
Special Meeting of Council Minutes of August 28, 2023

The Special Meeting of Council Meeting was called to order on Monday, August 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. **Council President Hallum** presided.

Call to Order 6:00 p.m. (Audio: 0:07)

Cell Phone Reminder to Turn off Devices

Pledge of Allegiance (Audio: 0:13)

ROLL CALL (Audio:0:23)

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

Also Present: Mayor Gardner, Law Director Michael C. Lucas, and Finance Director Bruce Scott

PUBLIC PORTION (Audio: 1:03)

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

Public Portion opened at 6:01 p.m.

Public Portion closed at 6:01 p.m.

DISPOSITION OF THE JOURNAL (Audio: 1:13)

Motion made by Council Vice President Kline seconded by **Councilwoman Taylor Draper** to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.

Discussion on the Motion:

None.

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

Motion carries to approve the meeting minutes of the July 27, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.

ORDINANCE 2023-043 – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF A THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATE BY THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO DRAW A WARRANT FOR THE ORDERS OR CONTRACTS ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH CERTIFICATE FOR TENT AND EQUIPMENT RENTAL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council President Hallum stated a purchase order was not issued before being invoiced. **Mayor Gardner** explained further.

Motion made by **Councilwoman Taylor Draper**, seconded by **Councilman Knecht** to waive the Three Readings on Ordinance 2023-043.

Discussion on the Motion:

None.

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

Motion carries to waive the Three Readings on Ordinance 2023-043.

Motion made by **Councilwoman Taylor Draper**, seconded by **Councilman Knecht** to adopt Ordinance 2023-043.

Discussion on the Motion:

None.

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

Motion carries to adopt Ordinance 2023-043.

RESOLUTION 2023-011 – FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE FOR THE COLLECTION OF UNPAID FUNDS OWED TO THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS.

Council President Hallum stated this Resolution is allowing the Ohio Attorney General’s office to assist in the collection of unpaid Mayor’s Court fines.

Motion made by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz**, seconded by **Councilwoman Belich** to waive the Three Readings on Resolution 2023-011.

Discussion on the Motion:

None.

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

Motion carries to waive the Three Readings on Resolution 2023-011.

RESOLUTION 2023-013 – FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FINANCE DIRECTOR FRANK BRICHACEK* FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS.

**Mayor Gardner noted the caption for Ordinance 2023-013 was listed incorrectly on the agenda. It is listed correctly above.*

Motion made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by **Councilwoman Belich** to waive the Three Readings on Resolution 2023-013.

Discussion on the Motion:

None.

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

Motion carries to waive the Three Readings on Resolution 2023-013.

Motion made by **Councilwoman Miller**, seconded by **Councilwoman Belich** to adopt Resolution 2023-013.

Discussion on the Motion:

Council Vice President Kline read a statement: When I thought Frank was leaving at the end of December last year, I used almost all of my creative juices to come up with a humorous sendoff. Then Frank did not leave, and in April, Bruce took over as Finance Director. I was able to squeeze out a tiny bit more creativity to wish Frank an appropriate sendoff. I did ask Frank if this was his last appearance, and the Mayor did say Frank could come back whenever he wants. Now I find myself trying to find another tiny amount of creativity to finally send Frank off with, alas I cannot, so I have to get serious. Everyone sitting at this Council table and everyone who has during Frank’s tenure here with the City owes Frank a tremendous amount of gratitude. Everyone who has worked at the City during this time does also. So does everyone living in the City, and working in the City – both employers and employees. Even the people simply passing through the City. We all owe Frank a debt of gratitude. He has made it easier for everyone else to go about their daily lives. Now I could stop here, but there something else I would like to say. I have sat in this chamber, and witnessed individuals who stood out and criticized Frank for making errors, for taking too long to get various things done. The previous Resolution for Frank’s outstanding service was criticized because according to a resident, “that is what is expected of a finance director”. Frankly, these people wouldn’t know double entry bookkeeping if it bit them on the backside. These people have no idea of the significance of the awards the city has received for Frank’s stewardship of the Finance Department, but Frank persevered through all of this. I want to wish Frank a long, happy and healthy retirement.

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

Motion carries to adopt Resolution 2023-013.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER/FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY (Audio: 19:27)

Mayor Gardner updated residents on damages after the severe storm:

- Eagle Road is still closed; it is still passable for emergency vehicles
- Multiple poles down; internet and power loss throughout the City
- Crews are tirelessly working to restore power and networks
- Part of Rogers Road is still partially closed
- Republic was able get through their entire route with some back tracking; they have been asked to be lenient with yard waste
- Several residents have called asking if the Service Department will be coming around with the wood chipper; we are relying on Republic at the moment, but have asked Service to keep an eye on progress; they are still occupied by regular and storm related jobs (road flooding, sewer backups, storm water intrusion among other issues). The Service Department has been working around the clock. When wires are down, they must be assumed to be live. Employees' health and welfare will not be put at risk. Thanks and appreciation also goes out to the Police and Fire Departments.

Council President Hallum echoed the Mayor's comments about all who helped out, and also commended residents for help out their neighbors.

Council Vice President Kline reminded residents that "Road Closed" signs mean the road is not passable and to abide by these signs and not try to travel around them.

Councilwoman Taylor Draper asked if storm debris needed to be cut down and bundled?

Mayor Gardner advised to follow Republic guidelines and protocol as best possible.

Councilwoman Miller thanked residents for their perseverance during this time and applauded those who helped each other. She also thanked the Police, Fire and Service Departments.

Council President Hallum also reminded residents that burning of fresh or "green" wood is not permitted; only seasoned wood.

Mayor Gardner added that even with road closures, the Police and Fire will be able to reach you in case of emergency.

ADJOURNMENT (Audio: 31:17)

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

APPROVED: September 14, 2023
Date



Christopher Hallum
President of Council

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