

City of Willoughby Hills

Special Meeting of Council Minutes of November 30, 2023

The Special Meeting of Council was called to order on Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. **Council President Hallum** presided.

Call to Order 6:01 p.m. (Audio: 0:07)

Cell Phone Reminder to Turn off Devices

Pledge of Allegiance (Audio: 0:22)

ROLL CALL (Audio: 0:37)

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

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

Absent: Councilwoman Belich

Motion made by **Councilwoman Taylor Draper**, seconded by **Councilwoman Miller** to excuse **Councilwoman Belich** from tonight's meeting.

Discussion on the Motion:

Councilwoman Miller stated **Councilwoman Belich** followed correct notification protocol.

Roll Call: **AYES:** Kline, Knecht, Miller, Taylor Draper, Hallum, and Jarmuszkiewicz

NAYS: None

Vote: 6/0

Motion carries to excuse **Councilwoman Belich** from tonight's meeting.

PUBLIC PORTION #1 (Audio: 1:37)

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

Public Portion #1 opened at 6:02 p.m.

Jenna Bing, 36951 Beech Hills Drive, Willoughby Hills, Ohio stated she had more specific information regarding a statement she made in the last Meeting of Council. Ms. Bing said an 80+ year old woman, someplace off of White Road (she could not recall the exact address) called the Service Department and asked if there was some way to assist with flooding on her property. There were very big, cut logs someone had placed near the shore next to the river, and they had dammed up in her yard causing flooding to her

property. She stated there had never been flooding to this extent in the past in her yard. The woman stated the Service Department said they could not assist. The woman kept calling and was helped with part of the clean up, but they would not haul away the large debris. Ms. Bing stated this was an extraordinary situation, she went on to say the woman stated she was told the Service Department could not use it's heavy equipment on individuals such as herself. Ms. Bing said most complaints relayed to her were about the Service Department. She understands that calls to Service can be difficult and may have unattainable expectations, but feels residents should not be told no without any explanation.

On a separate topic, Ms. Bing stated she does not understand how the City salaries work. She said she expected Karen Mehollin, the Communications Supervisor, to receive a pay increase, but was surprised to see that she was receiving a dollar less than the part-time Clerk of Courts. She does not understand how the pay scale is calculated. She hopes that Council is looking at similar pay ranges and doing comparabilities, so that the City is paying people fairly, but not overpaying them. Ms. Bing expressed concern with projected City income and coverage of these salary increases in the long term.

Public Portion #1 closed at 6:06 p.m.

DISPOSITION OF THE JOURNAL (Audio: 5:57)

Motion made by **Council Vice President Kline** seconded by **Councilman Knecht** to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2023 Regular Meeting of Council.

Discussion on the Motion:

None.

Roll Call: **AYES:** Kline, Knecht, Miller, Taylor Draper, Hallum, and Jarmuszkiewicz
 NAYS: None
 Vote: 6/0

Motion carries to approve the meeting minutes of the November 9, 2023 Regular Meeting of Council.

LEGISLATION: (Audio: 6:44)

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-058 – 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 JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council President Hallum stated this will remain on Second Reading.

ORDINANCE 2023-060 – SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS TO MEET THE ORDINARY EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS, STATE OF OHIO FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2024; AND REPEALING ALL LEGISLATION INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

Council President Hallum stated this will remain on Second Reading.

ORDINANCE 2023-061 – SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 186 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS, OHIO, TITLED “EARNED INCOME TAX REGULATIONS EFFECTIVE BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2016” WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF JANUARY 1, 2024.

Council President Hallum stated this will remain on Second Reading.

ORDINANCE 2023-064 – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE COMPENSATION AS OF JANUARY 1, 2024 FOR CERTAIN NON-UNION CITY EMPLOYEES NOT COVERED BY ANY COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR SPECIFIC INCREMENT PAY INCREASES THEREAFTER, AND EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 1, 2024, TO THESE EMPLOYEES; REPEALING CONFLICTING LEGISLATION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council President Hallum stated this will remain on First Reading.

Mayor Gardner addressed Council and stated the City is experiencing salary compression. He expanded on this. (Audio: 8:33)

ORDINANCE 2023-065 – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 436 TO PROVIDE FOR A \$0.75/HOUR ADJUSTMENTS IN 2024 AND 2025 IN MODIFICATION OF THE CURRENT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council President Hallum stated this will remain on First Reading.

Mayor Gardner again addressed Council and stated the City is trying to treat all of the employees equally and fairly. (Audio: 12:57)

ORDINANCE 2023-066 – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN COMPENSATION FOR THE POSITION OF PART-TIME CLERK OF COUNCIL COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2024; REPEALING CONFLICTING LEGISLATION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council President Hallum stated this will remain on First Reading.

Council President Hallum commended the Clerk of Council on her work thus far.

Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz asked if the AFSME contract had been finalized yet? **Mayor Gardner** responded that negotiations were nearing completion.

RESOLUTION 2023-019 – FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE EXCEPTIONAL POLICE WORK OF POLICE SERGEANT SHANNON VACHET AND RECOGNIZING HIM AS 2023 OFFICER OF THE YEAR FOR THE WILLOUGHBY HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Motion made by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz**, seconded by **Councilwoman Taylor Draper** to waive the Three Readings on Resolution 2023-019.

Roll Call: **AYES:** Kline, Knecht, Miller, Taylor Draper, Hallum, and Jarmuszkiewicz
NAYS: None
Vote: 6/0

Motion carries to waive the Three Readings on Resolution 2023-019.

Motion made by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz**, seconded by **Councilwoman Taylor Draper** to adopt Resolution 2023-019.

Discussion on the Motion

Mayor Gardner commented on what an exceptional job Sergeant Vachet has done. He recalled how Sgt. Vachet was one of two WHPD officers to receive the Lake County Police Association award for life-saving. He recently assisted in the unfortunate tragedy that occurred in Mentor. Sgt. Vachet has an excellent attitude, is a wealth of knowledge, a pure professional and goes above and beyond.

Council Vice President Hallum echoed the Mayor's sentiments.

Roll Call: **AYES:** Kline, Knecht, Miller, Taylor Draper, Hallum, and Jarmuszkiewicz
NAYS: None
Vote: 6/0

Motion carries to adopt Resolution 2023-019.

Mayor Gardner stated there will be several oaths and other announcements at the next Regular Meeting of Council.

NEW BUSINESS (Audio: 19:07)

Motion made by **Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz** seconded by **Councilwoman Miller** to provide retiring Sergeant Travis Vobornik his issued service handgun, a Glock, 9mm, Model 19X, upon his retirement in accordance with the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association CBA Section 38.11.

Roll Call: **AYES:** Kline, Knecht, Miller, Taylor Draper, Hallum, and Jarmuszkiewicz
NAYS: None
Vote: 6/0

Motion passes to provide retiring Sergeant Travis Vobornik his issued service handgun, a Glock, 9mm, Model 19X, upon his retirement in accordance with the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association CBA Section 38.11.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER/FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY (Audio: 20:03)

Councilwoman Miller reminded residents to stop by the Fire Station for Winter Fest and the toy drive.

Council President Hallum added that the Willoughby South High School band will be performing at the event and Santa will be making an appearance.

Councilman Jarmuszkiewicz reminded residents the following weekend is Breakfast with Santa. **Mayor Gardner** added that the Recreation Commission is still looking for help in the kitchen more information on how to volunteer can be found in the City newsletter.

ADJOURNMENT (Audio: 21:47)

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


Discussion on the Motion:

None.

Roll Call: **AYES:** Kline, Knecht, Miller, Taylor Draper, Hallum, and Jarmuszkiewicz
NAYS: None
Vote: 6/0

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

APPROVED: December 14, 2023
Date


Christopher Hallum
President of Council

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