

City of Willoughby Hills

Regular Meeting of Council Minutes of March 10, 2016

Policy No. 2: All Council Meetings shall be recorded by audio recording device and will be held in perpetuity and shall be part of the official records and minutes. Written minutes of Council shall be shortened wherever possible.

The Regular Council Meeting was held on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 7:01pm in the Willoughby Hills Council Chamber. President Fellows presided.

Members Present: Councilwoman Janet R. Majka, Vice President John Plecnik, Councilman Christopher L. Biro, President Nancy E. Fellows, David M. Fiebig, Councilwoman Jennifer Sommers Greer, Councilman Christopher Hallum

Others Present: Mayor Robert M. Weger, Law Director Thomas G. Lobe, Finance Director Frank J. Brichacek, Jr., City Engineer Pietro A. DiFranco, Clerk of Council Victoria Ann Savage

PRESENTATION

President Fellows: First Order of Business this evening is to have a presentation by the Cleveland Clinic and Classic Lexus to the City. Mayor would you like to come forward and this evening Dr. Suzanne Engel-Kominsky and Michelle Grubb from the Cleveland Clinic, Willoughby Hills Family Health Center and Mr. Matt Dietz of Classic Lexus can you come forward please. So these individuals are going to present the City with a check for \$1,597.58 this amount was also presented to St. Noel Food Pantry; this represents the proceeds from the 5K Wellness run sponsored last October which has now become an annual event by the City, Classic Lexus and WH Family Health Center. I am confident that the City will use these funds in the best interest of the residents and thank you very much.

Matt Dietz: Will thank you for letting us come in tonight and obviously we're proud to present the funds this year to both WHISPER and to St. Noel's Food Pantry. Classic has been a big contributor over the years and things in Lake County and we really wanted to do something that gave back to the City along with the Willoughby Hills Cleveland Clinic Health Center across the street; so it was really a fun event. We are going to have our third annual event coming up October 2nd, it's the first Sunday so we're hoping that it continues to grow, it grew in our second year and we're hoping that these funds get bigger and hopefully continue to do this very year. We've made it into something that is family oriented, there are a lot of different things donation wise and we are going to give back to the City and to these great organizations so we just want to thank everybody that was a part of this in helping make it happen.

Dr. Suzanne Engle-Kominsky: I just wanted to added that, that as a family health center our main goal is to provide an opportunity for wellness and this is a great example of some of the things that we like to promote both with patients, our employees, our community, it's a great community event. We really do get our employees excited and involved and encourage our community to just have a awareness of wellness. So thank you.

President Fellows: Thank you very much.

Mayor Weger: I just want to thank you for this and between us, the City, you and the Cleveland Clinic we really appreciate it. Thank you.

President Fellows: Thank you. What a great way to start our evening.

DISPOSITION OF THE JOURNAL

President Fellows: The next order of business is the Disposition of the Journal, Regular Council Meeting Minutes for February 25, 2016.

Councilman Fiebig moved to accept the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2016. Councilman Hallum seconded.

Roll Call: **YEAS:** **Hallum, Majka, Plecnik, Fellows, Fiebig, Greer**
ABSTENTIONS: Biro

With six affirmative votes, motion passes.

COMMUNICATIONS

CORRESPONDENCE

WH Community Center Rental Summary Report for February 2016 (Emailed: February 29, 2016)

Email: Finance Director Frank Brichacek to Members of Council dated March 1, 2016 re: 2016 Salaries – Elected Officials

City Engineer's Report dated March 3, 2016 (Emailed: March 3, 2016)

Mayor's Court Monthly Statement to City Council of Fines and Other Monies Received or Collected for the Month Ended February 29, 2016 (Emailed: March 8, 2016)

NOTIFICATIONS

Board of Building and Zoning Appeals Meeting of March 8, 2016 for Case No. 2016-1 (Emailed: March 1, 2016)

Finance Committee Meeting of Council scheduled for March 7, 2016 (Emailed: February 29, 2016)

Personnel Relations Committee of Council Meeting scheduled for March 3, 2016 (Emailed: February 29, 2016)

Planning & Zoning Commission and Architectural Board of Review Meeting of March 3, 2016 (Emailed: March 1, 2016)

Recreation Commission Meeting of March 2, 2016 (Emailed: February 26, 2016)

Recreation Committee of Council Meeting scheduled for March 7, 2016 (Emailed: February 26, 2016)

Rules and Legislation Committee Meeting of Council scheduled for March 7, 2016 (Emailed: February 29, 2016)

CANCELLATION: Recreation Committee of Council Meeting scheduled for March 7, 2016 (Emailed: March 7, 2016)

FILE

Willoughby Hills Senior Center Newsletter for March 2016, Issue Number 95

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

MAYOR'S REPORT: Appreciate Council's passage of the budget ordinance this evening. I appreciate the hard work of Finance Director Brichacek to assist in preparing a balanced budget for me to present to Council.

I'd appreciate Council's passage for the police car ordinance. We do need to continue our fleet replacement plan for the safety of our residents.

The Ohio Public Works Commission notified me by mail today that our request for a grant in the amount of \$173,200 has been approved for the Worrell Road Resurfacing Project. City Engineer Di Franco has also been notified and will move forward on bidding out this project as soon as it is lawful to do so.

I recently met with the Mayor of Euclid (along with Road Superintendent mark Grubiss and Sewer Operator Walt Van Kirk) to discuss resident issues with sewer bills. She was very cooperative in making a process that we can file claims for improper billing.

Full-time police test results are in and there are 20 candidates who will be interviewed to replace retiring Police Officer Dave Broadwater.

Thanks to the News-Herald on the State of the Cities article this week. There were a few corrections but it...I got the message across.

Thanks again to Cleveland Clinic Willoughby Hills Family Health Center and Classic Lexus for the check presentation to WHISPER. It will serve to help seniors in our community and is very much appreciated.

Art Gallery reception featuring photo contest submissions on Friday, March 11th from 7 to 9 pm. Refreshments will be served and prizes awarded.

Pancake Breakfast – March 13th and 20th.

Don't forget to vote the Primary Election is Tuesday, March 15th. And our Spring Craft Show is Saturday, March 19th from 10 to 2pm. That's all I have.

President Fellows: Thank you Mayor, are there any questions for the Mayor? Thank you, the next order of business would be our Law Director's report, Mr. Lobe.

LAW DIRECTOR LOBE: No formal report tonight, open to any questions that anyone may have.

President Fellows: Thank Mr. Lobe, are there any questions for the Law Director? Seeing none, next is our Finance Director's report, Mr. Brichacek.

FINANCE DIRECTOR BRICHACEK: No formal report tonight.

President Fellows: Any questions for Mr. Brichacek this evening? Next is our City Engineer's report, Mr. Di Franco.

CITY ENGINEER DI FRANCO: Thank you Madame President, no formal report but I'm open to questions.

President Fellows: Thank you Mr. Di France, are there any questions for the Engineer this evening? Thank you, next is our Committee Reports. I know that we have had a couple of committee meetings since our last Council Meeting. Vice President Plecnik would you like to start.

COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

PERSONNEL RELATIONS

Councilman Plecnik: Madame President, I have two committee reports, so I will present them both before opening to questions in the interest of time. The first is the Personnel Relations of Council which met on March 3rd at 6:04pm.

Provided are the written minutes of the meeting as read for the record.

Committee Members: Vice President John Plecnik, Chair, Chris du Laney, Pamela Kurt, Greg McCarthy

Also Present: Councilman Christopher Hallum, Mayor Robert M. Weger, Carolyn Patton, Secretary of the Civil Service Commission, Thomas Kicher, Vice Chair of the Civil Service Commission, Frank Cihula, Chair of the Board of Zoning Appeals; Member of the Records Commission

Introduction

Chairman Plecnik introduced the members of the Personnel Relations Committee, noting that **Committee Member Kurt** would be late due to work obligations, and thanked each of them for their willingness to sacrifice their time in service to the City. **Chairman Plecnik** noted that Personnel Relations, by its very nature, deals with personnel and people, which can be very personal. In view of that, it is incumbent on every Committee Member and Member of the Public who speaks to be absolutely respectful and professional toward one another, especially when difficult issues are discussed. **Chairman Plecnik** stated that he will exercise his authority as Chair to immediately halt any personal attacks, but hoped it would not be necessary for him to do so. Along those lines, while most of what the Committee discusses is appropriately in the public eye, if an individual employee's wages or compensation is under discussion, the Committee generally has the right to go into executive session. **Chairman Plecnik** suggested that we should do so in those cases to avoid putting a spotlight on any individual employee or singling anyone out. **Chairman Plecnik** then passed out a binder of materials to each Committee Member, and explained its contents. The binders contain a copy of the 2011 City of Willoughby Hills Independent Audit Task Force Report, the Mayor's 2009 Fiscal Responsibility Plan, a Comparison Study on the compensation of mayoral executive assistants in the region, the compensation schedules for City employees from 1977 to present day, and the job descriptions of City employees. **Chairman Plecnik** asked Committee Members to read the Independent Audit Task Force Report and Mayor's Fiscal Responsibility Plan in their entirety, but added that no one expected the Committee Members to read the entire binder cover-to-cover. The binders will be used as a reference, along with the binders on the union contracts, throughout the full two years of service on the Personnel Relations Committee.

Cost of Personnel

Committee Member du Laney asked if we could compare the total cost of personnel in Willoughby Hills to the cost of personnel in other cities. **Chairman Plecnik** replied that he would speak to **Council Clerk Savage** about what comparative data is reasonably available. **Committee Member Fulton** expressed the concern that every city is unique and that practices in other municipalities may or may not work for Willoughby Hills. **Committee Member du Laney** asked what the cost of personnel is in Willoughby Hills relative to the total budget. **Finance Director Brichacek** was recognized, and he responded that in 2015 there was \$4.5 million in wages and \$1.4 million in benefits out of a \$12.4 million budget, and in 2008 there was \$4.6 million in wages and \$1.3 million in benefits out of a \$12.2 million budget.

Goals of Committee

Chairman Plecnik recognized **Committee Member Kurt** as having joined the Committee approximately twenty minutes into the meeting, introduced her to the public, and thanked her for her willingness to serve. He continued to ask the Committee Members for their input on what high-level goals the Committee should adopt. He also noted that resident and former Independent Audit Task Force Member **Peter Osenar** suggested a goal of cutting personnel cost by ten percent. **Committee Member du Laney** suggested that the primary goal of the Committee should be to try to maximize the services received by the citizens of Willoughby Hills for every dollar spent. **Committee Member McCarthy** agreed and said we must work step-by-step to maximize services efficiently. **The other Committee Members and the Chair** also expressed agreement with **Committee Member du Laney** and decided to adopt his proposed goal to maximize services for every dollar spent. **Committee Member du Laney** stated that we need input from employees to become as efficient as possible and we want moral at the highest possible level, because the best organizations are those where the people like

to come to work. **Committee Member Kurt** agreed and added that it is important to hear from each department head. **Chairman Plecnik** agreed with **Committee Member Kurt** and expressed his intention to call not only the relevant department heads but the union presidents to speak with the Committee. **Committee Member du Laney** asked if Council had any other issues we should consider. **Chairman Plecnik** replied that raises for non-union employees in recent years have been all or nothing with no merit-based review. In 2014, every non-union employee received a 1.12 percent raise, whereas in 2015, every non-union employee received no raise at all. He noted that many employees are understandably less than happy with this situation. **Chairman Plecnik** suggested that now is the time for the Committee to carefully review our policy on raises and determine, based on merit, what the fair raise and compensation is for each position, rather than denying everyone a raise, like last year.

Discussion After Public Portion

In response to **Gloria Majeski**, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, **Committee Member Fulton** stated that she did not believe the decision to hold the Personnel Relations Committee meeting in the smaller Council conference room had anything to do with disrespecting the Executive Assistant. Rather, this date and time was the most convenient one available for the Committee Members and the larger Council Chambers is in use tonight by the Planning & Zoning Commission. **Committee Member Fulton** added that public portion tonight was the first she had heard of anyone losing their jobs and that to the best of her knowledge, neither she nor any Committee Member had any desire to fire anyone. She noted, however, that sometimes difficult decisions need to be made in order to save a company or save jobs. By way of example, when **Committee Member Fulton** worked for Ford Motor Company, her vacation and pay were cut, but her job was saved. In response to **Finance Director Brichacek**, **Chairman Plecnik** noted that any confusion about the work of the Personnel Relations Committee is not coming from Council, because Council leadership has repeatedly explained, and this is on the record, that generally speaking, it is the domain of administration to supervise employees within a position, but it is the domain of Council to decide whether a position should be created, like the Community Service Officer was created last year, eliminated, combined, or modified. Given that fact, it is the job of the Personnel Relations Committee to make recommendations to Council as to the union and non-union positions in the City. **Chairman Plecnik** also explained that the ordinance which creates the Committee states that “the Personnel Relations Committee of Council shall consider all legislation concerning relations with City Employees.” Relations with City employees clearly encompasses the review of job descriptions and compensation, although there is admittedly overlap with the Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over “salaries of City employees,” so the two committees have met jointly and will continue to do so from time-to-time. **Committee Member du Laney** thanked all the employees for coming and asked if **Finance Director Brichacek** could be recognized to explain his opinion that the Personnel Relations Committee has no jurisdiction to discuss personnel relations. **Finance Director Brichacek** replied that he felt the word “legislation” in the ordinance meant that Council needed to first propose legislation before the Committee could discuss anything. **Finance Director Brichacek** admitted that this was a disagreement between himself and **Chairman Plecnik**, and that this is the type of issue where reasonable people could disagree and we should have a respectful dialogue. **Finance Director Brichacek** closed by saying that he did not believe **Ms. Majeski** intended to be disrespectful. **Chairman Plecnik** agreed with **Finance Director Brichacek** on the need for respectful dialogue, which is why he was forced to interject when a City employee used public portion to personally attack the Council President and Council Clerk, who were not even in attendance to defend themselves. In response to the **Service Department**, **Chairman Plecnik** agreed that it is very likely overworked and understaffed given that we have only hired one new Service employee over thirty years. However, given that there is near universal agreement that our revenue sources are stagnant or growing slowly, in order to add an employee to Service we must subtract somewhere else. That is the difficult work of the Personnel Relations Committee. **Chairman Plecnik** asked if any Committee Member wished to speak, and hearing none, he adjourned the meeting.

Public Portion Opened at 6:40 p.m. **Frank Cihula**, Chair, Board of Zoning Appeals; Member, Records Commission, asked three questions: (1) would the binders and other records of Personnel Relations be available

on the City website; (2) would Personnel Relations follow the City's record retention policy; and (3) would the Council Clerk publish how many hours she spends working for Personnel Relations. Chairman Plecnik noted that Council generally does not dialogue on questions in public portion, but would make an exception in this case. He responded that (1) the binders are public records and are available upon request, and that he is open to posting them to the City website if the cost is not prohibitive; (2) Mr. Cihula is a Member of the Records Commission, so he knows the policy better than Council, and that he anticipated that Council would follow whatever the Records Commission recommends; and (3) the Council Clerk has never segmented her hours based on what particular committee she is working for, and that taking the time to do so might well-be more trouble than it is worth. Mr. Cihula thanked Chairman Plecnik and said that to date the Personnel Relations Committee has done good work. **Carolyn Patton**, Secretary, Civil Service Commission, asked that her presence and the presence of Thomas Kicher, Vice Chair, Civil Service Commission, be noted in the minutes. Chairman Plecnik noted their attendance. **Mayor Weger** noted that in comparing Willoughby Hills to other cities we need to look at how many employees are hired to do a job. He continued to say that in Willowick there are twenty-four employees in the Service Department, but we have only eight. **Councilman Hallum** introduced himself, and stated that we should focus on redeveloping Loehmann's Plaza and economic development to raise revenue so that issues of cost cutting become irrelevant. **Finance Director Brichacek** requested that the Committee review its statutory purpose because he felt that the Personnel Relations Committee reviewing personnel relations is at odds with its purpose. He added that blanket statements like cutting ten percent of the cost of personnel are a copout because a cut like that would have consequences. He closed by saying that confusion about what the Committee was reviewing was creating anxiety among employees. **Gloria Majeski**, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, stated that the job descriptions before the Committee were carefully scrutinized because she retyped them herself. Ms. Majeski added that when she started with the City, she did a little more filing than just her nails, and no one can appreciate the work she does but the Mayor and herself. She asked the Committee to look at how much the volunteer coordinator for United Way is currently paid because she heads up our WHISPER volunteer program. She stated that she worked hard on our garbage contracts and saved money for all the residents, and that she is willing to justify her salary. Ms. Majeski added that if anyone left the City she would be among the top three employees they would want to take with them. Ms. Majeski said she was offended and took it as a sign of disrespect that no one had consulted her on what room to call the Committee meeting in, because there are a lot of attendees and we are in the small conference room rather than Council Chambers, which is uncomfortable for so many attendees. Ms. Majeski then stated that the real problem with personnel is that there are eight part-time employees who have worked more than thirty hours and are now entitled to Obamacare even though she and the Mayor told their supervisors not to let the employees become eligible for healthcare. Ms. Majeski stated that the Council President failed to properly supervise the Council Clerk, who billed too many hours, and is one of those eight employees who is now eligible for healthcare or a \$2,700 waiver. **Chairman Plecnik** interjected that Ms. Majeski's subjective statements that the Council President failed to supervise the Council Clerk, and that the Council Clerk billed too many hours in service of Council, are inappropriately personal in nature and asked that she refrain from personal attacks. Chairman Plecnik then corrected the record by explaining that the Council President has the authority to authorize as many hours of work by the Council Clerk as he or she deems necessary, and while you might reasonably disagree with the decision, authorizing more hours is not a failure to supervise. **Fred Wyss**, Building & Zoning Commissioner, asked the Committee to read the recommendations of past committees and stated that his clerk is doing not one and a half but two jobs. He added that his personnel is at a minimum and the Finance Department is at its leanest. Mr. Wyss then said that he heard a certain Council Member stated that we are lucky to have our jobs, but he says you are the one who is lucky to have us. He closed by saying that he wants his compensation discussed in the open, not in executive session. **Carolyn Patton**, Secretary, Civil Service Commission, asked if she could speak again and was recognized. She added that Ms. Majeski was the Secretary's secretary for the Civil Service Commission and that her hard work was essential to compiling the job descriptions for the City. **Mark Grubiss**, Service Superintendent, shared that he has worked for large construction companies the majority of his career and has never seen so much work done with so little staff. **Mike Wasik**, Service Department employee, shared that his department had seven employees when he started his job thirty years ago, and now it has eight, even though there are many new roads to maintain. **Janeen**

Mullin, Clerk of Court, thanked the Committee Members for their interest and levelheadedness. She asked the Committee to look at how other Mayor's Courts operated, but to compare Courts of similar size with a similar docket. For example, she noted that Grand River Mayor's Court has too few tickets to compare to our Mayor's Court. Ms. Mullin closed by directing the comment to Committee Member Kurt that she personally knows the good work of our Mayor's Court, and Committee Member Kurt agreed.

Public Portion Closed at 7:06 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

FINANCE

Councilman Plecnik: The Finance Committee met on March 7, 2016 at 6:30pm.

Provided are the written minutes of the meeting as read for the record.

Committee Members: Vice President John Plecnik, Chair, President Nancy E. Fellows

Absent: Councilwoman Jennifer Sommers Greer

Also Present: Councilwoman Janet R. Majka, Finance Director Frank J. Brichacek, Mayor Robert M. Weger

Cell Tower Lease Extension Proposal

Chairman Plecnik shared that American Tower Corporation sent the City a written lease extension proposal with respect to its current cell tower at 34505 Chardon Road. American Tower proposed a five-year extension with four additional automatically renewing terms of five years apiece for a total of twenty-five years. The terms of the extension include an annual three percent escalation rate and a one-time \$60,000 signing bonus.

Chairman Plecnik asked if Council or the City needed to take action on the proposal. **Mayor Weger** replied that no immediate action is necessary, because the lease is not up for about a year and American Tower is eager to renew so there is no risk in losing their interest. **Mayor Weger** added that we could attempt to negotiate for signing bonuses with our other cell tower leases, and that would be positive for the City.

2016 Budget

Chairman Plecnik noted that he previously asked each Member of the Finance Committee and Council to bring forward any proposed amendments to the 2016 budget, tonight, given that Council would likely vote on the budget at the next regular Council meeting on Thursday, March 10. He asked if anyone from Council or administration had input on the budget or proposed changes. **Council President Fellows** stated that her issues with the budget were small and she did not intend to propose any changes. However, **Council President Fellows** wanted to highlight the significance of balancing the budget for the first time in years, and she shared that combining the Fire Capital Funds was a very positive move for the City. **Councilwoman Majka** seconded **Council President Fellows** in her sentiment that balancing the budget was very significant and positive for the City. **Chairman Plecnik** agreed and added that although he would still like to see the budget amended in some small ways, including the elimination of the \$2,200 gas allowance for the Mayor, he did not want to hold up passing the budget for minor issues. He then asked if **Mayor Weger** or **Finance Director Brichacek** had any amendments or changes to the budget. **Finance Director Brichacek** replied, no, other than the previous adjustments that were discussed at the last Finance Committee meeting. **Chairman Plecnik** asked if—taking those previous adjustments into account—our budget still reflects a \$4,500 surplus. **Finance Director Brichacek** replied, yes. **Chairman Plecnik** noted that Rules & Legislation would make the final recommendation on whether or not to pass the budget, but asked the Finance Committee if there was consensus to recommend passage. All Members of the Finance Committee present expressed consensus to adopt the 2016 budget at the next regular Council meeting.

Discussion after Public Portion

Chairman Plecnik noted that he had already called two meetings of the Personnel Relations Committee this year, which is reviewing the union and non-union contracts for City employees. However, Personnel Relations

has just begun its work and it would be premature to amend the budget with respect to personnel before the committee has time to do its homework and fully consider the issues. **Chairman Plecnik** closed the meeting by thanking the Members of the Finance Committee, Council, and **Finance Director Brichacek** for their hard work in balancing the budget for the first time in years.

Public Portion Opened at 6:35 p.m.

No one spoke.

Public Portion Closed at 6:36 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

President Fellows: Thank you Vice President Plecnik. Just a couple of notes, Planning and Zoning, the Cell Tower proposal has gone into Planning and Zoning, do you have anything that you want to share?

Councilman Hallum: Just a couple of things. As you say, it has been introduced by the Mayor during the last meeting so we'll be looking at that a little closer. Also there is a new house that's going to be built on Lynn Drive; the plans for that were approved as well as we have a resident on Rockefeller, I believe is putting in an in ground pool and that was approved as well. So....and also we did during my Council Representative Report I did bring up the discussions that we need to start having concerning our current commercial rental rents that haven't been looked at since 1978 as well as considering some rental registration vacancy property, vacant property registration as well as dormant or dead HOAs in the community where we've got some little islands and things like that in some of our developments that are not either being maintained or the residents on that property are not providing any monies to help it, that kind of thing, just making sure that we are keeping a tighter look on that as well.

President Fellows: All right, thank you, thank you. And Councilwoman Greer, you had to cancel you Recreation Committee Meeting so I presume that you are looking to reschedule that?

Councilwoman Greer: Yes, we will work with the Recreation Committee to schedule that at a convenient time for everyone.

President Fellows: And how did the first pancake breakfast go because I was out of town?

Councilwoman Greer: I was actually out of town as well cheering on my daughter at the Arnold Classic Gymnastics Meet.

President Fellows: Wonderful, wonderful.

Councilwoman Greer: So that was fun, but I missed it and I'm looking forward to it this weekend.

President Fellows: Great, thank you so much.

RULES AND LEGISLATION

The Committee met on March 7th at 7:00 p.m.

Provided are the written minutes of the meeting as read for the record.

Committee Members: President Nancy E. Fellows, Chair, Vice President John Plecnik, Janet R. Majka

Also Present: Mayor Robert M. Weger

Purpose: Legislation for the upcoming Council meeting of March 10, 2016.

Ordinance 2016-3 An Ordinance accepting the 2016 Budget as amended.
The Rules and Legislation Committee of Council recommends 3rd Reading and adopt.

Ordinance 2016 – 5 An Ordinance to define and to determine what constitutes a “justifiable excuse” as well as establishing a procedure for reporting and excusing absences. Suggested by Councilwoman Greer to remove the actual time. This will be replaced with notifying the Council Office prior to a meeting unless it is an unforeseeable emergency. Also, in Public Portion Mr. Cihula mentioned that there was a reference to “elected” which would not include appointed, therefore “Members” of Council would be used to reference both. The Rules and Legislation Committee of Council recommends 2nd Reading.

Ordinance 2016-10 An Ordinance to purchase two new police vehicles “Chargers”.
The Rules and Legislation Committee of Council recommends the 3-Reading Rule be waived and the ordinance adopted.

Since we will be adopting our budget first and then this will be second so we know that we have the funds in the budget for that.

Public portion opened at 7:04 p.m. Linda Fulton shared her concerns that a Council Member should know by 5 pm if they are not going to be able to make a meeting or not and I already referenced Frank Cihula’s comment. Council Vice President Plecnik indicated that we would all be understanding of our Council Members, and we will use our best judgment when excusing a fellow colleague.

Public portion closed at 7:14 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

President Fellows: And the last on Committee Meetings, in terms of a committee meeting to...Working Committee of Council or a retreat I had sent out a email looking for availability of members to get together in April; if that doesn’t look well for you then maybe you would provide a couple of dates to see if could have everybody at a retreat meeting. Okay, thank you.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

There were none.

PUBLIC PORTION

Section 107.08 – Public Meetings of Municipal Bodies

(a) All meetings of any municipal body are declared to be public meetings open to the public at all times.

All meetings shall provide a reasonable opportunity to hear public opinion.

President Fellows opened Public Portion at 7:31 p.m.

Tony Manfredi – 730 Pebblebrook. Good Evening everyone. First I want to say congratulations to each and every one of you for your election and re-election. And the second thing is that may God give you wisdom and guidance to run this City in 2016. And an update: we just got done and finished in 10,000 eggs the first Thursday in less than an hour, tonight we did it in less than 45 minutes. It goes to show you what can be done when you work together. Do I get an amen?

Council: Amen.

Mr. Manfredi: Thank you.

President Fellows: Tony, what's your address please.

Mr. Manfredi: 730 Pebblebrook Drive. I take cards and money.

President Fellows: Thank you. Anyone else? Okay, I'll close Public Portion at 7:32 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

LEGISLATION

Ordinance No. 2016-3 – AS AMENDED – THIRD READING

An ordinance adopting permanent appropriations necessary to maintain City services for the fiscal period beginning January 1st through December 31st of 2016; repealing conflicting legislation.

Councilman Plecnik moved for passage. Councilman Biro seconded.

Councilman Plecnik: Madame President, if I could just say once again, thank you to our Finance Director Frank Brichacek and all of Council, the Finance Committee of Council for their hard work. It's very significant for us to be balancing the budget for the first time in years and I think that tonight is an exciting step forward for Willoughby Hills. Thank you.

Councilman Hallum: I also want to echo those thoughts but also direct to Frank Brichacek's staff who I'm sure were very helpful as well so thank you to them as well. Thank you.

Roll Call: **YEAS: Majka, Plecnik, Biro, Fellows, Fiebig, Greer, Hallum**
Motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2016-5 – SECOND READING

An ordinance amending Part One – Administrative Code – Title Three – Legislative, Subsection 121 – Council, Section 121.01 – Rules of Council of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Willoughby Hills and repealing conflicting legislation.

President Fellows: Rules and Legislation recommended that this stay on 2nd Reading unless I see otherwise.

Councilman Biro moved to suspend the 3-Reading Rule.

Without a second, the motion could not be considered.

Ordinance No. 2016-10

An ordinance directing the Mayor to sign any and all necessary documents to secure the purchase of police vehicles for budget year 2016 through the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Agreement Contract with said purchase being exempt from competitive bidding pursuant to Section 125.04 (C) of the Ohio Revised Code and declaring an emergency.

Councilman Fiebig moved to suspend the 3-Reading Rule. Councilman Biro seconded.

Councilman Fiebig: It's an ordinary course of affairs for us to replenish the police vehicles that we have and these chargers have proved to be a very good vehicle that the police officers do appreciate using so I think ordering two more of those at this time makes a lot of sense and let's move forward with this as quickly as possible.

Councilman Plecnik: Along those lines if I could just add the Mayor did share with us that the 2016 chargers are only going to be available for a short period of time so moving forward on this legislation tonight assures that we can buy in all likely hood a more affordable vehicle. Thank you.

Roll Call: YEAS: Majka, Plecnik, Biro, Fellows, Fiebig, Greer, Hallum
Passed.

Councilman Biro moved for passage. Councilman Fiebig seconded.

Roll Call: YEAS: Majka, Plecnik, Biro, Fellows, Fiebig, Greer, Hallum
Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mayor Weger: Madame President, I'd like to say that Gloria Majeski, she um met with the broker for the healthcare and she had one meeting with the Management Labor Health Committee and she's got another one tomorrow. We received one offer and it seems pretty good; she'd been going back and forth to get some additions to it, but then today we got a second offer which seems better so we're still researching and negotiating the outcome so we hope to have something in the next week.

President Fellows: Thank you.

Councilman Hallum: Madame President. I just want to ask that the Personnel Relations Committee going forward, I've talked to several employees in the City, I've seen the effects of not having an agenda, a very clear agenda for that meeting and the negative impact that it had and has had on the City and so it would certainly encourage that we be very communicative with what our agenda is and what that's going to be so that we can minimize the amount of stress as it has been said in the committee meeting moral is a very important part of having a good working body of people and we don't certainly want to introduce stress unnecessarily. So thank you.

Councilman Plecnik: Madame President, just to explain there wasn't a lot on the agenda of the Personnel Relations Committee, the main goal was simply to handout the binders with the information and explain any questions that the Committee Members had; it was actually the first meeting for half of our committee, two of our members so the reason that there wasn't an extensive agenda stated as there wasn't an extensive agenda. If a particular City employee intends to bring 20-25 employees with an agenda to discuss on their own it would be helpful if the Personnel Relations Committee knew in advance so that we could make sure that we were in a larger room for it but we didn't have any idea, not myself as Chair or any of the other members that a City employee was going to bring 20-25 people to the meeting. Certainly they are in the right to do so but the goal was just to go over the binders and answer any questions that the new members had so that understood what they would have to research for the year to come. Thank you.

Councilman Hallum: Madame President, I just want to follow up because my perspective was not that just one person brought those people, I talked to multiple City employees who were concerned about this meeting and the fact that it was unclear what it was about and they wanted to attend and I had encouraged them to attend so that they could find out what was going on and try to calm the situation down so that they were not overly stressed by it and you know, certainly it created some concern with the first part of the meeting was talking about cutting 10% without really having any conversation about what the purpose of that committee was and if

there was no clear agenda to start that way was probably not the best way to start a meeting when you have a bunch of employees in the room that are very concern about making sure that they are doing a great job for the City and they do. So um, I think that it is misleading to say that one person brought 20-25 employees because that's not...employees have their own mind we have very smart and intelligent in the City that work here that make decisions on their own as to whether they want to attend a meeting or not so I would reframe from saying that one person brought them because that's not the case. Thank you.

Councilman Plecnik: Well Madame President, the only reason that I said that is because one particular employee said that if I had been notified in advance I could have told you that an enormous amount of people were coming. So taking them at their word I assumed that there was some type of coordination but maybe that person miss-stated.

President Fellows: Okay, so, I think that our points have been made. Thank you.

President Fellows: Anyone else? Okay, so I have two points: (1) Mayor maybe you could share some information with Councilwoman Majka as she is Chair of Utilities on this meeting which you had with the Euclid Mayor on sewer rates and things like to kind of keep her in the loop on that, I think that she would appreciate that. And the other thing is that I would just like to remind everybody to look at your calendars to see if you can give me some dates in April or around that time to see...I would really like to see all of us to make a Retreat/Working Committee of Council.

Councilman Hallum: Is that all day, half a day, what...

President Fellows: No, it's usually about a half day

Councilman Hallum: Morning, afternoon

President Fellows: Like 8 to noon, 8 to 1, something like that....

Councilman Hallum: I've not done one so...What was the...

President Fellows: I think that it was the 23rd that I had put out plus, also while you are thinking about it you could maybe send some agenda topics that you would like to...we could discuss at the meeting.

Councilman Plecnik: Madame President, if I could add, I'm not sure all the dates that would be available but I did check with the School of Innovation and the 23rd is available particularly if we could let them know by Friday by the end of the week. I'd asked Brian Patrick could you check on the date because that was the one that you had mentioned to me and he was able to say that he would keep it for you through the end of Friday so if we could try to get a sense you know by the close of business tomorrow so that we could let the principle know...

President Fellows: Well and we know there's one committee member, council member that cannot make it for that Saturday at this time. So everybody check their calendar for the 23rd.

Councilman Hallum: Can I ask one other thing, in the back of my head I remember that several people on this dais, they are still on this dais had concerns about doing a retreat and that's why we didn't do one but I didn't recall what the concerns were but I know that we didn't have one last year because there were some concerns and we could probably pull up minutes from those meetings I'm sure...I just hadn't had the opportunity...I just wanted to make sure whatever that was...what was...

President Fellows: I don't remember but, I mean if someone prefers not to do that then share with all of us...

Councilman Hallum: I don't remember what it was, I just remember...I had no issue with it.

President Fellows: Chris and I in the past, Councilman Biro in the past, found that they have been very helpful. It's just an opportunity to just really talk instead of being at the Council table and doing things like that. It's an open...it's a public meeting.

Councilman Hallum: Yeah, I know perhaps we could have Council Clerk just look those up; I just want to make sure that those aren't still concerns. Could we find the minutes from last year?

Councilman Plecnik: Madame President, I do remember the issue and why the retreat was cancelled. This was shortly after the Germano issue and the Council President felt that Council was too heated at the time to have a retreat. So that was the specific issue.

Councilman Hallum: Okay.

Councilman Plecnik: The retreat was schedule shortly after the vote on whether or not to remove a Councilman.

Councilman Hallum: Okay.

President Fellows: The Clerk can check.

Councilman Hallum: I'd appreciate it. I just want to clear my head as to that's what it was. It just seems that it was more than that. Okay, thank you.

President Fellows: How about "For the Good of the Community"?

FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY

President Fellows: Nothing for this evening? See none, I'll take a motion for adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilman Hallum to adjourn. Councilman Biro seconded.

YEAS: Unanimous.

The Regular Council Meeting of March 10, 2016 was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

APPROVED: April 14, 2016
Date

Nancy E. Fellows
Nancy E. Fellows
President of Council

ATTEST: Victoria Ann Savage
Victoria Ann Savage, CMC
Clerk of Council