

President of Council  
MICHAEL KLINE

Vice President of Council  
TANYA TAYLOR DRAPER

Council Clerk Pro Tem  
NICHOLAS AIELLO

Council  
JULIE A. BELICH  
JOE JARMUSZKIEWICZ  
DANIEL KNECHT  
VICKI MILLER  
KATHLEEN SIVO

# City of Willoughby Hills

---

## Working Committee of Council and Rules & Legislation

### Minutes of January 20, 2025

---

The Working Committee of Council and Rules & Legislation was called to order on January 20, 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: 0:19)**

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

**Also Present:** Law Director Michael C. Lucas and Finance Director Bruce Scott

**Absent:** Councilwoman Julie A. Belich, Councilman Dan Knecht, Mayor Hallum, and City Engineer DiFranco

#### **BEGINNING DISPOSITION: (Audio 0:42)**

#### **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:** This will remain on Third Reading, but I will ask if there is anything anyone wanted to add to this. I hope by the Council Meeting on Thursday, I am able to give the dates for the Finance Committee Meetings. I am anticipating that we will be able to get the department heads to meet as we did last year, which will mean the two meetings will come up approximately in the middle of February. Hopefully, I will have those dates on Thursday.
- **Finance Director Scott:** I still have a few small entries to make. Those should be done Wednesday which should allow me to roll all the 2024 numbers into the budget documents. It will be a quick turnaround but I will have a formal completed budget on Thursday. There are not a whole lot of changes from what I gave you last week, but there are a couple small changes here and there.

## **ORDINANCE 2025-002- FIRST READING**

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

- **Council President Kline:** On this Ordinance, we starting discussing this at the last Working Committee Meeting. I will take responsibility. I thought we got sidetracked on some of the provisions on it and what was entailed in it. I wanted to go over a few things. The way that the Ordinance is structured contains the changes that were brought about by the State Legislator's by-annual budget where they make changes regarding notifications that were subject to. The one that raised some concerns at the last meeting was the weekly notifications for Council meetings. Such meetings are not covered by this Ordinance. Those meetings which are published in the News Herald would remain the same. I thought that the City was paying for those notifications, but we don't. It is not a fiscal question, and it's not brought about by the change in this Ordinance. The main change pertaining to this Ordinance involves all the ordinances and resolutions that we pass at the end of each month being included in the News Herald. The captions are included in the News Herald, and depending on the volume for a given month, that could add up to a considerable amount of money for the month and then for the year in total. If you have ever wondered where those are in the News Herald, it is in the section that is highlighted. This gets published every month, and as it would appear in the News Herald like this, we pay for it. And that would cost a considerable amount of money. This Ordinance would provide that this information would meet the notification regulations by appearing on our website or on our social media pages. Some of the other ones that are contained in this Ordinance that would be allowed to publish on our website or social media relate to tax collections, community antenna TV system, some conditional use from planning and zoning, and cell tower related zoning appeal. The primary means of communication, if this Ordinance were to pass, would be through the City's social media and the City's website. The City would still be allowed, depending on which area of the City is handling it, to use other means to put this into the newspaper. However, with this Ordinance, the legal requirement would be met with putting this on the website.
- **Finance Director Scott:** I wanted to clarify some information that I provided to you. When I looked earlier in the year at all the invoices we have paid, none of the Regular Council and Working Session Meetings where ever in those notices and we did not pay for them. Something happened late in the year. Nick as trying to be proactive and was not getting a response, and copied somebody else. The November and December meetings did get published and we did pay for them. But, that was it, only those two. Hopefully going forward those will come back out and not be included.
- **Council President Kline:** That is why there was some overall confusion and thinking we may be paying those every month. However, as Bruce just stated, that was a mistake the last couple months of the year.

## **ORDINANCE 2025-004-FIRST READING**

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

- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** When would this be active, on the next billing quarterly bill?
- **Finance Director Scott:** Historically, this will happen with the April billing. Which goes back to the first quarter of 2025. We have some time, we do not have to pass this next week, but I would like to get it before it goes Three Readings to give us plenty of time to get it to the County to update rates.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** Are these increases just from the City of Euclid to us?

- **Finance Director Scott:** That is correct. The Willoughby Hills rate has not changed since 2018.

**ORDINANCE 2025-005-FIRST 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 PHOTO-ENFORCEMENT OFFICER POSITION AND RATE OF COMPENSATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

- **Law Director Lucas:** This Ordinance is before Council at the request of Chief Naegele largely to have a part-time position established for an officer to take the part in the photo enforcement officer duties. There has been some difficulty with scheduling which resulted in officers receiving time and half compensation in some areas. The 50-dollar hourly rate was at the request of Chief Naegele as well. I think this Ordinance perhaps needs a little more tweaking regarding some of it, but that is the underpinning for it.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** I had a conversation with Chief Naegele about it and basically, they were distributing overtime to help cover these positions when they needed them. They were running out of hours and people did not want to do it. He wanted to have the part-time position to be able to fill in. It may only be 5-10 hours a week just to have somebody fill in for the times where regular officers cannot cover it.
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** I also spoke with him and he mentioned that these were not taxpayer dollars, all these were funds and all the overtime is coming out of all the money that is being made from the photo enforcement. Right now, there are too many gaps and too many holes. It is not a smooth staffing Resolution so he is wanting to use other area Police Departments to help fill in. One of my questions to him was making sure these police officers were like our Police Officers who will treat our residents with respect. This is something that will require anyone being stopped for speeding; this is a handheld camera that will catch it at a distance. I wanted to make sure that these were top quality officers who would not harm our City in any way and he assured me that would not be a problem. I wanted to make sure the officers were consistent with those in our station right now.
- **Councilwoman Miller:** Is this intended to function more like a pool position, where, if one person is hired to fill in the gaps, but they are also an officer in another community, they may not be able to cover the hours that remain unfilled? Was the idea to have a pool of individuals available to be called upon for 5-10 hours a week? Is that what he had in mind?
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** That was my understanding, that it would not just be one person but a pool of people who could fill in at whatever times are needed.
- **Council President Kline:** That I would just like to get confirmation that this is something the Union is well aware of and not something the Police Union is not unaware of.
- **Law Director Lucas:** I do not know the answer to that question, although it is an important question. I think ultimately the potential is there to have some consent with this establishment of this position. Whether he has talked to the Union or not I do not know.
- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** I did bring this up with the Chief. He said this would be a case of no other established officers being able take those hours. This would be a fill in for anything they were short of. I asked if there would be any conflict with existing officers to the Union. He said no, they are well aware that this is something that is going to be set up. It gives them the time off they need and the have first choice for all these duties. This is to make sure the City does not end up short.

## DISCUSSION FOR A MOTION TO REQUEST COUNCIL CHAMBERS NEW MICROPHONES

- **Council President Kline:** This came up about 2 weeks ago. Both Council Clerk and the Mayor were talking about this. If Council has the desire to move forward on this, we would need a motion.
- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** Did he mention going out for a bid or any discussion about that? I guess my only concern is that it's about \$8200. That's a lot of money. It's not that I don't trust the company that's here and already working for us in some capacity, it's just that I think that it's only fair that we ask for another bid so that we know we can be sure that we are getting the best service and product for our money. It just makes me a little uncomfortable to just give it to these folks when we really haven't sought out any other opportunities. I'll go along with the group if no one feels like I do, but I just think that no one's going come to us and we just say yea on the first bid. I think we need to make sure that they're the best company for the situation.

### PUBLIC PORTION: (Audio 17:50)

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

- Public Portion opened at 6:17 p.m.
  - **Don Akins 38195 Dodd's Hill:** My concern is for our lack of progress on a new cell tower for the East End. There is terrible service there and a lot of dead spots. I was talking with the mayor about a deal that he had pretty much put together and then some third party got involved in it. I believe that this should be able to come under eminent domain for safety services. I have talked with the Fire and Police Chief at Wade Hill and a number of residents down in the valley. I even live up on a knob and have poor service sometimes. Are there any comments from the Law Director on eminent domain to rectify this? Thanks.
- Public Portion closed at 6:36 p.m.
- **Law Director Lucas:** The elements of eminent domain include being essential for public use. I am going to have to look about your position that this is the case of public use. This discussion of eminent domain has not come up, ever. The question is, too, where a property owner is and, hypothetically, who's land is going to be taken for just compensation by the position of the tower.
- **Don Akins:** I thought that was already put together by the Mayor and then a third party got involved in it, and the deal fell through.
- **Law Director Lucas:** Are you referring to the eminent domain regarding that particular project site?
- **Don Akins:** Yes, or that particular piece of property. I spoke with the Police Chief at Wade Hills knowing there are dead spots there. Then I had a number of talks with the Fire Chief and a couple officers within the City here. There is a critical problem here. Let's say we have a an incident within the valley. There was a resident there who's husband had chest pains and she could not get a 911 call out. My wife is on Oxygen so I have to keep an extra eye out for that part. My age is also a factor in this as well. There is a number of people on our street in our age bracket also; I have had to talk to safety forces, and there is a problem that pertains to them.

- **Law Director Lucas:** We have a staff meeting on Wednesday; I will bring that up with our Directors on Wednesday.
- **Don Akins:** Does this include the Fire Chief and the Police Chief?
- **Law Director Lucas:** Everybody is there.

**LEGISLATION: (Audio 22:15)**

- **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz:** On Ordinance 2025-005. It should say “rate of compensation” rather than “rate of compendation.”

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER AND COMMUNITY: (Audio: 23:12)**

- **Council Vice President Taylor Draper:** I would like to an opportunity to recognize that today is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. day. He along with the Congressman John Lewis literally gave their lives for equality. I wouldn't be sitting here with you folks if they had not done that. The desire to be judged by the content of your character and not by the color of your skin, religion, or political affiliation, but to be kind to people and how you treat others is what was most important. I think somehow though, he would be very disappointed today, I really do. This nation is so divided and it's truly not what he hoped for but in the spirit of his message and in his vision, that's what I celebrate and what I hope everybody can celebrate today: the humanity of coming together as people, neighbors, friends, and family and instead of the divisiveness. I'd like to recognize that celebration.

**ADJOURNMENT: (Audio 24:35)**

- **Motion** made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by **Council Vice President Taylor Draper** to adjourn the January 20, 2025 Working Committee of Council and Rules & Legislation.

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: Belich, Knecht**

**Vote: 5/0**

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

**APPROVED:**

Date

FEBRUARY 13, 2025



Michael Kline  
President of Council

**ATTEST:**



Nicholas Aiello  
Clerk of Council