for Assistance with Chagrin River Ice Jam and Erosion
 Email dated 02/18/2025 from Financedirector NOPEC SPONSORSHIP GRANT
 Email dated 02/19/2025 from Financedirector BUDGET MEETING
 Email dated 02/19/2025 from Mehollin, Karen RE: Bill for Customer MGOV
 Email dated 02/19/2025 from Tad McGalliard, ICMA Managing Director, Research, Development, & Technical Assistance
 Email dated 02/20/2025 from Mehollin, Karen Phone System update

Email dated 02/20/2025 from Rick Werner A Message from the Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library Board of Trustees

Email dated 02/20/2025 from anovak@willoughbyohio.com Salary Survey

Email dated 02/21/2025 from Mehollin, Karen Trash Contract Legislation

Email dated 02/21/2025 from Mehollin, Karen County IT update - EMAIL & LOG IN ACCESS

Email dated 02/21/2025 from Kline, Mike Re: City Phone System

Email dated 02/24/2025 from Michael C. Lucas RE: Legislation for next week

Email dated 02/24/2025 from Gloria Majeski Re: Trash and Recycling pricing

Email dated 02/25/2025 from Bushman, Lindsey RE: PRINTER METER READS

PUBLIC PORTION #1 (Audio: 3:35)

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

Public Portion #1 opened at 7:03 p.m.

- **Jen Varro 2890 S.O.M. Center Road:** I was wondering about the ordinances for the Major Waste disposal. I am not aware of what the Republic contract was like and what they charged versus what Major Waste is going to be charging. It would be appreciated if maybe you guys could share that. Thank you.

- **Brett Fegan 6739 Cantor Hill Circle:** I want to address the bids that we just recently did. We felt like we gave very competitive pricing options to choose from as well, with taking to our own landfill or taking it to the Lake County landfill. Lake County does not have full control, so you technically have the opportunity to use our bid that allows Kimble to take it to our facility. If you did, that is where it's \$2,006 for every other week recycling with the 96-gallon cart, which is the bigger cart than what you have now. This is a few dollars cheaper than what you are currently paying with Republic. We also have \$2,172 for weekly recycling with a 64-gallon container, so instead of having every other week, you have weekly. This is an opportunity to really save your residents a lot of money. I did some quick figures and over the course of five years. If you were to pick the every other week recycling with 96-gallon carts, you're saving your residents approximately \$139,000 by allowing Kimble to take it to their landfill and choosing that option. If you went with the option where we take it to the landfill, it is still a great rate. I was a little disappointed to see on the agenda an ordinance to award to Major Waste. We feel like it is a rushed decision. The bid process is a little bit rushed. At that point, it makes the haulers not be as competitive. There was a lot of information we had to ask for, and I feel like I needed to you all that because it is something that you need to know. With that being said, the options are still on the table. We are ready, prepared, and more than happy to service the community. We feel like we have the best option for the residents. Maybe you will have some discussion about it and I can understand where you are coming from. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to bid and hope you all have a great night.

Public Portion #1 closed at 7:07 p.m.

- **Councilwoman Miller:** To the gentleman from Kimble, one question I have for you is why there was no bid submitted for the City Hall Dumpsters. Can you address why you did not bid on that?

- **Brett Fegan:** Yes, absolutely. That comes down to the flow control. When I say “flow control” that means that the trash has to go to the Lake County Landfill. For instance, Medina has flow control written into their solid waste plan, so it absolutely has to go to the Medina County landfill. Lake County does not. That being said, those city dumpsters are on a different truck. They are on a frontload truck and we would have to run a separate route to get those front load dumpsters here in your city; you have about 4-6. Then, we would have to take that truck to Lake County. It just did not make sense logistically. In the specs, it said that the commercial dumpsters could be awarded separately. So, technically, you could go with the every-other-week recycling with 96 gallon-carts and award separately Major Waste to do your city dumpsters. That is where our, mindset was, in hopes that you can go with our alternate bids too where we can take it to our landfill. There was also one more thing. We would also provide yard-waste carts to your entire city. So instead of people having to buy bags, (bags are approximately a dollar a piece and using three bags a week would equal 3 dollars a week) you wouldn’t have to buy bags anymore due to the yard-waste cart that we provide free of charge. You can throw your yard-waste right in that cart and you are good to go. That was another way to save money for the residents.
- **Council Vice President:** I am just curious as to why you were not here Monday. We had a discussion answer session on Monday. Were you not aware of that, sir?
- **Brett Fegan:** I was not aware. Was I the only hauler not here?
- **Council Vice President:** No, you were not but there was a discussion on Monday, and this would have been helpful if you were present.
- **Brett Fegan:** I did not know. Was that in the bid specs?
- **Council Vice President:** I don’t know, we don’t handle that end of it.
- **Brett Fegan:** That would have been something I should have been told about.
- **Mayor Hallum:** It was not in the bid specs. We didn’t require anyone to be here. Some haulers took the opportunity, knowing it was a Working Session, to come here and answer questions. Not all of them did. Also, for those who may not know, we do allow residents to buy any trash can and mark it as yard waste. They don’t really have to keep buying bags or anything like that. We have never required that. I do not see that as an issue necessarily for our residents.
- **Councilwoman Belich:** Despite the fact that we had a conversation about this on Monday, we are here today and this is on first reading. Would it not make sense to continue this conversation and allow for more discussion so that we can go back and review the numbers that were presented? It was spoken through relative to what it is that we heard on Monday which still sounded very nice. That was a good setup for our residents but just to ensure that we are comparing and really getting the best possible and most economical service.
- **Mayor Hallum:** I will certainly leave that up to Council, however, the administration including the road superintendent and us internally have looked at all the bids and reviewed

that information. We determined that the one in front of you is the best option for the City as well as the residents. That is why it has been proposed. We checked all the references and there were no issues. In fact, this particular company is already doing business in our City. We checked with 2 of the neighborhoods that currently use them. They got glowing reviews from them. We are very comfortable from the administration's perspective. All of the bidders had the same impact and opportunity. They had the same timeframe. It wasn't a situation where somebody got an upper hand on this. Everybody had the same requirement, opportunity, and timeframes.

- **Councilwoman Miller:** I was wondering the administration could speak to the other question with the comparison of Republic that was asked.
- **Mayor Hallum:** The Republic bill is \$73 a quarter. And with Major Waste it was around \$66 a quarter. Instead of bi-weekly, it was every other week recycling that included every week recycling as well as yard waste from the normal time frame of April 1-November 1. Also, with Republic, residents who use the bag service, have to come up to City Hall and buy the bags. With Major Waste, they can use their own bags and all they have to do is request tags from Major Waste which are mailed directly to the House. They can order whatever quantity they want. The bags from Republic come in sets of 10, so you have to buy them in 10s. That is a savings to our residents as well.
- **Councilwoman Belich:** With respect to the tags mentioned with that, there is a cost associated with that correct? You would order that and put it on the bags; would those cost money too?
- **Mayor Hallum:** Of course, that is how you pay for the bag service.
- **Councilwoman Belich:** What is the cost?
- **Mayor Hallum:** \$4.00 per tag? With Major Waste, we were also able to get a senior rate. For seniors 60 and older they will be able to get a discounted rate as well which we did not have with Republic.
- **Councilwoman Belich:** Is that offer of a senior discount there from Kimble?
- **Mayor Hallum:** I think they did but I do not recall.
- **Councilwoman Miller:** Just a point of clarification, Republic does offer a senior rate.
- **Council President Kline:** The current rate with Republic is \$23.88 a month. That includes yard waste. Going forward under Major Waste, the starting rate is \$22.75 a month. For non-seniors under Major Waste, there will be both a garbage container and a recycling container of 96 gallons. For seniors, under Major Waste, recyclables will be a 64-gallon container. Republic's rate was \$21.33 a month 5 years ago. There has been quite a bit of inflation over the last five years, almost 22%. Republic's rate going forward, under a new contract, would have been just under 31 dollars a month. Also, there has been mention that there is a significant time needed for the transition over from one carrier to the other be it with replacing the containers (Republic needing to pick theirs up, Major

Waste needing to drop theirs off, route set-up, etc.) The question becomes if there will be further postponement. It becomes more of a haste to get this done in a shorter period of time. It is going to be on the same schedule with Major Waste that it has been under Republic. The transition over to a new carrier always concerns individuals who want to make certain everything is set for a new party coming in.

- **Mayor Hallum:** Major Waste is still about a dollar less per month than Kimble. They are still the lowest cost for our residents. They did not bid on the dumpsters. I do not know if the dumpster bid from Major Waste or any of the others would be the same without the whole contract. Keep in mind, the other group has the ability to decline. Now we have to find another place to take care of our dumpsters and coordinate the billing on that. We don't have any issues; they've gotten glowing reports. To me, looking at this, it was kind of a no brainer. This benefits the residents as well as the City. They were the full package. Thank you.
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** I was just looking at the calendar here and unfortunately, if we hold this off until our next gathering, which would be the week of March 10th, that would leave about 2 weeks for a transition to occur and that is a bit nerve-wracking. Our current obligation expires the 31.
- **Mayor Hallum:** Not only that but we are holding on to all the bidder's bonds until the decision is made. So, we are not releasing the money we are holding. There are multiple layers of complication. You all have the right to do what you see fit, but I will tell you again, the administration did our job.
- **Councilwoman Belich:** I brought up the point because I want to be sure that we all feel comfortable and by comparing, our residents can get the best value. I understand the bond issue. I understand the calendar issue. We have heard a lot about trash in our community and there has been a lot of concern amongst our residents and so I think it's worth this conversation to have. Back to the bond and the calendar, I still want to make sure that cost wise, we are doing the right thing for our community and for our residents.

MAYOR'S REPORT (Audio: 22:26)

- Good evening! Warmer weather finally moved in and the ice dam has melted away. According to Chief Gandee, the flooding was fairly minor during the thaw. Unfortunately, the damage done to personal property of some residents is considerable. Many have large blocks of ice throughout their property. Some property owners experienced considerable erosion of their property due to the ice dam causing the river to cut a new channel that is estimated to be over 60' wide. We have been in contact with the Army Corps of Engineers as well as the Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP) to survey the damage. CRWP has indicated that they may be able to assist us in obtaining a grant that may help residents in the cleanup and possible restoration.
- Last Friday we had a Flood Preparedness Information Session at the Community Center. It was well attended by our residents. I want to thank Director Joe Busher from the Lake County Emergency Management Agency, Ryan Hatton from Water Extraction Team

(WET), Lori Smul from State Farm, and Fire Chief Gandee for the information and resources they shared with residents and the many questions they answered. Thanks also to Council President Kline, Council Vice-President Taylor Draper, and Councilwoman Miller for attending and meeting with residents. One of the best resources for natural disaster alerts is subscribing to the free WENS alert system (see newsletter for subscription information).

- Spring is approaching and with it comes baseball and softball registration. You can register your child now to ensure they get on a team as they tend to fill up fast. We have a strong baseball and softball program so if your child wants to learn to play there's no better place to start. Registration information can be found in the newsletter.
- Next week will be your last chance to purchase tickets for the pancake breakfast scheduled for Sunday, March 9 at the Community Center. Call or stop by the Community Center or City Hall for your tickets.
- Tonight I support passage of Ordinance 2024-070 for the city budget, Ordinance 2025-008 to approve the bid from Major Waste to provide Trash and Recycling services. This contract will provide weekly recycling pickup and continued yard waste program for less than residents are spending monthly with our current provider. We were also able to negotiate a discounted rate for seniors. Those of you that use the bag program will now be able to purchase tags directly from Major Waste in any quantity you wish and use your own garbage bags. All you'll need to do is remove the backing from the tag and stick one on each bag. Lastly, I support passage of Resolution 2025-004 to accept the NOPEC Community grant of \$1,500 to be used in support of events planned by our Recreation Commission.
- That's my report and I stand open to questions.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- No report.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Audio: 25:30)

- **Finance Director Scott:** I do not have a formal report, but I support the passage of Ordinance 2024-070 which is the budget. I feel like we have gone through it for months now. If there are any questions I can answer those. I also request the passage of Ordinance 2025-004 which is the sanitary sewage rate. It is more just to pass through, but I would like to get that information to the County so that they can begin loading those rates into their systems so that the billings can go out correctly for first quarter. With that, I am open to questions.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT (Audio: 26:20)

- **City Engineer DiFranco:** I recommend keeping Ordinance 2025-009 on First Reading. This Ordinance is intended to remove the load restriction on Bishop Road. This would allow the large UPS tractor trailer trucks to use Bishop Road to get to the freeway through Willoughby Hills. They currently go through Highland Heights. This would increase congestion, noise, and

wear-and-tear on the pavement. We already get complaints from the residents. I am open for questions.

- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** Is there any update on Dollar General?
- **City Engineer DiFranco:** I have not heard back from them.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS REPORTS / COMMITTEE REPORTS (Audio: 27:17)

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 20. During the Architectural Board of Review portion of the meeting there was an approval of a second-floor house addition and a roof over front porch at 2264 River Road. There was no business for the planning portion of the meeting. I want to remind our residents, if you are thinking about changing or upgrading your home, please call the Building Department and make sure you understand what the processes are. We have had residents who do not understand that and they end up going through a lot of financial and unfortunate situations because of that. If you are thinking of doing any work to your home, please call the Building Department and make sure you understand the process.

Beautification Committee reported by Council Vice President Taylor Draper

No report.

Recreation Commission reported by Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz

- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** Presale tickets for the pancake breakfast were distributed to all the Council members, and I would appreciate if you could try to sell those. It helps us to plan what kind of reception we are going to have rather than guessing who is going to show up. It really helps out if we can get some pre-sale numbers.

Finance Committee Report by Council President Kline

- **Council President Kline:** The Finance Committee met last week for our second committee review of the 2025 budget. Last week's review concentrated on the Fire Department and the administration. I want to thank both Chief Gandee and Finance Director Scott for their participation in the meeting.
- **Mayor Hallum:** I want to thank our Beautification Committee for decorating our facility here. I also had the opportunity to meet with them earlier this week to talk about plans for the coming year and future plans for things that we want to get accomplished. I want to thank everyone for their time in doing that and the time you spend in making our City look better.

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: 30:30)

- No unfinished business.

LEGISLATION: (Audio: 30:33)

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.

- **Motion** made by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz**, seconded by **Councilman Knecht**, to adopt Ordinance 2024-070.

Discussion on the Motion:

- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** I would like to thank Finance Director for all the hard work he put into the budget this year as well as the all the department heads who answered all of our questions and appeared before us to discuss any discrepancies. Working together over the last couple of years, we have been able to put together some really nice budgets and save the people of the City money.
- **Council President Kline:** Speaking as retired CPA, I think the most important job Council has is reviewing and approving the budget. Without the budget, the City does not go anywhere. The budget enables the City to provide the services that it does for its residents. I want to thank all members of Council for reviewing the budget. This is a voluminous document and takes time to go through. As proven in past years, everybody has spent the time necessary to get an understanding of it to be able to make the decision to pass the budget.

Roll Call: AYES: Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, Knecht, Miller, Sivo, Taylor Draper, Belich

NAYS: None

Vote: 6/0

- Ordinance 2024-070 has been 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.

- **Motion** made by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz**, seconded by **Councilwoman Sivo** to adopt Ordinance 2024-070.

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

Roll Call: **AYES: Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, Miller, Sivo, Taylor Draper, Belich**

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Knecht

Vote: 6/0

- Ordinance 2025-004 has been adopted.

ORDINANCE 2025-008-AMENDED 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, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A FIVE YEAR CONTRACT FOR THAT PUROPOSE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- **Motion** made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by **Council Vice President Taylor Draper** to waive the Three Reading Rule on Ordinance 2025-008.

Discussion on the Motion:

- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** I appreciate Councilwoman Belich's statements and sentiments. You are right. I wish we had more time to review the information. As it stands, we are responsible to make sure that garbage is picked up and our contract with Republic is ending. We need to make sure we are doing our duty. I trust that the road superintendent, Mayor's Office, and Administration did their due diligence and this is the cheapest and best opportunity for our residents. We have to move forward.
- **Councilwoman Miller:** I do feel confident in the work that Major Waste does. They are already operating in our City in a couple neighborhoods and we have gotten good reviews from that as well. They have been there for quite a number of years in those neighborhoods so I am ready to move forward.

Roll Call: **AYES: Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, Miller, Sivo, Taylor Draper, Belich**

NAYS: None

Vote: 7/0

- The Three Reading Rule on Ordinance 2025-008 has been waved.
- **Motion** made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by **Council Vice President Taylor Draper** to adopt Ordinance 2024-070.

Discussion on the Motion:

Council President Kline: Independent of the analysis that the administration did on the waste contracts, when the information was presented to Council, I took the time to go through it and came to the same conclusion as to which contract was the most advantageous. It was in fact the Major

Waste contract.

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

- Ordinance 2025-008 has been adopted.

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.

- Ordinance 2025-009 remains on First Reading.

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.

Motion made by Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz, seconded by Councilwoman Miller to waive the Three Reading Rule on Resolution 2025-004 Amended.

Discussion on the Motion:

Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz: This is a \$1,500 grant from NOPEC for the community event sponsorships which we accept each year. The sooner we get it; the sooner we can get it into action for Music Fest each year.

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

- The Three Reading Rule on Resolution 2025-004 has been waved.
- **Motion made by Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz, seconded by Councilwoman Miller to adopt Resolution 2025-004 Amended.**

Discussion on the Motion:

No discussion.

Roll Call: **AYES: Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, Miller, Sivo, Taylor Draper, Belich**
 NAYS: None
 ABSTAIN: Knecht

Vote: 7/0

- Resolution 2025-004 Amended has been adopted.

NEW BUSINESS (Audio 40:10)

1. **Motion made by Council Vice President Taylor Draper**, seconded by **Councilwoman Miller**, to declare Music Fest 2025 in Willoughby Hills a public purpose on August 16, 2025.

Discussion on the Motion:

Council Vice President Taylor Draper: I urge our residents to mark your calendars. It is going to be another exciting year and we are hoping for another fabulous event.

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

Motion passed to declare Music Fest 2025 in Willoughby Hills a public purpose on August 16, 2025.

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.

- **Jen Varro 2890 S.O.M. Center Road:** In reference to the discussion earlier about the garbage, being that it was on First Reading, I know you guys want to declare an emergency. We all knew the contract was coming up. It wasn't a secret. I feel like you guys should have jumped on this sooner. It does allow for better negotiations and you don't know what you are going to get out of a negotiation unless you give that opportunity. I do appreciate Julie acknowledging the interest of the residents on that. I am a little disappointed that it came down to the last minute and I do not know why these were not solicited earlier.
- Tanya had commented earlier how important it is to communicate with the Building Department if you are going to do something in our City. There is a lot of misleading information out there. I can attest to it with my own experience. I am here most importantly to bring back up, in regard to the Building Department, the dysfunction of the City versus our County building departments. I have been speaking with the County on a regular basis. I followed up this week and got another email from the County confirming that the home that was recently built without electrical plumbing, HVAC, and occupancy permit is still not inspected. That is a little outrageous in my world. Also, there were homes on route 6, that never pulled permits, that were never addressed either. We as a City need to either take back this building responsibly or hire a full-time building inspector. This is how the rich get richer, by us allowing people to do what they want. In regard to Tanya's comment, it is counterproductive if we are not enforcing what we already have and what we should be enforcing. Many residents are violating our ordinances. We have a full-time rec-coordinator but we can't hire a full-time building inspector. This does not make sense to me. If any of you

have had experiences with the County, they are inundated, busy, and we do not know what the right and the left hand are doing. What we do here locally and what's going on at the County is not working. I have brought it up, I think it is a huge concern and yet, I don't know why it is being ignored. I would really appreciate it if someone could at least give some kind of response to it because its just not right and it is so wrong what is happening in this City. The taxes that we are not collecting, I know a lot of it goes to the schools, but it is still not right. We are all paying a lot of taxes, but other people are getting away with it because they are not paying taxes on what they should be paying taxes on because we don't know. It is something that we need to be serious on about and really look into. Thank you.

- **Don Akins 38159 Dodd's Hill:** I am curious to hear what the Mayor and the City Engineer have to say about the progress that we have made on the cell tower world.

- Public Portion #2 closed at 7:45 p.m.

- **Mayor Hallum:** Mrs. Varro, it is not a negotiation, it is a bid. There are no negotiations on these garbage contracts. We didn't miss out on anything. I am sure the gentleman is frustrated that he did not win the bid, however, whatever his arguments were, he was not the lowest and that's what we selected, the lowest and best for our residents.

- As far as a building inspector position, in my mind, that does not make sense for the City. We don't have enough area for a building inspector. That is why we are still looking for a zoning inspector which would probably cover most of the things you are concerned about. I am meeting with the road superintendent to discuss opportunities on how we can handle that and catch more of the people that are not following the requirements.

- With regard to the cell tower, we are still working on it, Mr. Akins. The company that I did reach out to for a new location, I spoke with today. They said there may be some interest. They are talking to cell tower companies but they do not have any definitive response at this time. It is in their hands so I have to wait for them to tell me whether it is a viable location or not before we can do anything more with it.

- **Don Akins 38159 Dodd's Hill:** How many spots are we looking at?

- **Mayor Hallum:** I have one and I am waiting to hear if Council might consider removing the 200 ft. drop area which would then enable us to look back where we were originally where there was interest. At this point there are 2 potential spots, but I am always looking for more while I am waiting.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER/FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY (Audio: 48:15)

- **Councilwoman Miller:** I want to express my condolences to the family of Robert Meyer of Hayes Drive on his passing. He was a long-time resident over 90 years old. I cannot commend the Fire Chief enough for their response in the hours that they put in over the last month dealing with the ice jam and the flooding. I was thrilled to hear this morning that the ice jam resolved itself without any devastating impact. I'm glad we did not find ourselves in

a bad situation; it was very scary for these residents. And I want to thank you for coming to the meetings, being patient, and working through this with us; we look forward to continuing the conversations with them ongoing to restoring their properties. The residents are meeting together and looking to have some discussions to get their properties back up to standard and we hope for a nice little thaw to get those ice chunks out of the neighborhoods.

- **Council President Kline:** I just want to commend the Beautification Committee for their work decorating for City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT (Audio: 50:41)

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

APPROVED: MARCH 13, 2025
Date


Michael Kline
President of Council

ATTEST: Nicholas Aiello
Nicholas Aiello
Clerk of Council