

City of Willoughby Hills

Regular Council Meeting

Minutes of September 26, 2019

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 called to order on Thursday, September 26, 2019 at 7:00pm in Council Chambers. President Fellows presided.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Others Present: Mayor Robert M. Weger, Law Director James O'Leary, City Engineer Pietro A. Di Franco, Clerk of Council Victoria Ann Savage

Absent: Finance Director Frank J. Brichacek, Jr.,

DISPOSITION OF THE JOURNAL

Vice President Plecnik: Moved to adopt the Regular Council Meeting Minutes for September 12, 2019.

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Second.

President Fellows: I have a motion from Vice President Plecnik and a second from Councilwoman Pizmoht to adopt the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2019. Is there any discussion on the motion?

Roll Call: **AYES:** Pizmoht, Plecnik, Fellows, Fiebig, Hallum
 Nays: Lenz
 Abstain: Majka

Motion Carries.

President Fellows: The Regular Council Meeting Minutes for September 12, 2019 have been adopted.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

MAYOR'S REPORT: Special thanks to our Administration, Police, Fire and Service and all who attended a successful Touch-A-Truck on September 14.

Civil Service Commission has completed the administration of Police and Fire exams. Forty-three applicants took the test and we hope to be notified of the results very soon.

We received notification this week that a SCBA grant written by Firefighter Bob Vencl for breathing apparatus for our Fire Department was approved for \$146,666. There is a 5% match for the City on this grant and we will

be able to purchase 22 units. We will be asking Council at the next meeting to make a motion to allow them to go out to bid for this equipment. Congratulations to Firefighter Vencel and Chief Gandee on this achievement.

Brush pile drop off is winding down and Road Superintendent Grubiss has assigned Saturday, November 2, as the final day for brush drop off. Signs will be posted to reflect this date.

The League of Women Voters presented a nice forum for our Mayor and Council candidates, as well as Library and LakeTran officials. We appreciate their help in making this available to our residents.

This week I completed a letter of support for the Chagrin River Watershed Partners proposal to the Cleveland Foundation for the Chagrin River Corridor & Lakefront Trail Connection Plan. I hope this support will lead to some good things in the way of walking and bike paths in the City of Willoughby Hills in the future. Chagrin River Watershed Partners will be looking for some financial support in the future for this endeavor.

I am happy to report that a new business called Impact Nutrition will be locating to 2804 SOM Center, Suite #5. They recently applied for a zoning certificate to move in to the space formerly occupied by the "Hangout" Game Room.

Get well wishes to former City Hall employee and electrical contractor Mike Santilli as he undergoes medical treatment at Cleveland Clinic, Downtown.

Sympathy to Finance Director Brichacek and his family on the passing of his nephew and Service Department employee Bob Moore on the loss of his brother-in-law. Residents who recently passed away include Kevin O'Connor and Rosemary White and our thoughts and prayers remain with their families.

In closing, I would like to announce the following events:

The Classic/Cleveland Clinic Willoughby Hills 5K Run for Wellness is scheduled for Sunday, October 6th and starts at 6am. Registration begins at 8am. This is a pet friendly event. We encourage everyone to enjoy the walk or the jog through Willoughby Hills.

The Craft Show is Saturday, October 12 from 9 to 3pm. The Halloween Party is Friday, October 18 from 6 to 8:30pm. And, that's all I have. Now, I would like to give you a couple thoughts on the.... oh, the contractor for Dodd Road Improvement, he told us today that his milling machine is broken. So, we contacted their bonding company to make them aware because they may not be able to finish in time. So, there are some liquidated damages involved in that.

The State Auditor released the 2017 and 2018 audits. The Auditor rendered them as unqualified opinions for both years, meaning that there is no financial mis-statements in the reports. The August Financial Reports have been posted to the website and to the Open Check Book has been updated for August. Income Tax collections through September 19 are running 9.6% ahead of year-to-date of 2018. This is an increase of approximately \$395,000 over September 2018. What we budgeted was a \$197,000. So, we're about \$200,000 ahead.

The Fire Department budget remains a concern. The Chief is reviewing the expenditures and will be requesting adjustments to the budget. Yesterday, was Dawn Snyder's last full day of employment and we are currently accepting applicants for her replacement.

President Fellows: Thank you, Mayor. Are there any questions for the Mayor this evening?

Councilman Fiebig: Mayor, did you say that there were 43 applicants?

Mayor: Yeah, there were 42 Fireman and 1 Policeman.

Councilman Fiebig: Oh, okay. That number is way up from where it had been...

Mayor: Well, Fire, yes.

Councilman Fiebig: It's still good either way. The other question, on the brush pile or the brush drop-off. I remember from the first weekend we had, may be seven or eight that had been dropped off. Did you keep a record and kept track...

Mayor: Yes, like today, we had eight in 45 minutes. So, that was very good. But most days it was very light but now it's becoming more and more used.

Councilman Fiebig: So, what's the average, is it over the weekend, the Thursday, Friday, Saturday time, is it like half a dozen?

Mayor: No. It's more than that.

Councilman Fiebig: Twelve?

Mayor: Yes, and every Monday we haul it out our selves. So, we're able to do that.

Councilman Fiebig: So, all and all, it's been a productive use of time and resources. Would you agree?

Mayor: Yes.

Councilman Fiebig: Okay. All right. The \$200,000 in addition, I think, it will help us when talking about some overtime issues. Right, is that what you've looking at right now? You'll confer with the Fire Chief and try to work that out.

Mayor: Yeah.

Councilman Fiebig: Right, okay. And then finally, the Dodd Road Project, when you said finish in time, do you mean that they will finish, it's just going to be behind schedule or are they saying it's broke and we're not going to get it done this year?

Mayor: We don't know yet. I'll let Pete talk more about that. But we don't know.

Councilman Fiebig: All right, thank you.

President Fellows: Any other questions for the Mayor this evening?

Vice President Plecnik: Mr. Mayor, two quick things, in talking with residents, I had in the last week, two requests of you and I just want to share them with you, one was on the issue of the brush drop-off. I have heard from several people continuously who would really like us to consider whether or not if we could, if it's affordable have brush pickup. Because it's pretty hard even with the Brush Pile open for seniors to bring it and sometimes, they can find someone to help and sometimes they can't. But it is a service that Kirtland and other cities offer, so I hope that we can continue to examine if a brush pickup is workable. I know Mark said that he is going to do, our Street Superintendent said that he is going to do some work on it. If he has anything, I would really love to have it shared with Council so that we could consider it as well.

The second thing that I heard from some residents who about City Hall and they said that through the lawn cutting season at City Hall, we would fertilize or we would spray, they didn't know if it was pesticide or what have you to make the City Hall lawn very green and clean, but the just requested, you know the people who are

just a couple houses down from City Hall might get a call or some notice that the spraying is going to happen because some of them are worried. I am sure that it is nothing extraordinary. Some of them are worried and would prefer to know and not be outside when the spraying is going to be happening. So, it that's a courtesy that we could do for people who are like three houses out on either side of City Hall, I know that they would be really grateful.

Mayor: Okay. Thank you.

Vice President Plecnik: Thank you.

President Fellows: Thank you, Bob. The next is the Law Director's report, Mr. O'Leary.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Thank you, Madam President. I just have a couple of things this evening. One was that I met with Police Chief Collins concerning a proposed ordinance which may come on either at the next meeting or the one after that, related to changes to benefits for veterans who are employees that are deployed. It seems that our current ordinance doesn't quite match what is in the Ohio Revised Code section on that, so he has asked us to take a look at that and I think that he has forward it to Council President for consideration of a change in that ordinance, so I would support that. The other thing is that I forward to the Mayor the name of an attorney that I work with frequently by the name of Joe Hada. He is a criminal defense attorney and I approached him about the possibility of working in the Mayor's Court. I have some dates that are going to be conflicts in the near future. Although Todd Cipollo is available, his schedule is such that I just think it's wise and prudent for us to have another backup for Mayor's Court. It's doing so well; I'd like to not see us having a problem in not being able to resolve things in Mayor's Court because we didn't have someone there. So, I passed that along to the Mayor. I'd like to have Joe come in and meet with the Mayor and if anyone else would like to meet him, I'll make that available for you to do so and at the appropriate time and appropriate vetting for you to consider him as a backup for that purpose.

President Fellows: Thank you. Are there any questions for the Law Director this evening? The next is the Finance Director's report, which Mayor, you had provided.

Mayor: Right.

President Fellows: And then the City Engineer's report, Mr. DiFranco.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT: Thank you Madam President. As the Mayor had mentioned, the Dodd Rood Resurfacing Project is behind schedule. It has been delayed by the contractor's equipment issues. The contractor is Karvo Paving. They will be getting together tomorrow to review their options and hopefully we'll have more information on that but we did notify their bonding company that we are concerned that they may not be able to fulfill their contract with in the schedule. Our main concern is related to this chip-seal process that really has to be performed in temperatures above 60 degrees including overnight and this weekend we are support to be down to 50 degrees. So, that's our big concern. But good news is, we learned to today that we are slated to receive a grant to resurface Rockefeller Road next year. This is based on our preapplication to the County, so our next step is to submit to Ohio Public Works and that concludes my report.

President Fellows: That's awesome. Any questions for the City Engineer this evening? Thank you, Pete. thanked Mr. DiFranco and asked the members if they had any questions for the City Engineer.

Police Chief Collins responded (from the audience) that it would be approximately 6 months, per Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS/ OTHER COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

President Fellows: Are there any Council Committee or Council Representative Reports this evening?

Councilwoman Pizmoht: Madam President, as the Chair of the Personnel Relations Committee, we have not had a meeting, but there are a couple of personnel issues that have come up before we have been able to call a meeting. The first is, I believe the Mayor said that he is going to be negotiating union contracts on October 1st and there are a couple of our union contracts that, I think the Law Director, if he has not already done so, would need to send notification to the affected unions that those negotiations are going to start. I believe the AFSCME Union Contract and the Local 244 International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Wastepaper Driver Union Contract, they both need that and they need to have it ninety days before the end of the contract which is December 31, 2019, so we have a few days to get those notices in. I don't believe any of the other contracts have that provision but our Law Director might want to review that. I didn't see that in the other contracts. We have a Firefighters Contract coming up, the Patrol Officers in our Police Department, the Sergeants all of these contracts are coming up at the end of the year, so we should make sure that any notices that we need, we should make sure we get them in.

The other is related to the Fire Department and we got an email from the Head of the Union for the Fire Department who talked about his concerns related to staffing orders that he said he doesn't agree with. Now, I'm sure if this is something that is actually planned or this is something that is in discussions but I think that we should definitely have this as a topic of discussion because as our Council and our Mayor are here. Because I think it is an issue that affects the safety of our residents and our Firefighters, so I think that we should discuss it. What he said is that he thinks it's his understanding that the Fire Chief has been verbally instructed to reduce Fire Department on duty staffing below set minimum levels again through the end of the year. This is deeply concerning as the minimum staffing level (five personnel on duty) was set to ensure that we are able to provide minimally adequate services to the community we serve while at the same time ensuring the safety of our personnel.

As of this time, we are on track to finish with just under 2,500 runs in 2019, which is a 10% increase over 2018 and a 56% increase over five years ago. Nearly 50% of these runs in 2019 have been overlapped with one or more other runs which requires us to be able to cover at least two concurrent emergencies. Staffing at below minimum essentially makes us a one-run department requiring an inevitable reliance upon our already busy mutual aid partners and thus creating a potentially significant delay in getting help to those in need. Additionally, serious individual calls (cardiac arrests, traumas, vehicle crashes, etc.) require staffing levels at or above minimum to be handled safely and effectively. Finally, interior firefighting operations at structure fires require our set minimum staffing levels to meet federal standards/regulations.

We understand the need to be fiscally responsible, however, reducing on duty staffing in the safety forces is typically reserved for after the overall budget and all non-essential expenditures have been thoroughly reviewed or exhausted and we have seen in the past that simply cutting on duty staffing does not actually provide the financial relief being sought. In some instances, it actually increases overtime costs and results in other unintended consequences such as increased injury and illness rates, increased stress, deflation of morale, loss in EMS billing revenue, and makes our organization much less attractive to prospective employment candidates, which puts us even further behind on getting our roster where it needs to be.

So, this is something, that I don't want to see our Fire Department go below minimum staffing and I think that we would all agree with that. So, I just wanted to make sure that this is an issue that we are all aware of and we're talking about and making sure that we are keeping our residents safe and our firefighters safe.

President Fellows: Any questions, concerns. Obviously, there are concerns.

Vice President Plecnik: Madam President. As Chair of Finance, my concern with an issue like this and I think most of not all of Council were copied on the email from the Fire Department Union President, is that we've tried to as a City, and I'm not prescribing the decision to any one person, but as a City, we've tried to save

money in the past by having temporary lower staffing levels and what we've found is that the resulting overtime actually costs more than having fewer firefighters on staff. So, in addition to the safety issue that is obviously clear in terms of reducing staffing where you might only be able to put out one team with an ambulance or a fire truck as opposed to two teams that's obviously an issue if you have more than one emergency at a time. You also have the financial issue that we've seen the City try to reduce staffing levels in the past and we actually ended up spending more money and I think that is a double concern because overtime is considerably more expensive than part-time hours and it is even more expensive than fulltime hours. And whenever we drop our staffing below a certain amount, we've seen overtime increase exponentially because you have other people call-off, take vacation and the only way that you can replace those folks is to bring in a fulltime or on overtime more often than not and that is many more times more expensive than just having the staffing of one or two people hired to begin with. With a robust part-time staff and you know, fulltime accoutrements, so I think that we need to look at from the financial aspect of it. Safety is first of course, but the fact is, I don't really see potential savings in dropping below the minimum levels. I think you'll only see overtime continue to increase and we certainly don't want that.

President Fellows: And Vice President Plecnik, you bring up a good point, because I think too, as we get closer and closer to the holidays, there are going to be more firefighters that are going to be looking for time off because of the holidays which is even going to make the staffing more challenging for each shift. The other thing is, I know that Council has asked for years and has provided ordinances for more firefighters and I know that there is a double-edge sword on that because it's difficult to get those positions filled as it is with even police officers. But Frank is not here and he probably wouldn't have the answer tonight anyway, but I'm just curious, Bob, I don't know when there has been a year that we've budgeted overtime in the Fire Department where we haven't gone over it.

Mayor: It's been years.

President Fellows: Not, I don't think of late, I mean, if we look back even for the last five years, we've continued to go over what has been budgeted for overtime, particularly in the Fire Department, then obviously that should tell us two things, one we need to budget for more overtime because we don't have the fulltime staff or the part-time staff which, I mean, for years and before even Chief Gandee, we've talked about this. Somehow, we need to get our hands around this and solve this for community and for the safety for that particular division.

Mayor: In the past, we haven't hired many part-timers that has been the decision of the Chief. Now we have like six part-timers in training and that will take the burden off the full-timers for overtime. So, I think as we get through the training aspect of this, we can make it through. And also, the facts that we have like scheduling, we only schedule out a month ahead at a time. That's a problem because we should be scheduling the whole year for vacations so everybody doesn't take vacations in December. So, we're looking at that too. We're looking at all the opportunities that we have to do it. We also have two open positions and this test, I hope, 2 out of 43 are going to make it.

President Fellows: And I would think, and the Chief can speak to this, but I would think that when you have six people in training at one time that could be pretty challenging for the team.

Mayor: Yeah, it is. Like today, we had six guys out on a car with the life of jaws, cutting up a car and learning how to do that, so when we have the training available, Bob Vencl was doing the training, they all come in to do that. So, it plays in part and part but we have 6 right now, but it would be nice to 3 and 3 and 3. But we've got the 6 right now.

President Fellows: And is there a way that we can help expedite the process too, because I know at the beginning of the year, Council encouraged Administration to use BackTrack more so that there is not such a lag-time. I think that it is difficult for firefighters that want to know if they are even going to have a part-time

job or a fulltime job, and have to wait for several months before the vetting is completed. If that could be expedited, I think that might help as well.

Mayor: It is expedited and most of them take three weeks if they turn their stuff in. But it is a lack of them turning it in and verifying the information. We have verified it very fast for these past six and we will do so as we get the names.

President Fellows: That's good to know, thank you.

Councilman Fiebig: Mayor, has losing Dawn slowed down that verification process? Do you have anything in place temporarily to fill that gap?

Mayor: Well, Stephanie and the Department is doing a lot of the verification upfront. So, just a drug test and the driving examination is done by Dawn so we can take that on. But most of the verification is done by the Fire Department now, that's why it is speeded up so much.

President Fellows: Okay, good discussion. Any other Chairs have anything that they would like to share this evening? Any other Council Representative Reports?

Councilwoman Majka: Madam President. I attended a meeting of the Chagrin River Watershed Partners on September 17th. Our meeting was held in Gates Mills. We usually switch around to different communities. So, part of the meeting was an actual tour of a restoration project done by the Partners. And that was right in Gates Mills, they have a pedestrian bridge right along their Town Center that had three property owners who came together and requested some bank stabilization. So, we got to see, probably for the first time an actual project done where they planted natural tree stakes that were starting to bloom and different native plants and wildflowers and it look very nice. It was very informative. After we went back into the building the second part of the meeting was to talk about the 2020 member rates, member dues. There is going to be a 2% increase which during my time as a Trustee, I've seen a modest increase every year. Our 2% will take us from \$6,959.00 to \$7,98.00 for 2020. The last part of the meeting was a breakout session to discuss member needs and priorities. So, out of the 34 members, the 34 communities that were represented there, we broke out into groups and actually got to share what we our needs were in our individual communities. Some people knew a lot like, for example, one of the representatives is a member of the Geauga Park District, so of course he is going to be very detailed as far as his needs go. I shared for our community, that a lot of the calls and concerns are about flooding in the yards or standing water, erosion, those types of things. I do accompany the Partners once in a while on site visits when I'm able to. A lot of times, for a modest water problem, they recommend the installation of rain gardens which if you are not familiar with a rain garden, it is a system of planting native plants and flowers that will actually soak up and filter the water and they really have eliminated standing water spots in some of the yards where they have been installed. I was so interested in it that this summer I took a Master Rain Gardner Course that was 5 weeks long and I made it through and I'm certified in residential rain garden installation. I did that because of a personal interest and also because the work is so interesting, I thought it would be helpful as the Trustee to be able to gain that information and the pass it along to homeowners myself. The next meeting is going to be December 12th, the location to be announced. These meetings are open to the public, not as far as participation but anyone is welcome to attend and they are always from 4 to 6 in the evening.

President Fellows: Thank Councilwoman Majka. Very interesting. Any questions?

Vice President Plecnik: One quick question for Councilwoman Majka. I've definitely have had several residents approach me about our membership in the Chagrin River Watershed Trustees and the hope to learn more about the services that they offer residents. I know that you have been looking into the possibility of having a presentation at a Council meeting where they could join us and just layout what they do for us as a City and what residents can take advantage of. Do we have any sense of when that might be able to happen?

Councilwoman Majka: Thank you for bring that up, I forgot. Yes, I did reach out to Heather Elmer who is one of the Board Members on Chagrin Partners and she said that they would be more than happy to come. The basic question is, what is Chagrin River Watershed Partners and what do they do in our City and how can they benefit the homeowner. So, she threw out a couple of dates, I believe she is looking at possibly the last Council meeting in October or the first one in November. I just got her email today. We will try to determine which date is good them to come.

Vice President Plecnik: That's exciting. A little less exciting but whenever I hear standing water I also want to remind residents that Lake County Mosquito Control which is part of the Health District that we all participate in is always willing to visit your property to evaluate whether you have a mosquito problem absolutely free and they will also treat the water if they find that you do have a mosquito problem. And for those of you who are worried about the pesticides, it's worth noting that they actually spray from the road from time to time is actually a chrysanthemum exact as in the flower and what they would treat your standing water with, if you have a pool or a pond in your backyard is actually a spiny type of sugar which is perfectly harmless to a human being but apparently the sugar is not digestible by mosquito larva, so it disagrees with their stomachs and they don't do so good. So, they are very, very natural responses to the problem and given that when they test for mosquitoes in the area, they have regularly found West Nile Virus and other diseases. They have, from year to year, they typically do find some mosquitoes that have those diseases. Having standing water with a lot of mosquitoes biting you, your family, your neighbors is not safe. So, if you are experiencing that problem, understand you don't have to pay to address it, you just need to put in a phone call. So, it's more fun to talk about a water garden but mosquitoes are dangerous.

President Fellows: More about mosquitoes than I ever wanted to know.

Vice President Plecnik: Actually, every single elected official in the County was invited to Lake County Mosquito Control and I was the only one who came, so it's not the most exciting but it's worth noting that it is a free service that our Health District provides and it is serious. If you are getting bitten every night that you go out in your background, you should consider putting in a call.

President Fellows: Thank you.

Councilman Fiebig: Madam President. Councilwoman Majka, I also heard the Chagrin River Watershed Partners just received a grant for about \$195,00, they will be announcing soon and it will be a match with residents but it is going to be spread across their five sub water districts but this is for stream bank restoration. So, if we have residents in the City that live along the river and there are some issues, there is going to be some money available for projects that we can identify. Now we will be in competition with a lot of other communities and a lot of other watersheds; however, since there is money available, and I believe it was like a 50% match, if there are some people that come to your attention, or anybody on the Council here, that say, hey, we've got some issues along our stream, there is going to be some money available through the Lake Erie Initiative, I believe is what the grant was under. That's something that I had just learned about in the last day or so. I don't know if they had mentioned it yet, because it is kind of new.

Councilwoman Majka: You know, I'll tell you something there is so many different organizations that work with Chagrin River Watershed Partners. So, this is about alliances and there are probably 10 different associations that work together and they do various things under the broad category of managing watersheds. So, a new one was just created, I think it's Lake Erie Alliance or Lake Erie Advisory Project. So, it's called LEAP. And they do grants, they do matching, they do evaluations but just for our purposes, with this one organization CRWP, they will give the fees that Willoughby Hills pays to them through our stormwater taxes and that enables them to come out by request to a homeowner to do a pre-evaluation and get them some advice as to what their problem would be. And like I had said, it is usually water related. We have so many rivers and streams in the City and I'm sure that most of us have gotten calls about roadside ditches that were clogged or were backing up. So, they may tell you, yes, we can help you, they may know, that's not really our problem,

talk to your City Engineer but it's just helpful to know where, which direction to start going in. You won't be out any money and of course you can always contact me and I will try to put you in touch with the correct person. Having them come and speak to Council will be a good step in just sorting this out in people's minds because took me quite a while and I'm still learning overtime as to what portion of taxes goes to this organization and what do they do with this money and how can they help me. So, we'll find that out in the next couple of months.

President Fellows: Thank you. Really great information.

PUBLIC PORTION

President Fellows: Moving on to Public Portion. Public Portion is an opportunity for the public to come forward, share some thoughts and opinions. I ask that when you come forward to please state your name and address for the record and try to keep your comments to 3 minutes and I will open Public Portion at 7:36pm.

Doris Dodge – 37881 Milann. You brought this up about the roads, flooding and stuff, thanks Jan, that's really great information. When you are talking about roads for next year, I would like to nominate Pleasant Valley Road. One half was done several years ago, and the other half when it rains severely, that water comes right over the road. Yellow lines were put down the roads this year, and most of the yellow lines are in cracks down the middle of the road. So, that road really needs attention, not just from a draining issue but from a paving issue. The other question that I have and possibly the City Engineer can answer, there was a structure that was built in the meadow on Dodd Road, it looks like a two-car garage. It looks like there is an electrical outlet on the outside as well. I wanted to know what the building was for. I'm guessing that it is for maintenance of some sort, but I don't know what kind of maintenance a meadow or a field would need. And my third question, has to do with the Grange because this has been an issue for a long time and I think that we have to get this issue finally put to bed. At this point, we have, as far as I know, just the Girl Scouts are using that building. Now, I'm a big proponent of Scouts. My son is a Scout Master, my grandson is a Scout and soon my granddaughter will be a Scout. But the Girl Scouts that are occupying the building at time aren't even a Willoughby Hills' troop. So, I would like to suggest that they find a venue within their own city and then we can finally get this Grange thing put to bed and utilized for citizens in Willoughby Hills.

President Fellows: Anyone else this evening? I will close Public Portion at 7:39pm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Fellows: Pete, I don't know where Pleasant Valley Road is on the list. I would have to look it up. The Road Superintendent and the City Engineer, I think, annually re-evaluate all the roads and then put them in order of what either needs to be repaired or surfaced first and then go from there.

City Engineer: We last rated them in 2017. So, we use those ratings to decide what roads are going to be surfaced. So, we'll take a look at that. The structure in the meadow is owned by the Audubon Society for storage of their maintenance and I don't know what type of equipment is stored or what type of maintenance they do. It was approved by the Planning Commission process and they obtained all the permits.

President Fellows: And on the Grange...

Vice President Plecnik: Madam President. If I could address that, this is actually an issue that came up in our meeting with the State Auditors. In giving us their clean opinion, they did have some notes on some things that we needed to do better and in their initial draft, they were concerned that there was not policy with respect to the Grange. I give credit to the Mayor's office because they forwarded our ordinance regulating the Grange and restricting the groups that could use it at point, I believe to Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. And they had found that

ordinance was the only reason that the City was in compliance. So, I think it's worth noting that while the ordinance was somewhat controversial when passed, the State Auditors noted that we need to have a policy in place and that ordinance is the reason that the City was in compliance. So, while I certainly agree that we need to evaluate how we can better open up the Grange to residents, I do think it's worth noting to Council that it was really a positive move that Council took in a difficult time to make sure that the City was compliant with state law. But for my part, as residents and tax payers, we have been paying for this building for many years and I've only been able to enter the Grange, myself, one time when the Mayor had an open house. I think that there should be ways that our residents and neighbors can appreciate it and use it, you are paying for it, you deserve to enjoy it. And there are challenges with that, but I remain interested in having a committee that is made up of residents and Council people and any interested parties to evaluate the best, most economical, safest ways to open up that building because it's a beautiful piece of history. I remember walking through the Grange, the one time and I am really grateful to have it in our community. I think that it is an important landmark. And to remember what the Grange meant as the association of the farmers that really helped to build this place when it was just a Township. I think that it is an important part of our history as a City. But residents deserve, as the people paying for it, to use it too. We want to Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to always have access to enjoy the building but you deserve to use it too. And I know that Ms. Dodge has asked about renting it in the past and I think that is one policy that we need to consider the pros and cons of as well as if the City could have some events or meeting there. But there has to be a way to appreciate the landmark if you are going to pay for it. So, that's the best response I can give, but I would certainly call on all of Council to think about revisiting the issue of how we can open up the Grange more to the public.

President Fellows: Thank you.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-60 – THIRD READING

1st Reading: July 25, 2019

2nd Reading: September 12, 2019

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH COM DOC FOR THE LEASING OF TWO NEW XEROX COPYING DEVICES AND THE MANAGEMENT OF PRINTING SERVICES.

Councilwoman Lenz: I would like to make the motion to table Ordinance No. 2019-60.

Vice President Plecnik: Second.

President Fellows: I have a motion from Councilwoman Lenz and a second from Vice President Plecnik to table Ordinance No. 2019-60. There is no discussion on a motion to table.

Roll Call: **AYES:** **Pizmoht, Plecnik, Fellows, Fiebig, Lenz, Majka**
 Nays: **Hallum**

Motion Carries.

President Fellows: The motion to table Ordinance No. 2019-60 as been adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-64 – SECOND READING

1st Reading: September 12, 2019

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 186.02 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS TO AMEND CERTAIN DEFINITIONS TO CORRESPOND WITH DEFINITIONS WHICH HAVE

BEEN AMENDED IN CHAPTER 718 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, REPEALING CERTAIN ORDINANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

President Fellows stated that Ordinance No. 2019-64 would remain on 2nd Reading.

NEW BUSINESS

President Fellows: Is there any New Business to bring forth to Council this evening?

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER/FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY

President Fellows: For the Good of the Order/For the Community?

Vice President Plecnik: Madam President. Before our next meeting, I want to wish the Jewish members of our community a blessed Rosh Hashanah and a happy New Year. And those of the eastern European persuasion, I want to remind you that the Slovenska Pristava is hosting their annual Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 5. I know that many of us have attended in the past including Councilman Hallum, our Street Superintendent Mark Grubiss. It's a very wonderful event. And Slovenska Pristava has always been an organization joined by many of our Willoughby Hills residents. So, I just wanted to highlight that Oktoberfest Slovenska Pristava is going to be Saturday, October 5.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Roll Call: AYES: Pizmoht, Plecnik, Fellows, Fiebig, Hallum, Lentz. NAYS: None.
Motion Carries.

The Regular Council Meeting of September 26, 2019 was adjourned at 7:46pm.

APPROVED: October 16, 2019
Date

Nancy E. Fellows
Nancy E. Fellows
President of Council

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