

City of Willoughby Hills

Regular Council Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2018

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. Council minutes shall be written, and approved by Council.

The Regular Council Meeting was held on Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 7:53pm in the Willoughby Hills Council Chamber. President Fellows presided.

Members Present: Vice President John Plecnik, President Nancy E. Fellows, Councilman David M. Fiebig, Councilwoman Laura Lenz, Councilwoman Janet R. Majka, Councilwoman Laura Pizmoht

Absent: Councilman Christopher Hallum

Others Present: Mayor Robert M. Weger, Acting Law Director Stephen L. Byron, Finance Director Frank J. Brichacek, City Engineer Pietro A. Di Franco, Clerk of Council Victoria Ann Savage

President Fellows: You will see on the agenda tonight that we were to provide presentations to Sergeant Matthew Naegele and also to Officers Craig Anderson and Cory Planisek but due to scheduling, we will do this at the next Council meeting on April 12, 2018.

DISPOSITION OF THE JOURNAL

Councilman Fiebig: Madam President. For Disposition of the Journal. I'll move that we pass the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2018.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Second.

President Fellows: I have a motion from Councilman Fiebig and a second from Councilwoman Pizmoht to adopt the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2018. Any discussion on that motion?

Roll call: YEAS: Plecnik, Fellows, Fiebig, Lenz, Majka, Pizmoht
Motion PASSED.

President Fellows: The motion to adopt the Regular Council Meeting of February 8th have been adopted.

Vice President Plecnik: Madam President. I would make a motion to amend the agenda at this point of the Council meeting, bring Ordinance No. 2018-18 on to the agenda for consideration and passage which is the ordinance authorizing and directing the Mayor to enter into economic incentive agreement with Hospice of the Western Reserve, Inc., and declaring an emergency.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Second.

President Fellows: I have a motion from Vice President Plecnik and a second from Councilwoman Pizmoht to amend the agenda to add Ordinance 2018-18 to the agenda. Any discussion on the motion?

Councilman Fiebig: Madam President. Do we need to waive the 2-Day Notification?

President Fellows: We have to add it to the agenda first.

Councilman Fiebig: Thank you.

Roll call: YEAS: Plecnik, Fellows, Fiebig, Lenz, Majka, Pizmoht
Motion PASSED.

President Fellows: The motion to amend the agenda to add Ordinance No. 2018-18 has passed.

Vice President Plecnik: Madam President. Motion to waive the 2-Day Notification on Ordinance No. 2018-18.

Councilman Fiebig: Second.

President Fellows: I have a motion from Vice President Plecnik and a second from Councilman Fiebig to waive the 2-Day Notification on Ordinance No. 2018-18. Is there any discussion on the motion?

Roll call: YEAS: Plecnik, Fellows, Fiebig, Lenz, Majka, Pizmoht
Motion PASSED.

President Fellows: The motion to waive the 2-Day Notification on 2018-18 has passed.

Vice President Plecnik: Madam President. Motion to waive the 3-Reading Rule on Ordinance No. 2018-18.

Councilman Fiebig: Second.

President Fellows: I have a motion from Vice President Plecnik and a second from Councilman Fiebig to waive the 3-Reading Rule on Ordinance No. 2018-18. Any discussion on the motion?

Roll call: YEAS: Plecnik, Fellows, Fiebig, Lenz, Majka, Pizmoht
Motion PASSED.

President Fellows: The motion to waive the 3-Reading Rule on Ordinance No. 2018-18 has passed.

Vice President Plecnik: Madam President. I would make a motion to amend Ordinance 2018-18 and its exhibit in the following ways: Every reference to Law Director shall be restated "Law Director or Acting Law Director". And in the exhibit where there are blanks for date, I would replace those blanks with today's date which is "March 22nd". I would also fill in the blanks with the particular numbering of the ordinance as "2018-18". And I would fill in the blanks in the exhibit with the actual name of the company "Hospice of the Western Reserve, Inc." to complete it.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Second.

President Fellows: I have a motion from Vice President Plecnik and a second from Councilwoman Pizmoht to amend Ordinance 2018-18 and I can not repeat that, but it is on the record and the exhibit. Any discussion on that?

Roll call: YEAS: Plecnik, Fellows, Fiebig, Lenz, Majka, Pizmoht
Motion PASSED.

President Fellows: Ordinance No. 2018-18 has been amended.

Vice President Plecnik: Madam President. Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2018-18-As Amended.

Councilman Fiebig: Second.

President Fellows: I have a motion from Vice President Plecnik and a second from Councilman Fiebig to adopt Ordinance No. 2018-18-As Amended. Any discussion on the motion?

Vice President Plecnik: Madam President. If I could just say to the Hospice of the Western Reserve, welcome to Willoughby Hills!

Roll call: YEAS: Plecnik, Fellows, Fiebig, Lenz, Majka, Pizmoht
Motion PASSED.

President Fellows: Ordinance No. 2018-18 has been adopted as amended. And again, welcome and thank you so much for hanging out with us. We appreciate that.

Hospice Representative Gatto: Thank you again, I enjoyed meeting all of you and look forward to working with you and the community.

President Fellows: I don't know if we've every had the full gambit from the beginning to the end on an ordinance.

Mayor: In the middle.

President Fellows: Thank you. Our next order of business is the Mayor's Report.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

MAYOR'S REPORT: Thank you, Nancy. I want to thank City Council for passing 2018-18 because I worked with the representative from the King Group on the real estate venture that would bring 4.2-million-dollar payroll to the City. This business was well established, they spent thirty-nine years at their old location and they're going to spend hopefully the same thirty-nine years here. They have approximately ninety employees and they will be in at the building on the corner which is building number one. They're taking the first floor, half of it. So, they have a lot of renovations to do and this will allow them time to do the renovations in time to get in for July 1st. I want to thank Mrs. Gatto for being on hand tonight for the presentation.

Next, I would encourage Council to pass the 2018 budget. I met with all my departments and appreciate the cooperation and the recommendations for the cuts. We have successfully balanced the budget which I presented it to Council. The five hundred (500) to a million-dollar reduction was just undoable, but we did balance it along with the Hospice of the Western Reserve project.

I'd like to congratulate Officer Planisek and Anderson and Sergeant Naegele on their endeavors. I do want to say that the City Easter Eggstravaganza is this Saturday at Calvary Assembly in God on Chardon Road. It begins at 10am with ten thousand (10,000) eggs that we stuff with candy and all are welcome. Pre-registration is requested. They will have buses from the Shoppes of Willoughby Hills busing people down to Calvary Church.

That's all I have Ms. President.

President Fellows: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Are there any questions for the Mayor this evening? See none, the next is the Law Director's Report, Mr. Bryon.

ACTING LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT: No report.

President Fellows: Thank you. Are there any questions for the Law Director this evening?

Councilman Fiebig: Madame President. Can you update us as to the status of litigation or do you need an executive session after the meeting to discuss any issues?

Acting Law Director: I don't have anything to publicly announce. There has been no activity by the Court since the case was already submitted. I'd be happy to talk to anybody about pending litigation we can meet in executive session.

Councilman Fiebig: Okay, thank you.

President Fellows: Any other questions? Thank you, Steve. The next is the Finance Director's Report, Mr. Brichacek.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: No report for tonight.

President Fellows: Thank you. Are there any questions for the Finance Director this evening? Seeing none, The City Engineer's Report, Mr. Di Franco.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT: Thank you, Madam President. Just one quick item. The sewer restoration project that the School of Innovation is proceeding. They've hired a design consultant and Claire with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District is setting up a website. If you go on to the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District webpage, you got to kind of have to search for it, look for Friends of Euclid Creek and you should be able to find the page about it. And that completes my report.

President Fellows: Thank you Pete. Are there any questions for the City Engineer this evening?

Councilman Fiebig: Madam President. Mr. Di Franco, we had some information regarding the cell tower proposal at Miller Road, do you want to update us on that?

City Engineer: Sure. So, the cell tower needs a time extension. They were approved by the Planning Commission in May of last year and the approval lasts twelve months. So, they will be returning at the next Planning Commission for the requested time extension. And a couple other projects of note, on the Planning Commission meeting for next time, a house is being proposed on Milann Drive which is in the floodway, so they've done all of their reports and they'll be requesting approval at the next meeting. Residents are welcome to comment and listen. There's also a new tenant who's proposing to move into the Sam's Club or ...

Councilman Fiebig: Office Max.

City Engineer: No...

President Fellows: Or Vanity Fair...

Councilman Fiebig: Or the part of the Vanity Fair or what's now the LaSalle Furniture...

City Engineer: Where LaSalle is, it's called CSL Plasma. It's a blood donation center but they're coming to the Planning Commission to request a similar use approval. So, this will be, they need a preliminary approval and then it will for a public hearing and then a final approval; kind of a three-stage process. But, that will be starting at the next Planning Commission meeting. That's it.

Councilman Fiebig: Anything else?

President Fellows: Have trees been removed from the property on Milann?

City Engineer: Not yet.

President Fellows: Thank you. Any other questions for...

Councilman Fiebig: Any activity regarding may be the fitness place or anything like that you can report on?

City Engineer: Sure, they did submit some plans but I responded with review comments, so I don't think that's it ready for the next Planning Commission meeting. They are in the process of revising plans, so they still have some time if they get them ready to be on the next meeting.

Councilman Fiebig: Pete, Mr. Di Franco, are there any thing that Council can look at in our codified ordinances that is making it difficult for a business to locate here? Is there anything that maybe we should review whether it's in the Planning Commission or the Committee of Council to review that you've run into now that you've had this experience with working with these folks so closely. Is there anything that you might what to, you don't have to answer this on the spot, but if there is anything that you can think of, please let me know.

City Engineer: I'll do that. Nothing comes to mind at the moment, but I'll do that.

Councilman Fiebig: Okay. Thank you.

Councilwoman Majka: Madam President. Just like to ask also, I don't know if this is for you, Pete, or if it's for Frank, but the plasma place what kind of, what are we looking at as far as revenue coming into the City? What's the base set up?

City Engineer: That I don't know.

Councilwoman Majka: Nobody knows yet?

City Engineer: I think that they'll be addressing that in the Finance Commission (Committee-?) meeting.

Councilwoman Majka: Okay.

President Fellows: Okay, thank you. Committee Reports, John, did you want to say anything?

COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 22, 2018

Vice President Plecnik: Sure, I can get a brief rundown though most were here, although people watching at home may not have tuned in earlier. We had a Finance Committee meeting at 6:34pm earlier today. All members of the Committee were present, myself, our Council President and Councilman Fiebig. Also present were Councilwomen Lenz, Pizmoht and Majka, our Mayor, our Finance Director, our Police Chief and our Acting Fire Chief.

We started by opening Public Portion and Kathy Getto of Hospice of the Western Reserve spoke, asking for a tax abatement; explaining how her business has been in Mentor for decades and they were looking for office space for their growing team for some time. They signed a nonbinding letter of intent with their landlord and they had to give notice by March 31st which created an urgency for us to act tonight, so that they could hopefully relocate to Willoughby Hills by July 31st. We had one other person speak up in Public Portion, Tony Miller of Hayes Drive. He asked how realistic it was to have a \$500,000 cut, what would that be out of? The Finance

Director replied 1.9 million dollars. We then proceeded to discuss, after making a unanimous recommendation, to pass the tax rebate tonight for the Hospice of the Western Reserve.

We proceeded to discuss our budget and we looked at both the proposal by the Mayor and Finance Director which was given to Council with our directive that we needed to balance the budget and hopefully find \$500,000 in cuts of Administrative overhead. The Mayor and Finance Director proposed \$241,000 in cuts. Somewhat less than half of what they were asked to find and we went over them one-by-one. We'll have more discussion on that this evening.

We also briefly considered some proposals from Councilwoman Pizmoht and she expressed the need to look at how every dollar is spent to make sure that they're serving our residents and businesses inline with our roads, our police, and our fire, the services that are most critical in the City. And in the context of that, the Mayor replied that he was proposing taking a \$190,000 from purchasing a snowplow truck to add to the road budget. Councilman Fiebig asked if that was possible and we were told that we currently have seven trucks, one of which we're selling as surplus; six of which we intend to keep; four of which are new and two of which are older but used as backups given that we are on a four-truck rotation.

On that note, we closed with the understanding that we were going to continue this discussion in more detailed fashion during the Regular Council Meeting. I stand open to questions.

President Fellows: Thank you Vice President Plecnik. Any questions at this time? Thank you.

We had some information about the Planning and Zoning meeting coming up. Also, what to mention that on April 12th at 6:00pm there will be a Recreation Committee Council meeting and that will have at it individuals from the Boys League and the Recreation Commission to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding so that it can be updated. And I think, is there any other Committee Reports or Other Council Representative Reports at this time? Okay.

OTHER COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

There were no Other Council Representative Reports presented.

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: Public Portion is an opportunity for an individual to come forward and express their thoughts and opinions. We ask that when you come forward to please state your name and your address and I ask you to please not berate any of the officers or the members that are up at the Council table and you have three minutes, so **I will open Public Portion at 8:13pm.**

Leanne Suchanek – 52 Kingston Avenue, Painesville. I am the Assistant Laboratory Director for the Lake County Crime Laboratory and I just wanted to come tonight and give you a brief overview of the laboratory situation with the levy that we have on the ballot for May 8th. I understand Chief Collins has already forwarded you the information, but we felt it was important for you to hear it firsthand. So, our levy is a .4 mill levy. We currently operation on a .3 mill levy that was passed in 1999. That levy generates approximately 1.5 million dollars for laboratory operation. We've made that levy last for nearly nineteen years and it's just no longer sufficient for us to operate. The .4 mill levy would generate an additional two to three million dollars estimated. Our operating expenses for the year 2018 are estimated to be approximately three million dollars. So, we're only

generating half of what we need to operate. Those operating expenses have increased mainly because of an increase in available technology. That technology specifically in the DNA unit is allowing us to test more cases, but that technology costs more money; more cases cost more money. DNA analysis alone each individual sample that we run is \$500 per sample. Last year we ran nearly 1400 samples. So, we're eating up nearly half of the laboratory revenue just in DNA cases and we do a lot of property crimes that is one thing that the state lab will not be able to do if the laboratory were to have to cut those services. In addition, I know you are all very familiar with the OPIOID problem that we have in Ohio. The drug cases are coming in more and more everyday and so our backlog is growing. We're at a critical need for this levy, without this levy passing the laboratory will definitely have to cut services and employees. And if we can't cut that down enough the laboratory will close. That will put a burden on Criminal Justice System in Lake County. So, we're just here to ask for your support whether it be in a resolution on a website face book page just spreading the word that it's critical for the citizens of Lake County that this levy pass to keep our laboratory open. And I'd be happy to address any questions.

President Fellows: Leanne. Some of us recently were at an event in Lake County where our County Prosecutor Chuck Coulson provided a very detailed report as well. So, are there any questions for Leanne at this time? And we thank you so much for waiting for your opportunity, we appreciate that.

Leanne Suchanek: Thank you for having me.

President Fellows: Okay, thank you. Anyone else for Public Portion this evening?

Chris Welch – 38801 Chardon Road. Quick question, how many miles of road does the service have to plow and salt, total? If you don't know off hand, somebody can get back to me, thanks.

President Fellows: Thank you. Anyone else this evening? **Okay, I will close Public Portion at 8:17pm.**

And Mayor, do you know or does Mark know.

Mayor: Mark knows.

President Fellows: We'll have to get back to you, Chris, on that.

Councilman Fiebig: Madam President. Just to clear up, do you mean lane miles?

Chris Welch: Yes.

Councilman Fiebig: Or miles? Lane miles.

Chris Welch: Whenever they have to go out and plow, how many miles are they plowing?

Councilman Fiebig: And the reason that you're asking is to get a gage of what, maybe that would help answer the question. You're just kind of looking for kind of an overall...

Chris Welch: Just to compare four trucks [undecipherable]

Councilman Fiebig: I see.

Chris Welch: Because Route 6 at 3 o'clock in the morning or at midnight, doesn't help.

Councilman Fiebig: Yeah, okay. I just wanted to see where you were coming from with that.

Chris Welch: [undecipherable]...there's private streets all over Willoughby Hills, they shouldn't be doing any of that, if they are. [undecipherable].

Councilman Fiebig: Madam President. Sorry to engage too much with the Public Portion, but I was just trying to clear up the question that maybe would could answer and maybe Mr. Di Franco has a better answer.

City Engineer: I think that it's roughly fifty-one miles....

President Fellows: Okay. I'm thinking that maybe would should do our legislation first before we get to Unfinished Business where we will be continuing our discussion about the budget and finances.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-4 – 3rd READING

1st Reading: January 25, 2018

2nd Reading: February 8, 2018

AN ORDINANCE ENGAGING BRADLEY HULL, IV, AND THE LAW FIRM OF BRADLEY HULL, IV, ESQ. LLC., TO PERFORM THE DUTIES AND EXERCISE THE AUTHORITY OF THE CITY PROSECUTOR AS ACTING CITY PROSECUTOR, ESTABLISHING THE COMPENSATION OF THE POSITION OF ACTING CITY PROSECUTOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

President Fellows: And this ordinance will stay on 3rd Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-5 – 3rd READING

1st Reading: January 25, 2018

2nd Reading: February 8, 2018

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE WILLOUGHBY HILLS BOYS LEAGUE IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SPORTS PROGRAMS FOR THE YOUTH RESIDENTS OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

President Fellows: This ordinance will also stay on 3rd Reading.

Councilman Fiebig: Madam President. May I ask a question, regarding this legislation, of the Mayor. Has the sports program been impacted because of a lack of an understanding of a memorandum here?

Mayor: No.

Councilman Fiebig: Has the baseball program which currently would be signups, are signups going on right now?

Mayor: Yes.

Councilman Fiebig: Do you know if they are running less than, at about, or more than last year?

Mayor: I don't know. We had signups at the pancake breakfasts for the last two week that are still...[undecipherable]

President Fellows: Thank you, Mayor.

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-13 – 2nd READING

1st Reading: February 22, 208

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN CITY SERVICES FOR THE FISCAL PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1ST THROUGH DECEMBER 31ST OF 2018; REPEALING ALL LEGISLATION INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

President Fellows: At the moment, this ordinance is on 3rd Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-17

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 186 – INCOME TAX EFFECTIVE FOR TAX YEARS BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2016 TO CORRESPOND WITH CHAPTER 718 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, REPEALING CERTAIN ORDINANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

President Fellows: Steve, can you comment on this, please.

Acting Law Director: Sure. This is being brought to you because litigation down state has preliminarily found in favor of state law that requires municipalities to allow taxpayers to opt into the Sate Department of Taxation Collection. And the concern is now that there's a judgment on it; there's a poison pill provision that if you don't do that somebody could challenge your income tax and you could lose your entire income tax if it's not compliant with 718. The argument is that it's not constitutional the way that they've done it, but the trial court has found against the municipal position. Municipalities have yielded to the 10th District Court of Appeals; however, during the pendency of the litigation, it's my recommendation to adopt this ordinance so that you comply with the State. RITA is in fact allowing the opt-in and so this would make the municipal ordinance and RITA's practice align.

Vice President Plecnik: Madam President. If I could ask Mr. Byron, do you feel that this is time sensitive, so that we need to waive and adopt tonight?

Acting Law Director: I do recommend it because we now have notice that the Court of Common Pleas, there has been a stay entry on in Columbus in Franklin County Court of Common Pleas that stay entry has now been lifted within the final judgment of the Court of County Pleas, so I do recommend adopting this now.

Councilwoman Pizmoht moved to suspend. Councilwoman Majka seconded.

President Fellows: I have a motion from Councilwoman Pizmoht and a second from Councilwoman Majka to waive the 3-Reading Rule on Ordinance No. 2018-17. Is there a discussion on the motion?

Roll call: YEAS: Plecnik, Fellows, Fiebig, Lenz, Majka, Pizmoht
Motion PASSED.

President Fellows: The 3-Reading Rule has been waived on Ordinance No. 2018-17.

Councilwoman Pizmoht moved for passage. Councilwoman Majka seconded.

President Fellows: I have a motion from Councilwoman Pizmoht and a seconded from Councilwoman Majka to adopt Ordinance No. 2018-17. Are there any other questions on the motion?

Roll call: YEAS: Plecnik, Fellows, Fiebig, Lenz, Majka, Pizmoht
Motion PASSED.

President Fellows: Ordinance No. 2918-17 has been adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-5

A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AIDAN JOHNSON ON ATTAINING THE PRESTIGIOUS RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT AWARDED BY THE NATIONAL BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA.

Councilwoman Pizmoht moved to suspend. Councilman Fiebig seconded.

President Fellows: I have a motion from Councilwoman Pizmoht and a second from Councilman Fiebig to waive the 3-Reading Rule for Resolution No. 2018-5. Is there any discussion on the motion?

Councilman Fiebig: Madam President. Resolutions are typically something of ceremony and there's no need to read this three times and I believe that the young man is having ceremony coming up before our next meeting.

Roll call: YEAS: Plecnik, Fellows, Fiebig, Lenz, Majka, Pizmoht
Motion PASSED.

President Fellows: The 3-Reading Rule on Resolution No. 2018-5 has passed.

Councilman Fiebig moved for passage. Councilwoman Pizmoht seconded.

President Fellows: I have a motion from Councilman Fiebig and a second from Councilwoman Pizmoht to adopt Resolution No. 2018-5. Is there any discussion on the motion?

Councilman Fiebig: Madam President. I know Aidan and the family and I strongly feel that he has truly earned this prestigious award of Eagle Scout by accomplishing the rigorous requirements of Scouting and he is certainly deserving of this award.

President Fellows: Absolutely.

Roll call: YEAS: Plecnik, Fellows, Fiebig, Lenz, Majka, Pizmoht
Motion PASSED.

President Fellows: Resolution No. 2018-5 has been adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

President Fellows: Do we have any New Business tonight? And then I'm just going to finish up for the Good of the Order.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

President Fellows: For the Good of the Order and For the Good of the Community before we go to Unfinished Business.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY

Councilman Fiebig: Madam President. Just a reminder to the community that fish fries are still going on this week at La Vera and at St. Noel as well as some local restaurants. And next week which is Good Friday, La Vera will also be open for a fish fry. So, please go to them, they're very good and it does help our local economy.

Vice President Plecnik: Madam President. Before we close for the Good of the Order or the Good of the Community, I would like to congratulate you on being honored by the Women's Center of Lakeland Community

College. I believe they're presenting your award this Palm Sunday. So, blessings to our community and congratulations.

President Fellows: Thank you, John.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Madam President. I would also like to tell everyone about the Willoughby Edison PTO's big Spring fundraiser called Purses 4 a Purpose. It's going to be held on Friday, April 20th at 6:00pm. And there's dinner and the tickets are \$45.00 and you can see me or you can go to edisonpto.org to find out more about it and to purchase tickets, but it's a great event. With each purchase of a ticket, you get dinner and you get a free entry into a raffle for at least one of twelve designer purses, so it's a fun night.

President Fellows: Wonderful, thank you. Anything else?

Vice President Plecnik: One more thing. Happy Birthday Mr. Fiebig.

Councilman Fiebig: 49 again.

President Fellows: All right, so we will now go to Unfinished Business and Councilwoman Pizmoht was sharing some of her thoughts and work that she had put together concerning the finances and the budget.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Okay. So, the budget, I think I left off with mainly the, I talked about the Recreation Department and the Community Center. And again, I just want to discuss my general theory about budgeting here is that it's we need to prioritize our spending. So, again, we should always prioritize our spending towards things that directly benefit our residents and the businesses that are in our City. And when it comes to Administration and administrative jobs, every dollar we spend for an administrator should also be directly, directly impact those services and us providing those services to our residents. So, it's really important that we're paying people to do service for our people, for our residents, for our businesses. That's why we're here. That's why the City exists. And so, and again, the goal was to cut half a million dollars from our, what we're calling our administrative budget, but it's really our General Fund. And again, I'm cutting from what was purposed from \$6,927,800 roughly and then we first need to resolve the deficit which was about 270 to \$285,900.00 and then I also, cutting half-a-million would leave us about \$225,000 to work with to hire part-time firefighters to get our Fire Department fully staffed and to have more money to pave more roads because right now, we have budgeted for just two very small roads, possibly more if we don't buy what we thought was necessary equipment.

So, I first talked about our Community Center which again brings in about \$70,000 and we're budgeting \$222,000 on our Community Center and that's not including the debt that we're paying off. So, we're spending, I don't know, roughly \$400,000 or so on a Community Center that is bringing in only \$70,000. So, I suggested some cuts including and leaving one part-time Recreation Coordinator to split his or her time between managing the building and working on the Recreation Department along with our Recreation Commission.

And moving along to our Building Department which we talked about a little bit earlier, we don't have a Building Commissioner right now and I think that it's important to understand historically how we've staffed the Building Department. From what I understand, back in the early 2000's we had a part-time Building Department Secretary and then sometime in the early 2000's we changed that to a full-time position but it involved not just being a Building Department Secretary but also the Planning and Zoning and BZA Clerk. So, it was one position for all of those jobs and that became a full-time job. But, when that person who did all those jobs full-time left the City, that Building Department secretary remained a full-time job, and we also hired an additional person to be the Planning and Zoning and BZA Clerk. So, historically, even when we had a very robust Building Department, we only had a part-time secretary in that department. Now, we don't really have much of a Building Department but we have a full-time secretary in that department which I don't think is a justified expense on paper, maybe there's

something I'm missing there. So, I would suggest that maybe we eliminate the Building Department secretary and move whatever that job's tasks are to other people within the City or possibly going part-time to save some money and I think that would be a little bit more inline with what we're actually accomplishing in the Building Department for our residents. So, that's the Building Department and also the Service Department because that job splits between the Building and the Service Department.

And then, as for Mayor's Court, so back in 2011 we had this Performance Audit Task Force which was made up of Mayoral appointees who worked and looked at all the departments in our City. They looked at the Administration, they looked at Police, they looked at Fire, they looked at Service, all of those things. But, when it came to Mayor's Court, what they recommended back in 2011 was that we had one full-time person working in Mayor's Court and what they had suggested at that time was that we invest about \$50,000, \$55,000, I think they said, in essentially automation to eliminate some double, triple work and then thus reducing labor costs. They suggested back in 2011 that we reduce labor costs, while instead of making that one-time investment of \$55,000, we have instead, outsourced some of the work, like we had been talking about with the debt collections. We've outsourced the debt collecting, but we've also added staff. So, instead of spending \$55,000 one-time, and saving money on staffing, we have now tripled the amount we're spending on staffing since 2012 and have not made any of those investments into automation or reducing the amount of labor. In fact, we're also taking in about the same amount of money, if not less through our Mayor's Court, so that does not make sense. Again, if we're looking at investing all of our dollars for the residents, making sure that they have value for their dollars that they are paying into the City, I don't think that makes sense and I think that we really need to re-evaluate the staffing of the Mayor's Court. Like I had said, in the past, this was one position, but I think that we really should look to possible making it a part-time position and really looking at ways to maybe have other people help out with that are also working in the City or making a one-time investment to eliminate some of the labor necessary. So, that's what I think about the Mayor's Court. Again, based on the history and what I see in the job descriptions and the revenue that's coming in.

President Fellows: And Councilwoman Pizmoht, if I may add, I know that there's a lot of tasks, the Mayor's Court, itself, meets twice a month, so those days are very busy with individuals coming to City Hall and needing extra pairs of hands to help. So, you know, in terms of people volume, it's twice a month.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Sure.

Councilman Fiebig: Madam President. I don't want to stop, she's on a roll, but while we're on the topic, would you mind bringing up the specific point about the \$55,000, for example, wasn't that for software that would allow the officer when he's writing the ticket to integrate it into a system that would automatically be in the court system. Mayor, do you know the answer?

Mayor: It was once the ticket is written, the clerk, the dispatcher has to input it in their CAD system and then their CAD system would interface with the court system, cuz CMI is court system, CODY is the CAD system. So, I don't even know if it's possible to do now, but that's something that can be looked at, but it's difficult because they still have to print the label for jacket and it's just the inputting of the data.

Councilman Fiebig: I think that there's a redundancy there, is that correct? There's a redundancy from the officer writing a ticket for it then to be brought to the Police Station and then the Police Station takes it to the Mayor's Court and there's a disconnect between the officer writing a ticket and it being inputted into the Mayor's Court system.

Mayor: There could be a system that's much more than \$50,000 to go directly from the ticket writing making it a micronizing process where we just swipe the driver's license and it produces a ticket without much paperwork. And then it would go into the CAD system and then it would have to go into the Mayor's Court. So, there's three processes that have to happen if you want to micronize it, but it was very much expensive to do. It's more like a

half a million into a million dollars to outfit the cars with a card reader, the printer and so forth. And back in 2012, the printers were very hard to keep going in the cars cuz they had problems with the printing and so forth.

Finance Director: In 2008, the Mayor's Court spent \$98,600 on staffing wages. In 2017, they've spent \$83,800.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: In 2012, from the General Fund, it was \$59,000 and then out of the General Fund...I think, let's see...

Finance Director: I'm including the Mayor's Court and to get the full picture of the Mayor's Court and the CIF Fund.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Yeah, and so for that fund, but the Mayor's Court Improvement Fund, you know, I looked up the ordinance for that and we're using that fund to pay for salaries for people but it was created back in, this fund was created in '94 and it was called the Mayor's Court Improvement Fund and it says that expenditures shall be made from such fund to finance the computerization and/or the acquisition and/or maintenance of legal research services for Mayor's Court including but not limited to computer space; computer electrical; computer air-conditioning; computer furniture; computer printer, computer software; subscription to computer services(s); staff to operate the computer system, including fringes; supplies such as computer paper, etc.; training expenses; maintenance of equipment; and computer needs studies. So, it sounds like this fund was setup to automate some of the Mayor's Court functions, the administration of it but we're using it to kind of sustain this same system. We're not using it to upgrade the system. We're not using it to automate the system in anyway. It doesn't sound like we've done anything to eliminate labor costs in our Mayor's Court. So, I'm just, you know, I think we need to do something, you know, this has been recommended since 2011 that we do something to lower the labor costs out of our Mayor's Court and it's only going up. And we're also out sourcing some of that labor until you told us today, you've stopped outsourcing the debt collection. But, I just would like to see a little bit of, some sort of effort to minimize these labor costs as has been advocated for a long time.

Mayor: But, it's going down from 2008 until now in payroll.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Since 2012, I don't see that, but...

Finance Director: Staffing, I believe is 1.4 people in the Mayor's Court.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: It was one fulltime person in 2011.

Finance Director: And one part-time.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: There were people in other departments helping out.

Finance Director: There was not one in 2011.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: That's what the task force report says, so and then that's, I would definitely look into that. I think also, you know, Mayor, your suggestions for software and hardware maintenance and all these things should definitely, you know, especially for keeping the staffing for these things really needs to be considered. I think that, you know, for the amount of, we're bringing in the same amount of money and spending more on labor and we're not doing anything to make the system more automated. So, I really think we need to look at that.

And then, for Administration which is the Mayor's Office essentially and Council and everything, I definitely think that, you know, with getting a Law Director, a permanent Law Director, we can renegotiate the salary, we could talk about putting the Mayor's Court prosecutor in that, I think that's a good idea. I also think that we really need to look at two jobs the Executive Administrative Assistant just based on the job description. I'm not sure that it's worth spending over \$100,000 including salary and benefits for this position for what we're getting.

Part of the job description is working with the Law Director, well I don't think that the Executive Administrative Assistant is working with the Law Director. Part of it is operating the WHISPER Program, but I'm not sure that spending over a \$100,000 for an Executive Assistant that the City is getting something for that. I don't, Mayor Anderson from Willoughby, the former Mayor of Willoughby, came and gave a talk and his Administrative Assistant retired and he didn't hire someone because he said that he could answer the phone himself; he could respond to emails himself; he could be a liaison between the departments himself. I think that might be something that we can consider doing. I think for \$50,000 plus benefits, I think that you could probably do some of those things to save over a \$100,000. You know, again, we need to put, have value for all the dollars that we are investing into human resources for our residents and our City.

The another one is the Finance Assistant. I'm looking at the job description again. You know, there's updating the website, well, our website is very old, it's not very user friendly, we'll say. It's just updating dates here and you know, updating information that's not a whole lot of value there for a fulltime position. Filling out POs is something that may be other people could do or help out with if we made this a part-time position or eliminating the position. I think these are things that other people could take on. So, again...

Mayor: Excuse me. Who are all these other people?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Well, that's what you need to decide. So, if...you would still have an Assistant Finance Director; you would still have a Police Secretary; you still have an Administrative Assistant, you still have the Fire Administrative Assistant; you have a Recreation Coordinator.

Councilman Fiebig: Community Service Officer.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Community Service Officer

Mayor: They all have fulltime jobs today.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Again, you can also do, you can respond to emails, you could respond to phone calls, you could talk to your department heads yourself.

Mayor: Okay.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: It's a suggestion.

Mayor: Okay.

Vice President Plecnik: Madam President. If I could share, this is something we're seeing in every organization, private and government. The budget has been difficult. I mean, tax revenues are down in many places. We've heard a lot about our local government fund being cut, that's all true. And if we're going to maintain services to residents, we have to find a way to do more with less and somethings simply can't be cut. You can't say we're never repaving the roads; you can't say the police aren't going to show up or the Fire Department isn't going to show up when you have a heart attack or a crime being committed. So, we know areas where the City has to provide its services and put its investment. So, while it's difficult and I don't think anyone is saying that these are easy solutions, these are things that we have to do. I can tell you, Cleveland State, our faculty have been asked to do more and more. A lot of administrative positions have been eliminated and things that you might have had a secretary handle or an Assist Dean are now being done by faculty members and we all have full-time jobs too. But, sometimes when the budget is difficult, and you're told you have to cut x-hundred thousand dollars, we have to balance our budget, you have to make choices that do put more work on very hardworking people. But, that's something that every business and every government entity is dealing with so, it's hardly surprising that Willoughby Hills is facing that and that's not a critic of anyone, it's just an observation. And that to put our money where it matters the most, difficult decisions have to be made. And I certainly agree

that it actually adds value to have the Mayor respond more directly to residents. I think Mayor Anderson said to me, himself, people don't want to talk to the Mayor's secretary, they want to talk to the Mayor whether it's a business or a constituent. I think actually, that's one way we could save money and increase service to residents who have more direct opportunity to interact with our Mayor.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: And I just want to say too, so when someone calls into the City, you know, I call the pediatrician to, my child is really sick, I call the pediatrician. I don't get my doctor right away, sometimes I have to wait a little while and he'll call me back. I know, I think that it's pretty normal to leave a message and have someone call you back. So, I don't think not having, you know, a fully staffed office with someone answering the phone all the time is necessarily worth the expense of that. Again, maybe it is, but I'm asking the question. Is it worth that expense? That's something that we need to answer. These are very hard questions. This is a very difficult task. But, we really need to have our priorities straight in our City and make sure that when we do have a painful budget, when there are lean times, when we can't rely on the state to fund us then we need to make decisions that benefit our residents before ourselves. This government doesn't exist for us here as officials, it exists for our residents and businesses within our City. So, that's what is important here. And so, again, this is hard. These are not easy suggestions to make, believe me, you know, this is not fun. You know, and I don't expect it to be easy, but I think that we really need to do this for our City, for our residents and for the long-term growth of our City, we have to. It's been suggested for years, we have to do this.

Councilman Fiebig: Madam President. As some of us were on the campaign trail, it gives us an opportunity to talk to a lot of residents. Going door to door and really engaging more so than you do typically. Now, I might get a few phone calls week, but when you're out knocking on a thousand doors, you really talk to people and I heard over and over and over again that the priorities have to be economic development, you've got to get some businesses into that Loehmann's Plaza area. Now, if we do that, if we do what residents are telling us that we need to do, we're going to have an influx of businesses coming to this City, just like we saw with Western Reserve. For example, now, there's, let's say, \$50,000 coming into the revenue into the City. We have that opportunity then to fund a position or to do somethings that we would like to do; there are things that we must do and there are things that we would like to do. I also heard from a lot of residents saying that we've got to pave the roads, your roads are in terrible shape. And to say that we've going to sit here in 2018, that we only going to pave two roads, it's just not enough. It's not acceptable enough. We also heard, I heard from many residents saying balance the budget, don't spend more than you take in, that's imperative to people. And police, the Police Department and the Fire Department, those are the things that government, our local government does, that only we can do. And that's where we have to put the focus on. And when I hear, you know, that we're not able to respond to somebody because we've got only four people on staff in the Fire Department, that's very concerning to me. If somebody is having a heart attack at one end of the City and we've got a crew at another end and we've got a call for some other relief from another community, that's not acceptable. If we can increase staffing level to six and we can do it with part-time people, we can serve those a third of the time, we get double hits where people call in and say there's some problem here, there's some emergency here and we already have a crew on staff, a third of the time, we have that situation happen. So, we have to be able to staff, at the levels that I've been told in talking to our people over there, is six would be good.

Mayor: Six would be good, but we can't afford six. But, we only have two ambulances. So, we can only respond to two at one time. So, what we've done with this area, Willoughby, Wickliffe, Willowick, we have mutual aid. We've given more mutual aid then we receive so far this year and last year. Last year we received one amount and we gave one amount, but the amount we gave was more.

Councilman Fiebig: I don't think so.

Vice President Plecnik: Madam President. If I may...

Councilman Fiebig: I don't think that's a true statement, but...

Mayor: Lou Di Mattia...

Councilman Fiebig: The point is Mayor, this is where the priorities, this is what our community is asking for, this is what I've heard and I know that there are other people on this Council, and we've stated that these are our priorities, this is what we've going to do. It's difficult, I know. And you say that someone had a fulltime job, well that's nice, but it's not necessary if they're not providing, as Councilwoman Pizmoht stated, the service to the community that is really important and the important things are roads, and the police and the fire department. And just paving two roads this year, that's not acceptable. That's not enough.

President Fellows: Vice President Plecnik.

Vice President Plecnik: Madam President. Just following off what the Mayor was suggesting with respect to the ambulances, in my conversations with our Fire Department, including our Acting Fire Chief Tim Serazin, the idea of having six firefighters on staff is not so that we send out three teams, it's that regularly firefighters will call-off. Just like any another employee, they'll take a sick day, they'll take a vacation day and what happens is, if you're staffing only at five, you really don't when people call-off, have enough people to send out those two ambulances with a full detail so that you can respond to those double hits that happen a third of the time. And as a result, you're stuck with two choices, either you under staff which can be dangerous to our residents and delay response times and we saw that happen in prior years when we went to four firefighters from time to time or you end up filling those gaps with overtime. And that's why we saw such an enormous overtime expense, the highest in the Fire Department's in history, at least in our memory which actually can end up costing the City more. So, if you don't staff at appropriate levels, sometimes, you not only not less safe, you're actually spending more money which is why being able to fill out that staffing with six firefighters, in some cases, actually saves money. So, that's something that we need to work towards. But, I would say, you know, as I'm hearing from Councilwoman Pizmoht and I can't agree with her more, and Councilman Fiebig, I can't agree with him more that we need to do more to repave our roads. That's something that I have heard from our residents. And we also need to do more to keep our roads clear in the somewhat large portion of the year when we have snow. You might have noticed occasionally it snows in Willoughby Hills and I can tell you that even driving back from Council meetings, I've felt a little unsafe from time to time and I'm very used to winter travel and driving. I know that we don't salt our roads as much as other cities to try to save on salt, but when residents are asked would you rather have a secretary to the Mayor or salt the road, I don't think a single resident is going to come back and say let's cut money on salt so that we can have more administrators in City Hall. And I think that's the really difficult choice that we are facing. There are services that we are directly giving to residents that we have cutback on so that we can fund higher and higher administrative salaries. And I think that's been going in the wrong direction and with this budget I hope that we can change course to direct really to our Residents First Program that we report to give, but I think that our budget really needs to speak directly. But, those broad points aside, what I'd like to ask Councilwoman Pizmoht, as I'm looking at the document that you've shared with us, I want to understand what we have in front us. I heard your proposals that we have just one part-time Recreation Coordinator rather than two which was our past practice; that we either eliminate or make the Building Department secretary part-time as was our past practice; that we reduce staffing in some fashion in the Mayor's Court; that we would eliminate the Mayor's Executive Administrative Assistant position and allow the Mayor to work more directly with residents, how is that reflected in the numbers that I'm looking at? Could you explain what you shared with us.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Yes. So, this is, my numbers are, again this is a proposal; I took a crack at cutting half a million dollars as we said, so the numbers you are seeing though for the staffing changes, the cuts they are prorated so that the savings that you see are prorated for eight months so it would be, because we're paying through the first quarter plus another month. So, any cuts that would be made would be, we would only see a savings this year of eight months of that cut, so for benefits, or salary, so that's important to understand.

Vice President Plecnik: So, if I understand correctly, the savings that we're seeing this year would actually be fifty percent higher...

Councilman Pizmoht: Well, a third higher. It's prorated by 66.6%.

Vice President Plecnik: But none the less, if you had, say a \$100,000 in savings this year, it would be \$150,000 in savings next year because you're talking about eight months versus twelve...

Councilwoman Pizmoht: A 133...

Vice President Plecnik: Well, let me make sure I understand because eight months versus four months; you're telling me that four months aren't reflected, correct?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Correct. Just eight months.

Vice President Plecnik: So, that actually is on the eight months, that is a 50% increase.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: So, yeah. But if it shows a savings of a 100 on my numbers for a whole year, it would be 133.

Vice President Plecnik: Are you sure, I'm trying to make I understand.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Four months is a third of the year.

Vice President Plecnik: Correct. And eight months is two-thirds.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Yes.

Vice President Plecnik: So, if we have a \$100,000 for two-thirds, one-third would be \$50,000. Correct?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: No. thirty-three. Trust me. It's a \$133,000. I was a math minor in college.

Vice President Plecnik: Well, I was a theology minor and an accounting major. And if we have a job that pays a \$120,000 a year, let's say, then eight months would be \$80,000, correct?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Yes.

Vice President Plecnik: And four months would be \$40,000.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Well, yes, but the thirds on that one are \$40,000. So, but for a \$100,000 it's 33.3 thousand.

Vice President Plecnik: Um, well, 80 versus 40, correct?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Okay, we're done. Trust me it's a 133. Moving on, next. So, what my numbers, basically I, you know, inline with what the Mayor and Mr. Brichacek did, for operations and management, capital improvements, and other discretionary spending for administrative items like those, I just, you know, just kind of went through and cut some things and on average, I think, I cut about 18% for that discretionary spending. You know, the unspecifieds, the office expense, I just generally cut those, not necessarily all the way down, but you know, substantially in some cases. Most of my cuts were inline with what Mr. Brichacek and the Mayor suggested, but not, some of those, not quite, obviously, not the Chagrin Valley Watershed Partners. I don't think that we should cut the full subsidy because that is a direct benefit to our residents. So, that, and I think that we really should and this was also talked about in the Performance Audit Task Force which was pooling of resources between departments rather than what they kept, they said it was "siloing" of things, so, you know, with office

expenses, just may be have office expenses for the City and you know, that might make more sense, than by department, so something to consider.

So, in my numbers, I suggest, generally the cuts I suggested, these numbers reflect fully cutting the Executive Administrative Assistant and the Finance Assistant. Again, we might consider making one of those part-time. For the Mayor's Court, I think that we might consider having one clerk fulltime, or part-time to save, we would save substantially doing that and possibly asking help from Dispatch as we have in the past or possible from the Police Executive Assistant who use to be head of Dispatch, so she might be able to help out a little bit there too, just a thought. And it also reflects a cut in the Building Department and Service Department secretary but again, that might be part-time, but this just reflects the cut. I figured we would go extreme and we would work backwards. What else, and then it also reflects, so the amount of savings, I think a little shy of half a million dollars and I allocated, I think a \$120,000 to the Police, or the Fire Department to hire additional part-time firefighters as suggested by both our former acting and current acting chiefs and then the rest I added to the Road Levy for road repaving, it's like a hundred....let's see how much...

Vice President Plecnik: So, the document that you shared with us, just shows the final numbers.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Yes. This is basically just my mockup of the exhibits that would go with the ordinance.

Vice President Plecnik: I see. And do you have anything that show the precise, do you have another document or notes that show where the cuts are?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Yes, in my binder of the 2018 proposed budget, I have notes in there and I also have a spread sheet that I created to track what the annualized savings versus the prorated savings and you know, to make sure that everything balanced and things like that.

Vice President Plecnik: And so, what was the total savings?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: The total savings was from the General Fund, it was, so I resolved for a \$270,900 deficit. And then I also found an additional \$247,100 which I allocated between the roads and the part-time firefighters.

Vice President Plecnik: We actually have more like at \$285,000 there's \$15,000 more.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Right. So, we would have to readjust the allocation between the part-time firefighters and roads down \$15,000.

Vice President Plecnik: Now, let's see, I don't see any reason why we can't go back to one part-time Recreation Coordinator. In the past, we've actually, had that job entirely assigned to another one of the secretaries, I think the Mayor's secretary, in particular, so having one is certainly more than sufficient. I tend to agree that given that we currently don't have a Building Inspector there's not a current need for a fulltime secretary. In the past, we haven't had one even when there was a fulltime Building Department secretary.

Finance Director: Yeah, but the Building secretary is actually halftime because the Building secretary is split between Building and Service. When that position, there use to be a fulltime Building secretary and a part-time Service secretary and when the Building and Service Departments were moved, their offices were consolidated. The part-time position was eliminated and the fulltime Building secretary then was changed to supporting both the Building and Service Departments.

Vice President Plecnik: So, what do our Roads and Sewer Department used their secretary for?

Finance Director: She answers the phone, she processes the bills, all the administrative functions and keeping track of Mark.

President Fellows: Who also his wife keeps track of him, I'm sure.

Finance Director: Also, if you reduce that you'll going to impact customer service in terms of building permits.

Mayor: The job never went away when we loss a Building Inspector. We still have to do the same things for every building permit because they all have to come to the PCABR. So, all the tasks that are associated with them coming in, they still have to be done but we don't get any of the revenue or the fees associated with it.

Vice President Plecnik: Now, isn't the case that our Fire Department's secretary or Administrative Assistant use to be in the Building Department?

Mayor: About ten years ago.

Vice President Plecnik: Well, I see a real synergy there. I think that we might be able to balance her time between channeling the two and that might be able to pick up the slack. It's not easy. It's certainly more on everybody's plate, but once again, we're here to serve our residents first and sometimes that means rolling up your sleeves and doing more work.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Well, I think it's more helpful to look at it as is this worth \$50,000? So, is this service worth to the City, worth \$50,000+, what is it worth to the City? Is it worth that much or maybe it's worth less. And if it's worth less, then maybe we find a way to make this part-time. So, that's the way we really should be looking at this. Not what we want to do, but what makes sense. What's the value?

Mayor: Okay, you have union issues to deal with now on top of it. So, if you want to bump somebody, the first people that get bumped are nonunion people.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: We're talking about positions, not people here.

Mayor: Positions. Nonunion positions. So, you would lose your Clerk of Council.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: We're working on positions right now. That's what we're talking about. So...

Councilman Fiebig: Can we have the audience reframe from comments, please. That is very distracting. We're going through a very difficult process here and laughing from the backrow is not helpful.

Resident Tony Miller: Come on, listen to what he said...

Councilwoman Pizmoht: We are listening.

President Fellows: Excuse me, sir, you're out of order. So, please sit down.

Resident Tony Miller: Listen to what he said.

President Fellows: Sir, you're out of order.

Councilman Fiebig: Sir, you're out of order.

Resident Tony Miller: You've got to eliminate the nonunion positions first, you can't....

President Fellows: You're out of order, please sit down.

Councilman Fiebig: Please sit down or leave the Chambers. Thank you.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: I'd like to address the union issue. That is a legal matter that we will make sure that anything we do comports with the law, and the union agreement and whatever we need to do to protect the City. That is our job, to protect the interests of the City, certainly not to do anything that would jeopardize the City. So...

Councilman Fiebig: Madam President. And to comment on the other aspect of this, the Mayor's proposal or the Finance Director's proposal, with some other administrative things here that, Councilman Plecnik went over and I don't know if anybody had any serious discussion, agreements or things that you really want to weigh in on, but I ran down that list and added it up and also with the reduction of \$10,500 for the Finance Director's position, and instead of \$23,000 it was \$25,730 of a reduction in the Council Clerk's budgeted amount. The budgeted amount was like \$50,000 something, \$52,000, but I don't think we've paid more than \$45,000 anyway, so we're just simply making it more inline with what reality was and that came to \$73,830. So, if your numbers would also reflect these and if we were to adopt them, that is also almost \$75,000 that we would save from some of the things that the Mayor and Finance Director had suggested.

Vice President Plecnik: Madam President. Following off that, Councilwoman Pizmoht, did you include the increase in revenue from the Hospice of the Western Reserve?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: No, I did not.

Vice President Plecnik: So, we'd be able to add that into your calculus, your budget as well.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Yes.

Vice President Plecnik: Back to where I was before there were some interjections, I think that there is certainly a strong case that we have pre-existing staff that can probably pick up the slack even if there weren't a Building Department secretary. In Mayor's Court, you know, it's amazing to me that you increased personnel rather than reduced it when the Mayor's own commission asks for personnel reductions, back, oh gosh, what, now almost seven years ago. So, what, currently I think we have is it two fulltime or one fulltime, one part-time in Mayor's Court?

President Fellows: One fulltime and one halftime.

Vice President Plecnik: So, if we had two half-time rather than, that would present some savings.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Quite a bit, I would think.

Vice President Plecnik: So, from what I'm looking at, maybe, and I'm pushing back on your numbers and suggestions, a little bit, for everyone's consideration, you know my initial reaction in what you had suggested, is that I agree; eliminate one of the part-time Rec Coordinator positions which is kind of more historically what we've done as a City. I would say, given the transition, I would say, let's make the Building Department position part-time rather than eliminate it all together. And then we can re-examine as we go forward, is that part-time position necessary or may be can go further. For Mayor's Court, it strikes me that it's a very intense task, two days a week, and then other parts of the task probably could be more automated, but there needs to be more research there. But, it seems like two part-time people, should, it may be more than sufficient but it would certainly be sufficient from where I sit. And I think that it's really valuable to give our Mayor more direct access to residents and I don't think we need this buffer. When I read the job description of the Mayor's Executive Assistant and I saw that her direct reports of that position were the all the department heads, to me, it just strikes

me as counter to what residents expect under our Charter. They expect their Mayor to have a direct role in running his department heads and delegating that responsibility instead to an employee who is not elected, I think causes serious problems and I think that some people can even argue that it's against our Charter. And I don't think that we want to be anywhere that and the positions change so much over time from something that would answer the phone and deal with purely clerical work to this kind of quasi-supervisory, you know Deputy Mayor, Town Administrator, and I've heard many people refer her to this position as a truly managerial role, like a City Manager and it's certainly not allowed under our Charter. In fact, Willoughby Hills was initially given a Charter that had a City Manager form of government with just a Council and no Mayor and the response was that's too expensive. We're not willing to pay for a fulltime administrator to manage department heads and do economic development, we want an elected official who does it out of honor to their community for a lot less money. So, I think that there is a thrifty aspect in Willoughby Hills and I certainly share it and I think that we need to get back more to those Charter roots. So, my kind of response to your thoughts, Councilwoman Pizmoht, would be one part-time Rec Coordinator eliminated; make the Building Department secretary part-time which is something that we'll revisit going forward; have all the Mayor's Court employees part-time and just eliminate the Mayor's Administrative Assistant position. And I would really like to see how the numbers bear out with those things played out.

Councilman Fiebig: Madam President. I wonder if Mr. Di Franco is necessary to be here for the remaining discussion here. If he doesn't, or you don't have anything to add or if we don't have any questions, we could excuse you at this time.

City Engineer: No, I don't mind hanging out.

Councilman Fiebig: Okay. All right, thank you. I know that the budget might not affect you as much other than the liaison from the City to you, you know, communicating permits and things like that, I mean, I've heard that's running okay. But, anything to add to that, that might would helpful?

City Engineer: No, I'd just like to stay in the loop, stay informed.

Mayor: How do you interact with the Building Department, now? Do you interact a lot?

City Engineer: Oh, yeah. Denise and I talk throughout the day continuously. Denise takes the applications, you know when applicants come in. She'll email them to me for review; call me with questions, but I talk to her throughout the day.

Mayor: What I have to ask, I don't thank anybody spent, spend a week with these people. See what they do. You, Laura you made the budget just looking at paper. See what these people do. Go see what the finance person does, the Assistant. She is constantly, her desk is filled with papers.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: I understand that. Again, these are my suggestions. I might be wrong, I'm willing, you know, I might be wrong, but I feel that we are spending an awful lot of money on administrative salaries and we're not spending a lot of money on roads. We have such a backlog of roads. I run, and I went running, and I said that I'm going to go running and I'm going to go down Trailard today, I haven't been on Trailard for a long time, that road is horrible, just horrible. It's down to gravel in parts and it's way down on the list. When are we going to get to that road at the rate that we've going? When are we going to get there? The infrastructure in the City is suffering; the economic development in the City is suffering. You know, we, our Fire Department is almost back up to full strength, we're almost there, but not quite. We really need to prioritize in our City, and you know, that's why I suggested you make the cuts because you know better where we can make the cuts and to say that we can't is not really, you know, I don't really feel like you tried. And I understand that you don't want to cut your staff, I won't want to either, I understand that, it's a hard thing to do, but I think that we really need to prioritize here, you know, we're not getting as much funding from the State and we still have work to do for our residents.

Mayor: We cut the staff, we eliminated, we combined departments. We use to have three and a half people in Court. Lois worked 39 hours, she was part-time, 39 hours. So, by reducing it one and a half times, we got down to one and a half people. But, come here on a Court day, come here during the week, see what they do. Come here and see what Denise does back in Building. You know, they're not sitting on their duff.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: I don't think that's the case at all. And again, I know that this is difficult, who wants to do this? Nobody wants to do this, Mayor. I don't want to do this either, but again we really need to try a little harder here. We're spending so much money on these salaries and benefits; they're very generous. In the private sector, I worked for a large fortune 500 company, international company, and I worked in a very important department in the company, next to the executive suite. I was an attorney and I worked with the other attorneys and accountants and analysts and we worked, we had one administrator; one for everybody. I had to answer my calls, I had to write my own emails; everyone. The Vice President of the company that I worked under was doing the same thing and she worked for that company for over twenty years. I just saw her at a retirement party and she makes in the high 40's and she has to pay over 50% for her own healthcare. We ask people to pay 12% of very generous healthcare benefits. We're also funding their pension. That's very generous, very generous and it's great, but you know, it comes at a price.

Vice President Plecnik: And I would just follow on, Madam President, if I might. You know, as the Mayor was saying that Councilwoman Pizmoht just looked at paper, I don't think that's true. For each one of use, we've experienced different parts of the City. I've spend time with out Fire Department, I've even gone on rides with them; I've been at scenes with our Police Department. I have worked with our Finance Department and worked on the budget for several years. I've come in and talked with employees. I've seen a lot of different employees in different context including going through the Police Department and looking at what Debbie Semik does and so, I admit that I've not seen every employee, but I'm willing to bet you as you combine the collective experience of this Council, we actually have and add yourself to it, Mayor because this is your job too. But, between all of us, yes, we are familiar with the job descriptions on paper and what's being done in practice and as residents, we're familiar with the services that we're being given as well as, frankly, the unacceptable state of the roads. When you're knocking on doors and lit dropping, I've gone over every street in Willoughby Hills dozens and dozens of times. I see them in my mind's eye when I go to sleep at night. I can picture mailboxes on the corner. I've gone to the newspaper tube or that door so many times, and frankly, it's not acceptable to say that we've going to pave two or three roads. I hear you when you say that would be really hard for Peter work with someone part-time in the Building Department, it's also really hard when a resident drives over a pothole and their transmission explodes. It's also really hard when a resident calls for their Fire Department and we have to rely on mutual aid for them to get there in time and you have to ask yourself what did that five seconds cost when they're have a stroke or a heart attack, those are life and death issues. So, I hear you, we're definitely asking a lot of everybody at this dais to make these difficult choices and of those who work for the City and serve our residents, but there's not a painless choice here. There's not an oh well, we can just keep them all, repave all the roads, have full staffing in the Police and Fire Departments. That's not an option that we have. So, the choice is, repave this road or have a fulltime administrative assistant. I think that we responsibly have to choose the road. If the choice is to save a resident's life or have an extra secretary so that the Mayor doesn't have to answer his own phone calls that's, frankly, that's even a question. So, I hear you, Mayor, but we're not just looking at paper, we're looking at the real value added for each position and acknowledging that we're losing something when we can't have an employee in that role, but we lose still more if our safety forces and roads are cut. And I think that everyone at this dais appreciates that difficult decision. I know most of these people, person to person, and I have seen a lot of these jobs in action, not all, but if you combine all of our experiences, yes, we have and we are the people who are tasked with making these difficult choices for residents, you included.

Mayor: That's a great speech, John, but who is going to process the healthcare claims? Who is going to process the POs? Who is, for all the other departments? No one. It doesn't happen by itself. And it's going to get backed up even further.

Vice President Plecnik: That's called management and leadership, Mayor. And it's difficult. I agree with you. But, you can say we won't have roads, we'll get on-off dual sport motorcycles, you know, and we'll drive along the side. We don't need police anymore, it will be Marshall Law, and you know, for fires, oh well, we have...

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Horses, horses.

Vice President Plecnik: I guess we could ride horses, too, you know. But, realistically, that's not a real choice. We can't say, we have to have this secretary to process POs, so no more road repaving. We can't do that. It's not a speech, it's a fact of life that I wish we didn't have that choice in front of us. But, that is exactly what we're facing because no one wanted to make the difficult decisions and so, as government often does, it was let go and let go and let go, and let go, and here we are the point where we really have to choose between a road and an administrator. And the administrator does make your life easier as a manager, but it's not necessary.

Mayor: Okay, then what does a \$120,000 Law Director do to your budget? You all approved it, why do we have a \$120,000 Law Director?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: You sued us, and the City, Mayor. Look at the climate that he's walking into. Okay, you sued us, the former Law Director sued us, the Prosecutor sued us, we have Unfair Labor Practices, look...

Councilman Fiebig: This is all under your leadership, Mayor. This is all under your leadership.

Mayor: It's all ours.

Councilman Fiebig: First of all, he's not a \$120,000; it's \$10,000 a month.

Mayor: Oh, okay, \$10,000 a month.

Councilman Fiebig: There's a big difference between that, do you know why? Because we're waiting for you to work with Council, to give us a name of a Law Director that we can confirm. And we've been asking that for six months, six months. That's \$60,000 we've spent for the services of this gentleman over here, who is very well qualified and very well worth it because he is Law Director in six other communities. And do think that anybody would have walked in here or that you'll get somebody to do it for free?

Mayor: Yes.

Councilman Fiebig: You actually proposed that somebody is going to come in here and do it for free.

Mayor: Yes, I did.

Councilman Fiebig: That's so illogical and so preposterous that people laughed at that. They laughed at it.

Mayor: I did offer that.

Councilman Fiebig: And that was laughed at. Nobody works for free.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: And then the same person sued the City. That's not a good attorney, to sue the City that he works for.

Vice President Plecnik: Madam President. I think that it's telling that you get what you pay for. And the person that the Mayor wanted to hire for free sued us for free. But, just for the record, I have to correct Councilman Fiebig, we have not spent \$60,000. To the best of my knowledge, the Mayor has not...

Councilman Fiebig: Excuse me, you're right. You're right.

Vice President Plecnik: Paid Mr. Byron anything. So, actually someone has been serving this City for free because in my mind, he actually cares about the City of Willoughby Hills given that his father wrote our Charter and he grew up walking through these halls. So, even though the Mayor has yet to sign a single check to pay him a single penny, Mr. Byron has defended the City and helped work against the Mayor's frivolous lawsuits over and over again, frankly, I, to me, we should be serving our City, not suing it. And frankly, Mr. Mayor, if you really wanted to save on legal fees, you wouldn't just propose a Law Director who could be a consensus choice that everyone could get behind and support, you'd stop suing the City.

Mayor: Where does that leave us with the budget?

President Fellows: Well, so okay, good question, Mayor. Obviously, we can not vote on it this evening. So, we will need to have a Special Council meeting next week because this needs to go to the State by the end of the month or County, State...

President Fellows: Where does it go, Frank?

Finance Director: County Budget Commission.

President Fellows: Lake County Budget Commission by the end of the month. So, I had asked the Clerk to, in anticipation of having difficulty passing this, this evening, I had asked the Clerk to put out an email to see when people were available next week for a special council meeting and I believe it came back as Thursday evening at 7pm.

Councilman Fiebig: Yes.

Council Clerk: Everybody here at the table?

President Fellows: It is Holy Thursday. I'm not planning on having a meeting on Palm Sunday.

Council Clerk: Thursday, at 7, correct?

President Fellows: I'm not having a meeting on Palm Sunday, anyway, so...

Vice President Plecnik: By the way, I will share, just for the public's benefit, we did have a previous Council President who did call a meeting to ram a budget through on Palm Sunday morning and I still remember talking to my parishioners who said why are you late for church. And I said, well because I had a Council Meeting and they started to say don't lie John and I said, no, I'll give you the minutes. It actually happened. And it's known to this day as the Palm Sunday Budget Massacre because that was a deficit budget that was forced through. What we're going to do here is pass a balanced budget.

And Madam President, if I could follow off, what I would like to see, I think that we need to have a little more discussion here to give direction to our Council Clerk as to how to redraft the ordinances, the ordinance for the budget as well as its exhibit so that we're in general agreement, giving the Clerk directions of what to cut from the Mayor's proposals as well as Councilwoman Pizmoht's and the discussion that we have had tonight. So, that this is a compromised budget. The Mayor, I believe, will have some of his proposals enacted and I believe that Council will place some of its proposals as well, so that we cannot only balance the budget, but to find at least a little more money to responsibly work on paving our roads. So, I'd like, and I know that this has been a long night, and it's a lot to ask, but as Chair of Finance, I think that it's really incumbent on me to say that we should have a little bit more discussion so that we can give direction to our Clerk as to how we are going to redraft this, so that we can be very productive and pass our budget for certain on time at this special meeting.

Councilman Fiebig: Madam President. And we also need to, you'd mentioned roads, but we also need to move ahead quickly here with hiring part-time firefighters. Because, not only this summer coming up, there's some people who will be going on leave and vacations, but we have found in the budget that there already is \$285,000 that was appropriated for that, three part-time firefighters. So, ...

Mayor: He is actually working on getting them, it's just a matter of getting them. He's told me the other night he had two in the hopper. So, it's a problem that is countrywide. We can't find qualified people, but he said he would try. He said a class was graduating soon and he would tap them. But, conversely, the good people get picked up by somebody fulltime and rob our part-time people.

Councilman Fiebig: The other issue that we should look at is as Council Chair of Safety, I will address this later, but perhaps we're not paying quite enough. I know at a time when you're talking about cutting some administrative staff, but this is the priority. So, if we're not attracting those part-time firefighters and paramedics because of a dollar or two an hour, I think that we need to look at that and review and make sure that we're competitive in the market place and that we're not going to have one of the top paramedics go just because of, you know, \$2.00 an hour.

Councilwoman Majka: Madam President. I've gotten some notices lately about hiring and I apologize, I don't remember if it was police or fire, but it was part-time positions. And I believe that I saw one recently that started at sixteen dollars and something an hour. So, that just blows my mind. Why are we paying these guys that are putting their lives on the line such a low amount when some of our secretaries are making \$20.00, \$25.00 an hour. I can not just wrap my head around that at all. Perhaps we would be attracting the best and brightest if we paid them what they are worth. I just, I just, that just blows my mind. Does that blow anyone else's mind?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Yes.

Councilwoman Majka: Sixteen something an hour for a young man out of school to risk his life, and we've been talking for weeks about our officers that nearly got killed and how they're just now getting back to work. It's outrageous. We should have been having much more discussion about that point tonight.

Mayor: Well, you control the salaries, so, have at it.

Councilman Fiebig: We're going to.

Councilwoman Majka: We will.

Councilman Fiebig: That's exactly what we're talking about.

Councilwoman Majka: Definitely will.

Vice President Plecnik: Madam President. On that point, for years I pushed for increased raises for our part-time police and firefighters actually during that Palm Sunday budget issue. I was pushing for it and I was told no. That's not where we're going to put our city's monies. So, I've been fighting for that for years. And I'm grateful to my residents and neighbors of Willoughby Hills who elected a new majority on Council and a supermajority who can actually take those steps. But, anyone who says why didn't you do this four years ago, because I was one of three Council people who understood the importance of our Police and Fire Departments. Now, I'm one of six who understand the importance of our Police and Fire Departments. And that's the change, Mayor. And that's why things are changing now.

But, back to the budget. And I would like to kind of go through really quickly, the Mayor's proposals and Laura's, if I might and suggest what I think Vicki should do. Jump in if anyone disagrees with me, so that we can try to take the temperature of Council on this. And Laura, I'd actually like to really impose on you, because I'm

going to go through the Mayor's first, and if you have your notes, you might know if this is part of your proposal and you could share with us how yours differs from the Mayor. Did he cut more, did he cut less because we obviously don't want to double count these. So, let's start with the Mayor's, if we could and he had a reduction for the Finance Director to twenty-five hours, which is actually appropriate, given that's what the ordinance authorized. We never should have been off of twenty-five hours in the first place. But, now that we're returning to normalcy, that's a \$10,900 savings. Did you have any proposal there, Laura?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: For the Finance Director, well, you know, honestly, I feel that for, you know, about \$60,000 total. I also think that we need to move those salaries out of the sewer fund. So, I don't think that we've talked about that. But, those salaries should not be subsidized by the sewer fund. I do not think that's right. We have the highest sewer fees in Lake County. Our people who are paying those fees should not be subsidizing administrative salaries. I feel very strongly about that.

President Fellows: Councilwoman Pizmoht, let me just add to that. When we had numerous years of massive sewer projects in the City, I think then there was credence for that. But, we don't have sewer projects in the City now, we have sewer maintenance in the City. So, I agree with your comment.

Vice President Plecnik: So, does your change, does your new budget reflect moving the full expense back to the general fund?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: No, I, my budget has the Finance Director at what he was budgeted for in the proposed budget. And frankly, I think that for the benefits and salary, I would like to see more hours than twenty-five. I think we, if we are going to have an in-house Finance Director, I'd like to see some more hours. I think twenty-five is pretty light for that, unless, if we can go that low, then we might consider outsourcing, honestly, to save more money there. So, no, I did not cut the salary, but I did move all of the funds from the sewer fund into the general fund for that salary.

Vice President Plecnik: Okay, so your budget...

Councilman Fiebig: What's the total compensation the position of Finance Director, currently?

Vice President Plecnik: So, you didn't change, let me make sure that I understand...

Councilwoman Pizmoht: \$11,800, I think...

Vice President Plecnik: You didn't change his compensation.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: No.

Vice President Plecnik: You just said the general fund will pay for it entirely.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Yes.

Vice President Plecnik: That actually means that we're going to have to make up some more in the general fund as a result of that. Correct?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: I think that it's \$56,500. \$56,530. Is what it is budgeted for in 2018. And Mr. Brichacek, how many hours, was that thirty that you had said?

Vice President Plecnik: So, let me make sure that I understand because what I'm trying to do, Councilwoman Pizmoht is to put this into a frame where Clerk Savage can restate this in the budget for us. So, you didn't change

his compensation at all, but currently, the general fund pays for it all. The Mayor's cut would be above and beyond.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Yes.

Vice President Plecnik: Okay. I would say, Vicki, include the Mayor's cut there. I think that we can revisit how many hours should be worked and what the pay scales are later. But...

Councilwoman Pizmoht: We would have to also address the ordinance if we were changing the hours.

Vice President Plecnik: Of course. But, right here and now, let's try to pull through the budget. I'm asking our Council President for indulgence. So, number one...

President Fellows: The Clerk is asking to work one-on-one with Councilwoman Pizmoht on this.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Well, I would like to know...I can...

Vice President Plecnik: The temperature of Council on these issues, I don't think that we can entirely do that. So, certainly, let's all take notes and Councilwoman Pizmoht can compare with our Clerk's so that she is not totally subject to the minutes and her own notes. But, let's really quickly run through the Mayor's cuts and see how they compare. So, the \$10,900 would be added. What is our agreement in terms of reducing the budget for the Council Clerk? We're not reducing her hours, but we'll reduce the budgeted amount based on the fact, historically...

President Fellows: So, her budgeted amount is \$50,000 and what I had, my thought process was to reduce that by ten percent, to put that at \$45,000.

Vice President Plecnik: So, we have \$5,000 savings there. I don't think that we can responsibly do anything with the Law Director, the Mayor's Court Prosecutor until after the court case that the Mayor has brought against the City is resolved. We don't know where we're going to be there. So, I don't think that we can try to begin to pretend that's savings, that's phantom savings. I also would not eliminate the forensic audit. I think that's critical going forward. The overtime allowance the Mayor shared with us, he doesn't think that's necessary. Did you eliminate any overtime?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: I did, I eliminated that.

Vice President Plecnik: How much?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: All of it.

Vice President Plecnik: So, the same of the Mayor, then.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: I think an overtime freeze is pretty responsible in this circumstance for administrative...

President Fellows: It hasn't been used anyway, Laura. It's one of those things that gets budgeted but hasn't been used.

Vice President Plecnik: Professional memberships, did you touch that?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Yes, I generally cut those. I may be saved a few. Definitely, the Chagrin Valley Watershed Program.

Vice President Plecnik: But, he didn't cut that either.

Councilman Fiebig: That's already in there.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Right.

Vice President Plecnik: So, generally that would cut. So, what about the janitorial service, did you touch that?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: No, I did not.

Vice President Plecnik: So, given that the Mayor has requested it and I see no pushback from Council, I'd say that we stick with his proposal. Meetings, subscriptions, seminars, did you cut those at all?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Yes, I did.

Vice President Plecnik: And did you cut them to the same, greater, lesser extent?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: I don't have his...

President Fellows: Well then, just use his.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: They don't really matchup.

President Fellows: Just use the Mayor's then.

Councilwoman Fiebig: The \$73,800 that I'd mentioned before, then these numbers, then will not be a good number because some of these things you have already proposed.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: I cut all of the seminars and the travel.

Councilman Fiebig: Okay, so, then you can't work off that number.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: And the meetings, subscriptions.

Vice President Plecnik: And the Mayor stated that he doesn't think that we need to replace refrigerators or printers this year because they're relatively new. So, I think that we can continue with that.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Yeah.

Vice President Plecnik: With building improvements, I wouldn't cut it by all \$14,400 because if a window breaks, and there's not a grant, we have to fix it and I believe that's phantom budgeting.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: That's in the Community Center budget, I believe. So...

Councilman Fiebig: I think that was for upgrading the windows. Wasn't it to replace them...

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Can I, Councilman Plecnik, in the Community Center budget, there's unspecified building repairs and maintenance for \$13,200 and there's also \$14,400 for building improvements unspecified. So, I would keep one of those.

Vice President Plecnik: Okay, so maybe eliminate the Mayor's, go with the Mayor's proposal then and we'll have the other for those repairs. The delinquency, we've already been told is just budgeted for something that we no longer use. The court software, did you eliminate anything from that?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Yeah. Hold on, I've got to go back to Mayor's Court. So, Mayor's Court software, where is that, so I budgeted to keep the debt collection service assuming that was outsourcing some labor needs. So, was there any other service that we could use to perform that same function? Or what exactly was it doing

Mayor: They're the best one that was out there...people paid their fines when they had to get a license plate or renew their driver licenses, so really, they would have paid it anyway. So...

Vice President Plecnik: So, that would be a cut above and beyond. We're not going to eliminate the Willoughby Pool Pass, the Halloween Party or the Touch-A-Truck. They're drops in the bucket and those directly affect residents.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Yeah, I generally kept anything that we've already, you know, whatever Recreation Programs that we've already have on the schedule.

Vice President Plecnik: What about office expenses within the Rec Department, did you touch that?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Yes, I did. I cut those.

Vice President Plecnik: By what extent?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: I think I cut, there's just this miscellaneous office expense, so I cut that.

Councilman Fiebig: \$1500.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Yeah.

Vice President Plecnik: Okay. So, a little bit less than the Mayor and, I think that's appropriate because there has to be some allowance for office supplies and printing; and a Rec Department that flyers and the like. It sounds like our carpet and windows will be new and so they're not going to need cleaning for the first year, other than what we typically due through janitorial service, so that's fine. I don't think that we can cut Pete's fee in half, let's scratch that. That's why you stuck around, right?

But, our Law Director had mentioned to me between our Council and Finance Committee meetings that he had some concerns about not codifying every year, would you mind sharing that with us.

Acting Law Director: The most specific item that I can point to is that when the Police Department is writing tickets through the Municipal Code, the City gets the benefit of that revenue. If there is a change in the State Law, in order to write a ticket under your Municipal Code, you need to change the codification to match what the State Code provides. Yes, they can still write the ticket under the State Code, but you do not get the benefit of the revenue for that. The other thing is that you have enacted tonight a second change to your tax code. There was a change a couple of months ago or last month, so you still need to do that and I think Frank's recommendation is to have that available online on the website so that the residents would be able to see those. So, that would be another urgent item. In order to have that done, on a codified website, you would need to do the codifications.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: And I think the Council Clerk said the last time it was codified was August '16.

President Fellows: It is, August, '16. So...

Councilwoman Pizmoht: It will be three years if we didn't do it this year, by the time we got to it. That seems a little excessive.

Vice President Plecnik: So, maybe we could avoid codifying in a different year where we were fully updated and renew it, but this doesn't seem to be the year that we can do it. And then, really quickly, the major points that Councilwoman Pizmoht, that you raised, once again, either you or anybody else, push backed, but I think where the temperature of Council is just from our conversations and what people have said, and not said, we should only have one part-time Recreation Coordinator, so we can cut one position and the savings in accord with that. That we need to see where we're at with the Building Department and transition by having a part-time person there and asking for help from other departments where necessary, that gives us some savings by going to part-time. Having a fully part-time Mayor's Court gives a lot more flexibility. Maybe we need to really have all-hands on deck those two days a month when we have the tickets on Mayor's Court days. But, we need to realize some savings, we've been told that since 2011, by the Mayor's commission to finally get on that. And then, once again, really giving our residents the benefit of having direct access to their Mayor. In my view, it's a real win-win that we eliminate the middle person, we give the Mayor the right to be directly with residents and we save a position that's over \$100,000 in salary and benefits. I don't know anyone who would object to that.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Do you go through this list? I think that we should also address the Mayor's car. The fuel for the car, the maintenance for the car, the car, itself.

Councilman Fiebig: We've seen reports from our Fire Chief about the condition of that vehicle that we have and it's rust and it's problems, so I would suggest that we surplus that out and that the Mayor use that car to give it to, give access to the Fire Chief, use it if you need to, but then, we just eliminate that stipend for gas for it and if you need to drive around the City you can certainly pay for that yourself.

Vice President Plecnik: Absolutely, and I don't think that, and correct me if I'm wrong, has any member of Council had a vehicle provided to them by the City or a gas allowance? I just want to make sure that I'm not missing anything. So, no one has a city vehicle or gas allowance? I know that I haven't and I just want to make sure. So, given that, I think that we really should have parity with our City officials. I do a lot of constituent work where I drive to our residents, I pay for my own gas. It's an honor to serve and we shouldn't be having gas allowances or city cars for elected officials, you don't run to benefit yourself, so I think that's a very reasonable proposal, Councilman Fiebig and I think that should be reflected in the budget, too.

President Fellows: What else?

Councilman Fiebig: Part-time Property Staff.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Yeah. I think that there's also budgeted for a Clerk for the Recreation Commission, I'm guessing and I think that's probably not a necessary position. I think that there's eight or nine commissioners now on the Recreation Department and it's not like Planning and Zoning where the minutes are important because there could be a lawsuit or a decision of the Board might be, or the Commission might be challenged. And as the Recreation Department, I think that, we have to, on Council we do our own minutes for committee meetings, it's sort of the same, so I think spending City funds on that especially during tight times doesn't make sense to me.

President Fellows: And Councilwoman Pizmoht, to add to that, because I've been going to the Recreation Commission meetings, the individual that does Planning and Zoning is the same individual that's assigned to BZA when they me and now she is also doing the Recreation Commission meetings. We were told by the Mayor that the individual that is actually doing the Recreation Coordinator duties was hired as a Clerk-Stenographer. So, I was, thought that she would be taking the minutes for the Recreation Commission which she was not and she was addressed as the Recreation Coordinator. So, to your point, I don't think all of those positions are needed because they're not, they're not being used that way now anyway.

Councilman Feibig: Madam President. We also need to address this fallacy that the Mayor hired a Clerk-Stenographer, yet, I understand that he had a political event where he said that she was a Department Head. I think that flies in the face of what our Charter says and tries to work around the confirmation process. And I think the fact that she is getting paid without Council's approval and getting paid an amount that we never authorized is, it's a violation of our ordinances in our Charter. That has to be addressed.

President Fellows: Yeah. The dollar value is not the same as the Clerk-Stenographer's dollar value in the union contract nor was it the dollar value, Mayor, that you presented in the ordinance when we asked you to wait for that position. So, that dollar value is higher than any of those. And we never, as you had said earlier, we're the ones who are suppose to be setting those wages.

Vice President Plecnik: Well, it seems to me that the responsible step there would be to eliminate this, I can't, I'm not really sure we can call it a position, because it does seem to be a clear Charter violation; but, eliminate this Clerk-Stenographer, quasi-department head and invite the person because this is the person that the Mayor nominated to be part-time Recreation Coordinator, invite her to apply for that position. And I don't see any reason that after the vetting that she's taken, that Council can't consider her nomination and assuming there's nothing that we've missed, appoint her to that role, but I don't see how she can continue in a role that doesn't exist in the City.

Mayor: It does exist. It's a union position. She's a member of the union. So...

President Fellows: But, the union doesn't have a Recreation Coordinator position, Mayor.

Mayor: She's a Clerk-Stenographer/Assistant Coordinator

President Fellows: She's not functioning as a Clerk-Stenographer, she didn't...

Mayor: Yes, she is.

President Fellows: No, she is not. Sir.

Councilman Fiebig: You called her publicly as the Department Head.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: I think we can eliminate the Clerk-Stenographer position...

Councilman Fiebig: You did, I was there...

Councilwoman Pizmoht: And re-hire as the Recreation Coordinator.

President Fellows: She was introduced at the Recreation Commission as the Recreation Coordinator.

Mayor: It's her job, she's the Clerk.

Vice President Plecnik: Apparently not, she doesn't take minutes. Where I come from, a Clerk-Stenographer takes minutes. They don't run a department. So, unfortunately, Mr. Mayor, you've violated our Charter, and that will have to be addressed going forward. But, we can solve this problem, practically, by eliminating that position in the budget. And inviting her to apply for the position she originally applied for, before the Mayor decided to end-run around the conformation authority of Council which is troubling, but we'll deal with it, Mayor. I understand sometimes you don't follow the law, but we're ready to work with you and help you to do so.

Mayor: Don't make assumptions.

Vice President Plecnik: I don't make assumptions, Mr. Mayor. The Charter says...

Mayor: Assumptions that I don't follow the law...

Vice President Plecnik: That's not an assumption...

Mayor: I do follow the law.

Vice President Plecnik: Um...

Mayor: I got the last word there.

Vice President Plecnik: No, you don't, Mr. Mayor. You don't. This is an Council meeting and you are answerable to this Council.

President Fellows: Gentlemen, enough. Next. Laura, did you have something on the list that we haven't addressed?

Councilman Fiebig: To add to the final point, the Recreation Commission is the Commission of the Mayor's and these Commissions that are appointed by the Mayor can simply elect someone to take notes. Elect a secretary to take notes. It's one of those things that, it's nice to have, but is it absolutely necessary, no, not at all.

President Fellows: So, what's the recommendation for the Clerk-Stenographers?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Oh, I would recommend eliminating both, two Clerk-Stenographers from the Recreation fund and the Community Center fund. Also, eliminating the Recreation Clerk because, again, like I said, I don't think that's a good value. And then, I also think, we should eliminate the \$37,000 we're spending on part-time Building Monitors. Just again, I don't think it's a really good value for something that we're only making \$70,000 on. We shouldn't be spending, you know, almost \$400,000 or more on this building. It just doesn't make sense. So, I think that's it, and we should budget for one part-time Recreation Coordinator, the Department Head. So, that's what I think about that.

Vice President Plecnik: I strongly agree.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: But, otherwise, I think everything else adds up. So...

President Fellows: So, Councilwoman Pizmoht, and if you need anybody's notes, would you work with Vicki, the Clerk, to realign this. And if anybody has questions, or concerns, bring them to John as Finance Chair; bring them to Councilwoman Pizmoht or bring them to the Clerk so that we can have a pretty button-up document by next Thursday.

Councilman Fiebig: Madam President. Do we need to address any, you know, some of these positions are union positions, so, do we need to, so perhaps do we need an executive session to discuss or is it just enough to say that we need to follow the procedures that are outlined in the union for layoffs and furloughs and things like that? So, we do have to follow those, and I do know that there's a notification process and so on. So, how do we address that? Maybe I'll ask the Law Director if he knows.

Acting Law Director: My recommendation would be to consult with legal counsel on that issue before enacting any of these provisions. Certainly, in the implementation of it, you would need to comport with collective bargaining law.

Councilman Fiebig: Should we direct at this time, should we reach out tomorrow to direct the person that we had hired to handle the legal aspects of the union? Should we direct him to prepare for that or direct him to send out those notifications? Or direct him to speak with the union representative to ask him to come and speak with us or what is...

Acting Law Director: I think that, I think there should definitely be communication with the legal counsel, and before you take action, you should have a full understanding of what that advise is. So, my recommendation would be to have an executive session with legal counsel on that issue.

Councilman Fiebig: Okay, so we can't do that today because that would not be you.

President Fellows: No, correct.

Councilman Fiebig: We would perhaps need to do that at the Special Council meeting next Thursday at 7. Okay. We'll have to reach out and find out if he is available.

President Fellows: I'll contact him.

Councilman Fiebig: Okay. If not, we need to setup another time, you'll need to arrange for that as well. But, that does need to happen, we have to follow the procedures that are in the contract.

President Fellows: So, Laura and Vicki, if you could get it cleaned up, so that it's all together, putting in both of the recommendations from Administration and Council so this individual can actually look at it, especially for the positions that are aligned with the union.

Vice President Plecnik: Madam President. Just to follow up on Councilman Fiebig's question, I do know that our Labor Counsel Joe Gross is out state at the moment and I'm not sure whether it's necessary that an executive session is held with all of Council or if he might consult with our Council President or Councilwoman Pizmoht, depending on if, you know, he's only available to have a conversation that's not during a Council meeting, and I assume that would be sufficient if he were able to advise our Council President.

Acting Law Director: I would recommend that all of Council be informed of the law that relates to these issues. As should be the Administration. There should be a uniform understanding of what the process is that should be followed.

President Fellows: All right. To end tonight, I think we have one or two motions.

Councilman Fiebig: Madam President. Motion to get the permission of the Euclid Creek Watershed Partners to use the City Seal for Stream Restoration Project on the Euclid Creek's website.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Second.

President Fellows: I have a motion from Councilman Fiebig and a second from Councilwoman Pizmoht to permit the Euclid Creek Watershed Partners (grant) permission to use our City Seal on the website for the Restoration Project. Any discussion on the motion? And Pete, actually brought this up earlier this evening.

Roll call: YEAS: Plecnik, Fellows, Fiebig, Lenz, Majka, Pizmoht
Motion PASSED.

President Fellows: Euclid Creek Watershed Partners have permission, so Vicki will you notify them for us. Thank you.

Councilman Fiebig: Madam President. The City website, I'm sorry, the City Seal is only to be used for official City business and I saw in the Mayor's video that was produced, he used the City Seal on that, so I'd like to remind him that's not an appropriate use because it's not official City business.

Mayor: I didn't authorize it.

Councilman Fiebig: Well, you're responsible for it, so please have the person who is responsible for that remove that seal, if you can. And at least, it's to advise you that's an inappropriate use of the City Seal because it's not official City business. And this is something that you had proposed back when you were Council President and it's something that we've adopted as well. It's one of the laws in our City that nobody uses that seal and you just said that you follow the law. So, please do.

I'd also like to make a motion that the Council, in the same line with that incident, that Council request the Mayor release Jeff Fruscella from his Recreation Commission duties due to inappropriate behavior and language at a Town Hall meeting to residents and public officials.

President Fellows: A second?

Councilwoman Majka: Second.

President Fellows: I have a motion from Councilman Fiebig and a second from Councilwoman Majka requesting that the Mayor remove Jeff Fruscella from the Recreation Commission for his inappropriate behavior and language at a Town Hall meeting to a resident and an elected official. Any discussion on the motion?

Councilman Fiebig: Madam President. We need to reinforce the idea that we need to have the tone in our City to be civil. And as City officials, you're held to that standard. You know, to be civil, to act in a way that's appropriate and that represents the City. And I think by Council making that motion, we have collectively said to our Mayor, we don't appreciate that, it's not appropriate for a City official to abuse verbally residents and other public officials. So, I think that it's making it a very clear statement that this is inappropriate. And I fully stand behind this.

Roll call: YEAS: Plecnik, Fellows, Fiebig, Lenz, Majka, Pizmoht
Motion PASSED.

President Fellows: The motion carries. Mayor, we ask that you will follow through, we appreciate it. Thank you.

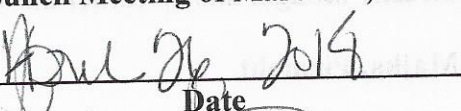
ADJOURNMENT

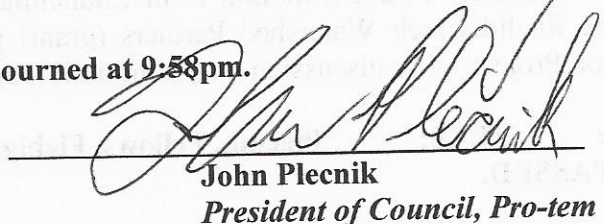
Motion was made by Councilwoman Pizmoht to adjourn. Vice President Plecnik seconded.

Roll call: YEAS: Plecnik, Fellows, Fiebig, Lenz, Majka, Pizmoht
Motion PASSED.

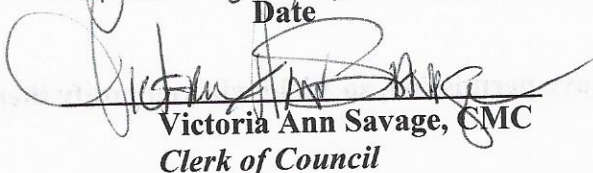
The Regular Council Meeting of March 22, 2018 was adjourned at 9:58pm.

APPROVED:


Date


John Plecnik
President of Council, Pro-tem

ATTEST:


Victoria Ann Savage, CMC
Clerk of Council