

City of Willoughby Hills

Special Council Meeting Minutes of March 29, 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 Special Council Meeting was called to order on Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 7:00pm was held in Council Chambers. President Fellows presided.

President Fellows: Being that this evening, or today is Holy Thursday, Pastor Dan DeLembo from Calvary Assembly has joined us to prove an opening prayer. Pastor Dan can you come forward, please, and I think that the mic would be on.

Pastor Dan: I want to thank Mayor, President of Council Nancy Fellows and Council for the invitation and the honor to humble our hearts before the all mighty tonight; if we could bow our heads and hearts before God. Heavenly Father, it is an honor for us to acknowledge you tonight to come together in good service and in faith. The word of God teaches us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. So, tonight God, we pray with a reverence for you, a respect for you, asking for the wisdom that we need. City leaders need to lead and to guide and to protect and to provide the community and the citizens, the residents of Willoughby Hills. Father, God, we know that as we go as City leaders and those involved in community service, so goes our community, so goes our state, our nation and this world. So, we humble our hearts before you tonight asking you for wisdom. Thanking you for your love and your amazing grace, celebrated this Easter weekend. God, we remember what is good to you, what is good to you according to Micah, 6:8, is that we act justly, that we love mercy and we walk humbly with our God. God, that's our desire tonight, that we ask for a spirit of peace, respect, unity amongst City leaders, residents, for the common good. For we know, God, if we could humble our hearts before you and serve you then and only that can we serve one another. Grant us the mercy we need. We pray these things in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

President Fellows: Thank you Pastor Dan, so much for joining us this evening.

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

Absent: Councilman Christopher Hallum, Finance Director Frank J. Brichacek

Others Present: Mayor Robert M. Weger, Acting Law Director Stephen L. Byron, Clerk of Council Victoria Ann Savage

President Fellows: The first order of business this evening for Council is to go into Executive Session. I'd entertain a motion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Fiebig: Madam President. Move that Council move into Executive Session to discuss one of the reasons that public bodies may go into Executive Session, and that is to address union negotiations and pending and imminent litigation.

Vice President Plecnik: Second.

President Fellows: I have a motion from Councilman Fiebig and a second from Vice President Plecnik to move into Executive Session to address union negotiations and pending and imminent litigation. Is there any discussion on the motion?

Vice President Plecnik: Madam President. As I think about Mr. Fiebig's motion, we should define who is invited into the Executive Session. So, I would withdraw my second and let Mr. Fiebig restate the motion with who he is inviting.

Councilman Fiebig: Madam President. May I also invite the Mayor and the Law Director to the Executive Session. If that's appropriate.

Vice President Plecnik: Acting Law Director.

Councilman Fiebig: Acting Law Director, yes.

Vice President Plecnik: Second.

President Fellows: I have a motion from Councilman Fiebig and a second from Vice President Plecnik to move into Executive Session to address union negotiations and pending and imminent litigation including the Mayor, the Acting Law Director and all of Council. Is there any discussion on the motion?

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

President Fellows: Council will move into Executive Session at 7:05pm.

RECONVENED

President Fellows reconvened the Regular Council meeting at 7:58pm with the following members of Council present: Councilman Fiebig, Councilwoman Lenz, Councilwoman Majka, Councilwoman Pizmoht and Vice President Plecnik.

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: This is an opportunity for individuals to come forth and share their thoughts and opinions. We ask when you come forward that you state your name and your address for the record. And I will share a recent quote from the Mayor this week, and I quote: "I hope that some civility on the part of everyone will prevail as we get through our budget and other serious issues between ourselves." Name calling and disrespect has no place in City and tends to be counterproductive. I am asking anyone that comes forward to please be

respectful. You have an opportunity to share your thoughts and your opinions. If there begins to be harassment or bullying, I will tell you that you are out of order and to please sit down and the Police Officers are here to help to keep this meeting in order. And I don't know why people think that's so funny.

So, I will open Public Portion at 7:59pm.

Dave Nichting – 35771 Maple Grove Road. Thank you. Good evening everyone, folks at home, everyone on Council, and our Policemen out in the lobby. I am a thirty-three-year resident of the City of Willoughby Hills. My first question is directed to you, Nancy. My wife and I wrote a letter to you dated September 29th...

President Fellows: Excuse me, Mr. Nichting, the Order of Business this evening are the two ordinances that are on the agenda. I would encourage you to speak to those agenda items this evening, only.

Mr. Nichting: It's not my understanding of what Public Portion is about.

President Fellows: This is a Special Council Meeting this evening and the agenda items are two ordinances and that is what we are discussing.

Mr. Nichting: Well, I am in disagreement with that, Nancy, very much so. Again, my point to you is, my wife and I wrote you a personal letter asking you to meet privately with us to discuss our political differences. That date was September 29, 2017. I have not heard from you. Did you receive our letter?

President Fellows: Mr. Nichting, you are out of order, that has nothing to do with the business at hand this evening.

Mr. Nichting: It's very unfortunate that you chose to handle it in this way. To me it's indicative of what certain members of Council are about. This town was built on the backs of Mayors, Campbell, Weger, O'Ryan, and...

Councilman Fiebig: He's out of order...

President Fellows: He has one minute and nineteen seconds left, Councilman Fiebig, to speak.

Mr. Nichting: Thank you. And it's unfortunate that certain members of Council tend to dismember our City Council. Now, Mr. Plecnik,

Councilman Fiebig: Here we go, personal attacks...

Mr. Nichting: In the Lake County Board of Elections, you filed that you spent over \$80,000 for a \$6,000 a year Council position. I have asked you publicly, twice, to defend that position. You have not done so. In addition, you have audacity to announce your candidacy for a state office before you even took office. Mr. Fiebig, you campaigned in your neighborhood... Councilman Fiebig: Out of order...

Mr. Nichting: Stating that you wanted to reduce the number of firemen in the City of Willoughby Hills and you did, and you objected, you objected to paying them for sleeping eight hours on City time.

Councilman Fiebig: Out of order.

Mr. Nichting: Now, Mrs. Pizmoht, who are you? Are you Pizmoht, or are you Gorjenc, or who are you...

Councilman Fiebig: This is exactly what we've trying to avoid here in this Council meeting...

Councilwoman Majka: Stand down, please, Mr. Nichting.

Mr. Nichting: You sent out campaign material...

President Fellows: Mr. Nichting, your time is completed...

Mr. Nichting: You sent out campaign material advertising for Slovenian votes..

President Fellows: Mr. Nichting, your time is up.

Councilman Fiebig: This is personal attacks. This has nothing to do with City business.

President Fellows: Mr. Nichting, your time is up.

Mr. Nichting: This is a community of many Slovenian residents. I object to the way you use members of City Council attempting to destroy our City government. Thank you.

President Fellows: Sit down.

Councilman Fiebig: Now, this is exactly what we want to avoid, ladies and gentlemen. This is the kind of dialogue we don't need. We're in a budget discussion. If you have something to add to that discussion, if you would like to express your opinion regarding the budget, one way or the other that's appropriate. But, personal attacks do not help this process, sir.

Mr. Nichting: You stated that you want...

Councilman Fiebig: Personal attacks do not help the process...

President Fellows: Anyone else for Public Portion this evening? Is there any

Tony Miller – 2857 Hayes Drive. First of all, I would like to apologize for my outbursts during Thursday, 3/22/18 meeting. To all of you and to any of you that were there or watching on TV, I apologize.

Councilman Fiebig: Thank you.

Mr. Miller: I would also like to thank Mr. Fiebig and Ms. Pizmoht. In December, we had a dog that got loose, and you all made a public statement on social media with your concerns and whatnot, thank you for that, I was going to do that at another time, but I didn't have an opportunity. However, I would like to thank Councilwoman Pat Grebenc for her "boots on the ground". She was out there every day, looking. She was out there, she was a backup person when I couldn't be available to the person who was trying to recover the dog and that is the kind of Councilperson that we need on this Council.

Councilman Fiebig: Madam President, this is also out of order...

Mr. Miller: Tonight, tonight the supermajority with their budget by edict, is evidence at last Council meeting is going to cause the Willoughby Hills government to shut down. This falls primarily on the shoulders of Mr. Plecnik as he single-handedly scrapped the Mayor's balanced budget, usurped the Mayor's authority and wrote his own. He did this, so like many times in the past, he can boast, look what I did.

Councilman Fiebig: More personal attacks.

Mr. Miller: Plecnik lorded over the proceedings and there was little relevant discussion on issues. When the Mayor attempted to engage in relevant discussion, he was talked down to, belittled, patronized and bullied by all members of the supermajority. He's words, not mind. As Plecnik marched through the budget...

President Fellows: Mr. Miller...

Mr. Miller: There was nothing more than rubberstamped comments made by other members of the supermajority. Make no mistake, when the government shuts down, Plecnik will spin it in a way that blames the Mayor and makes himself out to be a superhero like normal. And Fiebig and the others will rubberstamp, chime in similar styles, speaking to make themselves appear right, righteous and the Mayor to be, to look like a bad guy. Thank you. I already know how this is going to end. So, I'm going to leave.

President Fellows: Excuse me, is there anybody else for Public Portion this evening?

Mr. Miller: Is my time up yet? How was that Mrs. Fellows, discussing?

President Fellows: I did not say that.

Mr. Miller: You did.

President Fellows: I did not say that sir.

Mr. Miller: Someone said it. It came from up there. That is....

President Fellows: Mr. Miller...

Vice President Plecnik: Calm down, sir. Please calm down, sir. Please calm down, sir. Please calm down, sir. Please, sir.

Councilman Fiebig: You're out of order, sir.

Vice President Plecnik: Please calm down, sir.

President Fellows: Please, everybody...

Councilman Fiebig: Your out of order.

Vice President Plecnik: Please calm down, sir. Please calm down, sir. Please leave. Officers, please, help him.

Mr. Miller: I am going to leave.

President Fellows: Sir.

Michael Kline – 38531 Dodds Landing Drive. My wife and I have been residents in Willoughby Hills for over thirty years. Regarding the budget, some members of Council, count their fiscal conservatism, but there has been no problem in replacing Tom Lobe, the Law Director, with someone making four-times as much. Regarding the forensic audit, it's my understanding that there has been no internal use of documents to lead anyone to believe that any wrong doing has been done. It's also my understanding, that there's not even any questionable documents at this point. Now, I have spent over fifty years working as a CPA. I have a specialty in forensic accounting. Not, once in my career, did anyone ever approach me to do a forensic examination without first providing me with some proof that something was wrong. You bring in an accounting firm to quantify an amount of a suspected theft. You don't hope that they've coming in simply to find something wrong. The Ohio State Auditor's reports that have been issued regarding Willoughby Hills all attest to the quality of the City's accounting and the record keeping. It's time Council put the interests of the citizens of Willoughby Hills and the citizens, and the City, itself, ah, first. Thank you.

President Fellows: Thank you. Anyone else, this evening?

Chris Welsh – 38801 Chardon Road. My family, we've lived here for about fourteen years. Real simple, I want to thank the Council for being financially responsible in putting police, fire and the road improvements first, that affects everybody. Thank you.

President Fellows: Thank you, Chris. Anyone else tonight for Public Portion?

Joyce Grady – 3020 Marcum Boulevard. I've been here for over fifty years. I am just a little upset with what I see here going on and I am not an expert on what you're doing, I just have my own perception of what is happening. And I simply just wanted to remind everyone sitting up there, that I am a taxpayer who pays your salary and I expect to get the full usage of that without penalizing other people who may think differently than you as long as everyone is doing their job, and I'm not a budget expert. I have a difficult time with my budget as it is. But, I do know, I trust the Mayor, and I trust the Finance Director and I'm really upset with the attitude I see of the Council people up here. Thank you.

Linda Fulton – 2990 Marcum Boulevard. Thank you, Council. Thank you for all the hard work that you've put into this budget. It is not an easy thing to do. It is not easy to cut salaries that have been here a long time. It's not easy. When you look at Ford Motor, General Motors, they all went through hard times. And they did what they had to do even though they did not want to. I loss my job once through Ford Motor, I was laid off and luckily, I was called back after two years. But, we have to stop spending the way this City spends. We can't afford it. And, the salary, when I was on Personnel Relations, they presented the union, the new union, and we sent it back to Council saying go back for renegotiations because it was too much money. The City can not afford such expenditures. It has to stop. So, thank you Council, for stepping up to the plate and doing the right thing. Thank you.

President Fellows: Thank you. Anyone else, this evening. Mr. Cihula.

Frank Cihula – Dixon Road. I've been a resident of Willoughby Hills Township for sixty-eight years, while we're talking about that. Council, with respect to the budget, is making a decision in a vacuum. You folks don't know what a lot of the people in City Hall are doing; how much work they have to do each day, or even in the Community Building. With respect to the budget, the Mayor submits the budget, that's his job. It's also his responsibility for making it work. It's your job to put it in legislative format and adopt it. That's all I have.

Vicki Miller – 2857 Hayes Drive. And I just have some questions and concerns about the proposed cuts. I understand that balancing the budget is really a good thing and we all need to do that. I have been in positions of finance and having to make some of these budgetary decisions; although, I feel the Council does not quietly, understand what some of these position cuts might do to the department where jobs are being cut. I have a financial person at, I'm most concern about the Finance Department at this time, having a full-time position there and having a part-time Finance Director; how that's even going to work. So, I just wanted to make sure that you understand before you go about making final decisions on whether you're going to let all these people go, that these positions are being covered and if there is a need, how are we going to cover those positions in the future because it's going to be very detrimental to the City to lose some of the financial accounting things that are going on, mistakes can be made because of lack of staff and you know, not the dedication because they have to push through. Also, I'm concerned about administrative positions that may do things like write the grants and stuff like that and that will cause a lose of money to the City because these things are just not being covered. I understand that those are important financial things. Thank you for your time this evening.

Ed Mc Kenna – 2963 Lamplight Lane. I've been here about forty years. I wasn't going to speak tonight but with a couple of the comments, I feel that I should. One, thing on the agenda. I remember when Public Portion was adopted, right here, it says all meetings shall provide a responsible opportunity to hear Public Portion. So, let's all be reminded of that. Linda Fulton, who just got up and spoke a little while ago, she said that she was on the Personnel Relations Committee, and when the union contract came to her, came to the committee, I

remember her watching the video and hearing her say, well, I haven't even read this contract, but it sounds greedy to me. Okay, and that has always kind of stuck with me. Okay, that you know, you've formed your opinion without really looking into the facts here, okay. One item, you know, I've seen where people have been targeted here as a way to make cuts. And one thing that I don't even know, okay, is the Mayor in announcing his budget information, said that one of the expenses this year is a \$290,000 expense to close off a note that's due in two years, close it off this year. I'm thinking, I don't why that hasn't been selected or looked into as way to balance the budget versus targeting people and positions. So, okay, you know, I haven't heard any discussion or valid reason why that can't be done. But, you know, it's right here, and you know, I can wait another year before we put that off, okay. Thank you.

President Fellows: Thank you, Ed. Anyone else, this evening?

Dale Fellows – 2812 Fowler Drive. We're here today because this is a result of years of kicking the can down the road. Robbing Peter to pay Paul, with Peter being the taxpayers and Paul being the administration. This is the first administration to pay salaries out of the Road Levy funds and because of that, the result is unsafe roads. And safety is number one. That's our top priority and it shall always be police, fire and roads. It's all about safety. And it's also a result of a lack of strategic planning that was the number priority of the Audit Task Force some years ago. And it still hasn't been done. And all of this, is to cut half of that after a tax rate hike of 33% just a few years ago. You've got escalating salaries and benefits after all that. Finally, we have a Council that has the courage to make the necessary decisions to stop this downhill spiral and to, and in contrast, to past Councils, who avoided the tough decisions and controversies in favor of just abdicating their responsibilities. So, on behalf of the taxpayers, and I'm a long-time resident, and I'm not sure that we all have to state how many years, but we absolutely believe in what you're doing. And it is the tough but right decisions to make.

Andy Gardner – 38123 Dodds Hill Drive. I was the Chair of the Independent Performance Task Force that's been made so much of over the last few meetings. And, I think that I've spoken to most of you about that. I will tell you that our group worked for many, many months and determined that in agreement with most of the City Department Managers, that the staff here is operating at very barebones level. And our committee found the same. It would have been very easy to recommend raising taxes and cutting people, and if you look at some of the other performance reports that you can find from other cities online, a lot of them copped out and did it, our group took the harder road to find other ways. But, if you take a look and it's on page eight, clearly when we expressed the State of the City, we said that the City is working at the very minimum and any further cuts would jeopardize services to residents which I believe I've heard several of you say is the most important judge of whether or not these positions should be retained. Now, I feel like Mrs. Miller and Mr. Cihula, that there's a lot more homework that should be done before we start losing our most valuable resource which is our human capital. There might be places in general jobs that need to be looked at, but I don't feel that reviewing personnel descriptions or whatever antidotal information that has been gathered by my Commission or by Council is going to be sufficient to do that. I'd recommend that you adopt the Mayor's balanced budget or if you need to do things that don't involve cutting our human capital, take that road, but cut and allocate some funds to do a proper study for the City and find out if we have the need. If we start cutting people, the people who have served our City for the many years they have, and we start losing that experience and those resources, we're not going to get it back. We're also going to poison the talent well. Because, let me tell you, when people start seeing valuable people cut, other municipal employees will put Willoughby Hills so far to the bottom of their list of any place they'd work in the future that we will have a serious issue hiring and retaining talent for the long term. So, I think that it's time to take a good hard look at this, think about it professionally, and make sure that it's done right. Secondly, I don't understand the magic of \$500,000. I understand that there's a need to do more roads and a desire to do more roads. I've talked with some engineers that I know, basically, quarter million dollars equals a half-mile of road. I'm not sure which half-mile we want to throw our human capital away for, but I don't think that it's worth it without a better study than what we have. Third, and I know that this is at the end of budget related, but the WHISPER Program was defunded by this Council several months ago. And the Mayor's message back about WHISPER he said that he would like to have a meeting with the members of Council to discuss the issues that they've raised. I believe, and this is a very personal issue for me, that all of us have an

obligation to take care of those in our community in need. So, I want to know which members of Council responded to the Mayor's request for a meeting and if nobody has, why not? Thank you.

President Fellows: Thank you. Anyone else this evening for Public Portion? **I will close Public Portion at 8:23pm.**

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-13 – (As Amended)

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.

Vice President Plecnik moved to suspend the Two-Day Notification. Councilman Fiebig seconded.

President Fellows: I have a motion from Vice President Plecnik and a second from Councilman Fiebig to suspend the Two-Day Notification for Ordinance No. 2018-13 – (As Amended). Is there any discussion on the motion?

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

President Fellows: **The Two-Day Notification on Ordinance No. 2018-13 – (As Amended) has been suspended.**

Vice President Plecnik moved to suspend the 3-Reading Rule. Councilwoman Pizmoht seconded.

President Fellows: I have a motion from Vice President Plecnik and a second from Councilwoman Pizmoht to suspend the 3-Reading Rule for Ordinance No. 2018-13 – (As Amended). Any discussion on the motion?

Councilman Fiebig: Madam President. Just to clarify the reason for the waiving of 3-Readings is because this was amended. The actual ordinance in its original form was read for the third time. But, this is a procedural matter because of its amendments.

Vice President Plecnik: Madam President. If I could also add, the reason for the time sensitive nature of this ordinance is that State Law requires Council to pass a budget by the end of March and for it to be submitted by the Mayor by the end of March, and so we are under a deadline to get this job done. So, it's appropriate to waive notifications and the 3-Reading Rule so that we comply with State Law and ensure that our employees are paid.

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

President Fellows: **The 3-Reading Rule on Ordinance No. 2018-13 – (As Amended) has been waived.**

Vice President Plecnik moved to adopt. Councilwoman Lenz seconded.

President Fellows: I have a motion from Vice President Plecnik and a second from Councilwoman Lenz to adopt Ordinance No. 2018-13 – (As Amended). Any discussion on the motion?

Vice President Plecnik: Madam President. As Chair of Finance, if I might say, it has been expressed several times tonight that we have to balance our budget. It's our duty and responsibility to have a sustainable City government, one that we can pass on to the next Council, to our children, and our children's children. Just kicking the can down road is not the right way to go because eventually these decisions will be breached and if

we're in a terrible fiscal crisis as some other cities and municipalities have been, decisions become much, much, more painful. So, I agree that it's difficult, but I'd rather handle those difficult decisions now. The budget as we have it, has been carefully discussed and negotiated and debated now for months and months. It has gone through committee, has gone through discussion, there's been give and take. Some of the Mayor's proposals, a lot of the Mayor's proposals are in this budget and some have come from Council and residents' concerns as well. This is a compromise and no one is a 100% happy with, but here is what I would share as a positive. This is a balanced budget, it does reduce administrative overhead, it does reduce the City debt as one resident noted and it increases our funding for safety forces by \$100,000 and our funding for roads by over \$200,000. Now, I agree, that doesn't go near far enough. But, at least we're turning the corner and we're moving in the right direction and I'll say, I can't help but think of President Ronald Reagan's words, it's morning in America, and this is a great evening and a great day for Willoughby Hills because we're taking the first difficult step forward towards fiscal responsibility. Thank you.

President Fellows: Anyone else?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Madam President. I just want to say that I would like to express gratitude to all the residents and to members of our safety forces who reached out to me, to thank me and the members of Council who have worked very hard on this budget. And we're finally reprioritizing our Fire Department which has been decimated over the last few years to pay administrative salaries. We are also very behind on our road paving. We are very behind and this budget, thanks to the Mayor, who cooperated with us and offered not to get a plow truck and to wait another year, this also appropriated another \$190,000 to funding road re-pavement. And we really appreciate it, I definitely do and I'm sure that our other residents do as well. But, I just have to say and reiterate, this is a very hard thing to do. You know, this is not something that is easy. We have only a limited amount of money and when we have a decision to spend a \$100,000 on an Administrative Assistant or a \$100,000 to hire part-time firefighters to staff our Fire Department, for one hour, of an Administrative Assistant, you can employ three firefighters for that same hour. If we have to make that decision, between spending that money for an Administrative Assistant which other cities like Willoughby and Eastlake have eliminated how can we not staff our Fire Department with that same money. So, I'm very excited about re-staffing our Fire Department. I'm very excited about re-paving more of our roads. But, I'm not excited about eliminating jobs. That's terrible, and that's hard and it's not a decision that I take likely, it's not something that I want to do. It's something that I understand is difficult. But, at the end of the day, as a Councilperson, as an official in our City, it is our job to invest our taxpayers' dollars wisely. To ensure that every dollar that we invest for them is directly related to safety, and roads and recreational opportunities for our children, our seniors and everyone in our City. Thank you.

Resident: How come you didn't respond to public questions?

President Fellows: There's not a requirement to respond to public questions.

Councilman Fiebig: I will echo that sentiment and of course, this is a Special Meeting of Council. This was not a Finance meeting; this was not the Regular Meetings of Council which we've had and you're always welcome to come to. We've been discussing this budget, this is the final day of this and this is simply to pass it. Believe me, we've done a lot of work on this. To insinuate that we haven't looked at this enough, is just wrong, we have. It's been a difficult decision. This is a compromise budget. The Mayor, as Mr. Cihula has pointed out, the Mayor proposed a budget to us originally. We looked at that, we looked it over carefully. Then we came up with a proposal. We went back to him and said find some savings here because the budget you proposed was nearly \$300,000 in deficit. We can't plan to spend more than we take in, in a given year. That's just irresponsible. So, we chose not to do that. We also had a mandate. We're going to pay down that debt because Andy, if we didn't, we can't refinance \$290,000, it's too small of an amount. So, paying that off, reduces our debt and it's the prudent use of our funds rather than trying to go out for a bond for a small amount like that. And that's a good point, our Finance Director is already part-time, so to talk about another point that was brought up, we're not eliminating that. We made it clear, our priorities have to be roads, police and fire. You've heard that again, and

again. These are the things that only our City government can provide. Recreation programs are nice to have but people have options, but they don't have an option if you call 9-1-1 and you need an ambulance at your door. We have had a dynamic change in our community here with the senior apartments that have been constructed across the road from us and also another senior housing project that went up just a few years ago. As Chair of Safety, I've heard reports from our Fire Chiefs, we have a third most of our calls go to senior housing. Somebody said that we need to take care of our seniors, that's absolutely correct. And having enough people on staff in our Fire Department, as paramedics, to make sure that we can staff two ambulances at the same time is critical. That's not a, I want to have somebody answering the phone at City Hall, that's a life and death matter. And we would not be doing our duty here if we decided not to fund that Fire Department which revenues have been going down year after year. Yet, our calls are going up year after year. We have to put more City resources into our Fire Department, into our paramedics who save lives. The other issue that we heard over and over again this year was about our roads. Now, the condition of them is one thing, you know, people understand all through communities, they're all stressed. You can't have perfect roads anymore, but to only have planned to pave two roads this year and they're small cul-de-sac type roads, that's just not acceptable to us. The other issue is that we not plowing them enough or salting them enough. We've had accidents, we've had people contacting us saying that I've slid off the road, they almost hit a tree. What if your son or daughter hit a tree and died because we didn't have enough salt to make the roads safe because we're spending more money on administrative staff. That's completely unacceptable. And we won't stand for that. So, this is a difficult budget, it's a compromise budget. We worked with the Mayor and his office and the Finance Director. We've had numerous meetings, countless hours going over this and it's difficult. I understand that, I get it, I really do. One of the things that we need to work on this community to make strong is economic development of our community, to make sure that businesses are attracted. One of the things that does that is keeping Willoughby Hills out of the headlines for negative reasons. Shutting down the City, like I've heard maundered about is a horrible, horrible idea for our community. And it would be absolutely insane for this Administration to shut the City down because we proposed a balanced budget that he doesn't like. I don't like the budget either, but we're not going to shut the City down because of it. We're going to work together and we're going to find a way to get through it. We're going to find a way to get our priorities; roads, police and fire, and we're going to deliver the best we can given the financial constraints that our taxpayers have given us. So, please don't do that, please. Our City deserves better. We should have pride in our community. That doesn't help economic development. Neither does bringing in a massage parlor into the center of town. Neither does having gambling places in the center of town and on the edges. And I want to see everybody here next Thursday, when there's a plasma donation center that proposing to come into town. I want you to weigh-in on that. Is setting up a business for poor, desperate people, to sell their blood, is that the best thing, is that what you want in your community? So, would you please come back at 7:00pm next Thursday and voice your opinion. If you want it, that's fine, but if you think that's not a positive for our community, if you don't want massage parlors and gambling places in this community then join with me and say no, that's not what we want. We need a good plan for economic development, that's an Administrative function. I proposed that Council put together a Council Committee for economic development, if that's what we have to do, that's what we'll do. And we welcome the business that have come here and the businesses that continue to stay here to provide jobs and that tax base so that we're not putting pressure on our residents for higher and higher property tax and income tax. So, with that in mind, I do hope we continue to work together. Mayor, I want you to name us a Law Director, I want you to work with four members of Council to come up with a Law Director so we're not paying \$10,000 a month. Because as much as Mr. Byron has provided us with a great service and he should be paid, his firm should be paid, you should sign that check that is on your desk. You should not withhold the good credit standing of our community by not signing that check. He's provided us the service, he should be paid. Work with Council to come up with someone that, our Charter says this, four members of Council and the Mayor approve a department head. That's all you need to do. Let's get together on this. Find somebody that we agree with and let's move forward. Stalemate is not the answer. Let's move forward with this. Can you agree to do that? I'd like to see you say yes. Let's do that. Thank you.

President Fellows: No, sir. We're not in Public Portion. Sorry. Any other comments on the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2018-13- (As Amended)?

Roll call: YEAS: Fellows, Fiebig, Lenz, Pizmoht, Plecnik
NAYS: Majka

Motion PASSED.

President Fellows: Ordinance No. 2018-13 – (As Amended) has been adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-19

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018; REPEALING CERTAIN ORDINANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Fiebig moved to suspend the Two-Day Notification. Vice President Plecnik seconded.

President Fellows: I have a motion from Councilman Fiebig and a second from Vice President Plecnik to suspend the Two-Day Notification for Ordinance No. 2018-19. Any discussion on the motion?

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

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

President Fellows: I have a motion from Councilman Fiebig and a second from Councilwoman Lenz to waived the 3-Reading Rule for Ordinance No. 2018-19. Is there any discussion on the motion?

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

Councilman Fiebig moved for passage. Vice President Plecnik seconded.

President Fellows: I have a motion from Councilman Fiebig and a second from Vice President Plecnik to adopt Ordinance No. 2018-19. Is there any discussion on the motion?

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

President Fellows: Ordinance No. 2018-19 has been adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Vice President Plecnik to adjourn. Councilman Fiebig seconded.

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

The Special Council Meeting of March 29, 2018 was adjourned at 8:40pm.

APPROVED: May 10 2018
Date

Nancy E. Fellows
Nancy E. Fellows
President of Council

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