
Regular Council Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2023

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order on Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 7:07 p.m. in Council Chambers. **Council President Hallum** presided.

Call to Order 7:00 p.m. (Audio: 0:17)

Cell Phone Reminder to Turn off Devices

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL (Audio: 0:44)

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

Also Present: Mayor Gardner, Law Director Michael C. Lucas, City Engineer Pietro A. DiFranco, Finance Director Bruce Scott, Police Chief Naegele

DISPOSITION OF THE JOURNAL (Audio: 1:45)

Motion made by Council Vice President Kline seconded by **Councilwoman Taylor Draper** to adopt the minutes of the June 8, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.

Discussion on the Motion:

Councilwoman Belich asked to clarify a quote she made regarding salaries and compensation. She stated she *believed* the City of Wickliffe at one time had dental benefits. She wanted to confirm this was not something she knew for sure, but was confident that they were included at one time.

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

Motion carries to adopt the meeting minutes of the June 8, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE AND MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS (Audio: 3:11)

06/19/2023 Email from Michael C. Lucas FW: Ordinance Amendment to Willoughby Hills Chapter 315
06/19/2023 Email from Michael C. Lucas Re: Ordinance No 2023-___ re development sign notification
06/18/2023 Email from Mayor Gardner Fw: Request for Senior Room Sign In System from Lake County Commissioners
06/17/2023 Email from Data Collection Re: Record Request
06/16/2023 Email from Chris Hallum Re: Working Committee Agenda
06/16/2023 Email from Karen Mehollin Re: Monday Agenda and Legislation

06/16/2023 Email from Data Collection Re: Record Request
06/14/2023 Email from scottkal@umich.edu Local Government Issues and Actions Survey Reminder
06/13/2023 Email from pc-abr Re: PCABR Mtg 6/15/23 -&- New Updated Agenda
06/13/2023 Email from Michael C. Lucas Fwd: Ordinance No 2023-___re Deer Hunting
06/12/2023 Email from pc-abr Re: See Attached Note
06/12/2023 Email from Julie Belich Re: annual % salary changes by foia
06/12/2023 Email from Julie Belich, Re: Fwd: annual % salary change by foia.
06/11/2023 Email from Jenna Bing, Re: Fwd: salary change foia request – corrected years.
06/09/2023 Email from Tom Lobe, Re: Fwd: TowerCo Offer Site ID: OH0345.

PUBLIC PORTION #1 (Audio: 3:27)

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

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

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

A Point of Order was called by **Mayor Gardner** that the Public Hearing for the City Tax Budget was not performed, therefore, he suggested suspending the Council Meeting.

Motion made by **Council President Hallum**, seconded by **Councilwoman Taylor Draper** to suspend the Council meeting.

Discussion on the Motion:

None.

Roll Call: **AYES:** Belich, Hallum, Jarmuszkiewicz, Kline, Knecht, Miller, and Taylor Draper
NAYS: None
Vote: 7/1

The meeting was suspended at 7:04 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING OF THE 2024 CITY TAX BUDGET (Audio: 4:55)

Public Hearing opened at 7:04 P.M.

Finance Director Scott commented: State law requires that all cities in Ohio adopt a tax budget no later than July 15 and submit the adopted tax budget to the County no later than July 20. The budget shows the city’s need for public taxes. The tax budget is based on the current 2023 budget, but keep in mind, the estimates used are based on revenues received for only a portion of the year, so they are estimates. The budget does not anticipate any changes to the city’s property tax rate. We are anticipating a total millage of 7.3 mils.

Public Hearing closed at 7:06 P.M.

The Council meeting resumed at 7:06 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT (Audio: 6:22)

Mayor Gardner reported:

- Road repairs are continuing throughout the City. Thank you to Superintendent Grubiss and the Service Department for their hard work.
- Superintendent Grubiss has also been busy around the City Hall complex putting siding up and replacing the unsightly peeling paint. Mark is also working with an irrigation company to install a sprinkler system. He will also be installing a second rail at the front of City Hall.
- The new Fire Department command car is expected to be in service soon. They are working on final radio installation. All career fire fighters will be attending an active shooter training program at South High School. The WHFD became the first in Lake County, and one of the first in the Northeast Ohio, to purchase personal thermal imaging devices. This equipment will help keep our firefighters and residents safer.
- The poles for the mounted photo enforcement cameras will be installed soon in the school zones. There will be a temporary trailer in place until the location is confirmed for the permanent pole. Chief Naegele will be talking about the purchase of three new Police vehicles later in the meeting.
- Communications Supervisor Mehollin has been busy scheduling a Fall Shred Day, which is tentatively scheduled for the first Saturday in November. Plans are also being made for another Electronic Recycle Day in October.

Questions/comments following Law Director's Report:

Councilwoman Taylor Draper complimented the Mayor and Superintendent Grubiss on the work that has been done on the City Hall complex. She also asked if the firefighter emergency training would be an all-day activity?

Mayor Gardner stated there are three sessions, and they are three to four hours per session.

Councilwoman Belich was pleased to see the road improvements around the City by the Service Department and wanted to acknowledge the resources, time and tax payer money that is needed to make these kinds of necessary improvements.

Council President Hallum asked if the new Fire Department thermal imaging units are used to locate victims or fire in the structures?

Mayor Gardner stated they are used mainly for fire within building structures.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Audio: 15:17)

Law Director Lucas stated there will be a W.H.I.S.P.E.R. meeting on Monday. Councilwoman Miller will be present for the meeting. There will be a follow-up after the meeting.

Questions/comments following Law Director's Report:

Councilwoman Belich asked who would be attending the W.H.I.S.P.E.R. meeting? **Law Director Lucas** stated himself and Councilwoman Miller, and that they planned to iron out any issues.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Audio: 16:22)

Finance Director Scott stated he spoke with the outside auditors this afternoon, and they are very close to wrapping up the 2021-2022 compilation. They will send their report for review, and it should be wrapped up soon.

Questions/comments following Finance Director's Report:

None.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT (Audio: 17:11)

City Engineer DiFranco stated the sewer rehab project is ongoing. They are hoping to get the striping project started in July or August. He has also been working with Police Chief Naegele to develop plans for the carport replacement. They received their final report from the EPA audit for stormwater, which was done in February, in which they received a passing grade with a couple of correction items.

Questions/comments following City Engineer's Report:

Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz asked how they check the stormwater? **City Engineer DiFranco** stated it's a comprehensive city-wide program and elaborated on the factors that go into the program.

Councilwoman Taylor Draper asked where the areas of improvement were? **City Engineer DiFranco** stated that catch basins were installed in the new salt barn, and the EPA does not allow catch basins in a salt storage facility. Mr. DiFranco could not recall the other violation, but said it was very minor and taken care of so the city is in compliance.

Council President Hallum inquired into the sewer inspections and asked if they used fog or smoke machines to inspect the lines? **City Engineer DiFranco** said Mr. Hallum is correct, and that the process is used to detect leaks.

Councilwoman Belich asked if Lake County Soil & Water are involved in the EPA audit? **City Engineer DiFranco** stated that there were representatives from the Lake County Stormwater Management, Soil & Water and the Board of Health that participated in the audit.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS REPORTS / COMMITTEE REPORTS (Audio 20:57)

PC-ABR reported by Councilwoman Taylor Draper

Councilwoman Taylor Draper reported:

- Planning & Zoning Commission Architectural Board of Review met on June 15, 2023. During the Architectural Board of Review portion an in-ground pool at 2316 Rivers Edge Drive was approved, a Parts Delivery addition at Classic BMW, 2571 S.O.M. Center Road was approved, and a pole barn at 2947 Lynn Drive was also approved.
- There was no new business discussed during the Planning Commission portion of the meeting.

Questions/comments:

None.

Beautification Committee reported by Councilwoman Taylor Draper

No report.

Recreation Commission reported by Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz

Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz reported:

- The Recreation Commission is looking for one to two additional members to help with planning and preparation of events.

Questions/comments following the Recreation Commission Report:

Council President Hallum asked how much time is needed to volunteer on the Recreation Commission?

Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz stated the meetings are once a month (on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.). There are approximately 10 events a year. Some events require more involvement than others. The Commission works together on most events, and it's a rewarding way to give back to the community.

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 at the Working Committee meeting, they met and discussed a draft of an ordinance for limited deer bow hunting. It was a good discussion and the meeting can be viewed on the city's facebook page. We have invited Chief Naegele as well as the Mayor to join in the discussion (most likely) before the next Working Committee of Council Meeting on July 10.

Questions/comments following the Deer Management Committee Report:

None.

Business Subcommittee – reported by Council Vice President Kline

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Audio: 25:07)

Council Vice President Kline stated the following:

At the last council meeting, 2 weeks ago, Ms. Jenna Bing, expressed her concerns about the payroll increases that council and the mayor have received over the past 4 years.

Ms. Bing stated and I quote "I requested and received information from the Finance Departments of Willoughby, Eastlake and Wickliffe. I'm still waiting on Kirtland and Willowick. From those that responded, the mayors and council, in those cities did not receive any salary increase in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023."

Council requested copies of the information that Ms. Bing received. Ms. Bing emailed to the Council Clerk copies of the requests she sent to each city and the information that the City of Wickliffe sent back. There was no information included regarding Willoughby or Eastlake. We are still waiting on such information.

As the unofficial fact checker for the public portion of City Council's meetings, I felt obligated to pursue this further.

The City of Willoughby has financial information available on its website through 2021. The information shows increases in Council compensation for 2020 and 2021. Information is not readily available pertaining to the mayor.

Regarding the City of Eastlake. We had a discussion of Eastlake in March when our budget was being reviewed. Then, Ms Bing said Eastlake council was turning down annual increases. As I reported then, the city's website shows annual increases each year and the city's finance director confirmed to me that council did not turn down increases.

I will get to Wickliffe in a moment.

Regarding Willowick and Kirtland. Willowick does not have any financial information available on their website. Kirtland does and it shows salary increases for council during this 4 year period.

Now back to Wickliffe.

Wickliffe reported no change in council or mayor's salaries from 2020 through 2023. Council's salaries in Wickliffe have not changed since 2008. The mayor's salary did increase at some point between 2015 and 2020. Ms Bing stated regarding Willoughby Hills increases and I quote "this level of increase in mayor and council salaries is way out of line from other cities around us." On the surface this might appear so, but as radio broadcaster Paul Harvey used to say "AND NOW THE REST OF THE STORY".

I looked at Wickliffe's salaries and thought they seemed high. In 2008 while Wickliffe was paying a council person \$7,600 a year, Willoughby Hills was paying a council person \$5,764 or over \$1,800 less. Council president in Wickliffe was receiving \$8,800 a year, while Willoughby Hills' council president was receiving \$7,277 or over \$1,500 less. At the mayor level Wickliffe's mayor received \$18,000 vs \$22,392 for Willoughby Hills. In this case our mayor received over \$4,000 more. By 2020 Wickliffe's mayor salary jumped to \$27,132, while our mayor's salary went to \$26,057. This meant at that point Wickliffe's mayor was receiving over \$1,000 more.

The point that I'm getting at is if Willoughby Hills was paying at Wickliffe salary rates, over the 4 years ending with 2023, we would have paid out over \$6,000 more. You have to look deeper than just what the surface shows. Wickliffe did not have increases for council because their salary was much higher to start with.

Willoughby Hills mayor and council are subject to salary reduction if the CPI drops. This has happened twice in the last 15 years when inflation rates were low. Inflation rates are dropping now. Unless there's a major unforeseen change, I expect the CPI adjustment next January to reduce council and mayor's salaries. The other cities in western Lake County will not see their mayor's and council's salaries drop accordingly. Department heads in this city, which Ms Bing is so concerned about, will not see a drop in their salaries due to inflation going down.

Finally, if you want to do a comparison and I said this back in March, I again suggest you look at Lake County. In 2019, the county commissioners got a 5% increase and another 5% for 2020. This was before the inflation that we currently have. They have continued to receive smaller increases each year. The commissioners now make just under \$100,000 a year. Ms Bing has singled out this council and the mayor because we are part time elected officials and feels that such office holders should not receive these increases. By the way, the Lake County commissioner position is a part time, elected position.

LEGISLATION (Audio: 30:57)

ORDINANCE 2023-030 – THIRD 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.

Motion made by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz**, seconded by **Councilwoman Belich** to adopt Ordinance 2023-030.

Discussion on the Motion:

Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz stated their rate has not changed from the prior year.

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

Motion carries to adopt Ordinance 2023-030.

ORDINANCE 2023-031 – THIRD 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.

Motion made by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz**, seconded by **Councilman Kneeth** to adopt Ordinance 2023-031.

Discussion on the Motion:

Councilwoman Taylor Draper stated that by voting to pass this ordinance, it is not a vote of approval of medical marijuana, nor does it mean opposition for those who need the product. It is simply an ordinance arming the city with the ability to protect its citizens and other businesses. We will not allow any possible nuisances that may arise from a business of this nature. She stated this ordinance will allow the city to step in if necessary.

Councilwoman Miller reaffirmed Councilwoman Taylor Draper’s statement and added that the ordinance will help establish the standards the city would like to see this business, which is already operating in the city, follow.

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

Motion carries to adopt Ordinance 2023-031.

ORDINANCE 2023-033 – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE URBAN ENTITLEMENT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM AND FOR THE UTILIZATION OF FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE BY THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974 AS AMENDED, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by **Councilwoman Taylor Draper**, seconded by **Councilwoman Miller** to waive the Three Readings on Ordinance 2023-033.

Discussion on the Motion:

Councilwoman Taylor Draper, stated it is simply a renewal the city is already participating in.

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

Motion carries to waive the Three Readings on Ordinance 2023-033.

Motion made by **Councilwoman Taylor Draper**, seconded by **Councilwoman Miller** to adopt Ordinance 2023-033.

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

Motion carries to adopt Ordinance 2023-033.

ORDINANCE 2023-034 – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART 3-TRAFFIC CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS, CHAPTER 315 CAPTIONED “OFFICER-OPERATED HANDHELD TRAFFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT DEVICE”; SPECIFICALLY, SECTION 315.05 TITLED “CIVIL PENALTIES”.

Police Chief Naegele was in attendance and spoke of the benefits of passing the ordinance.

Councilwoman Taylor Draper, questioned the rationale of financial penalties and scaling system.

Police Chief Naegele responded that it is not up to his department. A general discussion ensued.

Councilwoman Miller asked where the typical speeding hot spots are?

Police Chief Naegele replied in reference to the stationary photo enforcement: the school zones are their focus. The handheld program is primarily focused on the interstates. They have implemented speed studies to reach this data.

Council President Hallum added that he has received multiple complaints from residents about motorists speeding through the city, and asked if Chief Naegele could investigate certain areas of concern. **Councilwoman Miller** and **Councilwoman Belich** agreed.

Motion made by **Council Vice President Kline**, seconded by **Councilwoman Belich** to waive the Three Readings on Ordinance 2023-034.

Discussion on the Motion:

None.

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

Motion carries to waive the Three Readings on Ordinance 2023-034.

Motion made by **Councilwoman Belich**, seconded by **Councilwoman Miller** to adopt Ordinance 2023-034.

Discussion on the Motion:

None.

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

Motion carries to adopt Ordinance 2023-034.

ORDINANCE 2023-035 – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SECURE THE PURCHASE OF THREE (3) NEW POLICE VEHICLES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Police Chief Naegele spoke briefly on the importance of acting swiftly, his confidence in the referenced vehicles, and the already-budgeted expense.

Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz, asked if these vehicles would be replacements or expanding upon the existing fleet?

Police Chief Naegele stated one will be a replacement, and one an expansion.

Council Vice President Kline asked if the Durango and Explorer were the only current options?

Police Chief Naegele stated there is also a Chevy Tahoe vehicle available, however, he feels it may be too large and harder to maneuver. A general discussion followed.

Motion made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by **Councilwoman Belich** to waive the 48 Hour Notice Requirement on Ordinance 2023-035.

Discussion on the Motion:

None.

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

Motion carries to waive the 48 Hour Notice Requirement on Ordinance 2023-035.

Motion made by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz**, seconded by **Councilman Knecht** to waive the Three Readings on Ordinance 2023-035.

Discussion on the Motion:

None.

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

Motion carries to waive the Three Readings on Ordinance 2023-035.

Motion made by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz**, seconded by **Councilwoman Miller** to adopt Ordinance 2023-035.

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

Motion carries to adopt Ordinance 2023-035.

RESOLUTION 2023-008 – THIRD READING

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

Motion made by **Councilwoman Taylor Draper**, seconded by **Councilwoman Miller** to adopt Resolution 2023-008.

Discussion on the Motion:

None.

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

Motion carries to adopt Resolution 2023-008.

RESOLUTION 2023-009 – FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE WILLOUGHBY HILLS MIND CHALLENGE TEAM WHO, THROUGH THEIR COMBINED KNOWLEDGE AND PERSEVERANCE, BROUGHT HOME THE SECOND PLACE PRIZE OF FIFTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,500) AND WAS ACCEPTED BY THE FINANCE DIRECTOR PURSUANT TO SECTION 135.30 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CITY'S SENIOR CENTER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by **Councilwoman Taylor Draper**, seconded by **Councilwoman Miller** to waive the Three Reading Rule on Resolution 2023-009.

Discussion on the Motion:

None.

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

Motion carries to waive the Three Reading Rule on Resolution 2023-009.

Motion made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by **Councilwoman Belich** to adopt Resolution 2023-009.

Discussion on the Motion:

Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz, congratulated the Mind Challenge Team and thanked them for donating the money to the Senior Center.

Council Vice President Kline stated:

On behalf of the Willoughby Hills Mind Challenge team, I want to thank Council for this resolution. It has been a pleasure and an honor to be a member of this team. Mind Challenge is much more than a trivia game. Trivia, by the way, is defined as information and data that are considered to be of little value. Questions in Mind Challenge cover a huge expanse of knowledge. The knowledge displayed by our team was remarkable. I'm not including myself in this compliment because I'm strictly a trivia guy. It's a lot more than "What year was Mad Magazine first published?" It also involves team work and strategy.

I would encourage any and everyone to consider participating in Mind Challenge next year. We can field as many teams as we have participants for. But remember, to advance to the money rounds, you have to get passed the present Willoughby Hills team. And, after you play us, we will be saying to you "Whose your Daddy?"

Just kidding, the more teams the better.

By the way, Mad Magazine was first published in 1952.

Councilwoman Taylor Draper, congratulated the team: Mayor Gardner, Council Vice President Mike Kline, Dave & Denise Reichelt, Sandy Falck, Ira Lorber and Mary Melvin.

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

Motion carries to adopt Resolution 2023-009.

NEW BUSINESS (Audio: 1:01:47)

Councilwoman Miller inquired into the status of the Senior Center check-in system requested by Gloria Majeski. She feels it would be a good system for tracking room usage and useful tool to gauge future funding opportunities.

Council President Hallum stated he is waiting for a comprehensive plan that would encompass all needs.

Councilwoman Miller questioned the ability to request single line items, and if that would make sense to do at this point. She stated she has called the County offices and is waiting for a reply.

Councilwoman Belich stated there seems to be various opportunities, which other cities are already taking advantage of. Ms. Belich would like to have a better understanding of the process needed to acquire this type of system, as she feels it would be beneficial to the City and our seniors. She would like to know if there are any ways to expedite this process.

Council President Hallum stated his understanding is that the Senior Levy application date has already passed for the current year, and we would have to wait until later this summer to apply for funds for next year. His understanding is that it would be more beneficial to submit a comprehensive plan.

Councilwoman Belich requested definitive clarification on the process.

Mayor Gardner agreed to follow up for specific information and clarity.

PUBLIC PORTION #2 (Audio: 1:11:11)

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

Public Portion #2 opened at 8:11 p.m.

Jenna Bing, 36951 Beech Hills Drive, Willoughby Hills, OH 44094 stated that Council was correct in reference to Ordinance 2023-030 and the rate has not increased in the past six months, however, there was a 3% increase a year ago. She also stated she felt the way the ordinance was written pertaining to Council and Mayor salary increases is not fair. She feels the CPI rating is unfair. Ms. Bing feels the increases should be consistent with senior level employee raises, and would like to see the current system changed.

Public Portion #2 closed at 8:15 p.m.

Questions/comments following Public Portion #2:

None.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER/FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY **(Audio: 1:15:13)**

Councilwoman Taylor Draper thanked Council Vice President Kline for taking the time to research local salaries and pay grading systems. She also reminded residents that this past Monday was Juneteenth. She explained the holiday: On June 19, 1865, enslaved African Americans in Texas were told they were free. A century and a half later, people across the United States continue to celebrate the day, which is now a federal holiday. She spoke of the sacrifices made by many, and her personal feelings, and the importance of the day.

Councilwoman Miller also thanked Council Vice President Kline for his research. She also commended Superintendent Grubiss on the work he has done on the City Hall complex.

Council Vice President Kline noted there would not be another meeting before the 4th of July holiday, and wished everyone a Happy Independence Day. He also reminded residents the City of Willoughby Hills does not allow fireworks.

ADJOURNMENT (Audio: 1:17:22)

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

Discussion on the Motion:

None.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

APPROVED: July 13, 2023
Date



Christopher Hallum
President of Council

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