

President of Council
CHRISTOPHER HALLUM
Vice President of Council
MICHAEL KLINE
Council Clerk
LAURA O'DONNELL

City of Willoughby Hills

Council
JULIE A. BELICH
JOE JARMUSZKIEWICZ
DANIEL KNECHT
VICKI MILLER
TANYA TAYLOR DRAPER

Regular Council Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2023

Pledge of Allegiance

SWEARING IN OF NEW FULL TIME POLICE OFFICER DEREK HITE

ROLL CALL (Audio: 0:01)

Members Present: Councilwoman Tanya Taylor Draper, Councilwoman Julie Belich, Council President Chris Hallum, Councilman Joe Jarmuszkiewicz, Council Vice President Michael Kline, Councilman Dan Knecht, and Councilwoman Vicki Miller.

Also Present: Law Director Michael C. Lucas, City Engineer Pietro A. DiFranco, Finance Director Bruce Scott

Motion made by Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz, seconded by **Councilwoman Miller** to appoint Karen Mehollin as Clerk of Council Pro-Tem for tonight's meeting.

Discussion on the Motion:

None.

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

Motion carries to appoint Karen Mehollin as Clerk of Council Pro-Tem for tonight's meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MASTER PLAN (Audio: 1:10)

Public Hearing opened at 7:07 P.M.

No one spoke.

Public Hearing closed at 7:07 P.M.

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order on Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 7:07 p.m. in Council Chambers. **Council President Hallum** presided.

Call to Order 7:07 p.m. (Audio: 1:37)

Cell Phone Reminder to Turn off Devices

DISPOSITION OF THE JOURNAL (Audio: 1:45)

Motion made by Council Vice President Kline seconded by **Councilman Belich** to adopt the minutes of the May 25, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.

Discussion on the Motion:

Councilwoman Taylor Draper asked to clarify the minutes on page 7 (Ordinance 2023-032, discussion of motion) as it showed she stated that nothing had changed with the budget. She asked for verification from **Finance Director Scott** who confirmed that there were minor changes to the budget and it had been stated later in the May 25th meeting.

Roll Call: AYES: Taylor Draper, Belich, Hallum, Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, and Miller.
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Knecht.
Vote: 6/0/1

Motion carries to adopt the meeting minutes of the May 25, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.

Motion made by Councilwoman Miller and seconded by **Councilman Taylor Draper** to adopt the minutes of the May 30, 2023 Special Council Meeting.

Discussion on the Motion:

None.

Roll Call: AYES: Taylor Draper, Belich, Hallum, Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, and Miller.
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Knecht.
Vote: 6/0/1

Motion carries to adopt the meeting minutes of the May 30, 2023 Special Council Meeting.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE AND MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS (Audio: 4:10)

06/06/2023 Email from PC-ABR, Re: Master Plan Public Hearing 6/8/23 Thursday – 7:00 PM.
06/06/2023 Email from Karen Mehollin, Re: Edited Ordinances.
06/06/2023 Email from scottkal@umich.edu, Re: Local Government Issues and Actions Survey.
06/06/2023 Email from Karen Mehollin, Re: Outgoing phone message when on vacation.
06/06/2023 Email from Chris Hallum, Re: June 8.
06/02/2023 Email from Fink, Sandra Re: Salary Question
06/01/2023 Email from Stephanie Kellner Re: Adopted Legislation - Willoughby Hills | May
06/01/2023 Email from pc-abr FW: June 8 Public Hearing for Master Plan before Council Meeting.
06/01/2023 Email from Willoughby Hills Finance Dept. RE: Membership Alert: Follow up Reminder
05/31/2023 Email from pc-abr PCABR Meeting 6/1/23 Thursday
05/31/2023 Email from Pietro DiFranco RE: Journal Entries - Court Cases - Classic Lexus/BMW - 2541
05/30/2023 Email from The Ohio Municipal League Re:Membership Alert: Follow up Reminder
05/30/2023 Email from pc-abr Re: HGTV at PCABR Mtg 6/1/23
05/26/2023 Email from Gloria Majeski Re: Grange Report - January 2023
05/26/2023 Email from Gloria Majeski Re: Information Request
05/25/2023 Email from bza RE: WH BZA Meeting 6/13/23 TUESDAY - CANCELLED
05/23/2023 Email from Finance Director Re: Tax Budget 2024 Hearing Notice
05/22/2023 Email from Robert J. Gandee Re: FYI - New Herald Article Coming - Red Cross Smoke Detector Installation
05/22/2023 Email from Chris Hallum Re: W. Miller Property--KNEZ HOMES Followup offer

PUBLIC PORTION #1 (Audio: 4:35)

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

Public Portion #1 opened at 7:10 p.m.

Jenna Bing, 36951 Beech Hills Drive, Willoughby Hills, OH 44094 asked for an explanation of the Bowen salary hourly increase on the Bowen Services Ordinance.

Public Portion #1 closed at 7:11 p.m.

Questions/comments following Public Portion #1:

Council Vice President Kline stated that the previous contract is exactly the same as this one.

MAYOR'S REPORT (Audio: 5:46)

Mayor Gardner reported:

- Shred Day was a success with over 110 vehicles.
- Steering wheel locks are available in the Police Department with proof of residency and proof of Kia or Hyundai ownership.
- Service workers are patching roads and are currently on River Road. Please slow down.
- MusicFest will be on August 19th. There will be three bands playing. Sponsorships are still available and we are currently seeking local acoustic acts and car show participants. Contact the Mayor's Office if interested.
- Thank you to all who were involved in helping to coordinate the Memorial Day Ceremony – including Kevin Malecek for speaking, Post 4358, Commander Broadwater, Chaplain Taddeo, the Ladies Auxiliary, our Fire Department, Karen, Laura, and Chief Gandee.
- The brick memorial directory across the street has been updated and is back in the case next to the memorial.
- Good luck to this year's Mind Challenge team. They scored the highest and will be competing again next week. Good Luck!
- White Road resurfacing will begin next week in Mayfield Village. Be careful in the area.
- With the dry weather, please remember to limit open burning. Even the smallest of outdoor fires can spread quickly.

Questions/comments following Law Director's Report:

Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz added that the white fuzzy stuff floating around and on the ground is highly flammable.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Audio: 10:48)

Law Director Lucas stated that Teamsters have signed the Collective Bargaining Agreement. **Law Director Lucas** thanked Council for holding the Special Meeting. He also stated that legislation for deer management and sign placement will be discussed at the next meeting, as well as W.H.I.S.P.E.R. status.

Questions/comments following Law Director's Report:

None.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Audio: 12:15)

Finance Director Scott stated that the Tax Budget is on Second Reading; there will be a Public Hearing before the next Regular Council Meeting.

Questions/comments following Finance Director's Report:

None.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT (Audio: 13:00)

City Engineer DiFranco stated he has no report but is open to questions.

Questions/comments following City Engineer's Report:

Councilwoman Taylor Draper asked if there were any updates on the SOM Center Road project. **City Engineer DiFranco** said he had no update and the last he heard from the developer was in November. **Councilwoman Belich** asked if any activity was permitted on the site. **City Engineer DiFranco** said that there is possible field work going on at the site.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS REPORTS / COMMITTEE REPORTS (Audio 14:05)

PC-ABR reported by Councilwoman Taylor Draper

Councilwoman Taylor Draper reported:

- Planning & Zoning Commission Architectural Board of Review met on June 1, 2023. During the Architectural Board of Review portion a new single family home at 38151 Pleasant Valley was approved, a new shed at 2389 Pine Valley was approved, and an idea was presented for a proposed new home at 2217 River Road using the original Frank Lloyd Wright plans.
- At the Planning Commission portion of the meeting, the River Rock lot was approved to be separated from one into two lots. Also, Maypine at 32700 White Road Phase I property line was adjusted to accommodate side yard setback issues. Phase II will be 3 parcels combined.

Questions/comments:

Council President Hallum asked if bonds were provided for Maypine. **City Engineer DiFranco** stated that the developer was given the choice to provide bond or construct the subdivision then present the plat for approval. They chose to construct then present plat for approval.

Beautification Committee reported by Councilwoman Taylor Draper

Councilwoman Taylor Draper spoke of meeting with the Mayor to secure an irrigation system for the front entrance of City Hall. Two bids have been obtained and installation should begin at the end of the month. **Councilwoman Taylor Draper** went on to say that City Hall needs work. She stated that she is open to suggestions because something needs to be done.

Council President Hallum suggested possibly contracting with a maintenance company as hiring someone part time could be difficult; get quotes on things to get done then have service maintain once they're complete.

Councilwoman Miller stated that things need to get done; is seeing slow improvement.

Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz stated that this is more of a contractor, not maintenance, thing; maybe hire outside contractor.

Council President Hallum stated that this could be discussed at Committee of the Whole meeting; possibly get quotes on things that need to be done and prioritize.

Councilwoman Taylor Draper added that she attended the Willoughby Hills Garden Club meeting and would like to engage those members in helping at City Hall.

Councilwoman Miller added that the Club meets every month and is held at the Willoughby Hills Library.

Recreation Commission reported by Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz

Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz reported:

- Music Fest is taking off.; planning going well.
- The Recreation Commission is looking for one to two additional members – can have up to nine and are at six now.
- Baseball and softball seasons are going on.
- There was a pickleball meeting Wednesday. Discussion included: Fixing the courts with alternative ideas to fix cracks in courts, volunteers willing to help fix and paint, courts are getting a lot of use, and there’s website to look for other players in the area.

Councilwoman Taylor Draper added that Shred Day at the Shoppes of Willoughby Hills on Saturday was successful. It was very anticipated and very appreciated by the residents.

Council President Hallum asked if businesses were involved. **Councilwoman Taylor Draper** stated that Dollar Tree, Milestone Fitness, and food trucks all participated. **Council President Hallum** added as a side note that Milestone Fitness is offering seniors half price to join.

Questions/comments following the Recreation Commission Report:

None.

Finance Committee Report by Council Vice President Kline

No report.

Questions/comments following the Finance Committee Report:

None.

WHISPER reported by Councilwoman Miller

No report.

Questions/comments following WHISPER report:

None.

Deer Management Committee reported by Councilwoman Belich

Councilwoman Belich stated that legislation is forthcoming and will be discussed at the next Working Committee meeting.

Questions/comments following the Deer Management Committee Report:

None.

Business Subcommittee – reported by Council Vice President Kline

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Audio: 34:57)

Council Vice President Kline wanted to follow up with Monday’s comment made in Public Portion from Jenna Bing and the concern of American Rescue Plan Funds being taken back. He stated that changes have been made and \$27 billion in funding to various federal agencies is being pulled back but it will not be affecting the City of Willoughby Hills.

LEGISLATION (Audio: 36:35)

ORDINANCE 2023-030 – SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AS SUBMITTED BY RICHARD L. BOWEN & ASSOCIATES, INC. TO PROVIDE ZONING ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS, FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council President Hallum stated that this would remain on Second Reading.

ORDINANCE 2023-031 – SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART SEVEN - BUSINESS REGULATION CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS, OHIO WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CHAPTER 759 CAPTIONED “MEDICAL MARIJUANA LICENSURE” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council President Hallum stated that this would remain on Second Reading.

RESOLUTION 2023-008 – SECOND READING

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A TAX BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 FOR THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS.

Council President Hallum stated that this would remain on Second Reading.

Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz asked if there would be a Public Hearing to which **Council President Hallum** responded yes.

NEW BUSINESS (Audio: 37:42)

None.

PUBLIC PORTION #2 (Audio: 37:50)

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

Public Portion #2 opened at 7:43 p.m.

Jenna Bing, 36951 Beech Hills Drive, Willoughby Hills, OH 44094 stated her concern with salaries and the level of increase that occurs every year. There’s been a 19.98% increase over 4 years for Mayor and Council. She continued on to state that she has reached out to surrounding cities and they do not do this.

Public Portion #2 closed at 7:39 p.m.

Questions/comments following Public Portion #2:

Councilwoman Taylor Draper asked Ms. Bing if she could see the information and statistics she had. **Council President Hallum** commented to look at the salaries being paid along with the percentage increase.

Council Vice President Kline stated that there’s not always an increase. There has been pay decrease, too, with the cost of living.

Mayor Gardner commented that other cities opted not to do their salary increases the way ours is done. This was put in place two decades ago.

Councilwoman Belich stated that she believes Wickliffe is eligible for other “soft” benefits (dental, etc.) and Willoughby Hills does not offer that.

Council President Hallum stated that he welcomes any resident to talk with Council members regarding this subject.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER/FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY

(Audio: 44:28)

Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz reminded residents that the library has a wide variety of programs for all and is inexpensive – and sometime free - entertainment for the family.

Council President Hallum commented that he hopes the library will bring back the programs taken out for COVID.

Mayor Gardner stated that library programs are often listed in the e-newsletter that goes out every week. For those interested, sign up at newsletter@willoughbyhills-oh.gov.

Council Vice President Kline read from an article in the Sunday Plain Dealer regarding volunteering and the health benefits it can provide.

Councilwoman Belich mentioned an unclaimed funds article that was in the News Herald recently and how there are several names on the published list. She added that residents can check to see if their names are on the list by visiting www.missingmoney.com.

ADJOURNMENT (Audio: 48:52)

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

Discussion on the Motion:

None.

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

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

APPROVED: June 22, 2023
Date


Christopher Hallum
President of Council

ATTEST: Laura O'Donnell
Laura O'Donnell
Clerk of Council